



140 Replicating the Seigfried-Spellar and Rogers (2011) Study on Deviant Pornography Use by Age of Onset and Sex

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of the relationship age of onset, sex, and pornography use. In other words, individuals who engage in adult pornography use at a younger age are at a greater risk for engaging in deviant pornography use (e.g., child porn), and whether sex is related to deviant pornography use. In addition, attendees will have a greater appreciation for the importance of empirical replication.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing more information regarding the relationship between non-deviant and deviant pornography use. This study is a replication of a previous one which will extend and validate the previous conclusions of the Seigfried-Spellar and Rogers study.¹

Although seemingly counterintuitive, research indicates the collections of child pornography users not only contain sexualized images of children, but other genres of pornography both deviant and socially acceptable in nature.²⁻³ In fact, interviews with child pornography users have suggested that some offenders move "through a variety of pornographies, each time accessing more extreme material" as a result of desensitization or appetite satiation, which lead to collecting and discovering other forms of deviant pornography.²⁻³ Also, some consumers stated they downloaded the images simply because they were available and accessible, making the behaviors primarily a result of compulsivity rather than a specific sexual interest in children.⁴

Some child pornography consumers exhibit a complex array of sexual interests, which may be representative of a more general level of paraphilic tendencies rather than a specific sexual interest in children. In a study conducted by Endrass et al., the collection of images from 231 men charged with child pornography use also revealed other types of deviant pornography.⁵ Specifically, nearly 60% of the sample collected child pornography and at least one other type of deviant pornography, such as bestiality, excrement, or sadism, with at least one out of three offenders collecting three or more types of deviant pornography.⁵ This research suggests the majority of Internet child pornography users are collecting a wider range of deviant pornography, which may reflect a general level of sexual deviance rather than a specific paraphilia, such as pedophilia. In other words, some child pornography consumers may be dissident within the normal population who exhibit a wider range of sexual interests.

The Seigfried-Spellar and Rogers sampled a panel of United States Internet respondents from the Survey Sampling International, Inc.¹ The respondents were asked their sex, age of onset for various forms of non-deviant (e.g., adult pornography) and deviant pornography (e.g., child pornography), and their level of engagement in Internet pornography (e.g., searching, downloading). Six hundred and thirty respondents completed the online survey; 33 (5%) of the sample self-reported engaging in child pornography. Results indicated that people who used adult pornography were significantly more likely to use animal and child pornography. In addition, age of onset for non-deviant pornography use (adult-only) was significantly related to deviant pornography use (child, animal). In other words, individuals who engaged in adult and deviant pornography had a significantly lower "age of onset" compared to individuals who only engaged in adult pornography.

However, this study was the first to assess whether age of onset and sex were related to deviant pornography use; thus future replications are needed to determine the validity of the findings. First, the current study will utilize a snowball sampling method by soliciting Internet respondents from various Internet websites rather than a paid panel sample of U.S. Internet users. In addition, the respondents will not only be permanent residents of the U.S. but the sample will include respondents from Canada, Australia, and United Kingdom. Again, this study will assess whether *age of onset* is a risk factor for engaging in deviant pornography. In other words, are individuals who engage in nondeviant pornography use at an earlier age more likely to engage in deviant forms of pornography use compared to late onset users? In addition, this study will explore the frequency of pornography use by collapsing the respondents into pornography categories: none, adult-only, animal-only, child-only, adult-animal, adult-child, animal-child, and adult-child-animal. This aim will assess whether self-reported child pornography users are more likely to self-report adult and animal pornography behaviors compared to the other categories of users.

Finally, a comparison in results will be made to the original Seigfried-Spellar and Rogers study to determine the validity of inferences drawn from the original findings.¹ A detailed discussion of the study's results and future implications will be discussed.

References:

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