



## **Pornography Harms You, Your Family and Wider Society**

### **Pornography is Widespread in Today's Society:**

- Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography: 11 years old (Internet Filter Review).
- More than 70% of men from 18 to 34 visit a pornographic site in a typical month (Media Metrix).
- The Number 1 search term used at search engine sites is the word "sex". Users searched for "sex" more than other terms such as "games," "travel," "music," "jokes," "cars," "weather," "health" and "jobs" combined.
- The Adult Entertainment Industry Profits from the Exploitation of Others: 13.3 Billion Annually.
- 53% of boys and 28% of girls (12 to 15) reported use of sexually explicit content (sexual content including depictions of genitals and genital contact); online viewing most popular. (Brown, J. & L'Engle, K. 2009, Communications Research; 967 youth from 14 public schools in SE USA).
- 20% of kids reported that they have engaged in some sort of sexting (Spurce: Kaiser Family Foundation Study, January 2010).
- Roughly two-thirds (67%) of young men & one-half (49%) of young women agree that viewing pornography is acceptable. (Journal of Adolescent Research (2008) emerging adults ages 18-26).
- Nearly 9 out of 10 (87%) young men and one-third (31%) of young women report using pornography. (Journal of Adolescent Research (2008) emerging adults ages 18-26).

### **The Real Results of Pornography Use**

- In a press release from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (divorce lawyers) reported that the most salient factors present in divorce cases are as follows:
  - 68% of the divorces involved one party meeting a new lover over the Internet.
  - 56% involved one party having "an obsessive interest in pornographic websites."
  - 47% involved spending excessive time on the computer.
  - 33% involved excessive time spent speaking in chat rooms.
- According to the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, prolonged exposure to pornography as a teenager leads to:
  - An exaggerated perception of sexual activity in society
  - Diminished trust between intimate couples
  - The abandonment of the hope of sexual monogamy
  - Belief that promiscuity is the natural state
  - Belief that abstinence and sexual inactivity are unhealthy
  - Cynicism about love or the need for affection between sexual partners
  - Belief that marriage is sexually confining
  - Lack of attraction to family and child-raising
- Use of pornography was associated with (Journal of Adolescent Research (2008) emerging adults ages 18-26):
  - Increase in sexual partners
  - Increase in acceptance of casual sex
  - Increased substance abuse
  - Greater acceptance of extra-marital affairs in men