



# CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

*AN INITIATIVE OF THE FAMILY LEADER FOUNDATION*

## The Porn Epidemic in America

“Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is also full of light. But when it is bad, your body is also full of darkness.” Luke 11:34.

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMILy LEADER Foundation, we work to help free people from bondage. Bondage is when people find themselves captured, unable to escape. There are many behaviors in our culture that begin as a choice, but become addictions that lead to bondage. Pornography is one of those behaviors that leads many into bondage. Most American men and a growing number of women are addicted to pornography. Many desire to stop, but do not know how. For some it will lead to even more severe behavior, even criminal.

The Church Ambassador Network understands this is not only an issue for the non-Christian. It is for the Christian as well. That is why it is the Network’s desire to raise awareness of this growing epidemic, as well as seek to help people be set free.

### **Porn in the United States**

- 12% of all internet sites are pornographic.
- 39% of all internet activity is pornographic.
- Every 30 minutes a new porn film is made in the United States.
  - The United States creates 89% of all pornographic web pages.
  - Porn is a \$13 billion industry.
  - Every year 1.5 million hours of porn videos are uploaded, equaling 173 years of video.
- Every second 30,000 people are viewing porn.
  - America’s largest porn website has 91 billion video views a year with 10 million new videos being added each year.
- Men account for 72% of porn use and women 28%.
- 66% of men and 41% of women view porn monthly.
  - 79% of men and 76% of women ages 18-30 view porn once a month.
- 2.5 billion pornographic emails are sent a year, which equals 8% of all emails.

### **Porn is addictive.**

- 63% of men and 21% of women ages 18-30 view porn multiple times a week.
- 17% of women struggle with pornography addiction.
- 200,000 of Americans are considered porn addicts.
  - Addicts are defined as watching 11 hours of porn per week.

- “It is not as though we are unaware of this inconvenient truth, despite its political incorrectness in the mainstream culture. Recent research suggests that about 17% of individuals who view porn on the Internet meet criteria for sexual compulsivity. That translates to a lot of people, given that about 12% of all the Internet traffic is porn and nearly 90% of the young male population (about 30% of the young female population) view pornography at least occasionally.” Dr. Steven C. Hayes, professor of psychology at University of Nevada.
- Porn is addictive because it impacts your brain the same way drugs do.
  - Porn causes a high that releases chemicals in your brain including: dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and epinephrine.
  - Frequent expose to these chemicals leads to a rewiring of the brain that will cause dependency. This leads to shrinkage of the frontal lobe of the brain, where our situational thinking occurs.
  - These brain patterns are common in addictions, including pornography.

### Porn has had an impact on culture

- 56% of divorces have reported that a spouse’s use of porn as one of the primary factors.
  - 40% of sex addicts will lose their spouse.
  - Pornography use increases the marriage infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- 1/3 of addicts will lose their job.
- 43% of porn videos are categorized as visible aggression and 15% included nonconsensual aggression.
  - 90% of the females in videos containing visible aggression displayed pleasure, compared to 54% when visible aggression was not present.
  - 1 in 5 women are raped in their lifetime.
  - 25% of women will experience rape or attempted rape during their time at college. The vast majority will go unreported.
- *“In a 2012 survey of 1,500 males, 56% of them said their tastes in porn had become “increasingly extreme or deviant” the more porn they watched...**This happens because as consistent porn consumers’ brains quickly become accustomed to the porn they’ve already seen, they have to constantly be moving on to more extreme forms of pornography to get aroused by it...As a result, many porn users find themselves getting aroused by things that used to unsettle them or that go against what their personal values of what they think should be accepted. As this happens, porn consumers often start to look to porn rather than real partners for intimacy and relationships.**”* (fightthenewdrug.org)
- More than 80% of women in the sex industry are under pimp control. Many of these women are used in porn video.
  - 14,000-17,500 women are trafficked in the United States every year.

### Porn’s impact on youth

- 90% of 8 to 16-year-olds have viewed porn.
- The average age of exposure to pornography is 11 years old.
- **71% of America’s teens (13-17) will come across porn without even looking for it.**
- 60% of children and you people surveyed, reported seeing porn for the first time at home.
  - Followed by 29% at a friend’s house.
- 47,000,000 porn videos are viewed by 7 to 14-year-olds every day in the United States.
  - 82,000,000 porn videos are viewed every single day by children globally.
- 75% of surveyed parents said they have never discussed internet porn with their children.

## **Porn's impact on the church**

(Research from Josh McDowell and Barna)

- 60-72% of men in the church are addicted to porn.
- Christian men who “actively seek out pornography:”
  - 81% (ages 13-18)
  - 76% (ages 18-24)
  - 65% (ages 25-39)
  - 47% (ages 36-60)
- 56% of Christian women ages 18-24 actively seek out pornography.
- 24-30% of women in the church are addicted.
- More than 50% of pastor and church leaders admit to viewing porn.
- **93% of churches do not have a ministry program for those struggling with porn.**
- 87% of Christians say that no one in their lives is helping them avoid porn.
  - And 54% could not think of anyone to help them.

### **Sources:**

Fightthenewdrug.org

National Center on Sexual Exploitation

Josh McDowell Ministries

Daily Mail UK