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# **The Acceptance and Usage of Pornography and its Effects on College Students' Risky Behaviors and Family Formation Values**

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Methods of Social Research 601

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## **Abstract**

This study examines the relationship between the acceptance and usage of pornography and its effects on college students' risky behaviors and family formation values. There was a total of 224 respondents at the University of New Hampshire who answered an Internet survey regarding their acceptance and usage of pornography, as well as participation in certain types of risky behaviors and family formation values. Results found that there was a significant difference between males (61.7%) and females (6.93%) who viewed pornography at least once a week. However, it was also found that more than half of both men (82.98%) and women (66.93%) say they at least "somewhat agree" that pornography is an acceptable way to express ones sexuality. Results found a significant relationship between both pornography use and participation in risky behaviors, as well as a significant relationship between pornography acceptance and family formation values. The discussion highlights both the strengths and weakness of the study, as well as a comparison of the results to the pioneer study done by Carroll et al (2008)

## **Introduction**

Just 20 years ago, if a person wanted to view pornographic material they had to go to their nearest adult store and buy a magazine. However, with the explosion of technology, pornography has become much more readily accessible. In 2000,

“pornographic search-engine requests” totaled 68,000 million hits per day with roughly 40 million adults visiting pornography sites each year (Carroll et al, 2008). One study found that 72% of male university students and 24% of female university students use the Internet to view pornography (Boise, 2002). To most, having pornography at their fingertips is a relief, and leaves people embarrassment-free; others feel, however, that having the material readily accessible is really quite dangerous.

The pornography industry claims that all pornographic films made are used for entertainment; just another movie to rent from your local video store. Of course, we all know that a movie called “*Deep Throat II*” is probably a little different than the Indiana Jones movie “*Temple of Doom*,” but how much different? Well, for one, I do not believe people would go around trying to rip out people’s hearts using their bare hands after viewing Indian Jones, but can the same thing be said for pornographic films? If a man was forcing a woman to perform certain sexual acts in the movie, does that mean men watching these films will force women in the real world to perform the same acts? Does pornographic material sway an individual to find it acceptable to participate in other types of risky behaviors? Does the acceptance and usage of pornography at all influence certain thoughts or views people have, or is all just merely entertainment?

Instead of exploring of those questions, this paper will focus on two different subject areas that pornography may or may not influence. These will include both, the effect of pornography’s acceptance and use on risky behaviors and family formation values. In saying this, two research questions have been formed: (1) How does the usage of pornography affect males’ and females’ participation in risky behavior and (2) How does acceptance of pornography affect males’ and females’ thoughts on family formation values? Answering these questions could potentially yield alarming results. What if pornography led to an excess amount of violence on women, or if exposure to pornography at a young age could affect how children perceive relationships? On the one hand, pornography could have a serious harmful effect on how both men and women

think or act. On the contrary, pornography really may just be another movie to watch for entertainment.

While researching the effects of pornography use and acceptance of risky behaviors and family formation values, information will be used to deny or support three different hypotheses. Hypothesis 1: The acceptance and usage of pornography will *increase* males and females participation in risky behavior. Hypothesis 2: The acceptance and usage of pornography will *not* have an effect on family formation values. Hypothesis 3: There are a higher percentage of males who view pornography than females. Although the information found in this study may not be true for all the individuals who watch and accept pornography, this information will bring us one step closer to determining whether pornography really does affect people in a negative way.

### **Literature Review**

The relationship between the acceptance and use of pornography and its effects on risky behaviors and family formation values of college students' has thus far not been a widely researched topic. In this study, risky behavior will consist of measuring one's personal sexual ethics and a person's involvement with certain types of risky behaviors. Family formation values will consist of how a person feels about raising a family, and by what personal guidelines a person would use when raising a family. Pornography is said to lead to "the destruction of families, the promotion of violent crime, and the continued oppression of women." However, this has also been shown not be the case. The effect of pornography on risky behavior and family formation values has just started to be researched. Therefore, the information gathered is limited to the selected few studies that have looked at the subject matter.

### **Background on Pornography**

Technology today has made it incredibly easy for the average person to access all types of information on-line. With the click of a mouse, stock brokers in New York City

can access stocks across the world. To some, the Internet has opened up a realm of endless opportunities. The overwhelming amount of technology has also opened up a new way to search for information, which may or may not be a good thing.

Feminists believe that pornography “reflects and reinforces hostility toward, hatred of, and violence against women by men” (Senn, 1993:321). Others find it hard to even define the word “pornography.” Anthropologists found “a small island where there is a group of people who are so tremendously sexually aroused by shoes, that magazines containing photographs of shoes serve precisely the same function that magazines like *Penthouse* serve in our society” (Rea, 2001:122).- What?! Neat fact! So, is pornography more of a fetish or is it a potential threat to women? From 1995 to 2005, only one article was published concerning pornography among the “top five adolescent journals, the top five developmental journals and the top five family journals” (Carroll et al, 2008:7). Researching the effects of pornography may cause people to reveal extremely sensitive information about themselves; however results that come from these studies can end up being very important and useful information.

### **Method of Measurement on Pornography Acceptance**

According to a study done by Carroll et al (2008), the acceptance and usage of pornography can be easily measured by asking two simple questions. Acceptance of pornography can be measured by asking the question: “Viewing pornographic material (such as magazines, movies and/ or Internet sites) is an acceptable way to express one’s sexuality” (2008:14) and the usage of pornography will be measured by asking: “How frequently do you view pornographic material (such as magazines, movies and/ or Internet sites)?” (2008:14). (Carroll, 2008). In the current study, pornography usage and acceptance will be measured using this same exact two question scale provided in Carroll et al’s (2008) study.

## Methods and Results of Risky Behavior

In many of the studies, risky behavior was considered to include excessive “sexual permissiveness” (Carroll 2008:14), substance use, or lack of participation in safe sex. It is stereotypical for people to say that males use porn more than females. However, does that mean that males have a higher chance of participating in risky behavior, as well? In Carroll et al.’s (2008) study, “sexual permissiveness” (14) was measured using a 2-item scale. Both statements: “It is alright for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage” and “It is alright for two people to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further” (14) were both measured using a 6-point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree) (Carroll et al, 2008). Using a 6-point scale ranging from 0 (never) to 5 (everyday or almost every day), respondents were also asked about alcohol consumption, binge drinking, cigarette smoking, marijuana use and use of other illegal substances.

The current study will also use the same one to 6-item scale to assess students’ risky behaviors. Sexual permissiveness will be measured using the same 2-item scale with a choice of six different responses, identical to that of Carroll et al. (2008). Students will not be asked about alcohol consumption and illegal drug use, but rather other types of behaviors that could be harmful.

Other studies measured risky behavior using scales such as the Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale, or used questions from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. These surveys asked questions involving sexually transmitted infection history, condom use at last sexual encounter, whether or not the individual had more than one sexual partner in last 3 months, and substance use (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009).

Most studies found the same result: “male users were significantly higher than the female users to utilize the Internet for sexual purposes, and male users exhibit more sexual compulsive and risk-taking behaviors than females” (Perry et al. 2007:329).

Pornography acceptance and abuse were also statistically significant for both sexes' substance abuse patterns.

Braun-Courville and Rojas' (2009) study found similar results concerning the acceptance and use of pornography and that of substance use. Braun-Courville and Rojas (2009) also found that adolescents who report having no exposure to pornography websites have lower permissive scores than those who have visited pornography sites (2009). Using the information gathered by Carroll et al. (2008) and Braun-Courville and Rojas (2009), comparisons will be made between their results on pornography and risky behaviors, and my own findings. Although there have not been many studies done on pornography and risky behaviors, from what information that has been obtained in studies thus far, it can be concluded from both of these studies that my hypothesis that the usage of pornography will increase males and females participation in risky behavior would be supported.

### **Methods and Results of Family Formation Values**

Information on the effects of pornography on family formation values did not surface in research studies until 2008. According to a study by Carroll et al. (2008), "...little is known about the correlates and outcomes of pornography use in regard to individual development and family formation" (2008:7). Because of this, only limited information can be provided about the subject.

The pioneers of studying pornography's effect on family formation values were John Carroll (2008) and his colleagues. They believe that people moving into adulthood have a "marriage philosophy" (15). This philosophy includes "marital importance, desired marital timing, and criteria for marriage readiness" (15). Carroll et al. (2008) studied this philosophy by first assessing participants' thoughts on non-marital cohabitation and child bearing, marriage ideals, and views of parenting (2008). The statements measured included: 1. "It is alright for a couple to live together without planning to get married," 2. "It is alright for an unmarried couple to live together as long

as they have plans to marry,” 3. “Living together before marriage will improve a couples chances of remaining happily married,” 4. “A couple will likely be happier in their marriage if they live together first,” 5. It is a good idea for a couple to live together before getting married as a way of ‘trying out’ their relationship,” and 6. Living together first is a good way of testing how workable a couple’s marriage would be” (2008:15). A question regarding out-of-wedlock childbirth was also incorporated into the study.

Marital importance was measured using a three-item scale measured on a 6-point scale also ranging from 1 to 6. This section included questions regarding marriage as an important goal, ideal age to get married, and whether each spouse should maintain his/her own finances (2008). The final set of questions measured “participants degree of child-centeredness, or positive appraisal of becoming a parent in the future” (16). Another three-item scale, using the six-point scale was measured. These questions included having children as a main goal, being a father is a very important goal, and being a mother is very important goal (2008). The current study will also be using these three sets of questions (marital importance, desired marital timing, and criteria for marriage readiness) to measure family formation values. Each question and response sets will be taken exactly how it is written in Carroll et al’s (2008) study.

Carroll et all (2008) found that pornography acceptance was significantly related to young people’s values and family formation approaches; “however, pornography use patterns had little correlation with these variables” (2008:21). It was also found that 41% of adult men and 37% of adult women who accept and use pornography were more accepting of non-marital cohabitation and “only women who accept pornography were also more likely to consider having a child out of wedlock” (21). Pornography was also “significantly correlated with desires for later marriages, financial independence between spouses within marriage, and lower levels of child-centeredness for emerging adult men and women” (21). There was no significant correlation between pornography and acceptance and goals for marriage. (2008). Due to the fact that only one study is used to



determine the type of relationship between pornography and family formation values, it is not possible to say whether or not my hypothesis can be supported using this study.

### **Implications for Future Research**

It is evident that research on pornography and its effects on both risky behavior and family formation values have only just begun to be studied, and because of this, information in this area is very sparse. The information regarding risky behavior was a bit more prevalent. However, the populations surveyed need to be more diverse. Seventy-nine percent of the participants in Carroll et al.'s (2008) study were European American, while Braun-Courville and Rojas (2009) study primarily focused on Hispanic (48%) and African American's (43%). Both of these studies need to have a better representation of ethnicity in each of these studies. The definition of risky behavior can also cause differentiation between studies. Future studies should focus on what defines "risky behavior," or select a few types of risky behavior to study. Risky behavior is so broadly defined in studies done thus far, that it is hard to compare information.

The study of family formation values is obviously extremely understudied. However, Carroll et al.'s (2008) study did find very valuable information regarding pornography and family formation values. Very specific and direct questions were asked that made it easy for both the researcher and the participant. Carroll et al. (2008) also used a large population surveying people from all over the country. The problem is not with the researcher, but rather with the lack of research. There is not enough information to make a definitive answer on whether or not pornography has an effect on the formation of family values.

### **Conclusion**

Throughout this paper it is apparent that more research needs to be done on the topic of pornography, and its effects on risky behavior and family formation values. So far, research has hinted at pornography having a positive relationship with excess risky behavior, however in order to support any hypothesis, further research is essential.

In doing a study on this same topic, I am hoping to expand information on this subject further. The questions pornography use and acceptance and questions regarding family formation values will be taken directly from Carroll et al.'s (2008) study. Due to the overly sensitive questions regarding certain types of risky behaviors in both Carroll et al.'s (2008) study and in Braun-Courville and Rojas' (2009) study, less sensitive types of risky behaviors will replace those that were found in the original studies.

### Methods

In the current study, college students will be recruited via email to participate. All participants will be between the ages of 18-26. Participants in the current study will also be asked to fill out an online questionnaire, just as students in Carroll et al.'s (2008) study were asked to do. In the current study, three different hypotheses were measured and are stated below:

**H<sub>0</sub>: The usage of pornography does not have effect on participation in risky behaviors.**

**H<sub>1</sub>: The usage of pornography will increase males and females participation in risky behavior.**

As stated previously, the usage of pornography will be measured using the same question that Carroll et al. (2008) used to measure pornography usage: "How frequently do you view pornographic material (such as magazines, movies and/or Internet sites)?"

Risky behavior will consist of measuring answers to seven different questions on the survey. These questions include:

1. It is alright for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage.
2. It is alright for a man and a woman to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further.
3. How often do you smoke cigarettes?
4. How often do you speed (going over the speed limit) while driving?
5. Would you ever pick up a hitchhiker?
6. Would you agree to meet someone face-to-face who you had only met on a social network?
7. When at a party, do you ever leave your open drink unattended?

**H<sub>0</sub>: The acceptance and usage of pornography will have an effect on family formation values.**

**H<sub>2</sub>: The acceptance and usage of pornography will not have an effect on family formation values.**

In second hypothesis, the acceptance of pornography will once again be measured using the question: “Viewing pornographic material (such as magazines, movies, and/or Internet sites) is an acceptable way to express ones sexuality.” Questions on family formation values were taken directly from Carroll et al.’s (2008) study. This variable will be measured using 12 different questions that were placed in matrix format on the

Internet survey. These questions include:

1. It is alright for a couple to live together without planning to get married.
2. It is alright for an unmarried couple t live together as long as they have plans to marry.
3. Living together before marriage will improve a couples chances of remaining happily married.
4. A couple will likely be happier in their marriage if they live together first.
5. It is a good idea for a couple to live together before getting married as a way of ‘trying out’ their relationship.
6. Living together first is a good way of testing how workable a couple’s marriage would be.
7. I would personally consider having a child out-of-wedlock.
8. Being married is a very important goal for me.
9. In marriage, it is a good idea foe each spouse to maintain control over his/her own finances.
10. Having children is a very important goal for me.
11. Being a mother and raising and children is one of the most fulfilling experiences a woman can have.
12. Being a father and raising a child is one of the most fulfilling experiences a father could have.

**H<sub>0</sub>: Both males and females spend the same amount of time viewing pornography.**

**H<sub>3</sub>: There are a higher percentage of males who view pornography than females.**

In the final hypothesis, sex will be measured using question 25 on the survey: “Which sex do you most identify with?” with multiple choice answers of male or female. In this hypothesis, pornography will be measured using only the question of: “How frequently do you view pornographic material (such as magazines, movies and/or Internet sites)?”

The data that will be gathered to answer these three hypotheses will be collected by surveying the students on the University of New Hampshire campus. The study will be sure to include a variety of students ranging from 18 to 26. This information will be obtained using random selection, in which each letter of the alphabet has a corresponding number of 1-26. Using **Research Randomizer Form v 4.0**, a list of nine numbers was generated to represent the nine letters that will then become the first letter of the last name.

**2:B 3:C 4:D 6:F 10:J 12:L 14:N 18:R 20:T**

The randomizer was again used to pick a number 1-5, which represented the vowel and the second letter of the last name.

**1:A 2:E 3:I 4:O 5.U**

It was then determined that students whose last name starts with: “Bo” “Co” “Do” “Fo” “Jo” “Lo” “No” “Ro” and “To” will be considered the random sample for this study.

The survey will be distributed via the internet through the University of New Hampshire email system. A direct link from **Qualtrics.com** with the survey link was sent to the email addresses that have been gathered through the University of New Hampshire student directory, making sure to include only those who have the selected last names. The sample size who received the survey was roughly 1143 people. The email providing the link to the survey clearly stated that taking the survey was optional, and if a participant is unwilling to participate they could delete the email at their leisure. Consent from the participants was obtained by choosing to take the survey. The survey never asked for a respondent's name, nor does it have any questions that will be able to identify a single person.

As I stated above, the survey was distributed via the Internet using students' email addresses. The information provided by the respondents who chose to participate were automatically collected and analyzed through **Qualtrics.com**. The data that was collected using this site were also analyzed using Small Stata 10 to confirm the

information had been collected properly. The data was then converted into statistics which contributed to the overall findings of the research.

The survey included 25 total questions ranging from demographic questions, to questions on pornography, participation in certain types of risky behavior, and beliefs about family formation values. The survey was very straightforward and easy to answer. There were not any ambiguous items on the questionnaire and every response was used to answer either one of the research questions or any of the three hypotheses. It was also very easy for participants to consent to taking the survey or choosing to decline the offer. Due to the large sample size, an Internet survey was the best way to receive the largest response rate.

### **Results**

The analyses for this study were conducted using multivariate regression models and chi square. In both cases, analyses were run separately for both males and females. In this study there were a total of 224 respondents, 130 females and 94 males. The age of the college students in the sample were also representative of the age bracket where risky behaviors are the most prevalent, and when most students have just begun to think about starting a family. Less than 1% of respondents were under the age of 18, 33% were 18-19, 61% of students ranged from 20-22, and 6% of respondents were between the ages of (23-26) (Figure 1).

It was also found that in this sample 61.7% of men view pornography at least once a week, while only 6.93% of females view pornography at least once a week. However, more than half of both men (82.98%) and women (66.93%) at least somewhat agree that pornography is an acceptable way to express ones sexuality (Figure 2).

*Question 1: How does the usage of pornography affect males and females participation in risky behavior?*

The frequency of pornography use and its effects on risky behaviors were measured between both males and females. In these analyses, cigarette smoking, speeding, picking up a hitchhiker, meeting someone face-to-face they had only met on a social network, leaving an open drink unattended at a party, and responses to two Likert scale questions that include: “It is alright for a man and a women to have sexual relations before marriage” and “It is alright for two people to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further,” were the seven questions that represented the “risky behavior” variable.

The results show that viewing pornography significantly predicts attitudes about getting together for sex and expecting nothing further for both males and females. (Multivariate regression: Males,  $F(1, 92) = 4.64, p < .05$ ; Females,  $F(1,128) = 7.57, p < .05$ ). In both instances, as the amount of pornography viewed increases, the more accepting people are of having casual sex; for every one unit increase on porn viewing, females attitudes about sex and nothing further increase by .363 units ( $p < .001$ ) and males by .187 ( $p < .001$ ) (Figure 3).

For college men, there was a statistical significance between pornography use and the acceptance of the statement that “It is alright for a man and a woman to have sexual relations before marriage.” Results also found that pornography viewing significantly predicts attitudes about premarital sex for males only; for every one unit increase on porn viewing, males attitudes about premarital sex increase by .359 units ( $p < .001$ ) (Multivariate Regression: Males,  $F(1,92) = 27.30, p < .05$ ). R-squared also indicates that males who view porn account for 23% of the variation in frequency of accepting having sexual relations before marriage (Figure 4).

For college females, it was found that both smoking and speeding had a small but statistically significant relationship in regards to pornography use. It was found that 74.42% of females had never smoked cigarettes and of that, 65.63% of females had never viewed pornography. However, it was found that there was a significant relationship

between porn use and cigarette smoking (Multivariate Regression: Females  $F(1,127) = 8.10, p < .05$ ). Eighteen percent of college females who say they view pornography 3-5 times a week also speed every time they get into a car. This statistic can contribute to the statistical significance between females pornography use and speeding habits (Multivariate Regression: Females  $F(1,128) = 9.41, p < .05$ ).

A multivariate analysis did show statistical significance between pornography use and hitchhiking, meeting someone in person you had only met on the Internet, and leaving an open drink unattended at a party. However, when separated and compared between each sex, none of these three variables were statistically significant.

Therefore, *Hypothesis 1*, “The usage of pornography will increase males and females’ participation in risky behavior,” can be supported by these results. There is a statistically significant correlation between the use of pornography by both males and females on how they feel about casual sex. It was also found that pornography use by men has a statistically significant correlation when it comes to premarital sexual relations. Pornography use among females also has significant correlation with cigarette smoking and speeding.

*Question 2: How does acceptance of pornography affect males’ and females’ thoughts on family formation values?*

The acceptance of pornography and its effects on family formation values were also compared between males and females. A total of twelve questions were used to measure the variable of family formation values. Of the twelve, five questions were selected to be compared to the respondents’ answers to the acceptance of pornography.

These five questions include:

1. It is alright for a couple to live together without planning to get married.
2. It is alright for an unmarried couple to live together, as long as they have plans to marry.
3. It is a good idea for a couple to live together before getting married as a way of ‘trying out’ their relationship.
4. I would personally consider having a child out of wedlock.
5. Being married is a very important goal for me.

Separate regression models predicting opinions about family formation values by the acceptance of pornography were run for male and female respondents. The results show that the acceptance of pornography significantly predicts attitudes about non-marital cohabitation; for every one unit increase on pornography acceptance, males attitudes about living together with no intent to marry increase by .469 units ( $p < .001$ ) and increase by .517 units ( $p < .001$ ) for females. R-squared also indicates that males who are more accepting of pornography use account for 22% of the variation about men's thoughts about living together with no intention of marrying. Interestingly enough, it can also be said that the R-squared for women is even higher at 31% (Figure 5).

There was also a statistical significance for both males and females between acceptance of pornography and attitudes about living together first to remain happily married. It was found that roughly 72% of females and 79% of males say they at least "somewhat agree" to the statement that they will be happier in marriage if they live together first.

The acceptance of pornography use was statistically correlated for both sexes when asking respondents their feelings on living together as a way of trying out their relationship. Over 80% of both men and women respondents found that they at least "somewhat agree" that it is acceptable to live together as a way of trying out a relationship (Multivariate regression: Males,  $F(1, 92) = 20.60$ ,  $p < .05$ ; Females,  $F(1, 128) = 31.60$ ,  $p < .05$ ). For both sexes, R-squared indicates that people who are more accepting of pornography account for about 19% of the variation about thoughts of living together as a way of trying out a relationship. Results found that for every one unit increase on pornography acceptance, males' attitudes about living together as a way of trying out a relationship increase by .455 units ( $P < .001$ ), while females' increase by .425 units ( $P < .001$ ) (Figure 7).



When comparing responses to how apt a person is to have a child out of wedlock, it was found that females only have a statistically significant correlation in relation to pornography acceptance. This means that the higher a female's acceptance of pornography use, the more likely it would be for her to have a child out of wedlock. For every one unit increase in pornography acceptance, females' attitudes on having a child out of wedlock increase by .249 units ( $P < .001$ ) (Figure 8). Although there was a significant correlation between these two variables, only 17.7% of females would at least "somewhat agree" to have a child out of wedlock.

These results also found a negative correlation between pornography acceptance and marriage importance among females. It was found that as females' acceptance of pornography increases, the less important it becomes to get married (Multivariate Regression: Females,  $F(1,128) = 4.88, p < .05$ ). Although statistically significant, R-squared indicates that females who are more accepting of pornography account for only 3.67% of the variation about marriage being an important goal for a woman (Figure 9). In total, almost 87% of women responded that marriage is at least a "somewhat" important goal.

Thus far, it can be said that *Hypothesis 2*, "The acceptance and usage of pornography will not have an effect on family formation values," cannot be supported. Using the five questions to represent family formation values, it was found that for at least one of the sexes, there was a statistically significant relationship. In saying this, there is supporting information that pornography acceptance does have an effect on family formation values, which contradicts the original hypothesis.

Using chi-square, *Hypothesis 3*, "There are a higher percentage of males who view pornography than females," can be supported. It was found that males viewed pornography at a significantly higher rate than females. 23.40% of males viewed pornography 1-2 times a week and overall, 61.7% of males reported viewing pornography at least once a week, if not more. Meanwhile, as the frequency of

pornography use by males increased, women's responses decreased. Only 6.93% of females reported viewing pornography at least once a week, while 60.77% of females said that they never view pornography (refer back to Figure 2).

### **Discussion**

The current study measured levels of pornography use and acceptance among college students at the University of New Hampshire. These analyses were compared to respondents' answers about participating and risky behaviors and thoughts on family formation values. Results found that the use of pornography was correlated to participation in risky behaviors. Pornography use for both men and women was significantly correlated with acceptance of casual sex. However, pornography use for men only was associated with higher levels of acceptance about participating in extra-marital sex. It was also found that only females who view pornography may be more likely to speed, smoke cigarettes, and have a higher acceptance level of participation in pre-marital sex.

Pornography acceptance was also significantly correlated with how people view certain family formation values. It was found that the acceptance of pornography significantly predicts males' and females' attitudes about living together with no intent of marriage, living together first to remain happily married, and living together as a way of trying out their relationship. Results also indicate a significant relationship between only females' pornography acceptance and the willingness to have a child out of wedlock. A negative correlation was found between females' pornography use, and marital importance; the more a women accepted pornography, the less important marriage is.

In both this study and in Carroll et al. (2008) study, it was found that pornography use did in fact influence men's acceptance of extra-marital sexual behavior; casual sex also had a significant relationship to pornography use. However, Carroll et al. (2008) only found significance between men and casual sex, while this study found a significant

relationship for both sexes. This study and Carroll et al.'s (2008) study also found the same results in reference to pornography acceptance and non-marital cohabitation. In both studies it was found that there was a significant relationship between pornography acceptance and non-marital cohabitation for both sexes. Both studies also found similar results in that only females who accept pornography are more likely to accept having a child out of wedlock

Overall, this study and Carroll et al.'s (2008) study found similar results. Although there were some variations in the actual numbers themselves, most results agreed with one another. In this study, however, there were more questions that were found to be statistically significant between pornography acceptance and family formation values than Carroll et al.'s (2008) study.

Although both of these studies found similar results, this study was not foolproof. On the one hand, the current study surveyed 224 college-aged students (18-26), which represents a true random sample of the population at the University of New Hampshire. The information gathered from respondents was equally distributed between males (42%) and females (58%), given the overwhelming population of females on the university campus. Moreover, the survey used to measure students' responses was easy to access and had very straightforward questions.

On the downside, true risky behaviors, such as participation in sex without a condom, participation in anal sex, and drug use was not surveyed. Future research should explore these more "risky" behaviors to get a more accurate result. The survey method that was used could also cause inaccurate data. When randomly selecting students' last names, it was found that, in some instances, siblings were being selected. Although this may not cause a huge shift in data, we may find that siblings have similar views on certain questions asked and could have the potential to sway the results one way or another.

Overall, it was found that there was a significant correlation between college students' pornography use and acceptance and their participation in risky behaviors and family formation values. Two out of my three hypotheses were supported, and results from the third hypothesis support pornography acceptance having a significant effect on family formation values. As the pioneer study indicated, at this point it can be said that pornography may, in fact, be related to excessive participation in risky behaviors and may impact the way students view family formation values.

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