

Ignoring Adult Porn Is a Disaster for Our Children

In today's sex-soaked media, it was gratifying to see a leading champion of unrestricted sexual freedom, the *New York Times*, going bonkers about the wickedness of pornography. The headline summarises its graphic, scrupulously researched and highly disturbing article: "[The Internet Is Overrun With Images of Child Sexual Abuse. What Went Wrong?](#)"

The figures it cites are appalling. In 1998, sexual abuse imagery was "reported" more than 3,000 times. Ten years later, that number had risen to 100,000. In 2014, it was 1 million. Last year, 2018, it was 18.4 million. The figures are a bit elastic, of course. It's not clear what a "report" is and much of the increase is simply due to scanning by technology platforms like Facebook and Google.

But the trend is crystal clear. The use of child pornography is going up and up and up. As reported by the *Times*, demand seems to be insatiable.

At the extreme end, images are becoming ever more perverse, graphic and sadistic. The *Times* describes a handful of them in stomach-churning detail.

But the second half of the headline was "What Went Wrong?" And this is where its analysis falls apart.

The Times frames the child pornography crisis as a failure of technology and government funding. "Online predators create and share the illegal material, which is increasingly cloaked by technology. Tech companies, the government and the authorities are no match." The article goes on to say:

The highly skilled perpetrators often taunt the authorities with their technical skills, acting boldly because they feel

protected by the cover of darkness.

“People who traffic in child exploitation materials are on the cutting edge of technology,” said Susan Hennessey, a former lawyer at the National Security Agency who researches cybersecurity at the Brookings Institution.

Offenders can cover their tracks by connecting to virtual private networks, which mask their locations; deploying encryption techniques, which can hide their messages and make their hard drives impenetrable; and posting on the dark web, which is inaccessible to conventional browsers.

The *Times* points out that funding for detecting and tracking on-line perpetrators is woefully inadequate. In 2007, an investigator told Congress that “We are overwhelmed, we are underfunded and we are drowning in the tidal wave of tragedy.” Only two percent of the crime of using child abuse images would be investigated. Since then the problem has only grown worse.

Annual funding for state and regional investigations was authorized at \$60 million, but only about half of that is regularly approved. It has increased only slightly from 10 years ago when accounting for inflation. Senator Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat of Connecticut ... said there was “no adequate or logical explanation and no excuse” for why more money was not allocated. Even \$60 million a year, he said, would now be “vastly inadequate.”

Tech and money are what the journalists of the *Times* are comfortable with. But are they the main factors in the incredible expansion of child pornography?

Absolutely not. Pornography is a cultural issue. The problem is that cultural norms have eroded so much that many people see nothing wrong with pornography – as long as it is not

child pornography.

But this is schizophrenic. Does pornography depicting people who are 18 and over really have nothing to do with pornography depicting people who are under 18? For the *Times*, they are two altogether different things; its journalists are even careful to use different term for them. In fact, in a 5000-word article about sexual images the journalists use the word “pornography” only twice.

While the imagery is often defined as “child pornography” in state and federal laws, experts prefer terms like child sexual abuse imagery or child exploitation material to underscore the seriousness of the crimes and to avoid conflating it with adult pornography, which is legal for people over 18.

Let’s deconstruct this. “Experts” assert that creating and consuming child sexual abuse imagery” is a serious crime – which it certainly is. But pornography is legal and therefore it is not a problem.

Is there no correlation between the booming child pornography industry and the booming adult pornography industry? Because the latter is just exploding.

If you consult Pornhub’s 2018 Year in Review – and I suggest that you don’t – the figures are staggering. Pornhub is YouTube for pornographers. You can upload smutty clips taken with an iPhone or with professional equipment. You can watch it for free. Pornhub may not be as distinguished as the *New York Times*, but it has many more visitors.

2018 was an impressively big year for Pornhub and its users. Visits to Pornhub totalled 33.5 billion over the course of 2018, an increase of 5 billion visits over 2017. That equates to a daily average of 92 million visitors and at the time of this writing, Pornhub’s daily visits now exceed 100 million.

To put that into perspective, that's as if the combined populations of Canada, Poland and Australia all visited Pornhub every day!

The amount of new content generated is staggering. Every minute, 12 new videos are uploaded:

To make sure there was always fresh content to satisfy those searches, Pornhub's amateurs, models and content partners uploaded an incredible 4.79 million new videos, creating over 1 million hours of new content to enjoy on the site. If you were to start watching 2018's videos after the Wright brother's first flight in 1903, you would still be watching them today 115 years later!

Wouldn't you think that there would be a correlation between a surge in child pornography and an explosion in adult pornography? A slippery slope in pornography is just a hypothesis, of course, but mightn't a taste for the legal stuff lead to a taste for the illegal stuff?

Similarly, animal abuse has long been recognised as a warning bell for child abuse and domestic violence. [Researchers at Teesside University](#), in the UK, say that notorious American serial killers like "the Boston Strangler", Albert DeSalvo, and Jeffrey Dahmer, killer and cannibal, tortured and killed animals in their youth. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the Columbine High School killers, had told classmates about mutilating animals.

"Assuredly, animal abuse does not exist in isolation but impacts on individuals, families and, where a scale of such magnitude is identified, can permeate a whole society," says [Professor Malcolm Plant](#).

It's just an analogy, but it makes sense. Tolerated cruelty leads to intolerable cruelty.

So why didn't the *New York Times's* team of experienced journalists investigate this possible link?

The answer seems clear. Because they are ideologically committed to the notion that adult pornography does no harm.

Fine. Everyone is entitled to his own theory. But unless the narrative changes, don't expect victory in the war on child pornography.

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