

POSTER

Pornography: Are there Independent Effects on Sexually Coercive Behavior in Adolescents?

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The contribution of pornography to increasing the potential for sexually coercive behavior remains a controversial issue (Malamuth, 1986). Recently, Malamuth and Huppin (2005) found that even after partialling out the contribution of several key predictors of sexually aggressive behavior, pornography use was nonetheless still significantly correlated with sexually aggressive behavior. In contrast, Harries and Knight (unpublished presentation, 2007) found that when sexual abuse and substance abuse are included in the model, pornography use is no longer a significant correlate. This present study attempted to replicate and extend these analyses on a new sample of 278 male adolescents broken into two groups based on their offense status: some sex offenders and some non-sexual offenders. We assessed the relation of eight variables in addition to pornography use with the frequency of sexually coercive behavior. The variables examined came from two domains-- (a) developmental experiences, which included caregiver instability, antipathy, vicarious violence, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, and (b) concurrent risk factors, which included sexualization, substance abuse, and psychopathy. Significant differences between these groups, as well as from previous research, will be discussed in an attempt to elucidate the relationship between pornography use and sexual coercion.