

Child Porn Users & Child Sexual Abusers

Houteven, Sijtsema, & Bogaerts, (2014).

- Child porn may help some control sexual deviance while for others facilitates acting on preexisting fantasies and urges (Quayle & Taylor, 2002).
- Time spent online and number of child porn images collected- more time online generally lead to more deviant and severe child porn- correlated with contact offenses; imagery was not enough after some time.
- Prolonged time online lead more to habituation and increases need for more severe porn
- Larger collections sometimes found with contact offenders (themes)
- Not the number per se of images, but the type and severity of the material- images of explicit sexual contact more indicative for contact offenses
- Interacting with other pornographers increased likelihood of contact offense
- May lead to cybersex with children online
- Contact offenders more likely to reside with a child (Seto, Wood, Babchishin, & Flynn, 2011).
- Approximately half of online offenders (soliciting children or child porn) admit to having committed a contact offense against a child; recidivism was low with intervention (Seto, Hanson, & Babchishin, 2011).
- Approximately 85% of online offenders admitted to having engaged in a contact offense most involving multiple victims (The Butner Study) (Bourke & Hernandez, 2009).
- Criminal history, especially violent offense history was a significant predictor of all types of future offending as is young age at time of first offense. Child pornographers were not very likely to reoffend once caught (Seto, & Eke, 2005; Eke, Seto, & Williams, 2011).
- About 25% of the child pornographer offenders reoffended while in supervised release, approximately half involving being alone with children or downloading child porn (Eke, Seto, & Williams, 2011). Other violations included use of alcohol, failing to report as direct- all indicating a willingness to ignore rules and to engage in potentially dangerous behavior. Offenders with a prior history of violation of conditional release were more likely to offend, violently and nonviolently.
- Offender age at time of first offense, prior offense history including violent offenses, and failure of conditional release are significant predictors of violent and contact sexual recidivism among child pornography offenders.
- Other significant predictors of sexual rearrest: lower education, being single, having non-internet child porn (home-made), prior sex offender treatment (maybe not treatment but rather prior sex offense history that required treatment), and having pictures of children (<12; not of adolescents) (Faust, Renaud, & Bickart, 2009).
- *However, they may score LOW on risk assessment tools*
- Online offenders might exhibit greater sexual deviance, some differed in psychological factors that may act to protect them from committing contact sexual offenses (e.g., greater victim empathy, less emotional identification with children, fewer cognitive distortions (Babchishin, Hanson, & Hermann, 2010).
- Pedophilia is an important motivation for sexual contact with children; antisocial dispositions are necessary for acting on deviant sexual interests.

© 2017

Scott A. Johnson, MA, LP (612) 269-3628; www.forensicconsultation.org