

Porn Report

Surveying students on pornography use and involving them
in planning critical learning interventions

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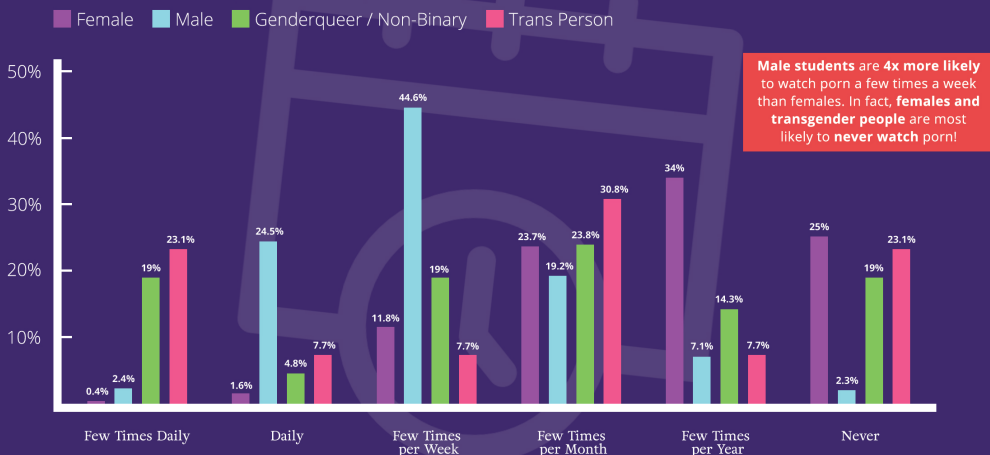


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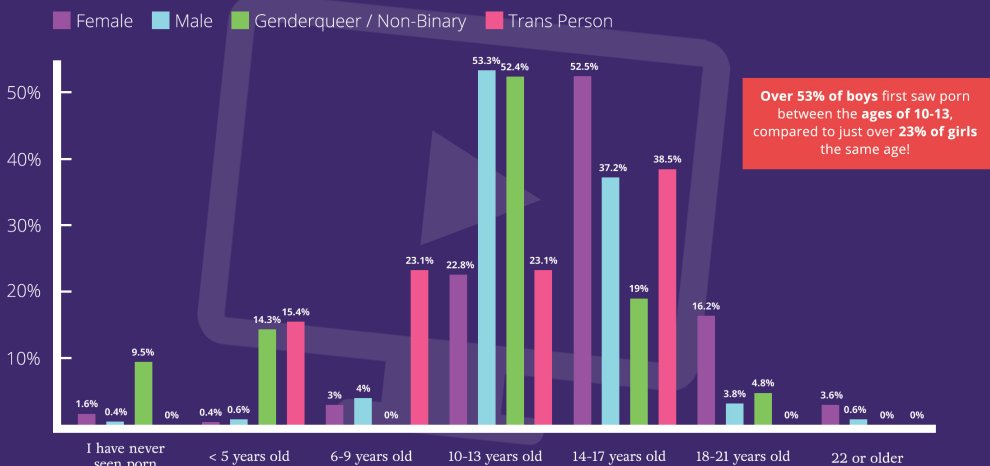
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The purpose of this study was to **gain insight into pornography engagement patterns among Irish university students**. A total of 1,934 students from the National University of Ireland, Galway completed an anonymous online survey. The majority of participants were female (51%), 47% were male, 1% identified as gender queer or non-binary, 0.5% as transgender and the remaining 0.4% identified as 'other'. The majority (78%) were 18-25 years of age, identified as heterosexual (85%) and Irish (80%).

How often do you watch porn?



What is the age you first saw porn* (accidentally or on purpose)?



*Porn is defined as video footage, including movies or video clips of people having sex or engaging in other sexual behaviours that is designed to sexually arouse the viewer

Why do you watch porn?

For Masturbation?	For Information?	Out of Curiosity?	With a Partner for Arousal?
<p>Just over 60% of students use porn for masturbation regularly. 15% of students never use it.</p>	<p>49.4% of students wouldn't refer to porn for information about sex, with <i>only 2.5% of students</i> referencing it 'a great deal'.</p>	<p>25% of students watch porn 'somewhat' out of curiosity, while 23% of students would 'not at all' be curious to watch.</p>	<p>Less than 5% of students watch porn regularly with their partner for arousal, compared to 74% of students who wouldn't at all.</p>

Attitudes toward porn

Relationship Impact?	Is Porn Realistic?	Fun to watch?
<p>21% said that they have used porn with their partner for new sexual ideas.</p>	<p>Men and women agree porn is not realistic; 84% of men & 91% of women disagree with the idea that porn portrays sex in a realistic way.</p>	<p>Two thirds of men believe porn is fun and exciting to watch, compared to 37% of women.</p>

What % say they have been influenced by watching porn*?

	Female	Male	Genderqueer / Non-Binary	Trans Person
How to interact with a partner about sex	24%	36%	42%	44%
How to initiate sexual contact	18%	19%	26%	44%
How people behave during sex	24%	29%	47%	33%
The roles of men and women during sex	23%	37%	37%	44%
How to communicate verbally during sex	18%	25%	32%	56%
How to communicate non-verbally during sex	18%	25%	32%	56%
Total Respondents	1065	1004	19	9

*Question posed: How much have you learned about the following from watching porn? Response options were on a 5 point scale: Responses 'Some-A Lot-Everything' were grouped.

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Qualitative Research

The qualitative data here sought to explore students attitudes and beliefs about porn.

Group discussion with students showed an awareness that some scenarios reflect sexual assault:

“ In some porn it might not be like rape but it might be like cajoling or pressuring, there's one like teacher-student, like oh you do something bad, you have to do this, but like it wouldn't be as kind of obvious that it was like sexual assault ”

The negative impact of watching porn scenes where 'no' is ignored

“ It's the fake 'no' that can throw off some kids because they don't understand. They weren't thinking 'oh this is acting, this is part of the script'...so you're kind of taught from a young age that the chase is part of it and 'no' is up for debate ”

Many discussed how porn can help in exploring sexual interests and identity:

“ That you know it's a safe enough place to explore your fantasies or you know your sexual orientation or your interests, whatever ”

“ For a lot of gay people anyway it's used very much as a common tool for people to eh, to figure out their sexual orientation, because at that age it is confusing, so I suppose, porn is a go-to medium for people to find out what they're reacting to sexually ”

Students provided suggestions for breaking myths promoted through porn:

“ You could present like myth and fact, and like short YouTube videos or a Snapchat that you could follow. And be like 'myth' about penis size, or something like that, and then 'fact': 'most penises are this size' or most sexual interactions will last this long on average ”



These findings came from a series of participatory workshops with 54 university students. The illustration was produced by participants who presented recommendations on what could be done to promote critical awareness of pornography.

Inner Circle:

What are the most important topics to be covered in porn education?

Outer Circle:

What is the best way to engage young people on these topics?



Thank you to all our participants!

Research conducted at the **School of Psychology,**
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*We had a small number of non-binary and transgender students, our findings may not be representative of other students of this demographic