



PORN & TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

HOW PORN CAN FUEL AND NORMALIZE
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

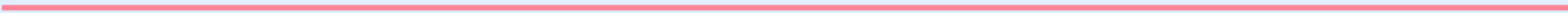
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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Although it's not often discussed, nearly 1 in 12 teens reports experiencing physical dating violence, according to a 2019 survey.

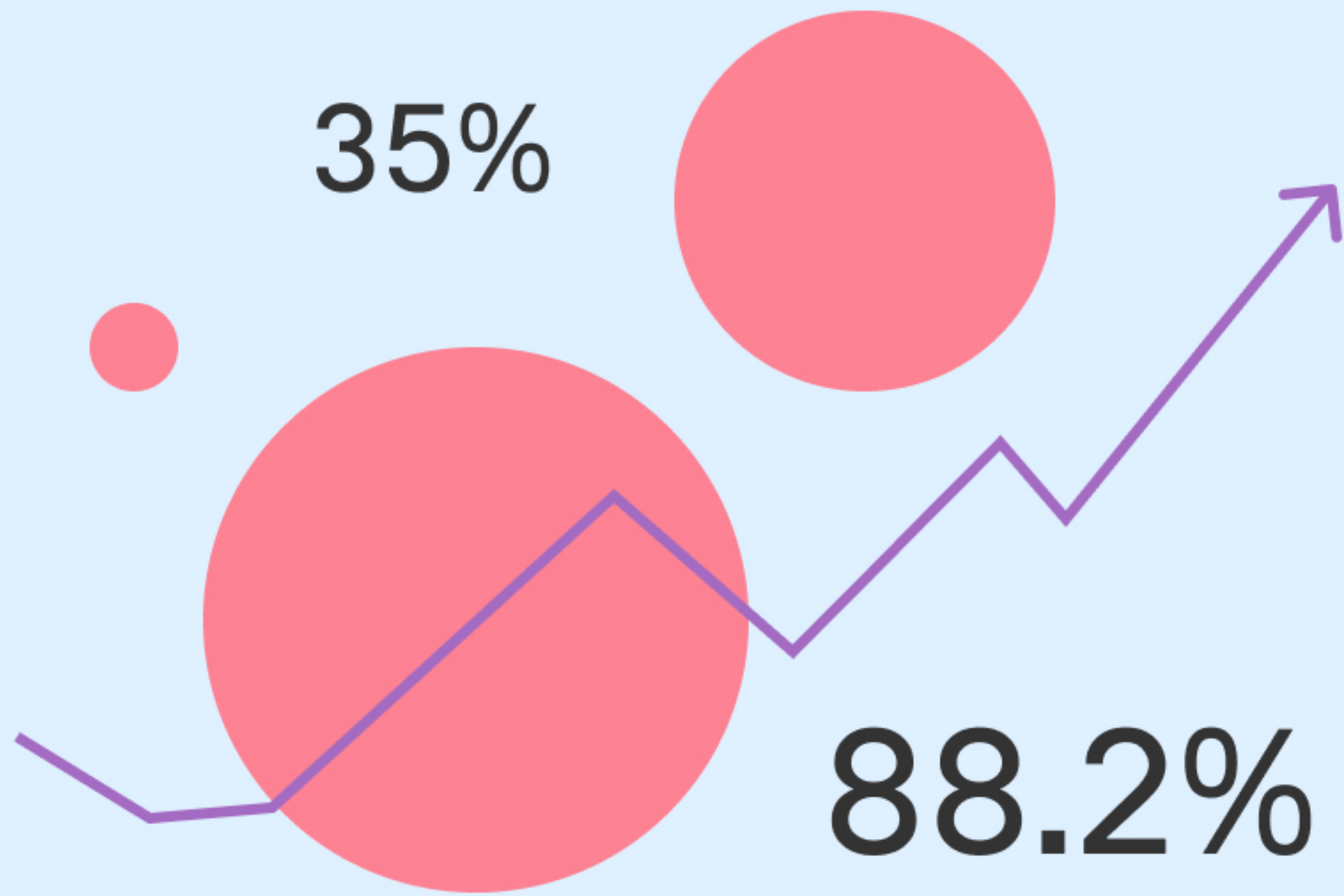


Even less talked about is the fact that pornography plays a role in informing teens' understanding of sex and relationships in unhealthy ways.

In fact, even though many teens report learning about sex from porn, research suggests that porn may be making teens more sexually illiterate.

(BBFC, 2020)

(WRIGHT, TOKUNAGA, HERBENICK, & PAUL, 2021)



Research also suggests that as little as 35% and as much as 88.2% of popular porn scenes contain physical violence or aggression, and women are the targets of that violence approximately 97% of the time. What is this teaching young people about sex?

(FRITZ, MALIC, PAUL, & ZHOU, 2020)

(BRIDGES, WOSNITZER, SCHARRER, SUN, & LIBERMAN, 2010)

Reviews of the research on this topic reveal that porn can influence adolescents' sexual attitudes and behavior, and can even play a role in increased sexual aggression.

(KOLETIĆ, 2017)

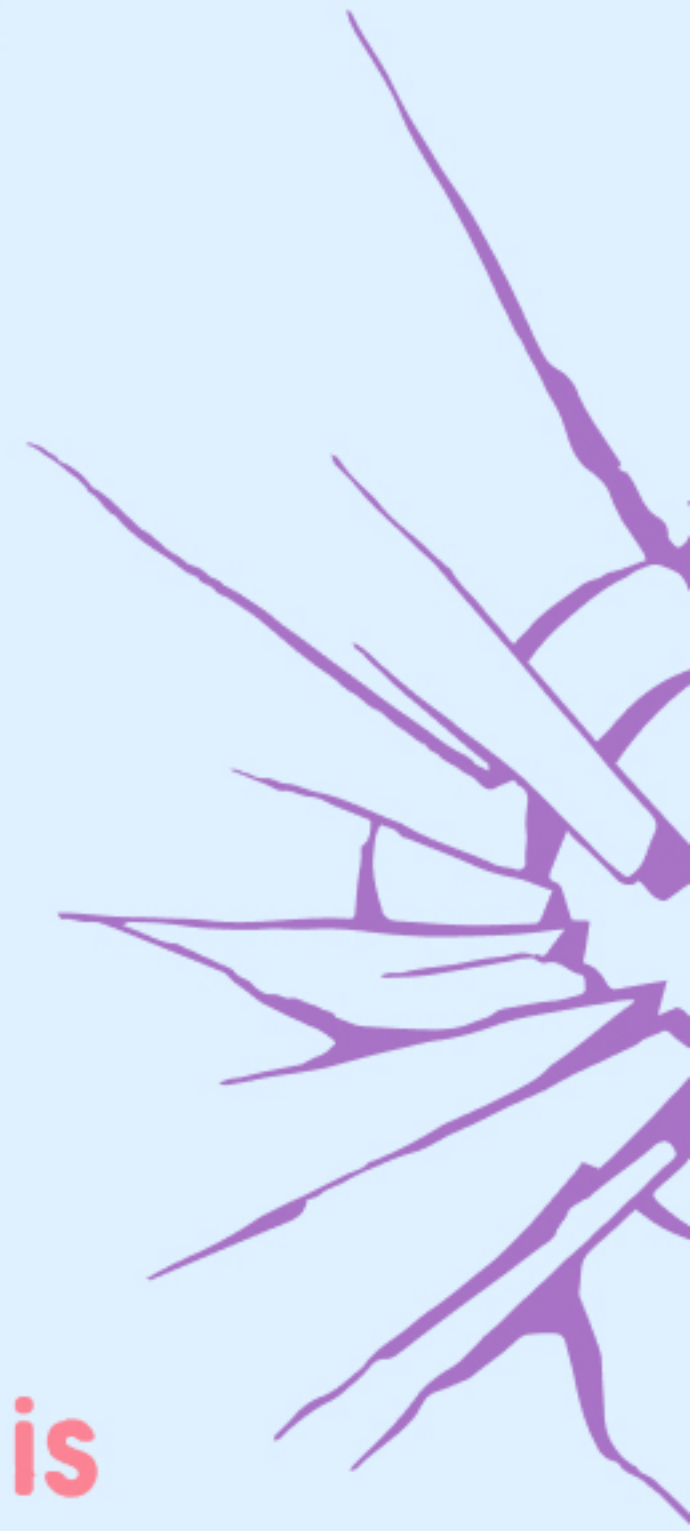
(PETER & VALKENBURG, 2016)

In fact, dozens and dozens of studies show a direct link between porn and increased sexual aggression.

Showing that porn consumption is a significant predictor of committing acts of sexual violence.

Research also suggests that increased porn consumption is associated with men's enjoyment of degrading and/or sexually aggressive behaviors.

(WRIGHT, TOKUNAGA, & KRAUS, 2016)
(PETER & VALKENBURG, 2016)
(GOODSON, FRANKLIN, & BOUFFARD, 2020)
(EZZELL, JOHNSON, BRIDGES, & SUN, 2020)



Porn influences sexual behavior.

As one young person told researchers:

“

MY FRIEND TRIED TO CHOKE HIS GIRLFRIEND ONCE WHEN THEY WERE HAVING SEX BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN IT IN A PORNO... IT ENDED WITH THE GIRLFRIEND SLAPPING HIM AND WHEN HE ASKED WHY SHE SLAPPED HIM SHE SAID, 'BECAUSE YOU WERE CHOKING ME.'

”

Another increasingly common form of dating violence is image-based abuse, sometimes called “revenge porn.” With this in mind, it’s important to remember that:

ANY EXPLICIT CONTENT OF A MINOR IS LEGALLY CONSIDERED “CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.”

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNET WATCH FOUNDATION, APPROXIMATELY 1/3 OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IMAGES ARE ORIGINALLY SHARED BY THE MINORS DEPICTED THEMSELVES. 1

ACCORDING TO LONGITUDINAL RESEARCH, PORN USE SIGNIFICANTLY PREDICTS MORE WILLINGNESS TO FORWARD SEXTS WITHOUT CONSENT. 2

1 IN 3 TEENS SAY THEY HAVE SEEN NON-CONSENSUALLY SHARED NUDES 3

1 IN 12 U.S. ADULTS REPORT BEING VICTIMS OF NONCONSENSUAL PORN AND 1 IN 20 HAVE BEEN PERPETRATORS OF SPREADING IT. 4

1. (IWF) 2. (VAN OOSTEN & VANDENBOSCH, 2020)
3. (THORN, 2020) 4. (RUVALCABA & EATON, 2020)

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Teens learn about sex from porn, but porn teaches toxic lessons.

In discussions about teen dating violence, we need to talk about how porn fuels and normalizes sexual violence. Sexual violence is never a requirement to be a fulfilling, exciting partner. Everyone deserves to make their own decisions about sex, free from what porn dictates as being normal or required. Everyone deserves to be in intimate dating relationships where they feel respected, valued, and safe.

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