

What porn is doing to our kids

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Orlando Sentinel

"Porn has gone so mainstream that we hardly flinch at its mention anymore," said Kathleen Parker. "But 10-year-olds?" A new study in the journal *Pediatrics* found that 42 percent of Internet users between the ages of 10 and 17 have viewed online porn—many of them stumbling upon it while rooting around on the Web. Research has established that even adults are harmed by the habitual viewing of porn: Men become incapable of forming meaningful relationships with "real women who fall short of porn standards," while wives and girlfriends feel betrayed by their mates' virtual sex lives. Children, "by definition, are emotionally and psychologically unformed," and are thus even more vulnerable. How confusing it must be for a child to come across "images of two (or three or four) overendowed adults consorting like a troop of deranged baboons." And that's the mild stuff. "What are children to glean about grown-up relationships from watching men and women reduce each other to objects and orifices?" Whatever the answer, the damage is done.