

Inquiry into impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional, and physical health

Additional Questions

These responses come from six young people who replied to a follow-up email seeking additional information related to the Committee's further questions about the roundtables.

Information was gathered using a Microsoft Form through either a closed question (yes or no response) or open-ended question.

1. Some roundtable participants noted that even if they do not wish to view pornography, they still receive ads:

a. Should there be the option to block ads for pornography sites?

Yes - 100% (6/6)

b. What about mixed sites (e.g. Only Fans) where there is some pornography and some other material?

Yes – 84% (5/6)

No – 16% (1/6)

2. Should young people have the option to block themselves from accessing pornography sites online?

Yes – 100% (6/6)

Open ended responses from children and young people included:

- But I think the key thing here is the agency of the young person - it is THEIR OWN decision to block the sites, rather than an enforcement.
- I have a few friends who are or have been addicted to pornography. However, there would have to be a way to make sure that if mainstream porn sites are blocked, that they don't seek porn access in more niche avenues that may not be blocked, leading them to more extreme sites.
- To add to that I know there are apps that limit screen time. It allows you to block apps on your phone and website links. There's an option to also block porn sites/adult content

3. What programs, apps and sites are these ads being sent? (e.g. on TikTok or in a game? what games? where else?)

- TikTok, Instagram & YouTube. These adverts are rampant throughout social media.
- Most mobile game ads, anime and manga websites, any online pirating website
- Lots on TikTok and Instagram, and generally on the sides of websites.
- Often pop-up ads on the side of websites.
- Typically, normal websites, like online shops or free games.

- TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, if you go to websites that are not completely reliable, they will also show up

4. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

- It's really important that young people actually understand porn isn't real and that it's just entertainment for adults. There needs to be more awareness about that. Now in sex ed, we just don't mention porn at all. It's the elephant in the room.
- This is something unrelated to advertising of pornography, but something I have been thinking about since the roundtable. I worry that conversations around the harmful impacts of porn could be used to avoid talking about other very real issues concerning sexual safety (particularly with young people). Yes, porn is harmful, and the negative effects of pornography are quantifiable - however I don't think porn is the main issue policy should be focusing on. Sex education should be held to a much higher standard, laws surrounding child sex abuse, particularly within families, should be focused on. I think in regards to sexual abuse harm on young people, porn is not a priority. My main ask is that this issue of pornography is not used to avoid harder conversations around what is actually causing deep harm to young people (such as child sexual abuse (CSA), rape, gendered violence etc).