



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

Analysis of responses to the online questionnaire

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Objectives and methodology



Context and objectives

This report analyses anonymous, public responses made via an online questionnaire to an inquiry by the NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues.

This inquiry was established on 6 August 2024 to inquire into and report on the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional, and physical health.

Contributions to the inquiry could be made by lodging a submission or completing an online questionnaire by 31 January 2025.

The online questionnaire comprised of 21 primarily open-ended questions devised by Committee members.

With 1,598 responses received, at the request of the Committee, the NSW Parliamentary Research Services sought the services of The Insight Centre as an independent research provider to conduct structured, thematic analysis of responses and provide a report on findings to the Committee.

Report objectives

Across all questions:

- Identify and quantify prominence of common themes across each of the open-ended questions
- Identify the full range of respondent perspectives in the dataset, including 'outlier' responses that reflect unique or uncommon perspectives

For each individual question:

- Identify any question-specific themes
- Quantify the prominence (e.g. proportion of agreement/disagreement) of each theme among respondents
- Provide quotes from responses that reflect each theme

Methodology

Overview

Our approach was to identify patterns in the qualitative text responses to the online questionnaire. The final cleaned sample was **1,598 respondents** and **30,626 valid (i.e. non-empty) individual question responses**.

We conducted manual coding and analysis by experienced social researchers alongside the use of Large Language Models (LLMs) to:

- 1) rigorously and efficiently process and code the large volume of textual data;
- 2) validate the accuracy of coding across the dataset; and
- 3) quantitatively measure the overall proportions of respondents who express specific views and sentiments.

In reporting for each question, we have also identified the proportion of valid responses which were either short (up to 10 words), medium (11–50 words) or long (51+ words).

The research process

1. Researchers assessed a random selection of data across all questions to manually create qualitative coding frameworks and code responses by theme.
2. Researchers prompted LLMs to use this framework to apply the relevant codes to a subset of data. We developed clear task definitions, gave specific coding instructions, and provided examples of desired output (i.e. the manually coded data), including constraints, exclusions and instructions for dealing with ambiguity.
3. The initial LLM ‘pilot’ coding of the data subset was checked and validated for accuracy by our researchers, and prompts were refined before the full dataset was coded by the LLM.
4. Random samples of LLM-coded data were manually reviewed and assessed for accuracy by our researchers, and additional coding and refinements applied.
5. Key quotes for the report were manually selected by researchers based on representativeness of key themes and to provide diversity of perspectives where applicable.

Notes on our use of LLMs

- Data analysed by LLMs is not used or retained for model training, maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of data.
- Coding frameworks and a statistically significant sample of coded data are independently reviewed by researchers, ensuring validity and robustness of analysis.
- We do not use LLMs or other automated programs to write reports – reports are written and reviewed by researchers.
- We keep a detailed log of the prompts used, the LLM’s responses, and any modifications made during the analysis process to ensure transparency and reproducibility.
- The specific LLMs used in this report were Gemini 2.5 Pro for the development of coding frameworks and Gemini 2.5 Flash for coding of individual responses.

Notes on interpreting this report

Understanding the findings

- The primary value of this research is the depth and detail it provides on the views of those members of the public who were motivated to submit to the inquiry via completion of the online questionnaire.
- The report identifies and quantifies the central themes and concerns that are most important to respondents based on qualitative analysis of themes present in their responses to questions.
- The 'common themes' identified in the report are based on analysis of all question responses in the dataset. However, binary questions include a higher proportion of very short (e.g. 'yes' or 'no') responses which are not attached to thematic codes. The percentage of responses featuring themes are therefore lower for binary questions.
- The selection of quotes in this report is purposive and is designed to illustrate the range and diversity of opinions and experiences within the respondent pool – including professional and lived experiences with the issue, and a range of gender and age perspectives. As the survey did not include demographic questions to classify respondents, this was achieved using contextual analysis of response text (e.g. "they started to see us girls as...", "after my son got addicted...", "I was choked...", "now at [age] 60+...", "in my work...").
- Quotes have been lightly edited for typographic errors and for length where required.

Notes on interpreting this report (cont.)

Limitations of this report

- The sample of respondents is not representative, and findings cannot be generalised to the broader population in NSW, or even to all NSW residents affected by the issue of harmful pornography.
- The respondents are a self-selected group who were motivated enough to find and complete the questionnaire. Their views are likely to be stronger or more informed than those of the general public. The high level of consistency in responses and few outlier points of view further indicate that this sample does not provide a natural spread of community views.
- No demographic data (e.g. gender, age, education) except for postcode were collected, which limits capacity to understand the nature of the respondent sample and how demographic variables may impact views.
- The questionnaire design is likely to have impacted the density of themes across the dataset – the thematic overlap or repetition of specific issues across some questions will have influenced the prominence of specific themes.
- The inquiry's ToR and the questionnaire responses relate to 'harmful pornography' specifically. However, 'harmful' as opposed to 'non-harmful' pornography is not defined for respondents. This means respondents will have applied their own subjective definitions to their responses, and responses cannot be interpreted as relating to pornography in a general sense nor to any specific types of pornography.

Overview of thematic analysis



Questionnaire overview

The data analysed in this report comprises responses to 21 open-ended questions. For the purpose of reporting and analysis, we have grouped these questions into three categories:

General response questions

7 questions exploring broad, open-ended perceptions of impacts, attitudes, and relationships concerning pornography

Binary response questions

9 closed-ended questions designed to gauge agreement, concern, or support for specific propositions, often answerable with "yes" or "no".

Specific response questions

5 action-oriented questions seeking concrete recommendations for policy, educational measures, support services, and future research.

A total of 2,009 questionnaire responses were received, with **1,598 retained for analysis** based on excluding those who did not respond 'Yes' to the screening question '*Are you a resident of New South Wales?*'

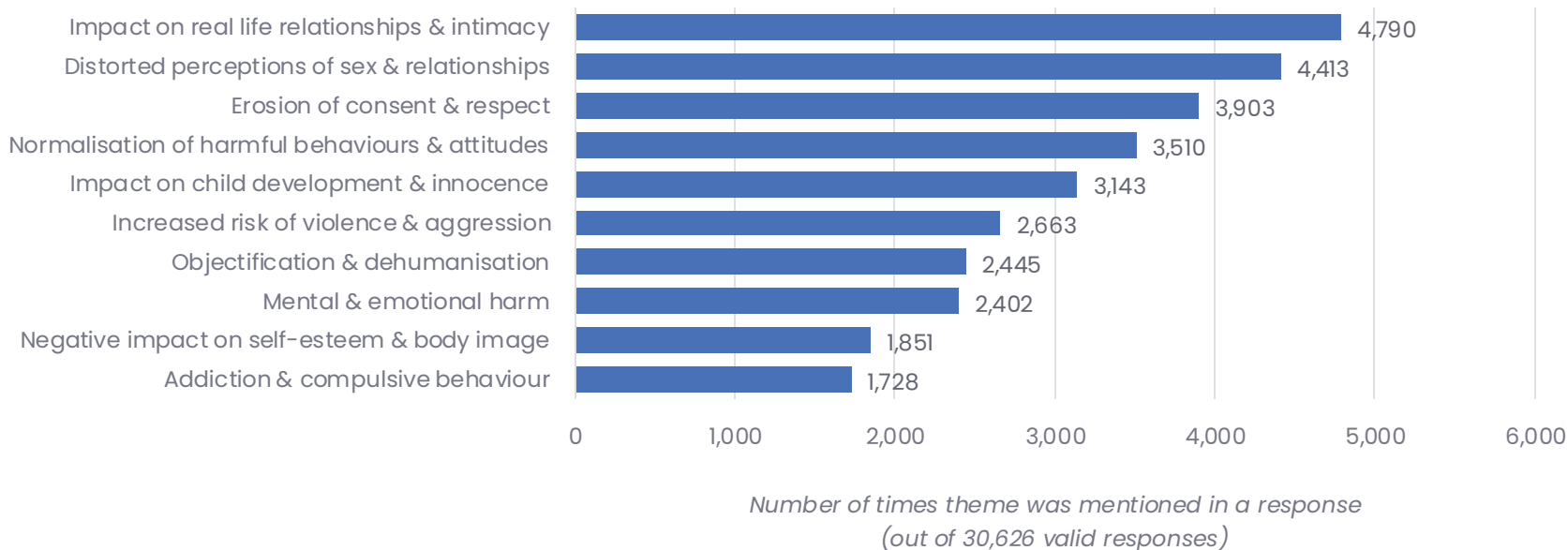
Questions

	Question	Q #	Response Rate
General response	What do you think are the impacts of early exposure to pornography?	2	97%
	What is the impact of pornography on the formation and maintenance of relationships?	4	96%
	How does pornography impact attitudes towards sex of those viewing pornography?	5	96%
	What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health?	6	95%
	How does access to harmful pornography impact body image?	7	92%
	What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health of the family of the consumer, such as partners, children or parents?	8	90%
Binary response	Does harmful pornography impact some groups in the community more than others?	3	96%
	Do you think there a link between harmful pornography and violence against women?	10	95%
	Does pornography teach consumers that "no" does not always mean no?	11	91%
	Do you think there is a link between harmful pornography and human trafficking?	12	93%
	Are you concerned that pornography can be used to groom children?	13	94%
	Do you support the use of mandatory age verification for access to online pornography?	15	94%
	Do you support the use of mandatory tools such as internet service provider filtering to block all access to sites that contain harmful pornography?	16	94%
	Do you support age limits for access to pornography?	17	94%
Specific response	Are you concerned about the presence of pornography on social media sites?	18	94%
	What is the relationship between pornography use and respect and consent education?	9	87%
	What are the strengths and weaknesses of current laws and regulations regarding pornography?	14	88%
	What measures should be taken to educate the public, especially children and young people, about the harms of pornography?	19	89%
	What resources or support services are needed for individuals, especially children and young people, at risk from or affected by harmful pornography?	20	84%
	Do you have any specific recommendations for policymakers to address any impacts of harmful pornography?	21	82%
	What additional research is required into the impacts of harmful pornography on individuals, relationships and society?	22	75%

Thematic analysis: Common themes

An analysis of responses to all questions was conducted to identify a set of 10 common themes which were present across the dataset. The chart below ranks these themes by how frequently they appear across all valid responses all questions in the dataset.

Ranking of common themes, by frequency of mention



Common theme #1

Impact on real life relationships & intimacy

Detrimental effects on the ability to form and maintain healthy, intimate real life relationships, including with family and partners.

Often stems from 'Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships' and 'Addiction & compulsive behaviour'.

“

I saw it destroy marriages and relationships. I talked to men who couldn't get it up with their partners anymore. Porn is a rot on society.

Response #635

Young blokes see women more as objects to use for their own gratification. Young women fear vulnerability and abuse and see men as a threat to be managed. The combination is undermining the formation of marriages and healthy long-term relationships

Response #181

I know personally a young woman who had a partner addicted to pornography and it ruined their relationship. It causes men particularly to become discontent with real-world relationships. Pornography traps their mind in a world of fantasy.

Response #28

A viewer often opts for that stimulation rather than seeking real relationships.

Response #8

”

Common theme #2

Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships

Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.

Related to 'Impact on real life relationships & intimacy'.

“

Early exposure to pornography can lead to distorted views of sex and relationships, desensitization to violence, and potential issues with intimacy and sexual dysfunction later in life.

Response #5

Extreme, as being a former user of it, it completely warps your mind in a terrible and harmful way. It creates ways of deception of viewing others of both genders, it creates a serious and strong addiction that is incredibly binding to the soul.

Response #1017

I think it gives people unrealistic expectations of sex and removes the context of an actual relationship. It strongly prioritises self-gratification rather than the pleasure of the other person.

Response #32

”

Common theme #3

Erosion of consent & respect

Diminished understanding and value of consent, respect, and boundaries in sexual interactions and relationships.

A specific outcome of 'Normalisation of harmful behaviours & attitudes' and 'Objectification & dehumanisation'.

“

Viewing pornography can distort the attitudes of the people viewing it, communicating the message that violence is ok, that humiliating your partner is ok, that a woman's no can be ignored, and that it is normal for women to not participate in or enjoy sex.

Response #302

When I first became sexually active, I was choked during it and spanked/whipped with a charging cord as that was what they had seen on porn and thought it was normal to want to hurt you during sex.

Response #1090

It creates the idea that sex is a right. Why wouldn't they think differently if viewing porn has been unrestricted and right in front of them for most of their life? So, sex from a woman you're close with is fair if she does not want sex, cry blue balls. Or do it anyways she probably won't say anything, that's what she's been taught to do by today's porn-ridden culture.

Response #1299

Many portrayals in pornography may neglect or misrepresent the importance of mutual consent, leading to skewed views about boundaries and respect in relationships.

Response #570

”

Common theme #4

Normalisation of harmful behaviours & attitudes

Acceptance or normalisation of harmful sexual acts, violence, disrespect, and non-consensual behaviour as a result of exposure.

Closely related to 'Erosion of consent & respect'.

“

Extreme attitudes accepted as "normal" values. Young people newly confronting sexual situations cannot work out what is acceptable behaviour. Long-term and widespread this is likely to promote extreme, maybe violent behaviours as the confronting norm.

Response #107

Early exposure to pornography "normalises" sexual abuse across all public spectrums and particularly leads young males to view women as sex objects that do not deserve respect or dignity. (It de-humanises them.)

Response #182

Normalising sexual expectations in unhealthy ways to impressionable minds [...] This is particularly so in objectification of women, violence to women, sex on demand expectations, and what a woman must do to be 'attractive' and desirable.

Response #29

Gives young people and children certain expectations of sex and perhaps may teach harmful behaviours. For example, choking, which studies show can be dangerous, may be normalised in pornography.

Response #6

”

Common theme #5

Impact on child and youth development & innocence

Detrimental effects on children and young people's natural development, including premature sexualisation, loss of innocence, and distorted understanding of age-appropriate behaviour.

“

It damages a child's sense of wellbeing – the child will feel shame at seeing something they instinctively know is not appropriate but can often create a desire to want to see more.

Response #15

Early exposure to pornography is associated with increased confusion and anxiety as young people feel pressured to behave in ways commonly displayed in pornography.

Response #28

My son began to pull away from normal relationships with his mother and sisters. He was unhappy. He didn't know that it wasn't normal to use people. He felt confused and afraid. He felt upset at the violence and clear violation of persons. He wasn't sure what was normal.

Response #152

”

Common theme #6

Increased risk of violence & aggression

Association between pornography exposure and an increased likelihood of engaging in or accepting sexual violence, aggression, and coercion.

Can be a consequence of 'Objectification & dehumanisation' and 'Normalisation of harmful behaviours & attitudes'.

“

Meanwhile your fantasies turn into actions and you abuse, hurt and even kill other people, young or old, male or female, there is no longer any respect for others, only a vessel to be used by the perpetrator. Porn leads to sexual predators and violent abusers.

Response #158

From my reading of the research, early exposure to pornography contributes to condoning violence against women. There is a cumulative effect of attitudes, knowledge, practices plus the scripts and narratives of contemporary pornography in which aggression, objectification, roughness, non-reciprocity and assumed consent to all practices and partners is the default expression of hetero sex.

Response #253

Violence against women is normalised by watching pornography. Young people then think its normal for violence in sexual relationships.

Response #481

”

Common theme #7

Objectification & dehumanisation

Individuals, particularly women and girls, are viewed as objects for sexual gratification, diminishing their humanity and worth.

Often linked to 'Erosion of consent & respect' and 'Increased risk of violence & aggression'.

“

During this time, they started to see us girls as objects and would treat us horribly. Calling us derogatory terms such as three-holes. I believe the impacts of early exposure to pornography is the dehumanisation of women and girls and the violence perpetuated from that at the hands of men.

Response #1090

It effects young ladies as they are looked at and treated like a piece of meat as males copy what they see in porn.

Response #410

Encourages both boys and girls to see girls only as objects of pleasure and not as whole people.

Response #3

Constantly looking at women as a commodity, it cons the brain into thinking 'no respect for anyone'.

Response #173

”

Common theme #8

Mental & emotional harm

Negative effects on psychological and emotional well being, including anxiety, depression, shame, guilt, confusion, and trauma.

“

I was exposed to pornography at 10 years of age. Those first images I saw are still burned into my brain. I cannot forget them, though I want to. I was just hitting puberty – I had no chance, I was addicted within months. It eventually led to and continually fed depression to the point of suicidality.

Response #1662

Correlates with pre-pubescent sexualised behaviours toward self and others; correlates with trauma-informed behaviours as the underdeveloped pre-frontal cortex cannot regulate let alone identify or decipher physical or emotional reactions which can cause confusion, isolation, shame, mistrust. When triggered, children's fight, flight or freeze response is enacted causing disruption, emotional pain and antisocial behaviours.

Response #137

In my practice I see the generational trauma of porn addiction everyday, it is especially damaging when a parent exposed their children to porn. Devastating is an understatement.

Response #67

”

Common theme #9

Negative impact on self-esteem & body image

Adverse effects on self-esteem and body image due to unrealistic portrayals and comparisons.

“

It caused me to hate my own body because I did not live up to what I saw in the videos. This made a hatred of self develop that I still struggle with today.

Response #1949

How do I look - not like a porn star. How large are my breasts, my penis, my muscles, my backside. Leading people to think they don't really cut it - or that they are not sexually attractive or appropriate. Poor self-esteem.

Response #29

Issues around body image: these are especially harmful to girls and young women, leading to low self-esteem and an increase in harmful behaviours such as eating disorders, self-harm and desire for unnecessary plastic surgery e.g. labioplasty.

Response #278

”

Common theme #10

Addiction & compulsive behaviour

Pornography use leading to addictive patterns, compulsive consumption, and difficulty controlling urges.

“

ABSOLUTELY DISASTROUS!!! Life sentence to be chained to a horrible horrible addiction, with no human dignity whatsoever.

Response #165

Breaking an addiction to pornography is difficult and demanding, since pornography has been demonstrated to alter brain function. As with drug addiction, increasing amounts (and increasing levels of violence and perversion) are required to achieve satisfaction.

Response #1722

Pre-occupation with sex and sexual activity, to the exclusion of other healthy activities and relationships...Inability to engage properly in other pursuits due to the distracting desire for sexual simulation and gratification.

Response #231

It creates a serious and strong addiction that is incredibly binding to the soul...it became all I could think about.

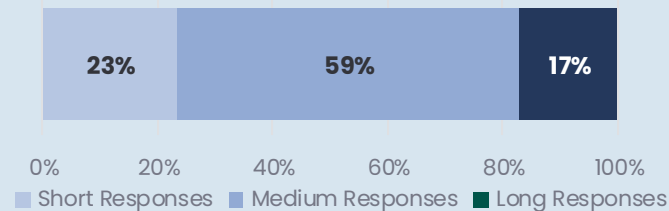
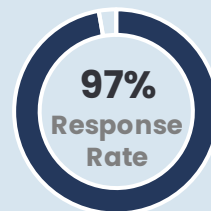
Response #1017

”

Analysis of general response questions

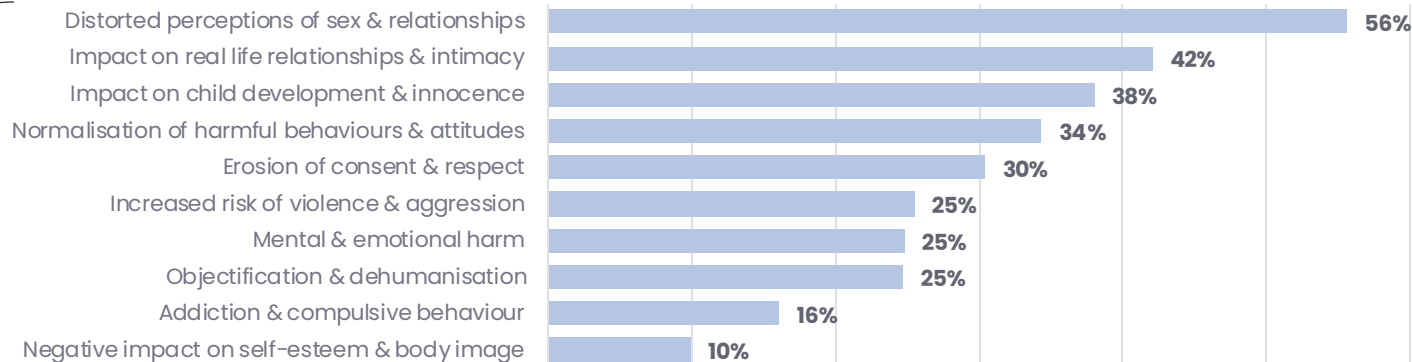


Q2. What do you think are the impacts of early exposure to pornography?

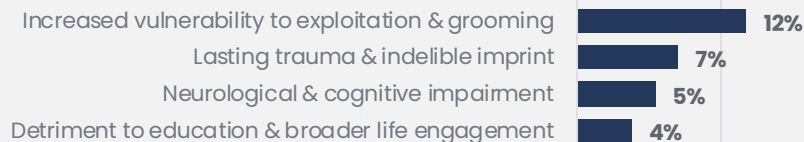


% of respondent answers that feature each theme

General themes



Question specific themes



Q2. What do you think are the impacts of early exposure to pornography?

Core themes (top three)

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"I believe it is extremely harmful as it solidifies the wrong perception of what a relationship is. It focuses a relationship purely on what "I" can get out of it or what "I" am missing." Response #124
Impact on real life relationships & intimacy	Detrimental effects on the ability to form and maintain healthy, intimate real life relationships, including with family and partners.	"Also pornographic sex is so easy to obtain, that a viewer often opts for that stimulation rather than seeking real relationships, and in my work I have seen them opting out of real life in order to indulge." Response #8
Impact on child/youth development & innocence	Detrimental effects on children's natural development, including premature sexualisation, loss of innocence, and distorted understanding of age-appropriate behavior.	"Children are being sexualised at an age where they should be enjoying the carefree innocence of childhood. The precious years of childhood are being stolen by pornography through the impacts on a child's immature brain and emotions." Response #686

Q2. What do you think are the impacts of early exposure to pornography?

Question specific themes

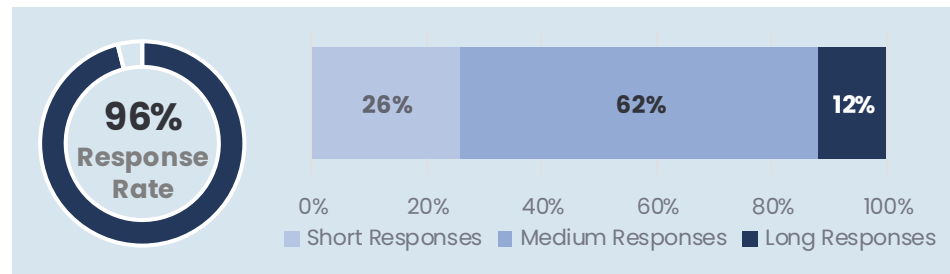
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Increased vulnerability to exploitation & grooming	Early pornography exposure can erode a child's personal boundaries and desensitise them to harmful or coercive interactions. This normalisation of inappropriate content can make them more susceptible to grooming tactics by predators, online exploitation (e.g. sexting, sharing of intimate images), and less able to recognise or resist abusive situations.	"Early sexualisation of minors by exposing them to sexual imagery has long been a strategy used by paedophiles to groom children. This strategy opens the child to accepting inappropriate sexual acts." Response #934
Lasting trauma & indelible imprint	Early pornography exposure can erode a child's personal boundaries and desensitise them to harmful or coercive interactions. This normalisation of inappropriate content can make them more susceptible to grooming tactics by predators, online exploitation (e.g. sexting, sharing of intimate images), and less able to recognise or resist abusive situations.	"It continues to haunt me even now @ 60+." Response #41
Neurological & cognitive impairment	Exposure, especially early and chronic, leads to detrimental changes in brain development, cognitive function, and neurological pathways. This can manifest as impaired impulse control, difficulty focusing, and brain changes comparable to those seen in substance addiction.	"Meta studies have indicated that pornography use results in cognitive development impairment and cognitive degeneration. MRI studies have demonstrated that chronic users of pornography have the same biological brain tissue atrophy evident as the MRIs of long-term heroin users." Response #529

Q2. What do you think are the impacts of early exposure to pornography? (cont.)

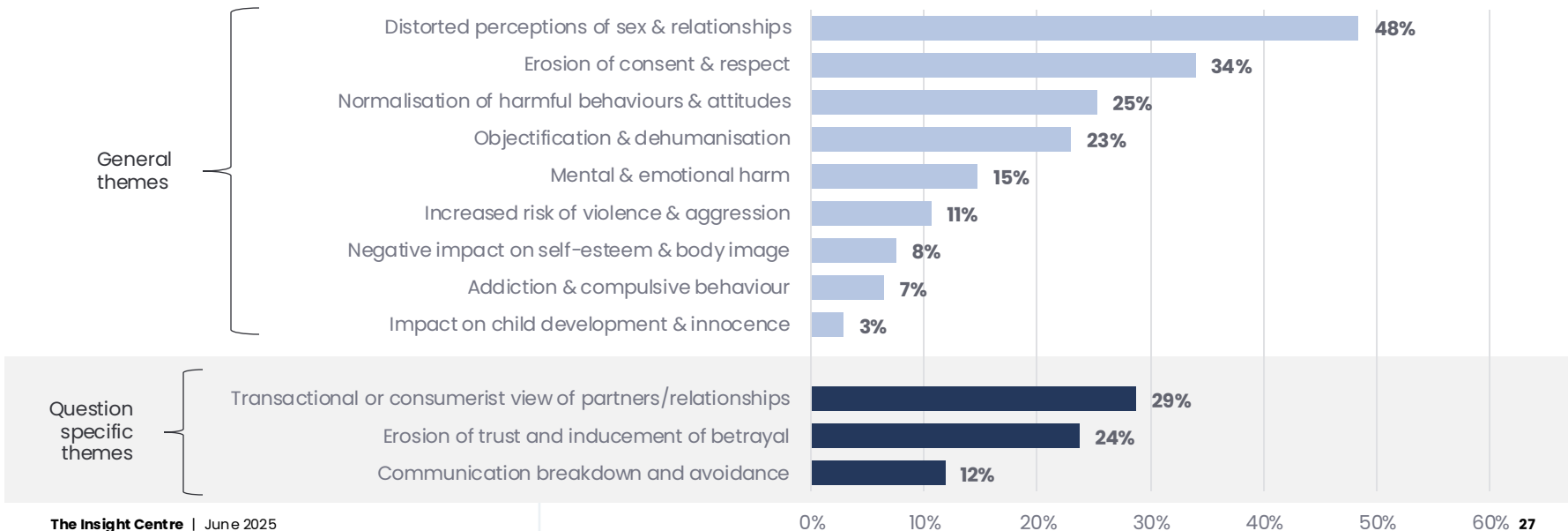
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Detriment to education & broader life engagement	Preoccupation with pornography, stemming from early exposure and potential addiction, can significantly detract from a young person's ability to focus on education, work, hobbies, and other healthy developmental activities. This can lead to decreased academic performance, reduced productivity, and a general disengagement from broader life pursuits.	"It will contaminate the mind and imagination of the young people and so they won't be able to study well." Response #62 "Focusing on school or work or normal relationships in the good sense suffers badly." Response ID #173

Q4. What is the impact of pornography on the formation and maintenance of relationships?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q4. What is the impact of pornography on the formation and maintenance of relationships?

Core themes (top three)

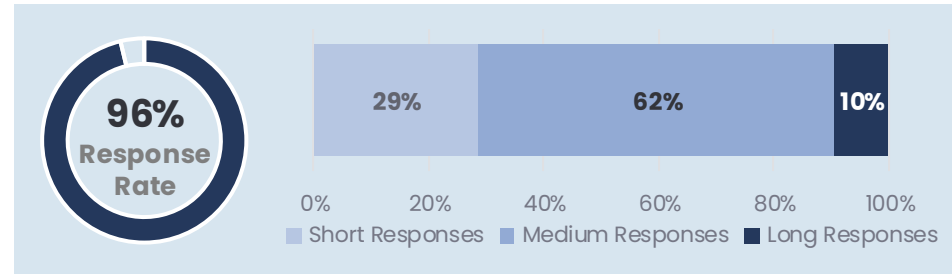
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"It stuffed my marriage and made me feel like I had to perform like a hooker to be exciting enough for my husband. I hated me and him for it because I wanted to be loved and wanted by him." Response #883
Erosion of consent & respect	Diminished understanding and value of consent, respect, and boundaries in sexual interactions and relationships.	"The impacts on relationships, it takes away the respect and love for that person, consent can be potentially thrown out the window, certain acts maybe performed which could damage the partner permanently physically, emotional and mental abuse (rough handling) could also be implemented without the acknowledgement on the impact of the other person, this goes both ways, whether male or female." Response #12
Normalisation of harmful behaviours & attitudes	Acceptance or normalisation of harmful sexual acts, violence, disrespect, and non-consensual behavior as a result of exposure.	"Pornographic material sets up a lot of situations that play on fantasy, normalising sexualised abuse and criminal acts such as rape." Response #6

Q4. What is the impact of pornography on the formation and maintenance of relationships?

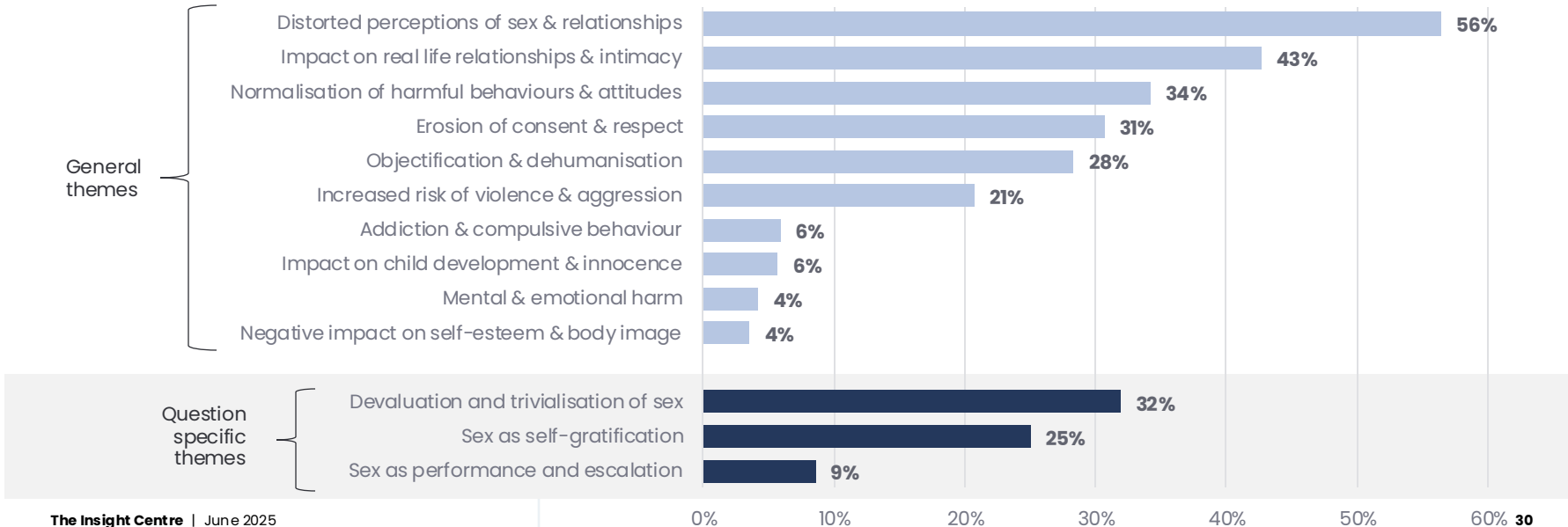
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Transactional or consumerist view of partners & relationships	Pornography fosters a mindset where partners or relationships are viewed as disposable commodities for fulfilling personal (often sexual) needs, rather than as individuals deserving of mutual effort, commitment, and emotional investment. This leads to a 'what can I get?' attitude and quick abandonment if perceived needs aren't met.	"People have a consumer attitude toward their partner. They tend to be in relationships for what they can get out of it rather than what they can give the other person. When relationships do not satisfy their perceived needs, they break the relationship and start looking for the next person to meet their needs." Response #144
Erosion of trust and inducement of betrayal	Pornography use, often involving secrecy, deception, or perceived infidelity, fundamentally damages or destroys the trust essential for healthy relationships, leading to feelings of betrayal for the partner.	"Even if not seen as cheating, porn can still cause a deep sense of betrayal and mistrust. The secrecy, shame, isolation, and mistrust that can be introduced into a relationship by porn consumption can then snowball into all kinds of problems." Response #1929
Communication breakdown and avoidance	Pornography consumption contributes to a deterioration of open and honest communication within relationships, as individuals may avoid discussing sexual needs, preferences, or porn use itself, creating barriers to intimacy and understanding.	"Pornography can lead to trust issues, and poor communication between partners. It can place significant strain on relationships over time as things are left unsaid and neither party understands how to fix it." Response #446

Q5. How does pornography impact attitudes towards sex of those viewing pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q5. How does pornography impact attitudes towards sex of those viewing pornography?

Core themes (top three)

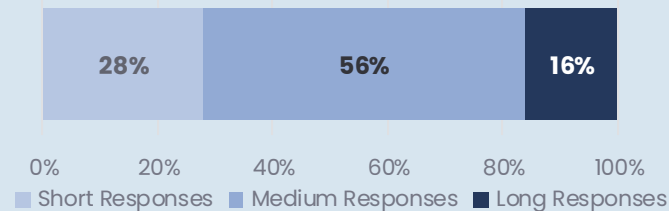
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"Fundamentally, I believe that porn teaches people that sexual relationships are primarily about selfish personal gratification, whereas a healthy sexual relationship includes a focus on gratifying your sexual partner." Response #34
Impact on real life relationships & intimacy	Detrimental effects on the ability to form and maintain healthy, intimate real life relationships, including with family and partners.	"It removes the capacity for empathy and others-focus which is in terms corrosive to long-term meaningful intimate relationships." Response #21
Normalisation of harmful behaviours & attitudes	Acceptance or normalisation of harmful sexual acts, violence, disrespect, and non-consensual behavior as a result of exposure.	"Sex seems to have become more violent. I hear young males talking about women liking it rough. I have heard young girls saying they don't want to have anal sex or be deep throated but it's expected of them." Response #1278

Q5. How does pornography impact attitudes towards sex of those viewing pornography?

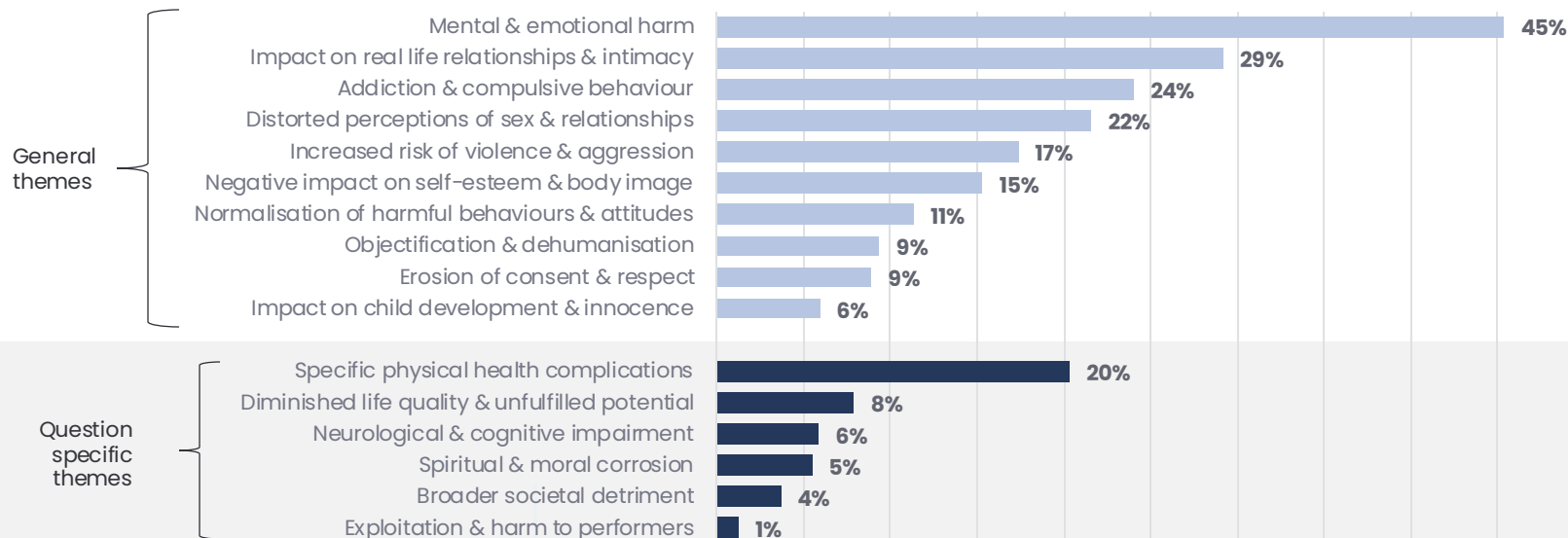
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Devaluation and trivialisation of sex	Pornography cultivates an attitude where sex is cheapened, commodified, or seen as transactional, losing its perceived significance, specialness, intimacy, or sacredness, and is sometimes viewed as a casual or meaningless act.	"Cheapens sex into a commodity rather than an expression of a relationship between a man and wife committed to lifelong intimacy. Objectifies two people and distorts massively the nature of sex. Gives men the view that a woman is always ready for sex." Response #15
Sex as self-gratification	Pornography fosters an attitude where sexual activity is viewed primarily or solely as a means for the viewer's own pleasure and satisfaction, often disregarding mutuality, a partner's feelings, or relational connection.	"Pornography teaches a selfish and self-centred view of sex. It teaches that people are objects to satisfy my sexual needs." Response #102
Sex as performance and escalation	An attitude where sex is viewed as a performance requiring constant novelty, variety, and escalating intensity or extremity to achieve arousal or satisfaction, often driven by the content consumed.	"It increases pleasure threshold so that it's hard to experience arousal without increasingly extreme imagery." Response #170

Q6. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q6. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health?

Core themes (top three)

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Mental & emotional harm	Negative effects on psychological and emotional well being, including anxiety, depression, shame, guilt, confusion, and trauma.	"The cycle of guilt, shame, depression, use of porn leads to emptiness and self-loathing." Response #112
Impact on real life relationships & intimacy	Detrimental effects on the ability to form and maintain healthy, intimate real life relationships, including with family and partners.	"Huge, I struggled with it for many years It distorts my view of women and myself. Makes it hard to have good, pure relationships. It caused me depression and self pity, I wish I never was introduced to it. It is so evil and demonic to one's personality." Response #118
Addiction & compulsive behaviour	Pornography use leading to addictive patterns, compulsive consumption, and difficulty controlling urges.	"As a former porn addict, like most addictions, pornography becomes an unwelcome and harsh task master." Response #1203

Q6. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health?

Question specific themes

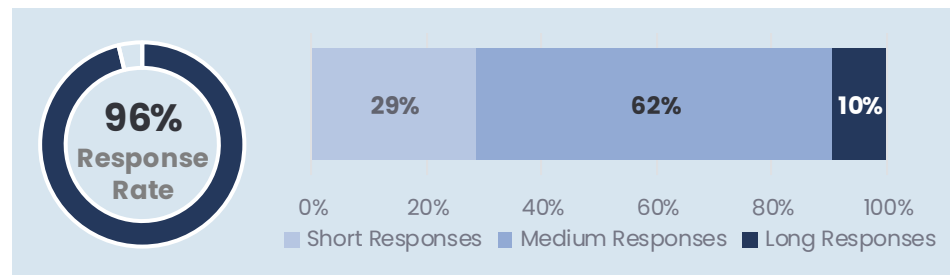
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Specific physical health complications	Direct physical health problems or injuries attributed to pornography use or the emulation of depicted acts, such as sexually transmitted infections, erectile dysfunction, sleep disruption, fertility problems, or physical trauma.	"Tearing due to anal sex. This has ongoing impacts for women who later give birth. Caesareans can be required where the healing of the rectum is insufficient to withstand the pressure associated with vaginal delivery of a baby." Response #450
Diminished life quality & unfulfilled potential	Pornography leading to a reduced overall quality of life, characterised by a loss of motivation for non-sexual activities, neglect of personal responsibilities (e.g. work, study, self-care), wasted time and resources, and an inability to achieve personal potential or find fulfilment in broader life pursuits.	"Mentally it clouds and overloads the mind with excessive dopamine, it then makes life feel dull without viewing." Response #450
Neurological & cognitive impairment	Perceived negative alterations to brain structure, function, or chemistry (e.g. dopamine pathways, "rewiring"), and detrimental effects on cognitive abilities such as concentration, memory, decision-making, and overall mental processing.	"It impacts the cognition of the brain. The amygdala (the centre for high emotional activity), supersedes the brain circuitry over the prefrontal cortex (the centre for reasoning and conceptualisation). In short, people are not thinking well." Response #1516

Q6. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health? (cont.)

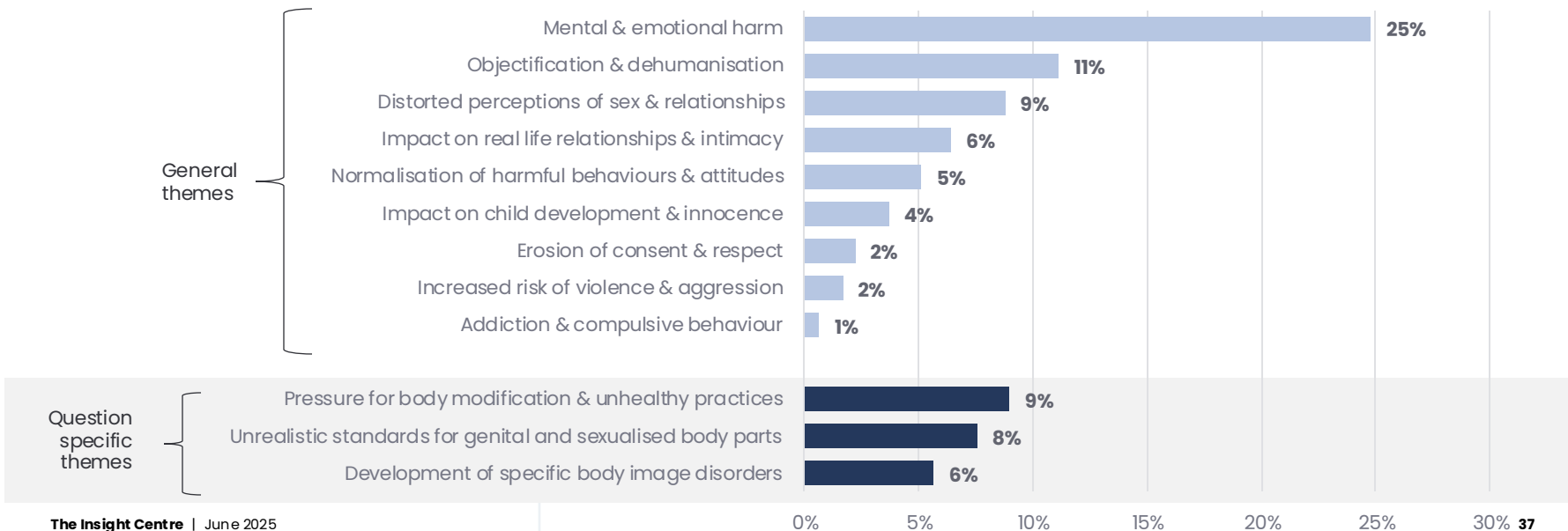
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Spiritual & moral corrosion	Harm to an individual's spiritual life, moral compass, conscience, ethical values, or relationship with a higher power, leading to a sense of inner disorder or disconnection from deeply held beliefs.	"People can feel guilty and fall away from God." Response #721 "Porn is disordered, so spiritually, mentally, physically you become disordered – the longer it lasts unvetted the worst it gets." Response #156
Broader societal detriment	Pornography's contribution to wider negative social trends, including the erosion of community values and safety, increased crime, strain on public services, and a general degradation of societal well-being and moral fabric.	"I think we are seeing it in the wide disrespect in the community. In domestic violence. In the courts. In supermarkets. On the roads. In the way people treat each other." Response #1436
Exploitation & harm to performers	Detrimental impacts on individuals involved in pornography production, including exploitation, coercion, psychological trauma, substance abuse, financial difficulties, and lasting negative consequences on their well-being and future prospects.	"The people in the industry, the men and women who act in it, generally end up with drug and alcohol addictions and any other staff are unable to work in other industries." Response #1519

Q7. How does access to harmful pornography impact body image?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q7. How does access to harmful pornography impact body image?

Core themes (top three)

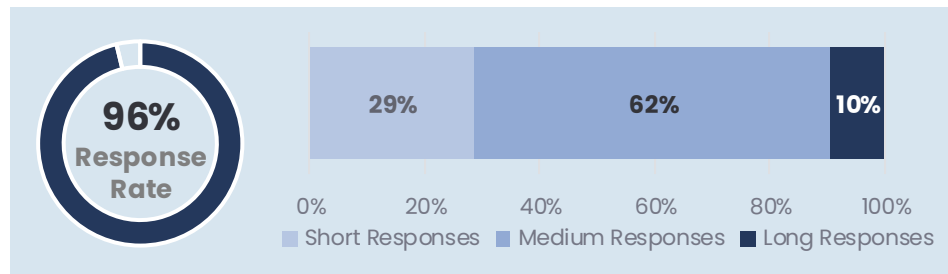
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Mental & emotional harm	Negative effects on psychological and emotional well being, including anxiety, depression, shame, guilt, confusion, and trauma.	"It often leaves an unrealistic expectation of what is normal in regards to shape & size etc. as usually only slim people are used in the acting. This can impact young impressionable minds & influence eating disorders." Response #179
Objectification & dehumanisation	Individuals, particularly women and girls, are viewed as objects for sexual gratification, diminishing their humanity and worth.	"My daughter's year at school had a group of boys who had formed a messaging group distributing non-consensual images of their female classmates and ranking girls' attractiveness." Response #141
Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"The pleasures represented in pornography are linked to values and behaviours that are not real. Most women are not Kardashians, most men are not 8-inch supermen, and no one can go all night long. Pornography robs viewers of their capacity to see the value that real people and real relationships have." Response #186

Q7. How does access to harmful pornography impact body image?

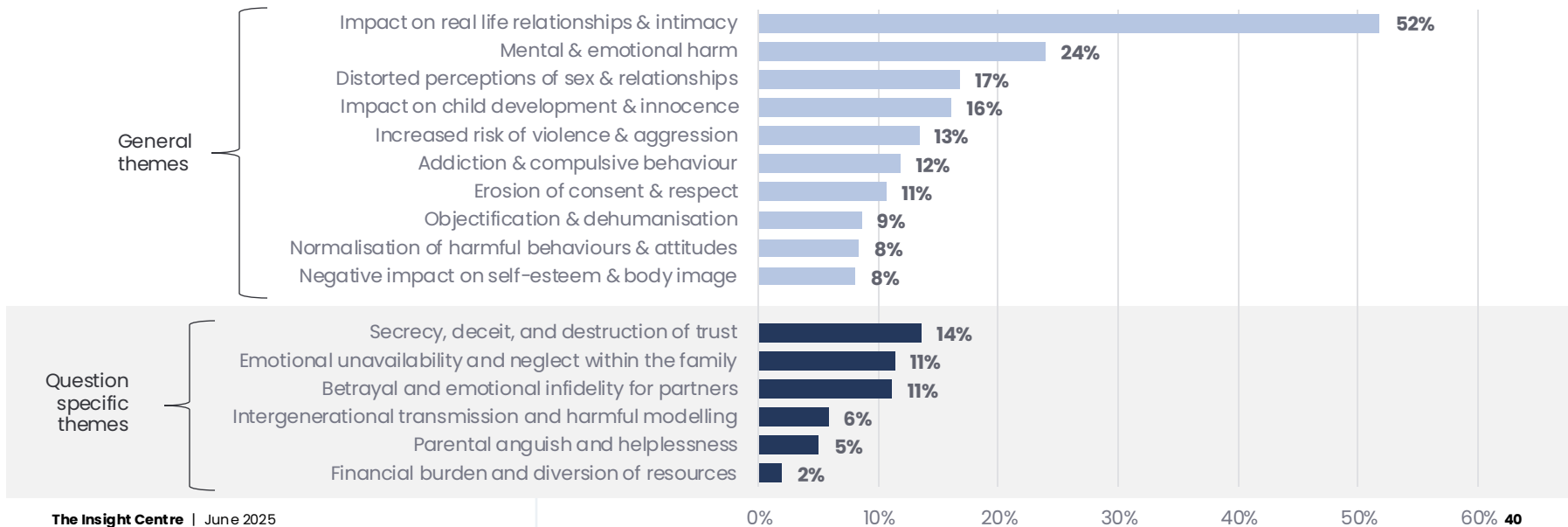
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Pressure for body modification & unhealthy practices	Exposure to harmful pornography leads to individuals feeling pressured to alter their physical appearance through cosmetic surgery, extreme dieting, use of steroids, or other unhealthy practices to match the often surgically enhanced or digitally altered bodies portrayed.	"Look at the increases in enhancement beasts, labia surgery, cheeks, lips, lashes. Men with surgeries to look more muscular and use of steroids to make their bodies appear more buff. What is wrong with a normal body? Well that's not what porn videos are like." Response #150
Unrealistic standards for genitalia and sexualised body parts	Harmful pornography creates and perpetuates unrealistic standards and anxieties specifically concerning the appearance, size, grooming, and characteristics of genitals and other sexualised body parts (e.g. breasts), leading to comparison, dissatisfaction, and pressure for conformity or modification.	"Women who start thinking they are worthless because they don't have a 'perfect' body as is MISCHARACTERISED by the porn industry (large breasts, shaven pubic areas...) and in men it creates insecurity about penis size." Response #182
Development of specific body image disorders	Consumption of harmful pornography contributes to the development or worsening of specific psychological conditions related to body image, such as body dysmorphic disorder, eating disorders (e.g. anorexia, bulimia), and severe body-related anxiety.	"This will cause people, especially young people, to over-value their physical beauty. The attempt to achieve this unrealistic ideal will put people - particularly young people - at risk of injuring themselves through over-exercising, restrictive dieting etc. It will probably lead to body dysmorphic conditions like anorexia." Response #191

Q8. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health of the family of the consumer, such as partners, children or parents?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q8. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health of the family of the consumer, such as partners, children or parents?

Core themes (top three)

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Impact on real life relationships & intimacy	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"At worst, they can begin to view real people in their own lives as mere objects for them to use as they wish or can." Response #8
Mental & emotional harm	Negative effects on psychological and emotional well being, including anxiety, depression, shame, guilt, confusion, and trauma.	"Emotional Distress and Conflict: Children or parents who discover a family member's engagement with harmful pornography can experience significant emotional distress. This can include feelings of shame, confusion, anger, and anxiety." Response #483
Distorted perceptions of sex & relationships	Exposure leads to unrealistic, warped, or confused understanding of healthy sexuality, intimacy, and interpersonal relationships.	"It made me feel completely degraded and it confused my understanding of what a good relationship was. From my experience the impact was very destructive." Response #579

Q8. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health of the family of the consumer, such as partners, children or parents?

Question specific themes

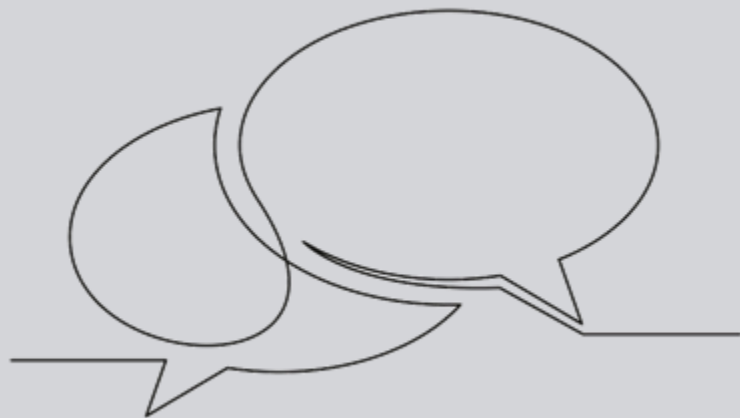
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Secrecy, deceit, and destruction of trust	The secretive nature of pornography consumption, often involving lies and concealment, fundamentally erodes trust within family relationships, leading to suspicion and damaged bonds.	"My whole family has been ripped apart from my ex-partner and his addiction to pornography. He is shut off from real connections, he plans his days around his secretive addiction. He also lies even when caught or will say he doesn't do it a lot although it's every day more than once a day. The denial and lies tear families apart." Response #499
Emotional unavailability and neglect within the family	The consumer's preoccupation with pornography leads to their emotional withdrawal, detachment, and neglect of family members' needs and responsibilities, creating a void in care and presence.	"They might be so addicted to pornography that they ignore the needs of their family and can become irritated easily when they realized what they have in daily life is not the same as what they watch on those porns." Response #74
Betrayal and emotional infidelity for partners	Pornography use, particularly when secret or excessive, is perceived by partners as a profound betrayal of trust and emotional fidelity, akin to an affair, causing deep emotional wounds and resentment.	"Discovering a partner's pornography use, particularly if it is kept secret or becomes excessive, can lead to feelings of betrayal. Partners may feel that their trust has been violated, causing emotional wounds similar to those experienced in cases of infidelity." Response #49

Q8. What do you think are the impacts of harmful pornography on mental, emotional and physical health of the family of the consumer, such as partners, children or parents? (cont.)

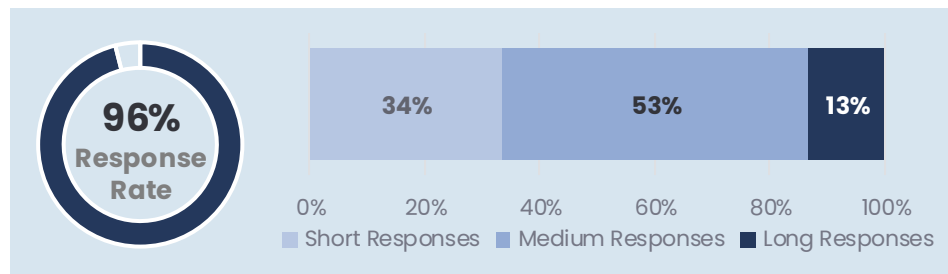
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Intergenerational transmission and harmful modelling	Pornography use by parents can lead to children adopting similar behaviours or developing normalised, distorted views about sex and relationships, perpetuating a harmful cycle across generations.	"Frequently children in households where the adults indulge in porn have computer settings that their children can easily access out of curiosity and then the cycle of porn effected relationships spirals into the next generation." Response #181
Parental anguish and helplessness	Parents experience significant emotional distress, including anxiety, guilt, shame, and a sense of helplessness, when their children are exposed to or consume pornography, or when an adult child is an addict.	"My boys accessed pornography when they were young. I also found images of how to hang yourself in one of my boy's bedrooms. I was deeply anxious and concerned for the well being of my sons which continued for many years." Response #863
Financial burden and diversion of resources	Pornography consumption can lead to financial strain on the family due to spending on subscriptions or related services and can divert the consumer's time and energy away from family contributions.	"The anguish it causes and even effecting job security and finances of the family." Response #590

Analysis of binary questions



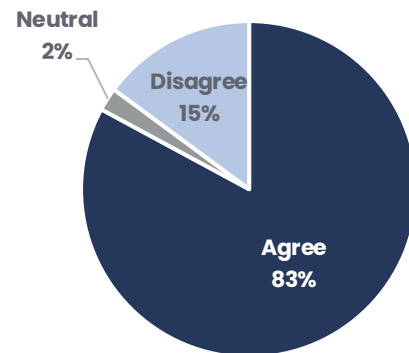
Q3. Does harmful pornography impact some groups in the community more than others?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme*



Level of agreement with question



Q3. Does harmful pornography impact some groups in the community more than others?

Question specific themes

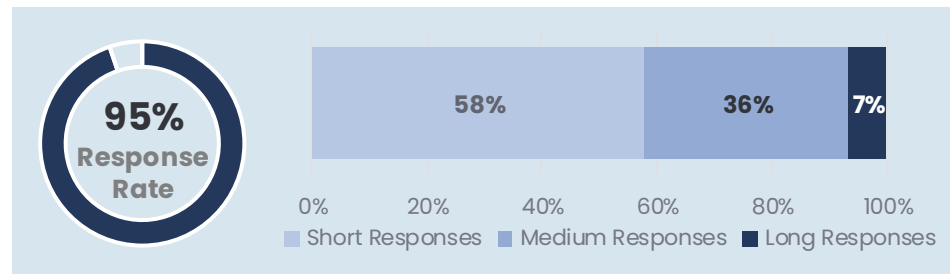
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Youth vulnerability factors	Young people (children, adolescents, teens) are identified as particularly susceptible to the harms of pornography due to specific developmental, psychological, and social factors, such as brain development, impressionability, lack of life experience, hormonal changes, peer pressure, and reliance on pornography for sexual education.	"I do think it affects the young people more than other groups. [...] They are quick to absorb whatever is given to them. When they are exposed to pornography, they might not have the ability to identify whether it is good or bad, so they are more likely to be affected by it and try to mimic whatever they have watched and put it into practice." Response #74
Heightened risk for vulnerable individuals	Individuals with pre-existing vulnerabilities—such as mental health conditions, past trauma, addictive tendencies, disabilities, social isolation, lack of supportive environments (e.g. poor parental guidance, low socio-economic status), or specific personality traits—are identified as being at heightened risk of negative impacts from pornography.	"Children in unstable households as they tend to be more isolated and vulnerable." Response #100 "People on the autism spectrum, like me, will take things very literally and act upon those to see if those methods really work." Response #160
Disproportionate harm to women	Women and girls are identified as being disproportionately and uniquely harmed by pornography, both through direct exploitation in its production and as targets of objectification, violence, and unrealistic expectations stemming from male consumption and porn-influenced behaviours.	"Yes, women. Because pornography usually depicts degrading women. You can see it in the titles of most, if not all, pornographic videos e.g. slut. And look at Korea for example where classmates have taken pictures of female classmates and used them in deepfake pornography." Response #6

Q3. Does harmful pornography impact some groups in the community more than others? (cont.)

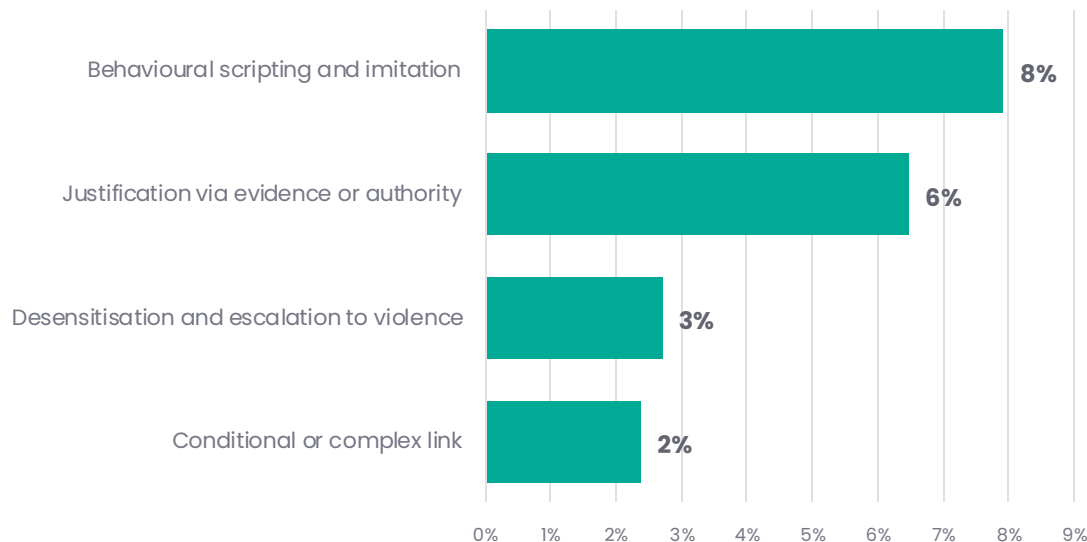
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Porn-driven male attitudes & behaviours	Men and boys are frequently identified as primary consumers whose exposure to pornography shapes harmful, unrealistic, or perverted attitudes towards sex, relationships, and women. These altered perspectives can lead to negative consequences for their own well being, their ability to form healthy relationships, and often result in harm to others, particularly women and girls.	"Young boys. They are sold a lie through pornography that women are dying for controlling sex, and then once they attempt to experience it in real life, they end up in legal trouble." Response #78
Assertion of universal or equal harm	Some respondents assert that harmful pornography impacts all individuals or groups in the community, either equally or in universally detrimental ways, sometimes challenging the idea that some groups are impacted more than others, or emphasising that harm is widespread and not confined to specific demographics.	"All groups. How men talk & act among themselves. How they relate to their partners. How women perceive 'normal' in their relationships and how children observe what goes on in their homes. No-one is exempt from the pernicious effects of pornography." Response #19

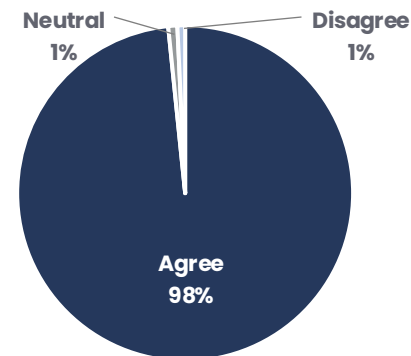
Q10. Do you think there a link between harmful pornography and violence against women?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q10. Do you think there a link between harmful pornography and violence against women?

Question specific themes

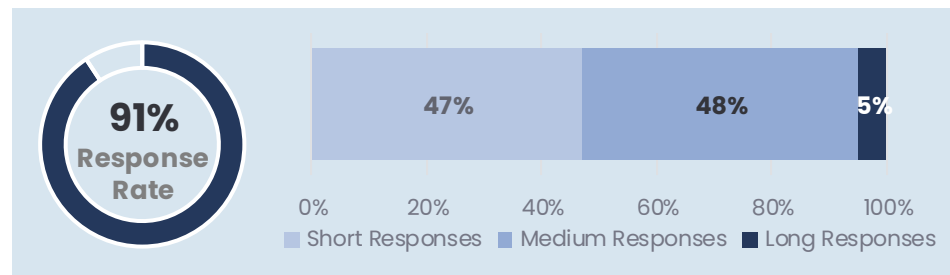
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Behavioural scripting and imitation	Individuals learn and replicate specific behaviours, actions, or social scripts observed in pornography. This imitation is seen as a direct mechanism through which pornographic content can translate into real life actions, potentially leading to violence or non-consensual acts.	"Yes, there is a direct link. Harmful behaviour and acts seen in pornography are now being played out in real life. Much pornography celebrates violence towards women, and this is copied by (mainly) men who think they can link aggression/violence with sexual excitement." Response #450
Justification via evidence or authority	The assertion of a link between harmful pornography and violence against women by referencing external sources of authority, such as scientific research, statistics, expert opinions, official reports, or documented cases.	"Yes. The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032, produced by the Australian Government's Department of Social Services notes that pornography 'often depicts physical and verbal aggression towards women, male dominance and female submission, and non-consensual behaviours...perpetuating sexist, misogynistic and degrading views about women.' The report names it as 'a serious concern in addressing the drivers of violence against women and children.'" Response #1110

Q10. Do you think there a link between harmful pornography and violence against women? (cont.)

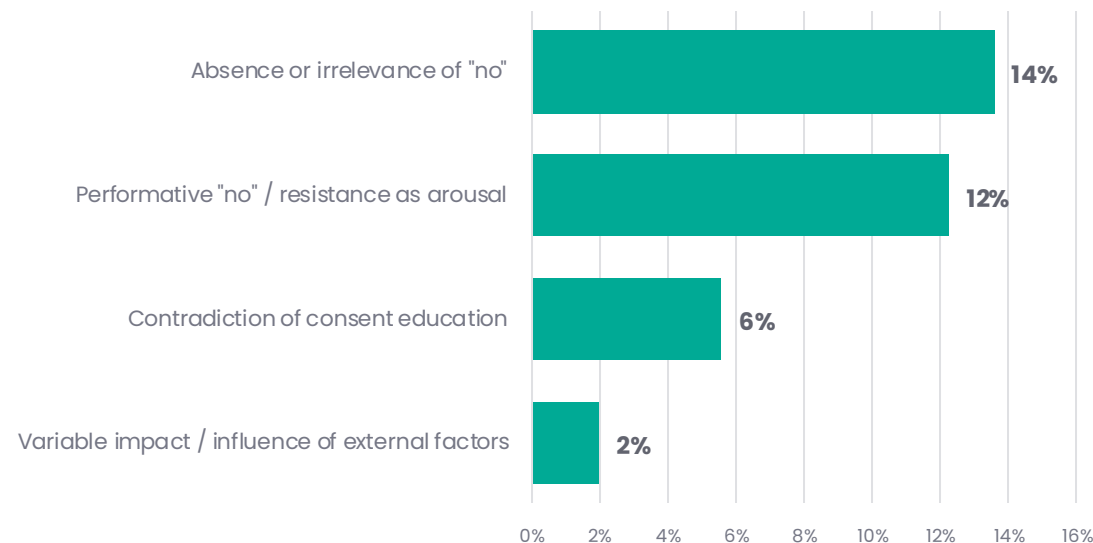
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Desensitisation and escalation to violence	Pornography consumption leads to desensitisation, requiring users to seek increasingly extreme or violent content for arousal. This escalation is perceived to increase the likelihood of normalising or enacting violent behaviours in real life.	"Men watch pornography, they become addicted to it, they need more and more extreme pornography to get their kicks, and then they eventually need it in real life, so they just go and violently abuse someone. [...] We see it already in schools where boys are treating girls with enormous disrespect and vileness." Response #404
Conditional or complex link	There is a potential link between harmful pornography and violence against women, but this should be qualified by considering the complexity of the issue, the indirect nature of the connection, or the influence of other contributing factors and individual differences, rather than being understood as a simple, direct, or universal causation.	"Some males will see harmful pornography as reality and will transfer an expectation that they can force sexual issues on real life women. Other males will be able to separate the artificiality of harmful pornography from real life and treat the real-life women in their lives in appropriate ways." Response #161

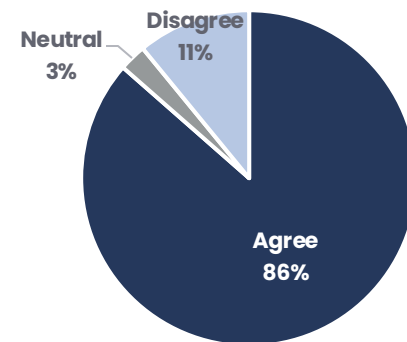
Q11. Does pornography teach consumers that “no” does not always mean no?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q11. Does pornography teach consumers that “no” does not always mean no?

Question specific themes

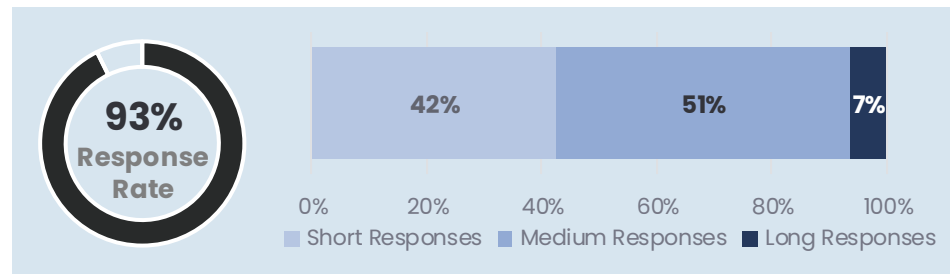
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Absence or irrelevance of “no”	Many pornographic depictions either entirely omit the concept of “no” or operate on an assumption of universal willingness and consent, thereby teaching that “no” is not a relevant or expected part of sexual interactions.	“Is ‘no’ ever spoken in pornography? Porn does not make any room for ‘no’. In fact, it convinces over time that women must want something even if it appears to be violent or degrading to them.” Response #21
Performative “no” / resistance as arousal	Pornography frequently portrays “no” or resistance not as a genuine refusal, but as a scripted element of a performance, a way to feign reluctance (“playing hard to get”), or a dynamic intended to heighten sexual arousal, ultimately leading to the “no” being overridden or revealed as insincere.	“Yes! Pornography was made in a way to show the other person enjoys rough sex or even rape, so ‘no’ is not actually ‘no’ because the other person ends up enjoying it at the end.” Response #31
Contradiction of consent education	Pornography’s portrayal of consent, particularly the meaning of “no”, directly counteracts and undermines messages promoted through formal consent education, creating conflicting understandings for consumers.	“Basically allowing pornography (even on easily accessible tv shows and movies!) totally contradicts and cancels out any so-called consent education.” Response #943

Q11. Does pornography teach consumers that “no” does not always mean no? (cont.)

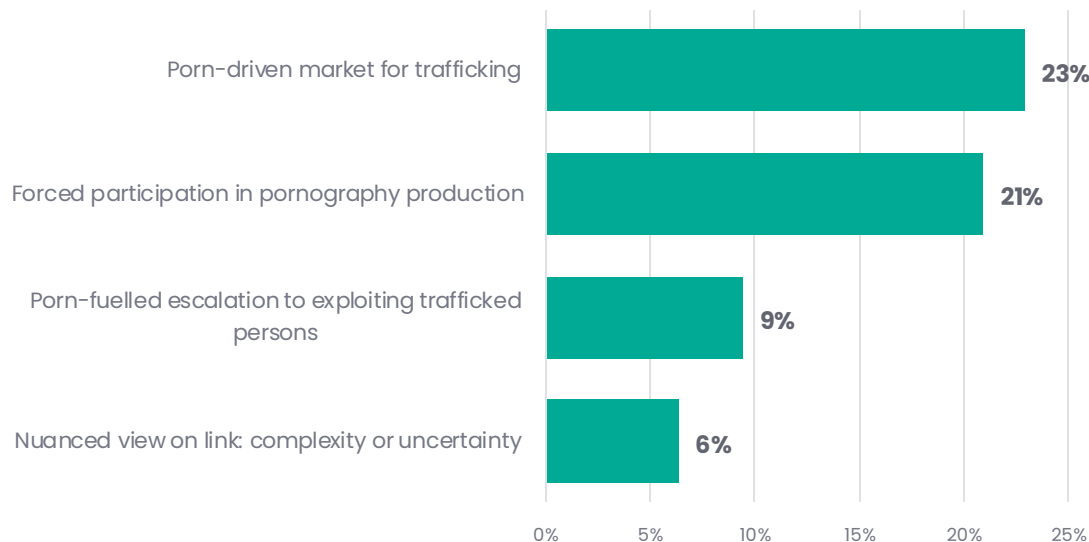
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Variable impact / influence of external factors	The extent to which pornography teaches that “no” does not always mean “no” is not uniform; it can depend on the specific type of pornography consumed, the individual's pre-existing attitudes, critical thinking skills, and other external influences like upbringing and education.	“The relationship between pornography and attitudes towards consent is complex and debated. Some research suggests that exposure to certain types of pornography may normalise non-consensual behaviours and influence attitudes towards consent. However, it's important to note that not all pornography portrays non-consensual behaviours, and individuals' attitudes towards consent are influenced by various factors beyond media consumption. Factors such as upbringing, education, and cultural norms also play significant roles in shaping attitudes towards consent. Therefore, while some types of pornography may potentially influence attitudes towards consent, it's essential to consider a range of societal and cultural factors in understanding this complex issue.” Response #5

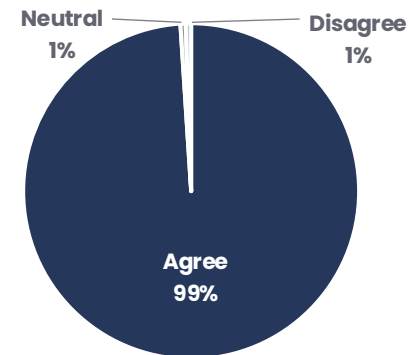
Q12. Do you think there is a link between harmful pornography and human trafficking?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q12. Do you think there is a link between harmful pornography and human trafficking?

Question specific themes

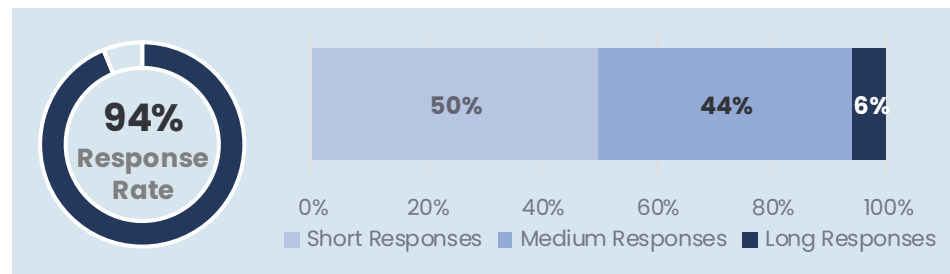
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Porn-driven market for trafficking	The demand for pornographic content, and the financial incentives within the pornography industry, create or sustain a market that human traffickers exploit and supply.	"Children and women ARE being sex trafficked, and there is only an industry because people are willing to pay for the porn produced by trafficked persons. I know personally of organisations who exist solely to try and rescue trafficked women. The stories are horrendous." Response #21
Forced participation in pornography production	Individuals, particularly vulnerable groups like women and children, are directly trafficked, coerced, or forced into participating in the creation of pornographic material.	"Yes. Pornography is blooming, especially with platforms such as OnlyFans. There is no doubt there are human traffickers forcing women into performing pornography for money." Response #6
Porn-fuelled escalation to exploiting trafficked persons	Pornography consumption, particularly addictive patterns, leads to escalating and extreme sexual desires that consumers may seek to fulfil through the exploitation of trafficked individuals, as these desires are often unattainable in consensual relationships.	"Pornography creates a demand for greater and greater sexual fulfilment that will not normally be fulfilled in a 'normal' relationship and therefore requires access to a supply of people who can be forced to comply with these demands." Response #212

Q12. Do you think there is a link between harmful pornography and human trafficking? (cont.)

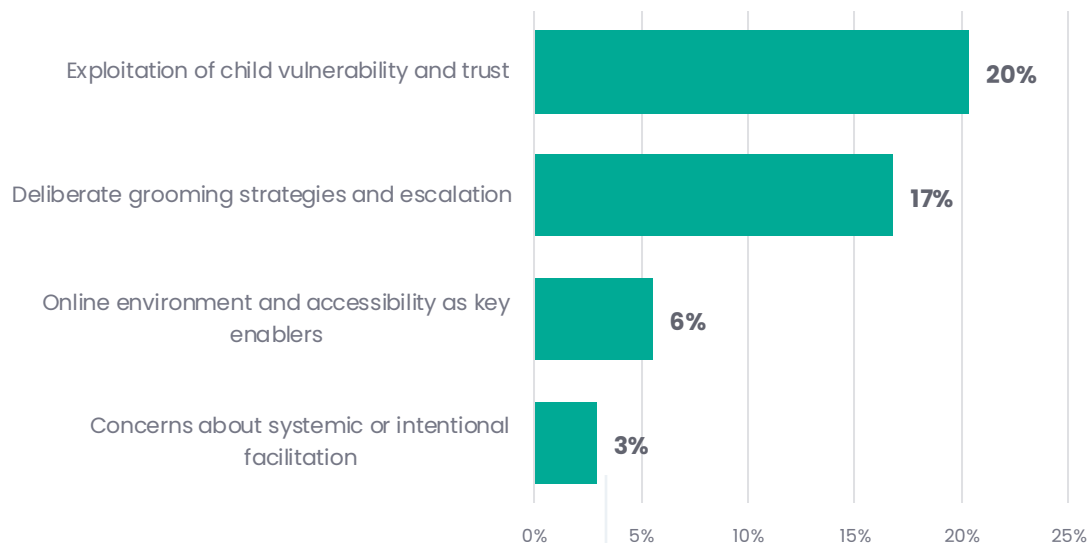
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Nuanced view on link: complexity or uncertainty	Acknowledgement of a potential link between harmful pornography and human trafficking but also expressing uncertainty, highlighting the complexity of the issue, suggesting the link is indirect, or indicating this view is speculative rather than based on direct knowledge.	"The link between harmful pornography and human trafficking is a complex and debated issue... it's crucial to note that not all pornography is harmful or linked to human trafficking. Therefore, while harmful pornography may intersect with human trafficking in some cases, it's essential to consider a range of societal and individual factors in understanding this complex issue." Response #5

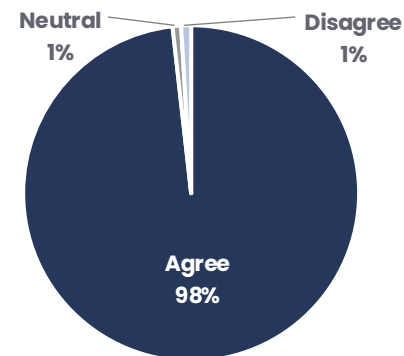
Q13. Are you concerned that pornography can be used to groom children?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q13. Are you concerned that pornography can be used to groom children?

Question specific themes

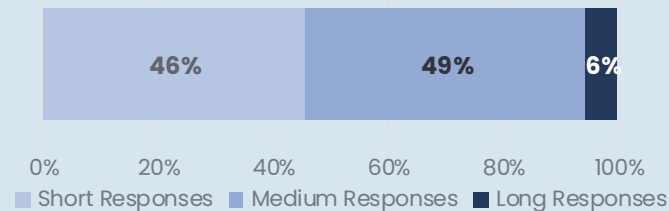
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Exploitation of child vulnerability and trust	Pornography is used by groomers to specifically target and manipulate children by exploiting their inherent vulnerabilities, such as immaturity, curiosity, need for acceptance, loneliness, or difficulty in discerning malicious intent. This includes the abuse of trust placed in adults or authority figures.	"Yes. Especially if it is presented to them by someone they look up to or are afraid of. It can be used to gain approval & often presented as 'our little secret'. It is addictive & a child will know no better." Response #19
Deliberate grooming strategies and escalation	The specific, methodical tactics employed by groomers using pornography, such as desensitisation, creating secrecy, emotional manipulation (flattery, love bombing), blackmail, and the gradual escalation of exposure and demands to prepare a child for abuse.	"Grooming using porn as 'something secret and special' to show to a young person is very concerning." Response #27 "By exposing them then used as a lever to maintain an abnormal association in secret and threats of embarrassment of exposure if divulged." Response #215
Online environment and accessibility as key enablers	Focus on how the digital environment (internet, social media, gaming platforms) and the widespread, often unrestricted, accessibility of pornography facilitate grooming by providing anonymity for predators, direct access to children, and a lack of parental supervision.	"Yes, I am concerned as it is hard for parents to watch every minute their children are on the internet, so these people look for every opportunity to make contact and groom children." Response #13

Q13. Are you concerned that pornography can be used to groom children? (cont.)

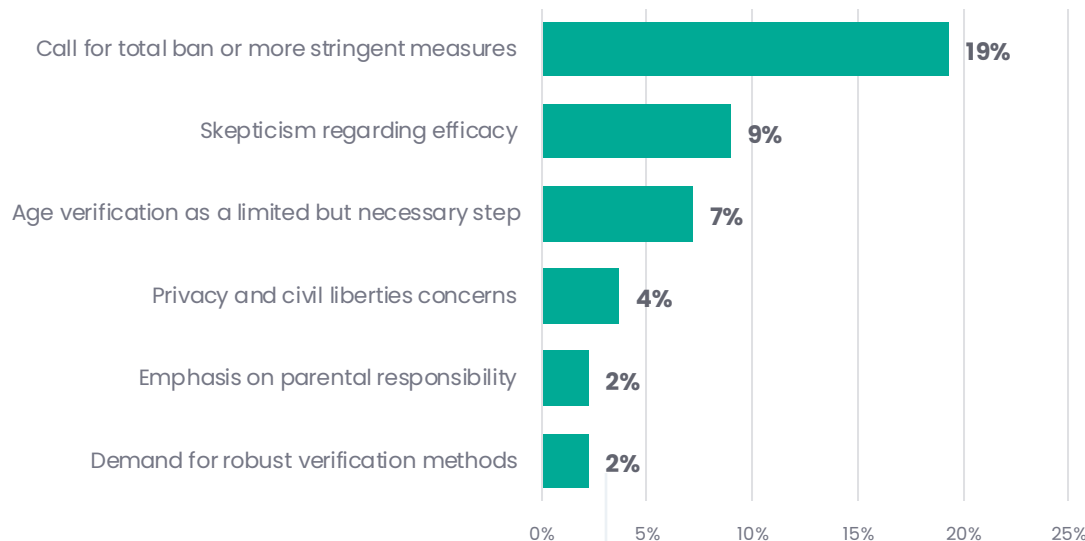
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Concerns about systemic or intentional facilitation	Pornography itself, or systems around its creation and distribution (including commercial interests, lack of regulation, or even some educational approaches), may intentionally or negligently facilitate the grooming of children by targeting younger audiences or normalising premature sexualisation.	"Pornography creators are using common children's search terms (for children's TV shows etc.) to allow them to easily access porn." Response #543

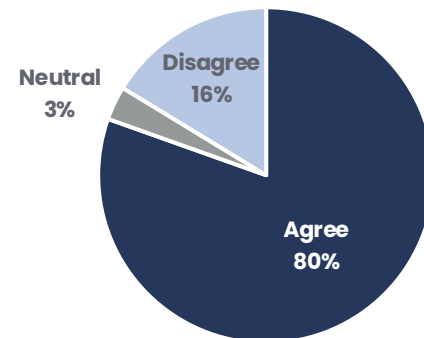
Q15. Do you support the use of mandatory age verification for access to online pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q15. Do you support the use of mandatory age verification for access to online pornography?

Question specific themes

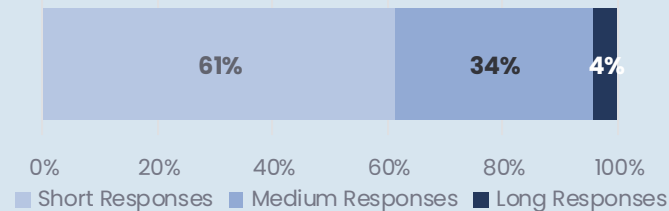
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Call for total ban or more stringent measures	Mandatory age verification is insufficient, advocating instead for a complete prohibition of pornography or the implementation of significantly stricter controls.	"Sure, but this doesn't address the issue. This is a band-aid solution that people will find loopholes for. It doesn't address the root cause. I believe online pornography should be completely eliminated with zero exceptions. Making porn harder to access isn't good enough." Response #580
Skepticism regarding efficacy	Doubts about the practical effectiveness of mandatory age verification, highlighting concerns that such measures can be easily bypassed, are difficult to enforce, or will ultimately fail to prevent access.	"If it is able to be implemented reliably, it could be beneficial. However, I suspect that it is almost impossible to do." Response #82
Age verification as a limited but necessary step	While mandatory age verification may not be a perfect or complete solution, it is a valuable and necessary initial measure or a baseline action to mitigate harm.	"Yes, if it can be proven to work. Something has to be done and it would at least be a start in the right direction." Response #556

Q15. Do you support the use of mandatory age verification for access to online pornography? (cont.)

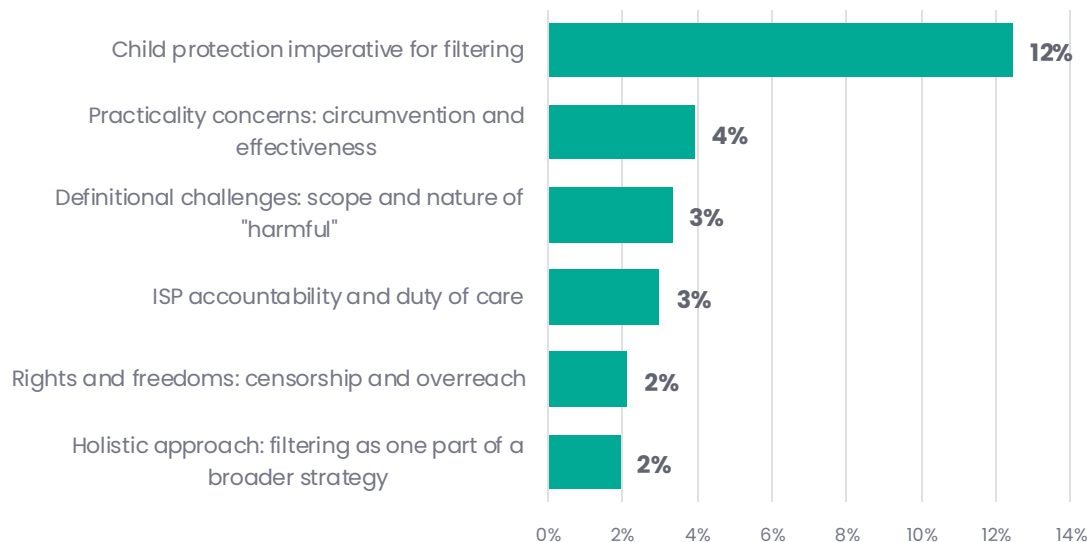
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Privacy and civil liberties concerns	The potential negative impacts of mandatory age verification on individual privacy, data security, and broader civil liberties, including fears of government overreach or the establishment of digital ID systems.	"No, because I do not trust government bureaucracies to protect privacy or individual rights. They proved during Covid to be authoritarian tyrants and I don't trust them at all to use this power over personal information to OUR good." Response #726
Emphasis on parental responsibility	The primary responsibility for controlling children's access to online pornography lies with parents or guardians, rather than relying on government-mandated verification systems.	"NO. Parenting children is the responsibility of parents/guardians not a totalitarian state." Response #763
Demand for robust verification methods	If mandatory age verification is implemented, it must employ strong, reliable, and difficult-to-circumvent methods, rather than relying on self-declarations or checks that are easy to bypass.	"Yes. But this needs to be watertight and not simply a 'click to confirm you're over 18' button." Response #53

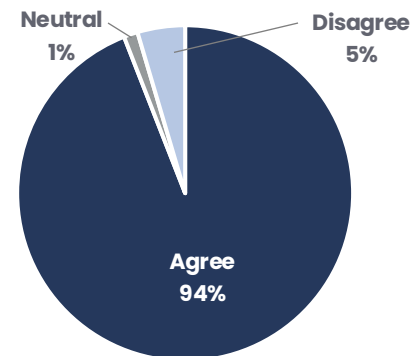
Q16. Do you support the use of mandatory tools such as internet service provider filtering to block all access to sites that contain harmful pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q16. Do you support the use of mandatory tools such as internet service provider filtering to block all access to sites that contain harmful pornography?

Question specific themes

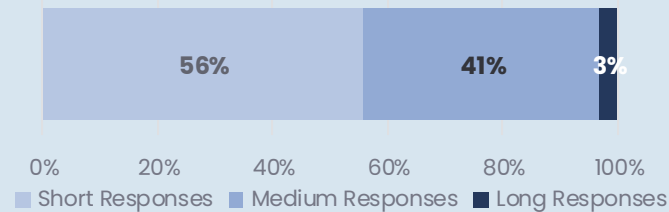
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Child protection imperative for filtering	Strong support for ISP filtering primarily motivated by the urgent need to protect children and young people from accidental or intentional exposure to harmful pornography and its negative developmental impacts.	"Yes. Absolutely yes. With children doing more and more schoolwork on devices, it is becoming harder to prevent even accidental exposure to inappropriate material. But social pressure also makes it more difficult." Response #30 "Yes- it is a bare minimum requirement to safeguard children and the future of society." Response #186
Practicality concerns: circumvention and effectiveness	Doubts regarding the technical feasibility and effectiveness of ISP filtering due to methods of bypassing (e.g. VPNs, loopholes) and the difficulty of comprehensive enforcement.	"I think mandatory tools can act as a deterrent, but there are too many people who are smart enough to find a work-around. I am aware some of these are self-imposed and so for people struggling with porn addiction, it can be helpful." Response #88
Definitional challenges: scope and nature of "harmful"	Questions about the definition of "harmful pornography," who determines this definition, and the appropriate scope of blocking (e.g. all pornography vs. specific types).	"Harmful pornography would be difficult to define legally let alone filter out." Response #95

Q16. Do you support the use of mandatory tools such as internet service provider filtering to block all access to sites that contain harmful pornography? (cont.)

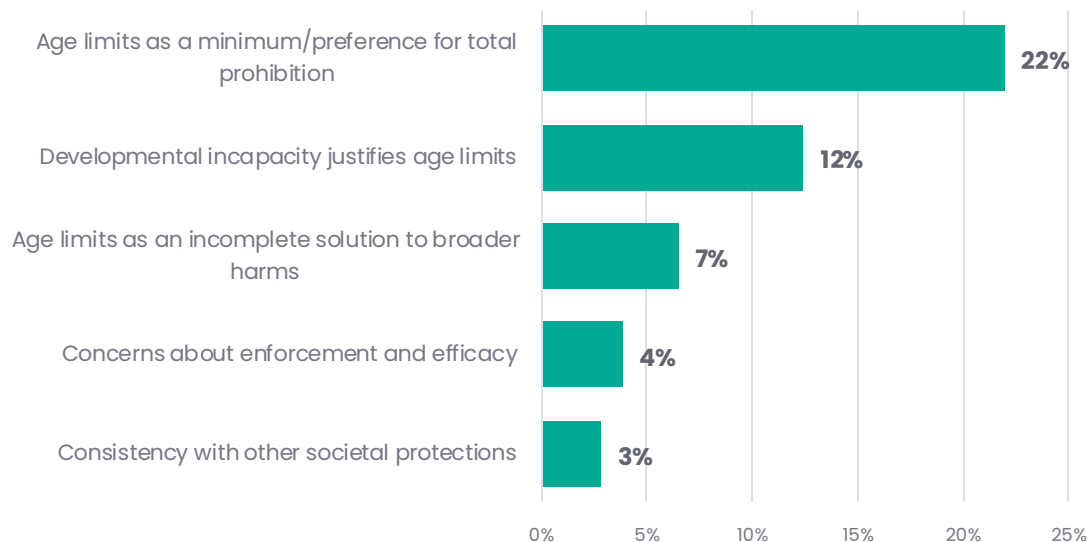
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
ISP accountability and duty of care	Internet service providers have a moral or social responsibility to actively participate in protecting users, especially children, from harmful content by implementing filtering measures.	"Yes, Internet providers make a great deal money. They should have some social responsibility." Response #27
Rights and freedoms: censorship and overreach	Mandatory ISP filtering could lead to censorship, restrict freedom of expression or access to information, result in blocking of legitimate content, or represent undue government or ISP control.	"No that would require a public servant to judge 'harmful' - another 'Karen.'" Response #350
Holistic approach: filtering as one part of a broader strategy	While ISP filtering may be a useful tool, it should be complemented by other measures such as education, parental controls, age verification, and addressing content production.	"Alternative approaches, such as comprehensive education, parental controls, and promoting responsible internet usage, should also be considered as part of a holistic strategy to address the issue of harmful pornography." Response #5

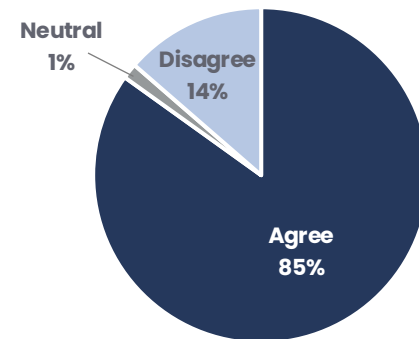
Q17. Do you support age limits for access to pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q17. Do you support age limits for access to pornography?

Question specific themes

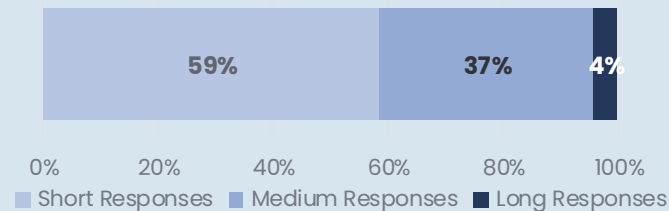
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Age limits as a minimum/ preference for total prohibition	Support for age limits, but often with the strong caveat that pornography is harmful to all ages and a complete ban would be preferable. Age limits are seen as a necessary minimum or a 'reluctant compromise'.	"I support the complete destruction of pornography. While age limits would be a helpful barrier, pornography itself is the problem as a whole. There is nothing good about it." Response #102
Developmental incapacity justifies age limits	Support for age limits specifically because minors are considered developmentally, emotionally, or cognitively unequipped to make informed decisions about pornographic content. It highlights the perceived vulnerability of young people due to their stage of development.	"Yes. It should not be accessible to young minds who have no life experience or discernment to understand what healthy relationships look like." Response #19
Age limits as an incomplete solution to broader harms	Potential insufficiency of age limits in addressing the full spectrum of harms caused by pornography, including its impact on adults or its role in wider societal issues like violence – age limits are only a partial measure.	"Only if it comes into law with content standards that restrict ANY form of violence. Do you really think it's acceptable for a 16- or 18-year-old to watch porn endlessly which represents violent acts against women? That restricts the early exposure but it will still cause the same problems we have today with young adults / offenders." Response #150

Q17. Do you support age limits for access to pornography? (cont.)

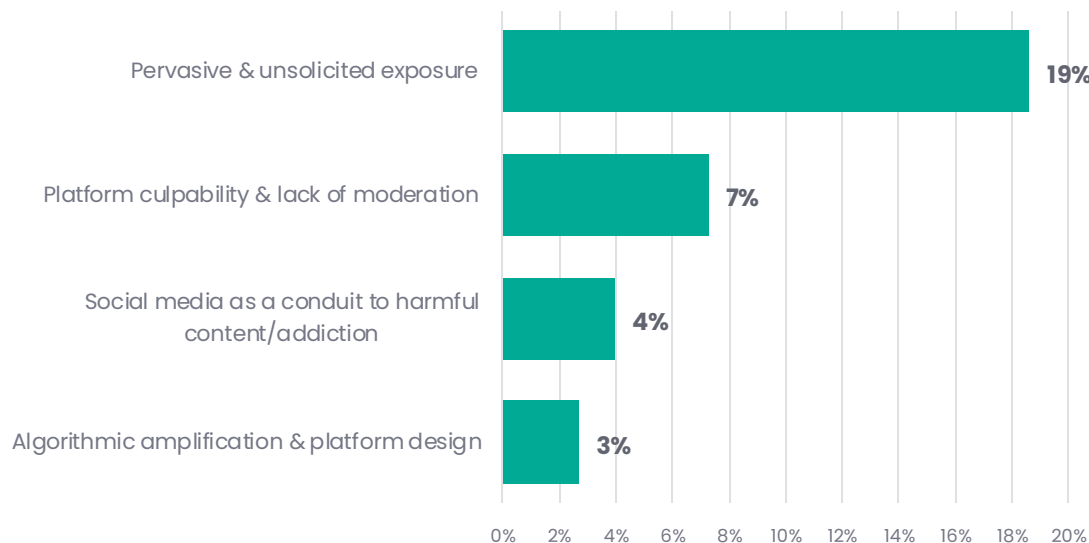
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Concerns about enforcement and efficacy	Support for the principle of age limits, with reservations or challenges regarding their practical implementation, effectiveness in preventing access, and the potential for circumvention.	"While a world without it would be the best outcome, an age limit is required. But where does this age verification end? Children being legally allowed on social media at age 13, due to USA law for gathering information, isn't policed, will children not just use adults' old devices?" Response #178
Consistency with other societal protections	Parallels with existing age-based restrictions on other potentially harmful activities or substances (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, voting, driving), framing it as a consistent societal approach to protecting minors.	"Yes. Children cannot vote, drink or drive. Why would they be able to access this stuff." Response #271

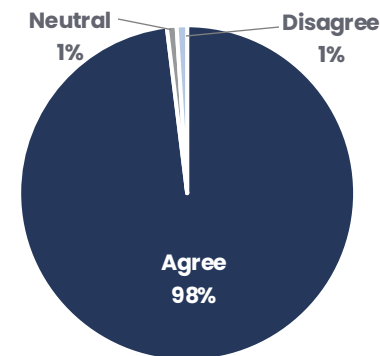
Q18. Are you concerned about the presence of pornography on social media sites?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Level of agreement with question



Q18. Are you concerned about the presence of pornography on social media sites?

Question specific themes

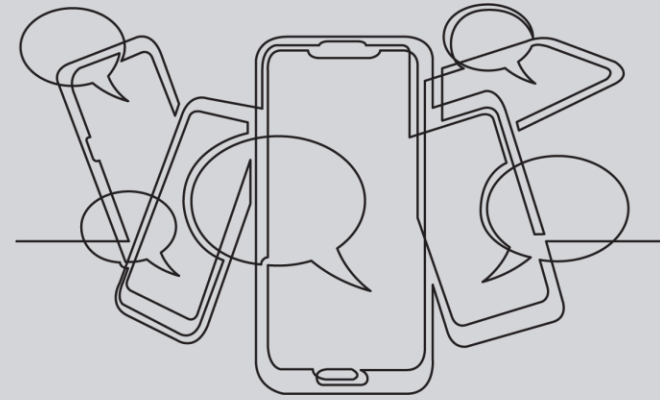
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Pervasive & unsolicited exposure	Pornography is widespread and difficult to avoid on social media, often appearing without active searching, leading to accidental or unwanted exposure for users of all ages, especially children.	"Yes, I am concerned about the presence of pornography on social media sites due to its potential negative impact, especially on young users who are not actively seeking out explicit content but may inadvertently encounter it." Response #49
Platform culpability & lack of moderation	Social media companies are failing in their responsibility to adequately regulate, moderate, or filter pornographic content, thereby enabling its proliferation and accessibility.	"Yes. Even on Facebook (which is the only social media I use) I currently see regular pornography pop-ups in the advertisements – and while they are in clear breach of Facebook "rules" – they are not being filtered/banned/fined." Response #182
Social media as a conduit to harmful content/addiction	Social media platforms act as a gateway or lure, introducing users to pornographic content which can then lead to the consumption of more harmful material or the development of addictive behaviours.	"Porn uses social media as its lure and advertising platform." Response #21 "Yes; because having porn on social media means some people who don't go out looking for porn might accidentally come across it and then become a regular porn user." Response #84

Q18. Are you concerned about the presence of pornography on social media sites? (cont.)

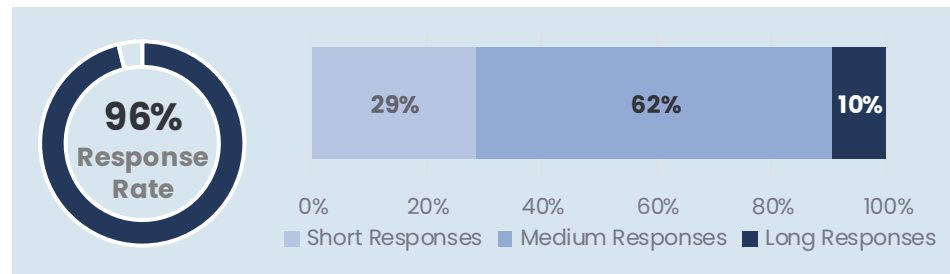
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Algorithmic amplification & platform design	Social media algorithms, advertising models, and platform design (e.g. feeds, pop-ups, auto-play) actively contribute to the spread and unsolicited presentation of pornographic content, sometimes targeting users or making it difficult to avoid.	"The particular nature of how social media feeds supply continuous and often spontaneous clips/ads/updates is also a problem because someone doesn't have to search for pornography they can just be presented with it on their feed, against their will." Response #102

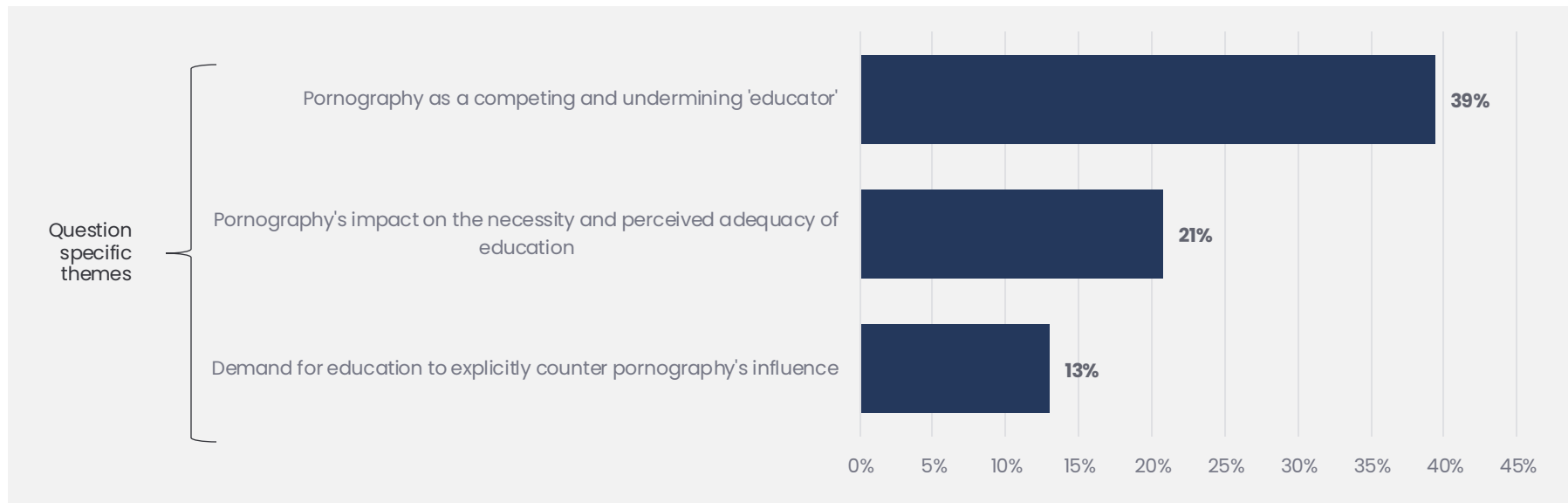
Analysis of specific action-oriented questions



Q9. What is the relationship between pornography use and respect and consent education?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme

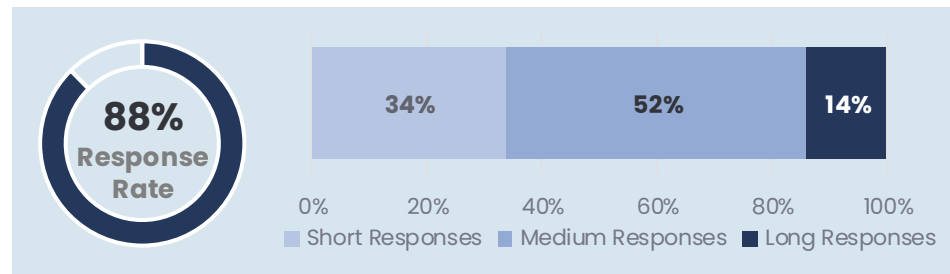


Q9. What is the relationship between pornography use and respect and consent education?

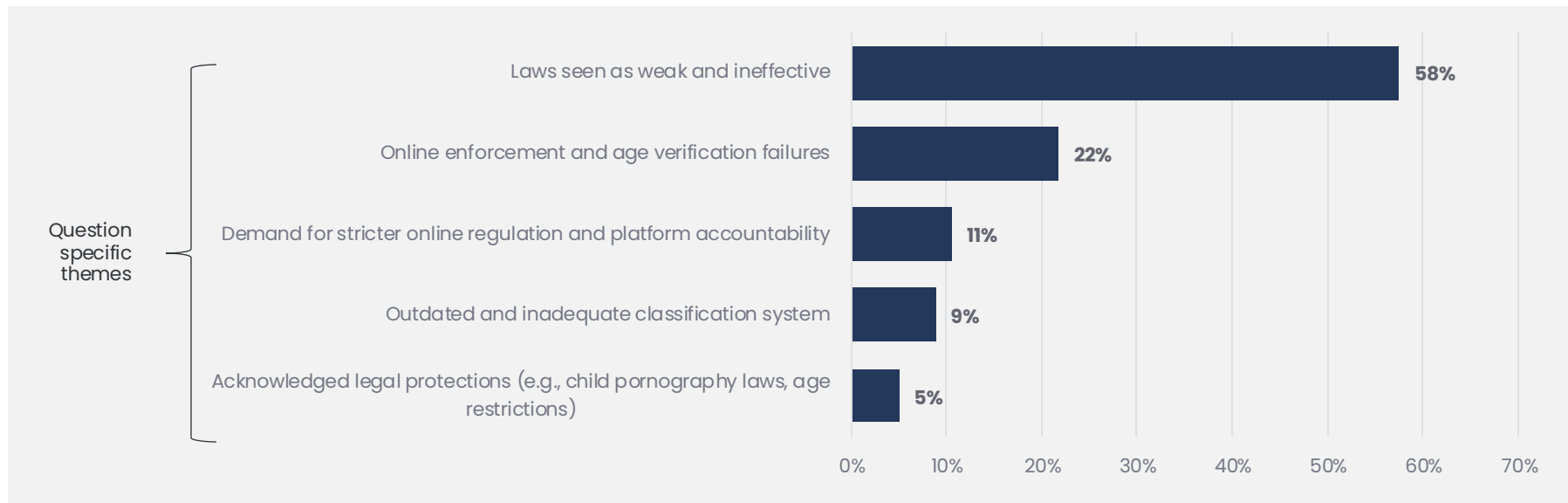
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Pornography as a competing and undermining 'educator'	Pornography functions as an influential, informal 'educator' that disseminates messages and norms about sex and relationships which directly contradict and undermine the principles taught in formal respect and consent education programs. This makes it difficult for educational messages to be effective.	"They are pulling in completely opposite directions! The tidal wave of porn use by teens is undermining consent education. Seeking to improve respect and consent through education without curbing the impact of porn on those being educated just makes no sense. It is integrally connected." Response #21
Pornography's impact on the necessity and perceived adequacy of education	The widespread availability and influence of pornography are primary drivers for the increased necessity of respect and consent education. However, current educational approaches are insufficient, misdirected, or fail to adequately address the powerful counter-messaging from pornography.	"Because so many young people are viewing pornography, consent education is necessary in Australian society now. However, this education is inadequate to counteract the harmful messaging of pornography, which celebrates aggressive, abusive, violent and degrading sexual acts as normal." Response #450
Demand for education to explicitly counter pornography's influence	Respect and consent education should move beyond general principles and directly address the specific influence of pornography. This includes teaching about its harms, deconstructing its messages, fostering critical media literacy regarding pornographic content, and clearly defining healthy behaviours.	"There must be a direct relationship. To talk about consent without addressing the dangers and evils of porn is naive at best and hypocritical at worst." Response #631

Q14. What are the strengths and weaknesses of current laws and regulations regarding pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q14. What are the strengths and weaknesses of current laws and regulations regarding pornography?

Question specific themes

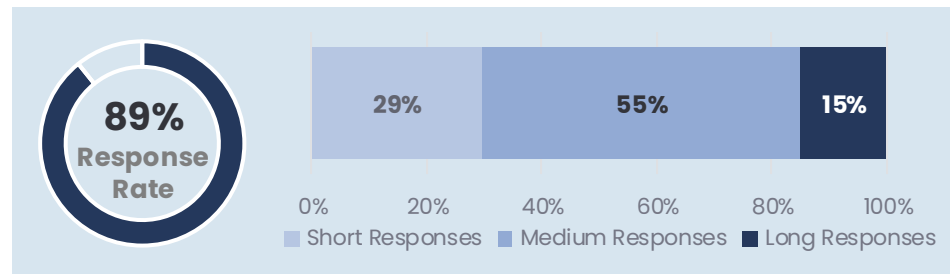
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Laws seen as weak and ineffective	Current laws and regulations concerning pornography are fundamentally too weak, poorly enforced, or too outdated to meaningfully address its availability and associated harms, especially online.	"They're non-existent and unenforceable if they do exist." Response #50 "The good thing is that there is legislation regarding pornography. The bad thing is that the legislation is not strong enough. The fact that the harmful effects of pornography are increasing supports this fact." Response #185
Online enforcement and age verification failures	Current laws and regulations are failing due to the challenges of enforcement, particularly the ineffectiveness of age verification methods online and the difficulty of regulating internationally hosted content.	"Age verification measures for accessing pornography are often weak or easily circumvented. Despite being mandatory for adult content, many websites simply use self-reporting mechanisms, where users click to confirm they are over 18. This is inadequate in preventing minors from accessing adult content." Response #49
Demand for stricter online regulation and platform accountability	More stringent laws and regulations are needed, specifically targeting the online environment, including holding technology companies, platforms, and internet service providers more accountable for content, and implementing better filtering or content control mechanisms.	"All NBN and internet providers should have ability to filter all pornographic material when requested by customers with severe consequences for not doing enough to filter it." Response #30 "The law needs to be amended and Google will need to remove the search engine for pornography websites." Response #69

Q14. What are the strengths and weaknesses of current laws and regulations regarding pornography? (cont.)

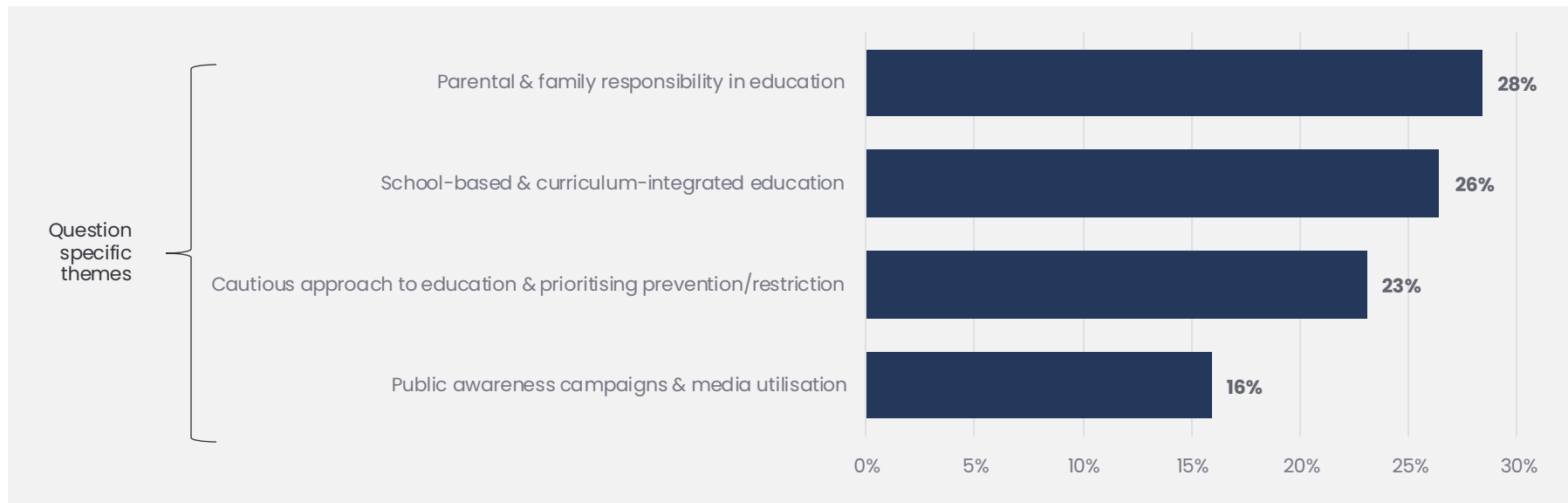
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Outdated and inadequate classification system	The current pornography classification system is outdated, primarily designed for printed or physical media, and ineffective for regulating the evolving landscape of online content.	"The current classification of material is outdated and only applies to printed material. This needs an update." Response #425
Acknowledged legal protections (e.g. child pornography laws, age restrictions)	Recognition of certain existing legal measures as strengths, such as the criminalisation of child pornography, the existence of age restrictions, and classification efforts, even if these are often seen as needing improvement or better enforcement.	"Australia has a robust classification system managed by the Australian Classification Board. Pornography that is considered excessively violent, degrading, or inappropriate is banned under the classification. The legal framework makes it illegal to produce, distribute, or possess child exploitation material (child pornography)." Response #49

Q19. What measures should be taken to educate the public, especially children and young people, about the harms of pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q19. What measures should be taken to educate the public, especially children and young people, about the harms of pornography?

Question specific themes

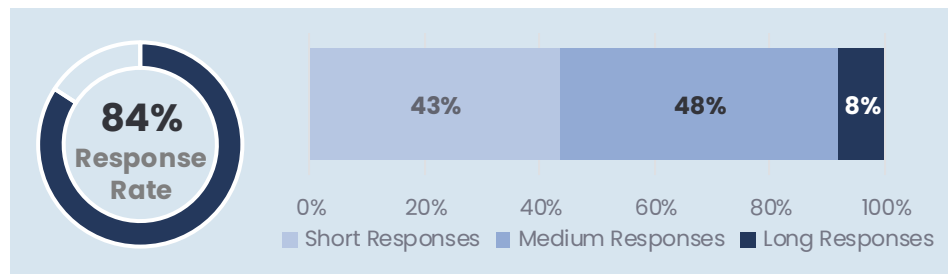
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Parental & family responsibility in education	Parents and family members are the primary educators regarding pornography's harms and healthy sexuality, and there should be resources and support to empower them in this role.	"Parents need to be front and centre in talking about this with their kids." Response #4 "Take the responsibility off the government and give it back to the parents to educate their children" Response #22
School-based & curriculum-integrated education	Pornography education should be formally and comprehensively integrated into school curricula as part of sex education, health, or digital literacy programs, ensuring age-appropriate content and delivery.	"Mandatory whole school programs from year 2 - year 12 about dangers of porn, sexting, consent, relationships at an age-appropriate level building on previous years." Response #102

Q19. What measures should be taken to educate the public, especially children and young people, about the harms of pornography? (cont.)

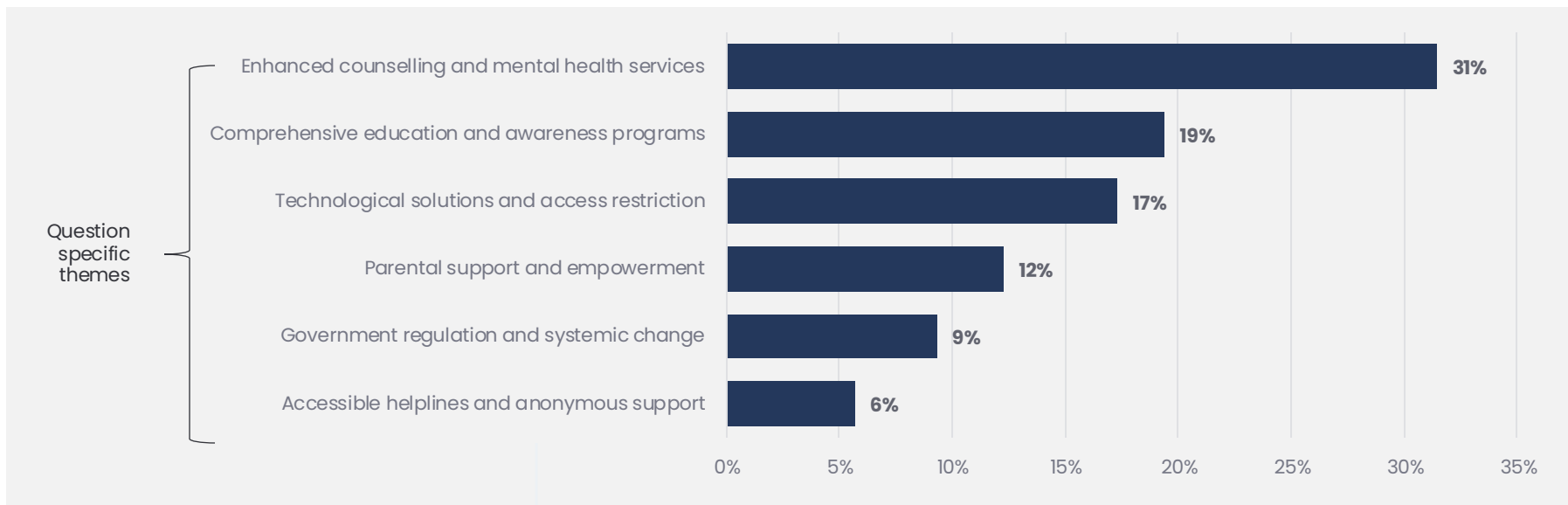
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Cautious approach to education & prioritising prevention/restriction	Direct education about pornography might inadvertently increase curiosity or cause harm, with many advocating for preventing access and restricting availability as a more effective measure.	"I feel alerting them of this will only raise their interest in knowing more about it, and what it is. Again, I'd prefer a total ban on porn." Response #192 "Education can just increase the interest. If there's no access, then education can be effective, as long as it's not piquing interest." Response #324
Public awareness campaigns & media utilisation	Advocating for widespread public awareness campaigns using diverse media channels (e.g. TV, social media, advertisements) to educate about pornography's harms, often drawing parallels to successful public health initiatives.	"We've had successful campaigns about smoking and skin cancer, we should do the same about porn harms." Response #82

Q20. What resources or support services are needed for individuals, especially children and young people, at risk from or affected by harmful pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q20. What resources or support services are needed for individuals, especially children and young people, at risk from or affected by harmful pornography?

Question specific themes

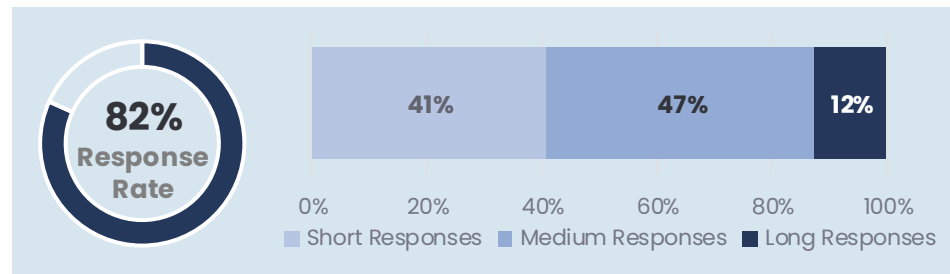
Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Enhanced counselling and mental health services	Calls for increased availability and accessibility of professional counselling, psychological services, and specialised therapy for individuals and families affected by harmful pornography, including support for addiction and trauma.	"LOL, more Counselling AVAILABILITY is needed. There are simply none available – especially outside of big cities." Response #182
Comprehensive education and awareness programs	The need for broad educational initiatives in schools, communities, and for parents, focusing on digital literacy, critical thinking about media, consent, healthy relationships, and the specific risks and impacts of pornography.	"Evidence based resources to educate about the harms of pornography and how to escape addiction to pornography. Resources to support the affected partners – how to cope, how to rebuild or leave a relationship depending on their situation. How to help children avoid exposure online, at school, travelling to and from school, and in social situations. How can children say no to watching porn and who can they turn to for help – that it is ok to ask for help." Response #144
Technological solutions and access restriction	The need for effective and accessible technological tools, such as internet filters, parental controls, and age verification systems, alongside measures to restrict or block access to harmful pornographic content.	"Free software to filter porn should be developed and funded. All phone and device sales should include instructions on how to activate filters. I tried to install something on my kid's phone but it killed battery life so I took it off. Then after that my son got addicted and I don't know how to help him. Now he is too old for me to start controlling his phone (19)." Response #286

Q20. What resources or support services are needed for individuals, especially children and young people, at risk from or affected by harmful pornography? (cont.)

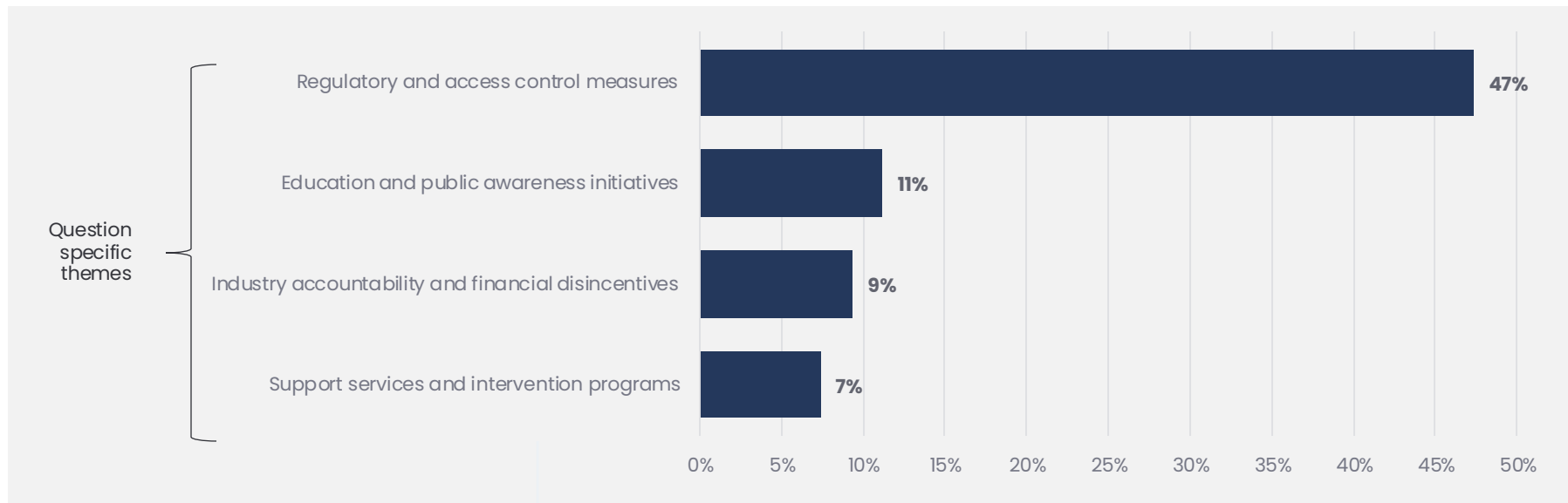
Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Parental support and empowerment	Resources and training to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to discuss pornography with children, manage online safety, and create a supportive home environment.	"Parents need to be resourced to be safe people for kids feeling shame." Response #172 "Parents should be equipped to feel comfortable talking and educating their children." Response #63
Government regulation and systemic change	Calls for stronger government policies, legislative action, and regulatory oversight to restrict the availability and accessibility of harmful pornography, hold platforms accountable, and create a safer online environment.	"Government policies and regulations should minimise the impact of harmful pornography to the individuals especially those mentally vulnerable, children and young people." Response #80
Accessible helplines and anonymous support	The provision of readily available, confidential, and often anonymous support channels like helplines, online chat services, and crisis lines for individuals seeking immediate help, advice, or a safe space to discuss issues related to pornography.	"I think a phone service especially set up to deal with pornography would be helpful so children and young people could phone in anonymously to chat about their problem with addiction to pornography." Response #299

Q21. Do you have any specific recommendations for policymakers to address any impacts of harmful pornography?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q21. Do you have any specific recommendations for policymakers to address any impacts of harmful pornography?

Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Regulatory and access control measures	Recommendations for policymakers to implement laws, regulations, and technological measures to control the production, distribution, and access to pornography. This includes age verification, content filtering, platform accountability, stricter penalties, and in some cases, outright bans.	"Increase more legislation and ways to filter it from an ISP level with significant penalties for not complying. Giving significant consequences to websites (and social media sites) that show pornography to under 18s or those that have chosen for it to be filtered out at an ISP level. Search engines also need to work harder to filter results and make it harder to override safe search preferences." Response #30
Education and public awareness initiatives	Recommendations for implementing educational programs in schools and public awareness campaigns to inform individuals (especially young people and parents) about the risks of harmful pornography, and to promote digital literacy, critical thinking, healthy relationships, and consent.	"Policymakers should mandate comprehensive, age-appropriate digital literacy and sex education programs in schools that address the risks of pornography, healthy relationships, and consent. It is essential to ensure that school curricula include education on the emotional, psychological, and relational impacts of pornography, as well as critical media literacy." Response #49

Q21. Do you have any specific recommendations for policymakers to address any impacts of harmful pornography? (cont.)

Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Industry accountability and financial disincentives	Recommendations focused on holding producers, distributors, and tech platforms accountable for harmful content, including imposing financial penalties, cutting off revenue sources, and creating legal consequences for profiting from or enabling the spread of harmful pornography.	"Make tech companies take responsibility for the harms their services can carry!" Response #33 "Financial penalties placed as high 'upstream' as possible-- reducing the profitability of porn is important." Response #112
Support services and intervention programs	Recommendations for funding and providing accessible support services, including counselling, mental health resources, and intervention programs for individuals and families affected by harmful pornography and addiction.	"Support Mental Health Services: Increase funding for counseling and mental health resources specifically targeting individuals affected by harmful pornography." Response #51

Q21. Specific regulatory and policy recommendations

#	Regulatory and access control measures
9	"Pornsites should have age-verification for both the pornstars and viewers."
30	"Increase more legislation and ways to filter it from an ISP level with significant penalties for not complying. Giving significant consequences to websites (and social media sites) that show pornography to under 18s or those that have chosen for it to be filtered out at an ISP level. Search engines also need to work harder to filter results and make it harder to override safe search preferences."
65	"Have sites asking for ID such as drivers license."
182	"Start enforcing laws that already exist with respect to limiting access to 18+ and start to GET REAL with filtering ALL INTERNET data."
225	"Removal of 'soft' porn advertising in public spaces and online - age limits to protect minors on all tech. No males in female spaces. Safety for general public areas are required."
278	1) Age verification online - over 18s only. 2) Website verification - are any of the participants underage? 3) Extreme acts of violence should be illegal to access 4) Any illegal acts such as those involving animals or children, even if in cartoon or being acted, should be banned. 5) We need stronger penalties for illegal filming in public areas such as toilets, changerooms, "upskirting" and spy cams. 6) AI apps that "underdress" people or AI that generates pornography from someone's image without their consent should be illegal."
886	"Make the internet service providers provide filters on mobile and filters on home internet devices free of charge. Telstra used to do it in their account settings but have removed it."
450	"Age verification needs to be implemented for online pornography to prevent access to it by children. Prior to the internet, printed porn could not be sold to children under 18. Advertising laws need to be expanded to ban online porn being accessed by children, and to prevent porn being displayed in any public space or private space visited by the public. This must include billboards, advertising on bus transport and bus shelters, railway stations and shop fronts and children's books. All public spaces should be G-rated."
524	"Use and provision of low-cost filters to help families. Make sure all public areas are child sensitive and free of any inappropriate sexual material."

Q21. Specific regulatory and policy recommendations (cont.)

#	Education and public awareness initiatives
6	"It may be good to focus on preventative measures instead of punitive. I wish my schools had education around pornography use."
56	"Ensure that sex education programs include discussions on the potential harms of pornography, consent, and healthy relationships."
93	"There needs to be a greater understanding of the harmful effects of porn, even in its 'tamest' form, society still views it largely as harmless. It's okay for young people to be curious about sex, but pornography is the worse place to learn about sex."
164	"The harmful affects need to be widely spoken about rather than a hushed acceptance. People don't realise how many women and children are trafficked for porn and if they were aware they might think twice about it."
178	"Public awareness. Make the wider public aware of the tricks used by groomers. Shine a light on the reality of neuroplasticity changes to the brain from consuming pornography."
315	"Educate parents as to the pitfalls and how to help their children avoid porn or recover from harmful impacts."
432	"Perhaps in the same way that you see or you used to see cigarette ads that were really trying to grow the idea of cigarettes or discourage the subject of smoking which did a great job I think culling the amount of people who continue to smoke now I think we need something similar with pornography just to be very very honest about what it is very blunt about what it does and not being afraid to shy into that aspect of vulgarity in a way that's respectable and sensible but still does whatever it can to really shape the public image in a negative light towards pornography perhaps talk about sex trafficking more that would be good."
1949	"The damage cigarettes can cause is mandated on every packet, why don't you have a mandatory series of videos that play when you go to watch it? It can show how harmful pornography is in peoples lives and what it does to our brains. Including damaging the dopamine creation which makes life itself more miserable since you don't get pleasure from simple things anymore, thus drastically increasing the probability of depression. As well as damaged relationships, lack of trust, distorted view of the opposite sex, what they want from a physical relationship and acts done against one's own conscience because they think harmful kinds of acts are normal."

Q21. Specific regulatory and policy recommendations (cont.)

#	Industry accountability and financial disincentives
33	"Make tech companies take responsibility for the harms their services can carry!"
112	"Age verification. Responsibility placed on online services to exclude porn. Financial penalties placed as high 'upstream' as possible-- reducing the profitability of porn is important."
113	"Make it very expensive for the promoters of pornography."
117	"Penalise pornography producers and websites."
157	"Minimise it as much as possible. Make it very difficult to access it. Tax them heavily for destroying our communities."
356	"Try to knock out the economics or financial gain in this area."
577	"There have always been fines in place for any business selling or providing pornography to minors! Yet, since the introduction of the internet our government has never sort to bring charges against the big tech companies who flaunt our laws. I want to see the government take these companies to court."
655	"They need to go hard at the tech companies."
1063	"New legislation would be good but the law can only go so far without a strong watchdog to enforce those laws. It also may be true that people will find a way around much needed technological safeguards to restrict this material. Companies, their individual leaders and their boards would not be able to avoid large financial penalties with any ease, and would seriously and pragmatically to ensure the psychological and emotional safety of young people. This would be akin to the success of anti-money laundering initiatives."
1184	"Tax porn similar to how tobacco are taxed."

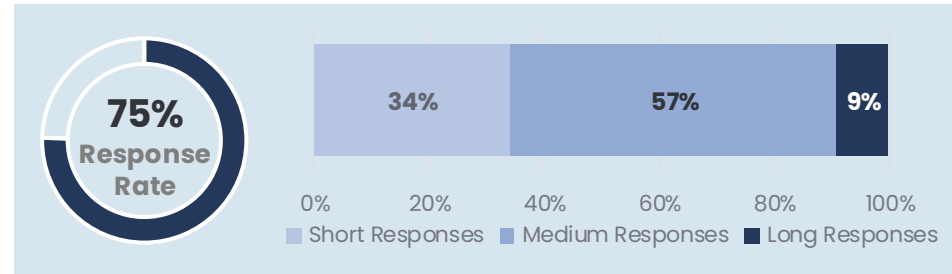
Q21. Specific regulatory and policy recommendations (cont.)

#	Support services and intervention programs
90	"I think money linked to the availability of services in mental health and life skills all during their high school years to support their decision making is most needed. Quite honestly, it starts from their early years, learning from their home environment, their family values, the example of those around them. School continuing to support those taught values. The availability of professional help and the support of their peer group."
483	"For Children and Young People: Counseling and therapy: Access to therapists specializing in childhood trauma, sexual abuse, and addiction is crucial. Age-appropriate education and support groups: Programs that teach healthy sexuality, relationships, and consent in an age-appropriate manner are vital. Support groups can help reduce feelings of shame and isolation. Online safety resources: Organizations like the eSafety Commissioner in Australia offer resources and support for young people experiencing online harms, including exposure to pornography. Helplines and online chat services: Confidential helplines and online chat services provide immediate support and guidance for young people struggling with the impacts of pornography. For Adults: Individual and couples therapy: Therapy can help individuals address compulsive behaviors, understand the root causes of their pornography use, and develop healthier coping mechanisms. Couples therapy can help partners rebuild trust and intimacy. Support groups: 12-step programs and other support groups offer a safe space for individuals to share their experiences and work towards recovery. Educational resources: Websites, books, and workshops can provide information about the impacts of pornography and strategies for managing its use. Hotlines and online support forums... For Families: Family therapy: Family therapy can help families navigate the challenges associated with a family member's pornography use, improve communication, and rebuild relationships. Parent education and support groups: Resources and support groups can help parents understand the risks of pornography, talk to their children about healthy sexuality, and address concerns about their children's exposure to pornography. Accessibility is key: These resources should be readily available, affordable, and culturally sensitive to ensure everyone can access the support they need."
1278	"Free counselling, peer mentoring courses. Funding for people to create programs to talk to schools."

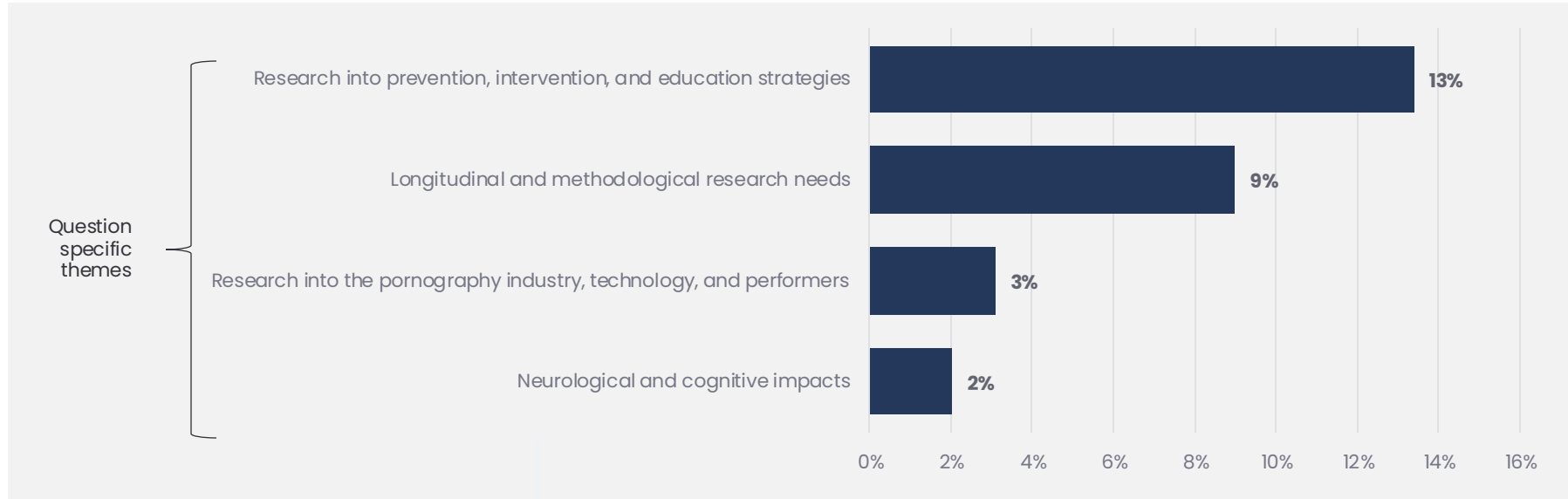
Q21. Specific regulatory and policy recommendations (cont.)

#	Other
15	"Talk to marriages counsellors, therapist about the damage it creates to brains. It rewires brains and leads to serious health impacts. We have problems with violence so much I think is related to this pandemic."
34	"I strongly encourage this NSW government committee to invite Marshall Ballantine Jones to give testimony to your committee about these issues."
72	"Do your search on pornography and its harmful effect. Involve society and social groups to common on e.g. religious and spiritual leader and also Aboriginal elders. This is not a government opinion only society and social and spiritual influencers should be consulted, parents from all backgrounds and cultures should also be consulted before making any decisions that could impact a whole society and country."
137	"I recommend the inclusion of robust collection of 'Use of pornography' data sets when interrogating, charging and convicting persons of interest. Furthermore, inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative data to further investigate the full impact of use of pornography in cases of Institutional Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence and Mental Health with a view to build a solid case for banning the production, distribution and accession of pornography in all its forms."
140	"Consult with the growing multitudes working to help those overcome porn/sex addiction."
152	"Investigate the links to violence and sex trade and unhappiness in relationships."
179	"Talk to Foster Care Agencies, NGO Welfare Organisations, Counsellors, Psychologists & Psychiatrists (especially those who specialise in working with children)."
527	"I have worked in court for years. And for so long wished for a task force of intelligent unbiased experts to come up with the data and put it front and centre to our society about the effects of pornographic material even soft porn. Help everyone comprehend what they are dealing with here."
1654	"Policymakers try to do more investigations through interviews with sexual criminal offenders, understand the reasons and motivations behind the crimes, and learn the ways to avoid them."

Q22. What additional research is required into the impacts of harmful pornography on individuals, relationships and society?



% of respondent answers that feature each theme



Q22. What additional research is required into the impacts of harmful pornography on individuals, relationships and society?

Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Research into prevention, intervention, and education strategies	Calls for investigation into the effectiveness of various preventative measures, educational programs (including media literacy and healthy sexuality education), policy interventions, harm reduction approaches, and support services.	"Research should focus on establishing the level and types of harm, investigate strategies for harm minimisation, and identify successful harm recovery supports." Response #82
Longitudinal and methodological research needs	The need for studies that track individuals and societal trends over extended periods, employ diverse research methodologies (qualitative, quantitative, comparative), and ensure robust data collection to understand the evolving and cumulative impacts of pornography	"Long-term effects: Most studies focus on short-term effects. More research is needed on the long-term impacts of early exposure to harmful pornography on children and adolescents, especially regarding their sexual development, relationships, and mental health. Longitudinal studies tracking individuals over time can provide valuable insights into how pornography consumption patterns evolve and influence outcomes across the lifespan." Response #483

Q22. What additional research is required into the impacts of harmful pornography on individuals, relationships and society? (cont.)

Question specific themes

Theme	Summary description	Example responses
Research into the pornography industry, technology, and performers	Focus on understanding the pornography industry itself, including its economic drivers, production methods, marketing tactics, the role of emerging technologies (like AI and VR), links to exploitation and trafficking, and the direct impacts on individuals who perform in pornography.	"Do research tracking the mental health of porn workers, male and female, obey the course of their careers. How long do their careers last, what is their job security after porn, what are the rates of suicide and depression?" Response #1087 "But look at the industry as a whole, who is being trafficked, are companies trying to get more women to watch porn now that all men do, how are young people getting introduced to it." Response #97
Neurological and cognitive impacts	Specific requests for research into how pornography affects brain development (especially in youth), brain chemistry (e.g. dopamine pathways related to addiction), cognitive functions (e.g. attention, memory, decision-making).	"Definitely more research on the psychological harm on brain formation." Response #162

Selection of 'outlier' responses



Outlier responses

There should never be any mandatory age verification to access the internet. Such measures cannot prevent minors from accessing porn, but will inevitably 1) destroy free speech 2) destroy freedom of political association 3) destroy privacy 4) make it impossible to safely dissent from powerful people in this country.

Response #95

Viewing porn is often considered normal — and for some people, it is beneficial for self-exploration and sexual education.

Response #40

Please define "harmful pornography" and the difference with "normal pornography". Is there sufficient investigation on the fields of pornography, i.e., is there a specific category/genre of pornography leading to this research's assumption? If pornography is "bad" overall as implied in this questionnaire, then why don't we just ban porn altogether like China or North Korea?

Response #43

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What do you mean by harmful pornography? If you mean illegal acts such as bestiality or child rape, then every person in the community is harmed. If you mean consensual sexual acts between adults, then no one is harmed.

Response #1642

It's important to note that not all pornography depicts violence against women, and people's attitudes and behaviours are influenced by various factors beyond just media consumption. Comprehensive education on healthy relationships, consent, and respectful behaviour is crucial to address the potential impacts of harmful pornography while considering broader societal and cultural influences on violence against women.

Response #5

Pornography is downstream of deeper spiritual and social problems. Policymakers need to allow for the healthy cultivation of community, family, faith and wholistic wellbeing by removing burdens and distortions they imposed in order to 'fix' society.

Response #95

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Thank you

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Dr Simon Chambers