

# Crisis Connection

## Porn, Meth & Violence: Making Some Connections

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"Pornography is the institution. Rape is the practice."

*Gloria Steinem*

### Defining the Terms

Defining what is meant by the term methamphetamine (Meth, crystal Meth, speed, glass, ice, hot ice, super ice, L.A. glass, crystal, shards/shardz, P, Tina, MDMA, MDM, STP, PMA, 2, 5-DMA, TMA, DOM, DOB, and EVE) is relatively easy. Regardless of the name you use, there has been a great deal of attention paid to some of the deadly effects of this drug.

Methamphetamine is one of only two substances known to be capable of causing an otherwise non-violent person to become violent. Anabolic steroids are the other substance.

There are two side-effects of methamphetamine that are of particular consequence to this report: hypersexuality and aggression. Many people are familiar with the increased aggressiveness that many Meth users exhibit. In geographic areas where Meth has become a "problem," law enforcement and agencies that work with victims of crime consistently report an increase in men's child abuse, animal abuse and domestic and sexual violence.

Hypersexuality is a clinical term referring to the sexual behavior changes that Meth users commonly undergo. Meth users frequently become hypersexual (extremely active) which results in *lower inhibitions, artificial feelings of intimacy, a voracious appetite for pornography, high-risk sex, and the inability to control their sexual behavior* (1,2,3).

Pornography is more difficult to define, at least to everyone's satisfaction. For the purpose of this report (we will *not* be tackling the First Amendment) the following definition will be employed: *material that combines sex and/or the exposure of genitals with abuse or degradation in a manner that appears to endorse, condone, or encourage such behavior* (4).

We will consider abusive sexual conduct to be actions that encompass behaviors that are derogatory, demeaning, contemptuous, damaging, brutal, cruel, exploitative, painful, or violent to another human being. Violence will refer to battery (physical and sexual), rape, sodomy, molestation, and torture.

### **How Is Porn a Problem?**

There have been many heated discussions concerning the *benefits* vs. the harm of pornography. Cases have been heard on the subject all the way to the *U.S. Supreme Court*.

The first anti-porn ordinance to be enacted in the U.S. was in Indianapolis in 1984. The *Indianapolis Anti-Porn Ordinance of 1984* defined pornography as anything that "*presents women as sexual objects, as enjoying pain, injury, debasement.*" It also identified as pornography material that depicts women in "*scenarios of degradation, humiliation, or torture*" and as "*filthy or inferior, bleeding, bruised, humiliation or rape, or as being physically harmed or hurt in a context that makes these conditions sexual.*" (Indianapolis Anti-Porn Ordinance of 1984)

The *American Booksellers Association* fought this ordinance all the way to the *U.S. Court of Appeals* where it was defeated on August 27, 1985.

Anti-porn ordinances have been attempted throughout the country with very little or no success since then. The issues of censorship and massive **profits** *always* trump degrading, marketing and abusing women and children.

The porn industry is a multi-**billion** dollar business: \$10 **billion** in the U.S. and \$57 **billion** worldwide annually. The spread of these *products* has actually increased over the last twenty years thanks to the invention and proliferation of home video and DVD players, cable and satellite television, and last but not least, the Internet.

Porn video rentals bring in \$800 **million** in **profit** each year in the U.S. alone. There are more “*adult*” bookstores in the U.S. than there are McDonald’s (5). Pornography turns a larger **profit** than the conventional film and music industries combined (6).

We’re definitely talking **BIG** business.



More rape & domestic batteries have occurred than people have eaten at McDonald's; maybe what we need is a billboard.

But, does porn *cause* sexual violence or more specifically rape and child molestation? There is no consensus on this question. Some research says “no” and some says “yes.” However, there are several points on which nearly all the research currently agrees:

- Pornography appears to lead some men to experience conflict, suffering and sexual dissatisfaction with their partner (7);
- Violent depictions are highly likely to lead to calloused attitudes toward rape and rape victims (8);
- Convicted rapists are highly likely to have used porn to ramp themselves up before attacking their victim (9);
- 77-100% of child molesters and pedophiles consume porn regularly (10);
- Hypersexualized people have insatiable appetites for porn (11);
- Rape rates are higher in the countries where porn is readily available (12);
- Male consumers of porn tend to be more aggressive toward women (13); and
- Exposure to porn appears to increase the use of sexual coercion (14) and increases fantasies of rape (15); and massive exposure to porn encourages a desire for increasingly deviant materials including sadomasochism, rape, torture, and “snuff” films (videos where the woman is brutalized and then murdered) (16).

Nonetheless, there is no *direct* statistical correlation which conclusively proves that pornography causes rape and child molestation. *There may never be.* There

is no ethical way to isolate test subjects, bombard them with porn and then set them loose and see what happens.

**“It’s not the malicious acts that will do us in, but the appalling silence and indifference of good people.”**

*Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### **How is Meth a Problem?**

(Meth)amphetamine was first synthesized in Germany in 1887, but nothing of consequence was done with it until the late 1920’s when it was investigated as a treatment for depression and congestion. In the 1930’s amphetamine was marketed as Benzedrine in an over-the-counter inhaler to treat nasal congestion.

The Japanese created a cheaper and more potent recipe for the drug in 1919. They marketed it as a crystalline powder that was soluble in water, thus, perfect for injecting. This Japanese synthesis is still legally marketed in the U.S. under the brand name Desoxyn.

During WWII and the Vietnam War, amphetamines were widely distributed within the U.S. Armed Forces to keep the fighting men going long after they needed to rest.

Amphetamines were very popular with college students, truck drivers and athletes: anyone who needed to be “up” for extended periods of time. During the 1950’s, the U.S. legally manufactured tablets of amphetamines under the names Dexedrine and *Methedrine*. These drugs were widely used in treating weight control and depression.

The *1970 Controlled Substance Act* severely restricted the legal production of injectable (meth)amphetamine, causing its use to decrease greatly until illegal manufacturers stepped in and addressed the demand.

Methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in the U.S. have steadily risen over the past twenty years. Large-scale production of Meth is now centered in California and Mexico.

Traditionally, the suppliers of Meth throughout the U.S. have been motorcycle gangs. These groups continue to manufacture and distribute, but organized crime drug groups operating out of Mexico now dominate the wholesale U.S.

markets.

Locally, small home labs have caused untold misery. The Midwest's methamphetamine epidemic stems from two problems: steadily increasing importation of methamphetamine into the region by organized trafficking groups; and, clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine by hundreds of users/dealers in small "mom and pop" labs.

Twenty Mexican methamphetamine trafficking organizations have been identified by the federal *Drug Enforcement Agency* as being involved in the Midwest. The Midwest is connected via major interstate highways, rail and air to the West and Southwest border areas that serve as importation, manufacturing and staffing areas for the syndicated Mexican operations.

The chemicals used to manufacture Meth are extremely volatile, and the amateur *chemists* running these makeshift labs—often in hotels, kitchens, cars, barns and areas where children are present—are not equipped to deal with the ever present danger these labs present.

There is a great deal of controversy surrounding this country's response to the Meth epidemic. The federal government, or more specifically President Bush, has determined that declaring war on marijuana is the most effective response to the spread of Meth (Newsweek, August 2005).



Meth "mites" or "speed bumps"



Photo of "Meth Mouth"

### Short & longer-term effects of Meth use include:

- Increased Alertness
- Sense of Well Being
- Depression
- **Paranoia**
- Hallucinations
- **Violent Behavior**
- Delusions of Grandeur
- Extreme Weight Loss
- Increased Heart Rate

- Moodiness
- Sores from constantly scratching their body (see picture above)
- **Heightened Sexual Activity (hypersexuality)**
- Excessive talking
- Uncontrollable movements, twitching, jerking
- Shortness of Breath
- Convulsions
- Grinding Teeth, Clenching Jaw
- Sleep Deprivation
- Insomnia
- Seizures
- **Brain Damage**
- Tooth Decay (see picture below)
- Panic Attacks
- Lead poisoning
- **Uncontrollable Anxiety or Rage**
- Hyperactive Behavior
- **Loss of Pleasure**
- Stroke
- High Addiction
- Impaired Speech
- **Abused and Neglected Children**
- Malnutrition
- Strychnine poisoning
- Death

### **What other problems does Meth pose to society?**

Automobile accidents; explosions and fires triggered by the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine; environmental contamination; **increased criminal activity, including domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect;** emergency room and other medical costs; spread of infectious disease, including **HIV, AIDS and hepatitis;** and lost worker productivity. Economic costs also fall on governments, which must allocate additional resources for social services, law enforcement and lab clean-ups (17).

A typical Meth user will exhibit violent behavior, paranoia, moodiness, hypersexuality, suffer uncontrollable rage and brain damage. Is this person likely to attack others? Yes, he is. He is also likely to abuse and neglect his children and any animals he has access to. He is likely to consume copious amounts of pornography. He is likely to have numerous weapons in his home. He will trust no one and suffer violent and unpredictable mood swings. He will commit *particularly* violent acts of domestic battery. He *will* steal and he will *lie*.

**1+1=2**

When a community has a Meth “problem” they will also have a porn “problem.” When a Meth user experiences hypersexuality, he **will** seek out porn. When he experiences aggressiveness, he *will* seek out a victim.

America is the largest consumer of porn and Meth **in the world**. As long as this continues, there will continue to be a huge and profitable porn and Meth industry. If we, as a community and a nation, *truly* want these two scourges out of our lives we *must* put our money where our mouth is. Money talks loud and clear in this country and the only money the porn and Meth syndicates are currently hearing is the ringing of their own cash registers.

**“Money talks, but it talks with a male voice when it comes to porn.”**

*Andrea Dworkin*

### **What can you do?**

- Make it **your** business to know how Meth, domestic violence, rape, and child molestation cases are handled through the prosecutor’s office and courts in **your** county. Do not assume that once an arrest is made that *justice* will follow for the victims.
- Make it **your** business to know what happens when law enforcement is called to a “domestic” and then discovers Meth. Is the domestic violence addressed, or is it lost in the *excitement* of the Meth bust?
- Never patronize the porn business or ignore its use by someone **you** know or love. What is objectionable about porn is its abusive and degrading portrayal of females and children, not its *sexuality* per se.
- Demand that **your** courts assess those arrested for violence or Meth for both problems and be treated accordingly. Treatment for Meth addiction will not treat violence issues or visa versa.
- Report any suspected Meth activity to law enforcement immediately.
- Report suspected domestic and sexual violence, animal cruelty, and child abuse or neglect to law enforcement immediately. Do not turn a blind eye to what’s going on around **you**.
- Be the change **you** wish to see in this world: with those **you** live with, work

with, attend church with, share a friendship with and most of all with the children in **your** life.

**"Not everything can be changed, but  
nothing can be changed until it is faced."  
*James Baldwin***

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