Background

- Pornography has become a growing topic for research with the wake of the internet and portable devices, such as smartphones and tablets (Atwood, Beckert, & Rhodes, 2017).
- A growing acceptance of pornography use has developed among emerging adults. Two-thirds of males and half of females find it acceptable both outside and inside of a committed relationship (Carroll, Padilla-Walker, Nelson, Olson, McNamara Barry, & Madsen, 2008). Varying studies have highlighted negative effects pornography consumption has on relationships (Leonhardt & Willoughby, 2018) and individuals (Braithwaite, Givens, Brown, & Fincham, 2015).
- Little is known about the effects pornography consumption may have on the thoughts of the consumer.
- This study attempts to examine the thoughts of the consumer and if those thoughts motivate them to engage in extradyadic behavior.

Participants

We used a sample of undergraduate students to participate in a survey regarding relationships and sexual material (n = 17). Participants were gathered over the course of two semesters to increase sample size.

Measures

Multiple measures were used to identify level of pornography consumption, relationship alternatives, the degree of intimacy in their relationship, intimate extradyadic behavior they may have engaged in, and their thoughts of alternative partners during sexual intercourse.

Procedure

Participants were sent an email that asked for their willingness to participate in the study. All participants first answered a demographic questionnaire. They then proceeded to complete the questionnaires regarding their pornography consumption, relationship length, perceived quality of relationship alternatives, the degree of intimacy in their relationship, intimate extradyadic behavior they may have engaged in, and their thoughts of alternative partners during sexual intercourse. The purpose of this study was not disclosed to participants until after completion. No monetary compensation was offered.

MOCK DATA Results

- The relationship between porn consumption and extradyadic behavior was investigated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. r=.526, n=17, p<.05.
- The relationship between porn consumption and thoughts of an alternative partner during sexual intercourse was investigated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. r=.980, n=17, p<.05.
- The relationship between the length of a relationship and extradyadic behavior was investigated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. r=.654, n=17, p<.05.
- The relationship between pornography consumption and thoughts of the consumer was investigated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. r=.654, n=17, p<.05.
- The relationship between quality of relationship and relationship satisfaction was investigated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient. r=-.570, n=17, p<.05

Discussion

- A strong relationship exists between pornography consumption and thoughts of an alternative partner.
- No significant relationship could be identified between thoughts of another and extradyadic behavior.
- This study supports what has been previously found in other studies (Gwinn, Lambert, Fincham, & Maner, 2013), specifically the relationship between porn consumption and extradyadic behavior.
- The longer one's relationship lasts, the more likely a person engages in extradyadic behavior.
- Future research should examine the connection between the length of relationships and porn consumption.
- This study is limited by its demographic of undergraduate students and requires further research with a more diverse population.

References