

## Information on Destructive Sexual Behaviors for Sermons & Speeches

In the US, 90% of children ages 8-16 have seen internet porn, usually while doing homework

Average age of first internet exposure to porn is 11 yrs old

In the US, rates of unwanted exposure to sexual material among youth increased almost 40% from 1999 – 2006, despite a 60% increase in the use of filtering software over that same period

The developing brain, such as in children and teenagers, is highly susceptible to trauma, drugs of abuse, and other powerful single experience learning stimuli

Premature exposure to sexually-explicit material might function in the same way as early exposure to highly-potent, addictive drugs, putting the youth at higher risk for the development of sexual addiction

Cybersex, of which porn is one behavior, is called the "crack cocaine of sexual addiction" because these behaviors activate the same "pleasure" areas of the brain that crack does.

Largest group of internet porn consumers are between the ages of 34-55

About 1/3 of traffic to adult websites are females

Over the past 5 years there has been a significant increase in the percentage of women who have become addicted to internet pornography

The stereo-typical behaviors of a sex addict (involved in one or more of these behaviors):

Pornography in any of its forms

Visiting prostitutes

Having Affairs

Visiting Massage Parlors

Visiting Strip Clubs

Exhibitionism

Voyeurism (peeping Tom)

Compulsive Masturbation

Hooking up for sex via the internet

Experts indicate that there is no difference in the amount of sex addiction inside the church versus outside the church

In the US, more than 1 out of every 10 Christians are in bondage to sinful sexual behaviors

More than 90% of people in bondage to destructive sexual behaviors have experienced some type of abuse: sexual, physical, emotional, spiritual, abandonment, neglect, etc.

The leading Christian expert in the field of sex addiction says that about 85% of the more than 2,000 people he has treated had more than one addiction

Some of the signs/symptoms of a potential sexual addiction:

I can't control my sexual appetite

No one knows I use my computer for sexual purposes

I have tried to hide what is on my computer or monitor so others cannot see it

I have stayed up after midnight to access sexual material online

I have repeatedly attempted to stop certain sexual behaviors and have failed

I've made promises to myself concerning certain sexual behavior only to break them

I worry about people finding out about my sexual behavior

I have continued my sexual behavior despite it having caused me problems in my relationships and/or at work

I have joined sexual sites to gain access to online sexual material

I have accessed sexual sites from other computers besides my home computer

Before my sexual behavior I want to do it, but afterwards I regret it

I have lied often to conceal my sexual behavior

My spouse or significant other has complained about my sexual behavior

I have felt ashamed/degraded by my sexual behavior

Sources: Christianity Today, Healing The Wounds of Sexual Addiction – Dr. Mark Laaser, Dr. Patrick Carnes and The Gentle Path Institute, Sexual Addiction Screening Test (SAST) and the Internet Sex Screening Test (ISST)