



# Is Mainstream Porn Becoming Increasingly Violent?

## Uncovering the Myths and Facts of Violence in Pornography

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### INTRODUCTION

Some scholars predict that **violence** is making its way into mainstream pornography.

Men could seek out violent content due to desensitization, its celebration of gender inequalities, and the prioritization of profit by the industry.

#### Two questions we want to answer:

- 1) Is mainstream pornography becoming more violent?
- 2) Do viewers prefer such content?

### WHY VIOLENCE MATTERS

Can pornography be linked to sexual violence? **INCONCLUSIVE**

#### The Bad:

- Associated with enforcing gender stereotypes, aggressive behaviours, higher acceptance of violence against women
- **Sexual script theory** – view violent videos = violent expectations
- Porn viewers or **drug addicts**? – Desensitize men, seek out more

#### The Good:

- Not associated with negative attitude towards women, viewers hold more egalitarian views

### METHODOLOGY

**Sample:** 269 videos from PornHub.com from the 2008 – 2016 (most watched + 80 random)

#### Dependent Variables:

- Number of Views
- Percent Likes

#### Independent Variables:

- Physical Aggression
- Verbal Aggression
- Nonconsensual physical aggression
- Women's Pleasure

### RESULTS

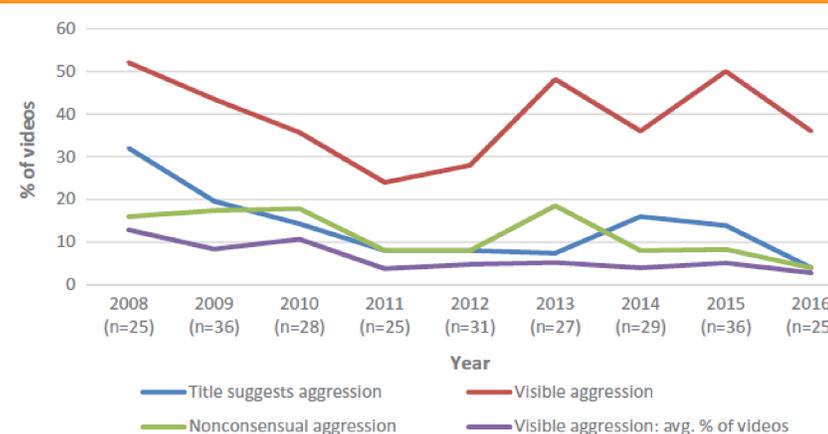


Figure 1: Temporal tendencies in aggression (n=269)

#### 1) Is porn becoming more violent? - **NO**

- No increase in any aggression
- Decrease in **non-consensual aggression** and **aggressive titles**

#### 2) Do viewers prefer violent content? - **NO**

- Most viewed videos contain less **visible aggression, non-consensual aggression** and **verbal aggression**
- Women experiencing pleasure preferred

### DISCUSSION

At least some mainstream viewers and videos are **not moving towards** a more aggressive trend.

Positive for sexuality and gender relations, meaningful in delivering the message that **women's pleasure and experience are as important.**

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