

# CERIAS

the center for education and research in information assurance and security

## Analysis of Internet Addiction Among Child Pornography Users

Rachel A. Sitarz, Marcus Rogers, Eugene Jackson, Lonnie Bentley

### Abstract

The purpose of the study was to see if consumers of child pornography are addicted to the materials, causing them to spend excessive amounts of time viewing, collecting, or trading with others. The study focused on the general population on the Internet, whom were over the age of 18. 144 responded to the survey, with 26 classified as child pornography users. Statistical analysis revealed a relationship between child pornography usage and addiction to the Internet.

### Method

- Self-report survey
- Advertised on chat rooms, discussion forums, and social networking sites
- Participants could take the survey at any time they desired, and on any computer, as long as they had Internet access
- Participation was voluntary and anonymous
- All participants received the same survey

### Participant Results

- 144 total respondents
  - 118 non-CP users
  - 26 CP users
- 100% of CP users were male
- 25.7% of the total male respondents have knowingly viewed child pornography materials
- Average age of CP users: 28.8 years

### Frequency of Internet addictions in child pornography users vs. non-child pornography users

	Child Pornography Users	Non-Child Pornography Users	Total
<b>Normal</b>	11 (42.3%)	69 (58.5%)	80 (55.6%)
<b>Mild</b>	9 (34.6%)	42 (35.6%)	51 (35.4%)
<b>Moderate</b>	5 (19.2%)	7 (5.9%)	12 (8.3%)
<b>Extreme</b>	1 (3.8%)	0 (0%)	1 (.69%)
<b>Total</b>	26 (18.1%)	118 (81.9%)	144 (100%)

### T-Test results for Internet Addiction: child pornography users vs. non-child pornography users

	CP users		Non CP users		Mean Diff.	Std. Error Diff.	df	t	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
<b>Normal</b>	20.45	10.15	22.157	6.61	1.70	3.16	11.37	0.54	0.60
<b>Addicts</b>	50.87	17.76	39.917	8.69	-10.95	4.75	16.14	-2.30	.035*
<b>IAT Total</b>	38.00	21.28	29.38	11.53	-8.62	4.31	28.31	-2.00	.05*

\* $p < .05$

### Results

More than half (57.6%) of the child pornography users reported some form of Internet addiction (mild, moderate or extreme). The reverse was true for non-child pornography users. Nearly a quarter (24%) of the child pornography respondents reported moderate to extreme Internet addiction, whereas, only 5.9% of the non-child pornography respondents reported moderate to extreme Internet addiction. Internet addiction was significantly higher in child pornography users than non-child pornography users. As well, Internet addiction was significantly different between child pornography users and non child pornography users. IAT total scores were significantly different between child pornography users and non-child pornography users.