Whereas, Pornography is now recognized as a factor that directly contributes to and increases all forms of violence against women as well as violence against children; and

Whereas, Exposure to pornography has been demonstrated to increase the likelihood of perpetration of violence, including rape, domestic violence, and sexual harassment; and

Whereas, Literature shows that pornography demonstrably teaches beliefs about women, children, and interpersonal relationships and teaches pathological and/or illegal sexual behaviors (including rape, child molestation, prostitution, domestic violence, pedophilia, sexual harassment, and some paraphilias); and

Whereas, Data demonstrate that pornography normalizes and promotes these pathological and/or illegal behaviors; and

Whereas, Digital access allows average age of first pornography exposure in the early teens during a crucial stage of sexual development in young people; and

Whereas, Pornography can also promote behaviors that increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, gastrointestinal fissures/ruptures, post-traumatic stress disorder, sex addiction, and paraphilias; and

Whereas, Four states (Florida, Idaho, Kansas, and Utah) have declared pornography to be a public health risk; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support efforts to mitigate the negative public health impacts of pornography as it relates to vulnerable populations, including but not limited to women and children. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 09/28/18
References:

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Child Pornography H-60.990
The AMA (1) encourages and promotes awareness of child pornography issues among physicians; (2) promotes physician awareness of the need for follow-up psychiatric treatment for all victims of child pornography; (3) encourages research on child abuse (including risk factors, psychological and behavioral impact, and treatment efficacy) and dissemination of the findings; and (4) wherever possible, encourages international cooperation among medical societies to be alert to and intervene in child pornography activities.


Internet Pornography: Protecting Children and Youth Who Use the Internet and Social Media H-60.934
Our AMA:
(1) Recognizes the positive role of the Internet in providing health information to children and youth.
(2) Recognizes the negative role of the Internet in connecting children and youth to predators and exposing them to pornography.
(3) Supports federal legislation that restricts Internet access to pornographic materials in designated public institutions where children and youth may use the Internet.
(4) Encourages physicians to continue efforts to raise parent/guardian awareness about the importance of educating their children about safe Internet and social media use.
(5) Supports school-based media literacy programs that teach effective thinking, learning, and safety skills related to Internet and social media use.
Citation: BOT Rep. 10, I-06; Modified: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-16