



TV's Newest Target

Teen Sexual Exploitation

The Prevalence and
Trivialization of Teen Sexual
Exploitation on Primetime TV



4EVERY *Girl*[™]

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following individuals and foundations for their generous support.

Donald and Michele D'Amour

William E. Simon Foundation

Stuart Family Foundation

Dodge Jones Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. T. Bondurant French



www.ParentsTV.org

The mission of the PTC is to protect children and families from graphic sex, violence and profanity in the media, because of their proven long-term harmful effects.



www.4EveryGirl.com

The mission of 4 Every Girl is to combat the sexualization of girls by advocating for a media environment where young girls are honored, valued and represented by healthy, respectful images.

**FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES
PLEASE CONTACT**

Kelly Oliver

KELLY OLIVER pr, inc.

(703) 307-9404

kelly@kellyoliverpr.com

TV's Newest Target: Teen Sexual Exploitation

The Prevalence and Trivialization of Teen Sexual Exploitation in Primetime TV

What young women believe about themselves and how they feel in the present moment were shaped by how they were treated and what they were exposed to when they were girls.

Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls (pg. 3)

Executive Summary

Although findings across numerous studies report the negative impact of frequent exposure to sexualized media images^{1,2,3,4,5} there is an absence of literature addressing the impact and/or the prevalence of sexually exploitative images in the media. These images include: Sexual violence (child molestation and rape), sexual harassment, sex trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and stripping. In the present study the PTC examined the prevalence of sexually exploitative images in the media and found that these images have become common themes in primetime television. Results from the present study also revealed: 1) The appearance of an underage female character in a scene increased the likelihood that the scene would include sexual exploitation; and 2) the appearance of an underage female character in a sexually exploitative scene increased the probability that the scene would be presented as humorous. Results from this study provide additional evidence that underage girls are rapidly becoming the new female image for sexualization in the media.

The present study focused on three age groups of female characters in primetime scripted programming: Underage (ages 17 and under); young adult (ages 18-21/recent high school graduates or young college student); and adults which were included as a comparison group. Specifically, the study examined the prevalence and trivialization of sexual exploitation in the media. Therefore, in addition to examining how often females and particularly young females were associated with sexually exploitative themes, the study examined the number of times sexually exploitative themes were presented in a comedic context intended as humorous entertainment for the viewer.

Past studies have shown that not only can humor reinforce stereotypes and negative images,⁶ the trivialization that can result from the joke can lead to desensitizing the audience to serious social issues.⁷ Consequently, recurring exposure to sexual humor targeting specific social groups may perpetuate unhealthy and inaccurate stereotypes.⁶ In other words, if media images communicate that sexual exploitation is neither serious nor harmful, the environment is being set for sexual exploitation to be viewed as trivial and acceptable. Results from the present study show these seemingly innocent jokes and remarks often revealed underlying attitudes toward women masked under the pretense of lighthearted humor. Also, the study revealed the frequency with which sexual humor is used to communicate beliefs and perpetuate offensive narrowly defined female stereotypes among underage girls.

If media images communicate that sexual exploitation is neither serious nor harmful, the environment is being set for sexual exploitation to be viewed as trivial and acceptable.

The extent to which the consequences of this type of humor are evidenced by today's national statistics is unclear. What is known is that the average age of entry into prostitution is growing younger and younger; the

Out of the 80% of female victims who experienced their first rape before the age of 25 almost half experienced the first rape before age 18 (30% between 11 – 17 years old and 12% at or before the age of 10).

average age for minors entering prostitution is 13 years;⁸ out of the 80% of female victims who experienced their first rape before the age of 25 almost half experienced the first rape before age 18 (30% between 11 – 17 years old and 12% at or before the age of 10);⁹ In 2010, victims age 12 or older experienced a total of 188,380 rapes or sexual assaults;¹⁰ 91.9 percent of rape or sexual assault victims were female;¹¹ and 65% of those females were assaulted by friends, acquaintances, or intimate partners.¹² According to the 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence it was shown that as children grow older, the incidences of victimization increases.¹³ According to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, there "are as many as 27 million men, women and children" in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution around the world.¹⁴ At a minimum, these statistics and PTC's study findings confirm that sexual exploitation is clearly no laughing matter.

There is growing research demonstrating that children and teens are relying more and more on media for social norms and values. In a study by Ward and Friedman they concluded that television use appeared to be linked with adolescent sexuality in many ways, both shaping and being guided by their early sexual experiences.¹⁵ These images are believed to be a powerful force in shaping the sexual decisions and behaviors of developing youth.² Associating laughter with topics like rape, child molestation, prostitution, sex trafficking, and sexual harassment further compounds the effects of sexualized media images. As long

as there are media producers who continue to find the degradation of women to be humorous, and media outlets that will air the content, the impact and seriousness of sexual exploitation will continue to be understated and not meaningfully addressed in our society.

Content analysis was performed on all scripted programs during November and May sweeps periods of the 2011 and 2012 television season. For purposes of this study, PTC has adopted the UN Secretary-General's definition of "sexual exploitation" which is *"any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another"* (as stated in the UN Secretary-general's Bulletin on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse [PSEA] [ST/SGB/2003/13]). Below are a few of the study findings:

Major Findings

- Although an adult female character was more likely to have sexualizing dialogue or depictions in their scenes, the likelihood that a scene would include sexual exploitation was higher if the female characters were young adults or younger.
- The likelihood that a scene would include sexual exploitation was highest when the female characters were underage (23.33%).
- Sexually exploitative topics targeting underage girls were more likely to be humorous (42.85%) compared to adult women (33.02%).

- Topics that targeted underage girls and were presented as jokes included: Sexual violence (child molestation), sex trafficking, sexual harassment, pornography, and stripping.

EXAMPLE: Family Guy, 05/06/12 - Sex Trafficking

Meg appears onstage for the sex-slave auction.

Announcer: "This girl is perfect if you want to buy a sex slave, but don't want to spend sex slave money."

- Thirty seven percent of all sexual exploitation observed during the study period was intended to be humorous.
- The content rose to the level of sexual exploitation in one-third of the shows where females were associated with sexual dialogue and/or depictions.
- Pornography (66%) and stripping (65%) were the 2 forms of exploitation most likely to be written into the scripts as punch lines.

EXAMPLE: Whitney, 11/3/11 - Prostitution

Mark: "Lily and Neal, I know you both will have bachelor and bachelorette parties. There is such a thing as a get out of jail free card. Just in case you find yourselves in a dead hooker situation."

Lily: "You know, Mark, we've been talking about it in couple's therapy and I think Neal's done killing hookers."

Neal: "For now."

- Sexually exploitative content was typically presented in the form of dialogue rather than depictions. However, the dialogue was significantly more crude and explicit than the depictions.

Findings from this report reveal that sexual exploitation has become a common topic and a comedic topic on primetime television in shows airing as early as seven o'clock central time. Almost 40% of the content in the present study was intended for purposes of humorous entertainment. As society grapples with new levels of tolerance and/or acceptance for sexual humor, one must ask what elements in our social environment have engendered a collective tolerance for issues and topics that have historically been deemed not only serious, but requiring society's most urgent response.

TV's Newest Target: Teen Sexual Exploitation

The Prevalence and Trivialization of Teen Sexual Exploitation in Primetime TV

Few forums for these (sexual) stereotypes are more public than television, where objectification, sexualization and victimization have historically been branded and packaged as characteristic of female attributes and value.

Sexualized Teen Girls: Tinseltown's New Target, 2010

Background

Past research has shown girls develop their identities as teenagers and women, and learn how to engage in intimate relationships in two ways: 1) by modeling behaviors of older girls and young women;^{16, 17} and 2) by imitating the behaviors of female characters in the media.¹⁸ Today there is tremendous discourse on the topic of media images and the impact of those images particularly as they relate to women and young girls. In recent years that discourse has moved far beyond rhetoric as numerous studies link sexualization in the media with a variety of harmful consequences. Based upon results from a study conducted by the American Psychological Association (APA), today's media industry is not only a social influencer of sexist attitudes, societal tolerance, and the exploitation of girls and women, they also may contribute to these phenomena.¹⁹

The need for studies exploring sexually exploitative media images increases as society tries to understand the extent to which children and teens are utilizing media to identify and select social norms and values. Creating a social environment that liberates adolescents and adults to laugh at rape, child molestation, prostitution, sex trafficking, and sexual harassment further compounds the troubling effects of sexualized media images in general. Previous studies addressing sexual exploitation primarily focused on the topic of "sexual harassment." Interestingly, those studies found that the use of the word "sexual harassment" was practically non-existent in humorous scenes for fear it may call too much attention to the seriousness of the incident. In addition, they rarely laughed at the most serious forms of sexual harassment. Today, not only are the exploitation labels appearing in the joke (i.e. "sex slave," "prostitute," "whore," "dead hooker," etc.), these topics represent the most severe forms of sexual exploitation and yet the audience continues to laugh. Some shows have the added feature of laugh tracks which direct the audience when to laugh and provide cues for what should be viewed as funny.⁶ Therefore, the laugh track informs the viewing audience of what is humorous, what is harmless, and what is acceptable.

The internet is filled with evidence that our comfort with combining humor and sexually exploitative content is having some level of impact on society if not creating a social phenomenon. Examples of the impact on today's social norms and values are not only plentiful; they are only a click away on many of today's electronic devices. In October 2010, a group of pledges at the Yale chapter of the fraternity Delta Kappa Epsilon chanted "No means yes, yes means anal" while marching around Old Campus, where most of the school's freshmen

women reside. In October 2012, a list titled "Top Ten Ways to Get Away with Rape" began circulating on the internet. The list was originally found in the freshmen co-ed dorm at a university in Ohio. A few of the recommendations as transcribed from the original source were: 1) "Put drugs in the woman's drink, therefore she won't [sic] remember you;" 2) "Sex with an unconscious body does count, so don't back down if she's [sic] sleeping;" 3) "Practice makes perfect, the more you rape, the better you get at it;" 4) "If you're [sic] afraid the girl will identify you slit her throat;" and 5) "RAPE RAPE RAPE, it's [sic] college boys, live it up!!"

Unfortunately, there are few studies on sexually exploited youth. This creates a challenge in truly understanding the broader impact of sexual humor on underage girls. Some insights may be gained by research conducted in Canada.^{20, 21} Several researchers examined survey data on sexual exploitation from 1,845 street-level and incarcerated youth in Vancouver, British Columbia, collected through five health surveys over six years. Researchers found that due to stereotypes regarding what is sexual exploitation and who is exploited, sexually exploited youth did not always recognize when they were being exploited and therefore did not reach out for help.²⁰ The study also revealed that sexually exploited youth reported more sexual and physical violence from a greater number of people than non-exploited youth as well as being 2 to 3 times more likely to have seriously considered or attempted suicide in the past year.

Purpose of the Study

As a follow-up to the Parents Television Council's (PTC) 2010 study "Sexualized Teen Girls: Tinseltown's New Target" the PTC has revisited the issue of females and sex in the media. Similar to the previous study the purpose was to gain greater insight into the type and degree of sexualized images and references within scripted primetime broadcast programming. Although the previous study examined sexualization, this investigation specifically focused on sexual exploitation. The present study represents the PTC's attempt to determine the extent to which the images, messages and/or ideologies of sexual exploitation may be filtering into mainstream media. Specifically, the study examined the prevalence of sexually exploitative content; ages of the female characters associated with the content; and the frequency with which the sexually exploitative images, messages and/or ideologies were presented as a joke.

Methodology

Analysts specifically focused on programming that aired during the first two weeks of the November 2011 sweeps period [October 27 – November 9, 2011], as well as during the first two weeks of the May 2012 sweeps period [April 26 – May 9, 2012]. Only scripted original programs that aired during primetime on broadcast television were examined. Collectively, analysts viewed a total of 238 episodes for a total of 194.5 hours of programming. The study focused on three age groups of female characters in primetime scripted programming (underage, young adult and an adult comparison group). Further, the category "unclear" was instituted to accommodate instances when the female's age was difficult to determine. Data collection consisted of analysts viewing scripted programs that aired during the study period and conducting a content analysis. Analyses focused on identifying all sexual dialogue and depictions associated with females. Additionally, content was examined for scenes that contained sexual exploitation. Categories of sexual exploitation include: Sexual violence (child molestation and rape), sexual harassment, sex trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and stripping. The following definitions served as a guide in classifying the content for purposes of data entry and analyses:

Sexual Violence (Child Molestation)

An act of a person—adult or child—who forces, coerces or threatens a child to have any form of sexual contact or to engage in any type of sexual activity at the perpetrator's direction.

Sexual Violence (Rape)

Forcible sexual relations with a person against that person's will.

Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This definition of sexual harassment typically applies to adult workplace environments as well as underage youth within schools.

Sex Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Prostitution

The act or practice of providing sexual services to another person in return for payment.

Pornography

The representation in books, magazines, photographs, films, and other media of scenes of sexual behavior that are erotic or lewd and are designed to arouse sexual interest.

Stripping

To remove the clothing or covering of or from a person to make naked or to perform exotic dancing for a public audience.

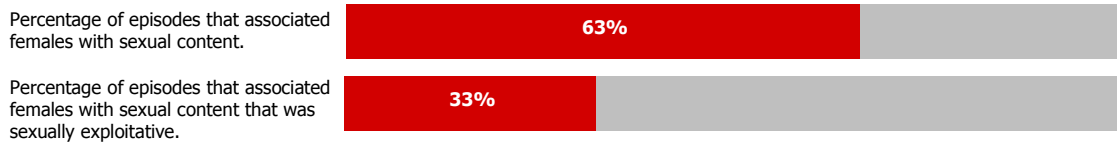
Programs were digitally recorded and systematically evaluated using scientific content analysis procedures applied by trained analysts. A total of 238 episodes were analyzed scene by scene. Each scene was examined for the presence of sexual content relating to female characters (females were either the subject of sexual dialogue or were engaged in the dialogue or depiction). Scenes were included in the study based on the UN Secretary-General's definition of "sexual exploitation" which is *"any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another"* (as stated in the UN Secretary-general's Bulletin on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse [PSEA] [ST/SGB/2003/13]). Those scenes were further analyzed for humor as well as references to and depictions of specific types of sexual exploitation targeting female characters.

Intercoder reliability testing was conducted during pilot testing to assist in troubleshooting and diagnosing relevant logging and other research issues. Reliability testing was also conducted at several points throughout the data collection process to ensure high levels of validity and reliability were maintained. It is important to note that the analysts only indicated whether or not a type of sexual content was present in a scene but did not count how many times the content appeared in a scene nor did they include reruns that aired. Consequently, data from the present study do not represent the full volume of content viewers were exposed to during the study period.

Results

Five types of sexually exploitative content served as the primary focus of the study. They included: Sexual violence, sexual harassment, prostitution, sex trafficking, stripping, and pornography. Study results revealed that out of 238 scripted episodes which aired during the study period, 150 **episodes** (63%) contained sexual content in scenes that were associated with females and 33% of the episodes contained sexual content that rose to the level of sexual exploitation (See Chart 1).

Chart 1: Percentage of Sexual and Sexually Exploitative Content by Episode



Out of those 150 episodes there were 640 **scenes** that associated females with sexual content. One hundred and thirty four of those scenes contained sexual exploitation. Also, important to note is the fact that numerous scenes contained more than one female. Therefore, although 640 scenes contained females and sexual content in the same scene, there were a total of 864 females in those scenes and 195 females in scenes that included sexual exploitation (see Table 1).

Table 1: Scenes with Sexual Exploitation and Female Characters in Scenes with Exploitation

	SCENES			FEMALE CHARACTERS		
Age Group	Number of scenes containing females and exploitation	Total Number of scenes containing females and sexual content	% of scenes containing females and exploitation	Number of females in scenes containing exploitation	Total number of females in scenes containing sexual content	% of females in scenes containing exploitation
Sexual Exploitation was most likely when the scene included young adult or underage female characters.						
Underage	14	60	23.33%	22	76	28.94%
Young Adult	5	23	21.73%	5	31	16.12%
Adult	109	533	20.45%	143	691	20.69%
Unclear	23	64	35.94%	25	66	37.87%
Total	134	640	20.94%	195	864	22.56%
Underage and Young Adult Combined	19	81	23.45%	27	107	25.23%

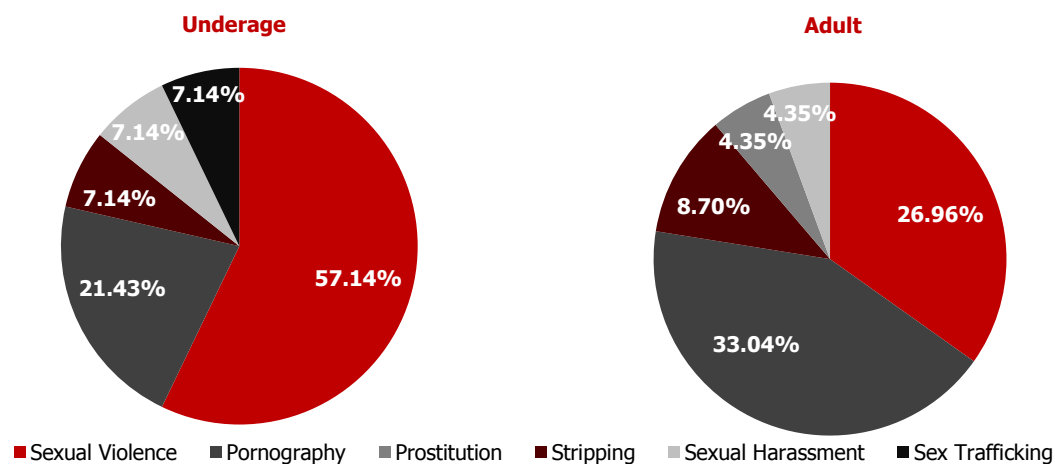
*Some scenes contained more than one age group. Therefore the totals do not equal 100%.

As seen in Table 1, 80% of the female characters in the study were adults (n = 691). However, the likelihood that a scene would include sexual exploitation was higher if the female characters were young adult or younger. The likelihood of a scene containing sexually exploitative content was highest when the scene

included underage girls (23%). Percentages shown in Table 1 reveal a progressive increase in content based upon age. The younger the character, the more likely the scene was to contain sexual exploitation. Sexually exploitative topics in scenes with underage girls included: Sexual violence, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, pornography, and stripping.

As shown in Chart 2, sexual violence accounted for almost 60% of the sexual exploitation involving underage female characters. In contrast, sexual violence only accounted for 27% of the scenes among adult female characters. Results show pornography (33%) was a more popular topic to associate with adult female characters.

Chart 2: Percentages of Exploitation by Category



Thirty seven percent of the scenes containing sexual exploitation across all ages were intended to be humorous (See Chart 3). However, study results revealed that despite a significantly large number of adult female characters in scenes containing sexual content, sexually exploitative topics targeting underage girls were more likely to be humorous compared to adult women (See Chart 4). The likelihood that sexual exploitation would be considered humorous increased to 43% when the sexual exploitation involved underage female characters. Topics that targeted underage girls and were presented as humorous included: sexual violence (child molestation), sex trafficking, sexual harassment, pornography, and stripping.

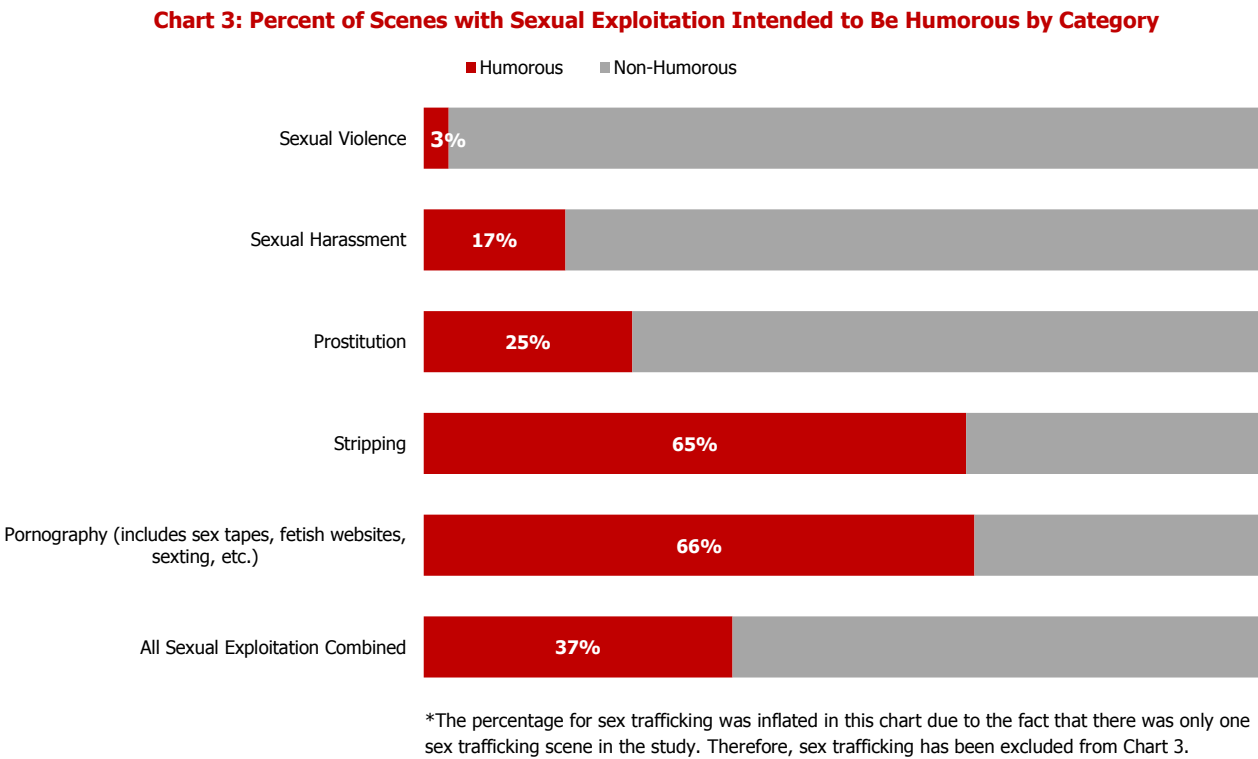
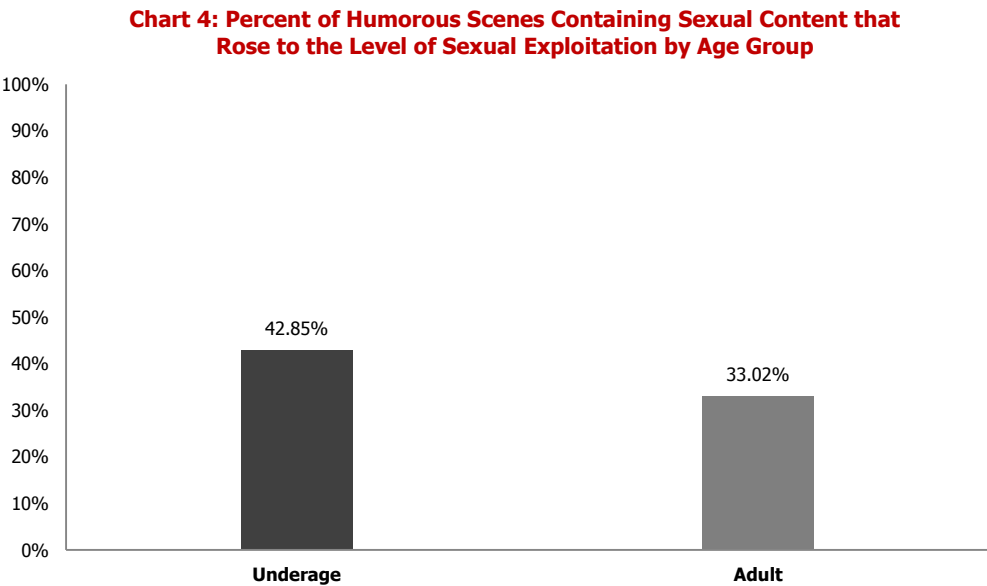


Chart 3 demonstrates how likely the content was to be humorous when it appeared on screen. Although Chart 2 indicates sexual violence and pornography accounted for the greatest percentage of sexually exploitative content, Chart 3 shows that relative to humor, pornography (66%) and stripping (65%) were the 2 forms of exploitation most likely to be written as punch lines across all age groups.



As seen in Tables 2 and 3, the majority of content appeared in the form of references and not as depictions. Although content appeared in every study category of sexual exploitation, only 19 were depictions. One hundred and forty nine incidents of sexual exploitation were references.

Table 2: Number of Scenes with References to Sexual Exploitation Per Age Group

	Underage	Young Adult	Adult	Unclear	Total
Pornography was the most frequently referenced form of sexual exploitation					
Sexual Reference – Pornography (includes sex tapes, fetish websites, sexting, etc.)	3		37	4	44
Sexual Reference – Stripping	1		7	5	13
Sexual Reference – Prostitution		1	30	9	40
Sexual Reference – Child Molestation	7		16		23
Sexual Reference – Rape/Attempted Rape		3	15	5	23
Sexual Reference – Sexual Harassment			5		5
Sexual Reference – Sex Trafficking	1				1
Total	12	4	110	23	149

**Scene totals do not equal those listed in Table 1 due to some scenes containing both references and depictions. Also, there were scenes that contained more than one category of content.*

Table 3: Number of Scenes with Depictions of Sexual Exploitation Per Age Group

	Underage	Young Adult	Adult	Unclear	Total
Most of the content in the scenes was represented in references as opposed to depictions					
Depiction – Pornography			4		4
Depiction – Stripping			5	2	7
Depiction – Prostitution			3	1	4
Depiction – Child Molestation	1				1
Depiction – Rape/Attempted Rape		1			1
Depiction – Sexual Harassment	1				1
Depiction – Sex Trafficking	1				1
Total	3	1	12	3	19

**Scene totals do not equal those listed in Table 1 due to some scenes containing both references and depictions. Also, there were scenes that contained more than one category of content.*

Conclusion

Findings from the present study provide further evidence regarding the role of media in perpetuating the sexual exploitation of females and in particular young girls. Results from this report not only reveal the pervasiveness of female sexualization on primetime television, the findings also exposed young targets as well as levels and methods of sexualizing those young targets. The study showed that primetime broadcast television programs routinely include sexually exploitative dialogue and depictions of females, as that term is defined by the United Nations. However, even more disturbing was the apparent relationship between age and sexual exploitation as well as the relationship between age, humor, and sexual exploitation. The findings potentially reveal a troubling media trend of: a) creating younger and younger sexually exploited female characters; and b) presenting sexually exploitative dialogue and depictions of these young girls through a comedic lens which allows the audience to laugh at what would otherwise generate a sobering social response. Consequently, if past research is correct that television can shape our attitudes towards social issues, and if media images communicate that sexual exploitation is neither serious nor harmful, the environment is being set for sexual exploitation to be viewed as trivial and acceptable.

This study raises a number of critical questions and concerns: When, and in what context, is it socially and morally acceptable to laugh at the sexual exploitation of a child (or, for that matter, of an adult)? What is the impact of associating humor and sexual exploitation in televised programming and labeling it “entertainment?” To what extent is sexuality being defined by the degradation of women and young girls? How are the expectations of young males shaped by these images, messages and ideologies? And how do these images, messages and ideologies shape the expectations of young females about themselves?

These concerns are compounded by the fact that, relative to underage girls, the present study findings revealed that both their peer group (underage female characters) and potential role models (adult female characters) engaged in the same behaviors. Both groups participated in the sexual exploitation presented on screen and both groups presented sexual exploitation as humorous entertainment regardless of whether the topic was sex trafficking, child molestation, or “dead hookers.”

The frequency with which viewers are able to watch and laugh at these sexual exploits further supports the notion that media is potentially creating an environment that trivializes the sexualization and sexual exploitation of women. The significance of “frequency” is especially relevant in this study given the continual absence of countervailing messages among the programs examined. When we laugh about dead hookers it becomes increasingly difficult to see the mistreatment of sex workers as a national civil and human rights issue. The same can be said for child molestation, sex trafficking, etc. When these messages, images and ideologies are delivered via mass media, the definition of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors are communicated both implicitly and explicitly to viewers. Similarly, when the media associates humor with sexual exploitation they are sending a strong message that these issues are harmless and require neither urgency nor a strong response.

Although results from this report are disturbing, it is the desire of the PTC that these findings will spur concern, increased dialogue, and a collective responsibility to find answers that will result in a qualitative difference in the lives of young girls and women everywhere.

Content Examples from the Study

Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples

Show Name: Family Guy (2 scenes)
Airdate: 05/06/12
Rating: TV-14 DLSV
Network: Fox
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Trafficking
Humorous

Meg appears onstage for the sex-slave auction.

Announcer: "This girl is perfect if you want to buy a sex slave, but don't want to spend sex-slave money."

Show Name: Family Guy (2 scenes)
Airdate: 05/06/12
Rating: TV-14 DLSV
Network: Fox
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence
Humorous

Gym Teacher: "Hey, where's everybody going? That's not how we end this class."

The female students line up to individually kiss the teacher on the lips.

Show Name: Glee
Airdate: 05/08/12
Rating: TV-14 DL
Network: Fox
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Stripping
Humorous

Puck and Becky are playing strip poker in the hotel room. Becky wins another hand. Puck is already down to his boxers and a pair of sox.

Puck: "Crap. I'm getting sharked. Where'd you learn to play?"

Becky: "In the joint."

Puck asks Becky to lay off a little bit since he doesn't have many articles of clothing left.

Becky: "I can't. I'm too pissed off."

Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Allen Gregory
Airdate: 11/06/11
Rating: TV-14 DL
Network: Fox
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Pornography
Humorous

Julie: "So you buy Allen Gregory having a sex tape with the 70-something year-old principal, sight unseen, but for you to believe I have friends at all, they have to come and present themselves to you?"

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (3 scenes)
Airdate: 5/2/2012
Rating: TV-14 DL
Network: NBC
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence
Non-Humorous

Benson questions Cate regarding her meeting with her supposed biological father.

Benson: "So after you danced together, what happened?"

Cate: "We kissed. I know people wouldn't understand being with my father like that, but I didn't care."

Benson: "Did you have sex with him?"

Cate: "Yes, but I thought he really loved me, that he was my real father, the one that I had been waiting for. He wasn't?"

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (3 scenes)
Airdate: 5/2/12
Rating: TV-14 DL
Network: NBC
Age: Underage
Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence
Non-Humorous

Ashley: "We went back to his hotel. We danced. Then I knew it was wrong that he was my biological father. I didn't care. I had to be with him. I wanted to be close to him."

Amaro: "So Brendan, your baby, it's his?"

Ashley nods her head.

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (3 scenes)

Airdate: 5/2/12

Rating: TV-14 DL

Network: NBC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Benson and Amaro question Albers in the interrogation room.

Albers: "I knew he had donated sperm in college. After talking to Taylor and seeing how lonely she was, I started talking to his other daughters."

Amaro: "It's not as if he cared about any of them, right?"

Albers: "That guy, beating the bishop for a living, playing God. He's got a hundred kids out there..."

A moment later, Albers talks about meeting with the girls Barnes fathered.

Albers: "The emotions were so strong, they needed more. So I gave them what they needed."

Show Name: Gossip Girl

Airdate: 4/30/12

Rating: Not Available

Network: CW

Age: Young Adult

Type of Exploitation: Prostitution

Non-Humorous

Nate, Blair, and Chuck go to a house party looking for Jack and find that it is a brothel. There are women wearing only underwear lounging around the room; some are embracing each other and some are embracing men.

Blair: "This is a sex club?"

Chuck: "It's more of a roving brothel."

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

Airdate: 11/2/2011

Rating: TV-14 SV

Network: NBC

Age: Young Adult and Adult

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Benson is upset over the not guilty verdict. She sits outside of the court building and Ellis joins her.

Benson: "You shamed that girl about her sexuality. You said that if a white girl in that neighborhood cries rape, she must have wanted it."

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Private Practice (2 scenes)

Airdate: 05/08/12

Rating: TV-14

Network: ABC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Sheldon meets with a married couple, Lori and Rich, while Violet meets with their daughter, Whitney.

Lori: "Suddenly he wanted sex all the time."

Sheldon: "Well, it's not uncommon for people to have fluctuations in their sex drive."

Rich: "This wasn't a fluctuation Dr. Wallace. I couldn't, I can't control myself."

Lori: "It was very uncomfortable for me. And I worry about my daughter."

The scene cuts to Violet in a therapy session with the daughter, Whitney.

Whitney: "He used to be different. He was my favorite person to do stuff with. He wasn't so - -"

Violet: "It's okay."

Whitney: "He looks at me weird. And he comes in when I ask him not to."

Violet: "Comes in where?"

Whitney: "Into the bathroom, when I'm showering."

The scene cuts back to the girl's parents in therapy with Sheldon.

Rich: "I'm sorry, I don't want to lie. I have sexual feelings about my daughter. And I'm afraid I can't control them."

The scene cuts back to the daughter, Whitney, in therapy with Violet.

Violet: "Has he ever touched you, Whitney?"

Whitney: "No. But now, I'm scared."

The scene cuts back to her parents in therapy with Sheldon.

Lori: "The things you try to do to me, you want to do to her?"

Rich looks down, embarrassed.

Lori: "No, I want you out of the house."

Sheldon: "Lori, please."

Lori: "Please what? He's a monster!"

Rich starts to have a seizure and Sheldon calls for a nurse.

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Private Practice (2 scenes)

Airdate: 05/08/12

Rating: TV-14

Network: ABC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

The doctors discuss the case of Rich, a father who has become sexually attracted to his twelve-year-old daughter Whitney.

Violet: "If Whitney is frightened in her own home, that's reason enough to suspect abuse and we have to report Rich to the D.C.F.S."

Sheldon: "You didn't see how torn up he was."

Violet: "Oh, no, that's because I was talking down a twelve-year-old whose father had violated her privacy."

Amelia: "The EEG showed a lesion on his temporal lobe, which is causing subclinical seizures which manifests as hypersexuality and an inability to control his impulses."

Cooper: "You're making excuses for a pedophile?"

Sheldon: "He's not a pedophile. Rich never laid a hand on Whitney and there's been no prior history of this kind of behavior."

Violet: "But now, right now, Rich admits to having sexual feelings for Whitney."

Cooper: "Okay, a guy like that, he doesn't get to be her dad, Sheldon."

Amelia: "Sudden behavioral changes, scarring on the temporal lobe, this is a textbook case of Kluver-Bucy syndrome."

Cooper: "You gonna report him?"

Sheldon: "We'd be accusing him of child molestation and potentially ruining his life."

Violet: "What about Whitney's life? What, are we just supposed to wait until Rich takes the next step?"

Amelia: "He won't because I can fix him by removing the lesion."

Violet: "Can you guarantee that?"

Cooper: "Okay, even if she could stop his sexual urges, how's this guy expect to ever win back his daughter's trust?"

Sheldon: "Is accusing him of being a sex offender a better way to rebuild that trust?"

Violet: "Forget all that. Whitney's safety has to be the top priority."

Amelia: "Then let me help this family. I can do it."

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (2 scenes)

Airdate: 11/2/11

Rating: TV-14 SV

Network: NBC

Age: Young Adult

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Benson is with Sarah at the hospital. The nurse performs a rape kit on Sarah.

Benson: "Sarah, you said you gave him a beer."

Sarah: "It's on my coffee table. I haven't moved it. It's in a plastic cup. I thought that that might be better for DNA."

Benson: "Actually the bottle would've been better."

Sarah: "I'll remember that for next time."

Benson: "I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking."

A moment later, the nurse approaches Sarah with medicine.

Nurse: "These will reduce your risk of STD's, HIV. This will prevent pregnancy. Your choice."

Sarah takes the medication.

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (2 scenes)

Airdate: 11/2/11

Rating: TV-14 SV

Network: NBC

Age: Young Adult

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Warner reads the medical report to Benson.

Warner: "Evidence consistent with vaginal fissures consistent with forcible intercourse, but no foreign DNA on her person."

A moment later.

Benson: "Anything on the bed?"

Warner: "Yes, fresh semen within 24 hours of the rape."

Benson: "That's great. We got him."

Warner: "It's not Michael Widmore's DNA."

Non-Humorous Underage and Young Adult Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Last Man Standing (2 scenes)

Airdate: 11/08/11

Rating: TV-PG L

Network: ABC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Pornography

Non-Humorous

Mandy takes modeling photos of herself after her sisters refuse to work with her on account of her bad attitude. As Mandy snaps away, she removes her shirt. The shirt is shown falling on the floor and she is implied to be partially nude.

Show Name: Last Man Standing (2 scenes)

Airdate: 11/08/11

Rating: TV-PG

Network: ABC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Pornography

Non-Humorous

Mike sees the photos from his daughter's photo shoot. She is implied to be topless, covering her breasts with her hands.

Mike: "I'd like it if you were wearing a turtle neck, not your hands!"

A moment later

Kristin: "You can see underboob."

Show Name: Grimm

Airdate: 10/28/12

Rating: TV-14 DV

Network: NBC

Age: Underage

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

A little girl wearing a red hooded jacket goes missing while on her way to her grandfather's house. Nick and his coworkers are being briefed by Renard regarding the disappearance.

Renard: "We don't know what we got here: relative, ransom, or pedophile, but the clock is ticking."

Unclear Age Examples

Show Name: Two and a Half Men
Airdate: 11/7/11
Rating: TV-14 SLD
Network: CBS
Age: Unclear
Type of Exploitation: Prostitution
Humorous

Alan is in the mental hospital and uses his hand to pretend to call the concierge.

Alan: "I'm gonna need a bucket of ice, a bottle of scotch, and 2 Asian hookers. You know what? They're small. Make it 3."

Show Name: The Office
Airdate: 11/3/11
Rating: TV-PG
Network: NBC
Age: Unclear
Type of Exploitation: Stripping
Humorous

Andy and Dwight inform the staff about a new system that will be implemented that checks for company mistakes. For every five mistakes, an email commenting about Robert California sent by the staff members will get sent to him. Dwight reads an example.

Dwight: "'There's no way he hasn't strangled at least one stripper.' Oscar."

Show Name: Whitney
Airdate: 11/3/11
Rating: TV-14 V
Network: NBC
Age: Adult and Unclear
Type of Exploitation: Prostitution
Humorous

Mark: "Lily and Neal, I know you both will have bachelor and bachelorette parties. There is such a thing as a get out of jail free card. Just in case you find yourselves in a dead hooker situation."

Lily: "You know, Mark, we've been talking about it in couple's therapy and I think Neal's done killing hookers."

Neal: "For now."

Unclear Age Examples (cont'd)

Show Name: Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

Airdate: 11/9/2011

Rating: TV-14 DV

Network: NBC

Age: Unclear

Type of Exploitation: Sexual Violence

Non-Humorous

Amaro and Benson wait at Warner's office. Amaro discovered that first name of the dead woman is Lena. He comments on the possibility that Lena's fiancé may have something to do with the murder.

Warner: "She was raped vaginally and anally."

Amaro: "How did they do that to her face?"

Warner: "Power tools. Sanded off her face, sawed off her fingertips."

**Series Containing Sexually Exploitative Content
Associated with Underage, Young Adult, or Adult, Characters**

UNDERAGE CHARACTERS

Desperate Housewives	ABC
Last Man Standing	ABC
Suburgatory	ABC
Revenge	ABC
Private Practice	ABC
Two and A Half Men	CBS
The Secret Circle	CW
The Cleveland Show	Fox
Allen Gregory	Fox
Glee	Fox
Family Guy	Fox
The Finder	Fox
Prime Suspect	NBC
Grimm	NBC
Up All Night	NBC
Parenthood	NBC
30 Rock	NBC
Awake	NBC
Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	NBC

YOUNG ADULT CHARACTERS

Last Man Standing	ABC
Revenge	ABC
GCB	ABC
90210	CW
Gossip Girl	CW
Family Guy	Fox
Community	NBC
Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	NBC

ADULT CHARACTERS

Grey's Anatomy	ABC
Private Practice	ABC
Castle	ABC
Pan Am	ABC
Revenge	ABC
Body of Proof	ABC
Desperate Housewives	ABC
Happy Endings	ABC
Last Man Standing	ABC
Man Up!	ABC
Scandal	ABC
Don't Trust the B---in Apartment 23	ABC
Suburgatory	ABC
Cougar Town	ABC
GCB	ABC
Two and A Half Men	CBS
2 Broke Girls	CBS
The Good Wife	CBS
How I Met Your Mother	CBS
Mike & Molly	CBS
The Big Bang Theory	CBS
NCIS	CBS
C.S.I.	CBS
The Mentalist	CBS
Hawaii Five-0	CBS
NCIS: LA	CBS
Gossip Girl	CW
Supernatural	CW
The L.A. Complex	CW
Hart of Dixie	CW
Nikita	CW
The Simpsons	Fox
Allen Gregory	Fox
Family Guy	Fox
House	Fox
New Girl	Fox
Raising Hope	Fox

Bones	Fox
American Dad	Fox
Glee	Fox
The Finder	Fox
The Cleveland Show	Fox
Bob's Burgers	Fox
New Girl	Fox
Community	NBC
Parks and Recreation	NBC
The Office	NBC
Whitney	NBC
Prime Suspect	NBC
Chuck	NBC
Grimm	NBC
Up All Night	NBC
Harry's Law	NBC
Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	NBC
Parenthood	NBC
30 Rock	NBC
Smash	NBC
Betty White's Off Their Rockers	NBC
Awake	NBC

UNCLEAR AGE CHARACTERS

Castle	ABC
Revenge	ABC
Man Up!	ABC
Two and A Half Men	CBS
How I Met Your Mother	CBS
Mike & Molly	CBS
The L.A. Complex	CW
Gossip Girl	CW
House	Fox
New Girl	Fox
Glee	Fox
The Simpsons	Fox
Family Guy	Fox
American Dad	Fox

Bones	Fox
Parks and Recreation	NBC
The Office	NBC
Chuck	NBC
Harry's Law	NBC
Community	NBC
Whitney	NBC
Prime Suspect	NBC
Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	NBC
30 Rock	NBC
Betty White's Off Their Rockers	NBC

References

1. American Psychological Association, Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. (2010). *Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls*. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/women/programs/girls/report-full.pdf>
2. Real to Me: Girls and Reality TV. (2011). Retrieved from http://www.girlscouts.org/research/pdf/real_to_me_factsheet.pdf.
3. Ward, L. (2002). Does television exposure affect emerging adults' attitudes and assumptions about sexual relationships? Correlational and experimental confirmation. *Journal of Youth Adolescence*, 31, 1-15.
4. Collins, R., et. al. (2004). Watching sex on television predicts adolescent initiation of sexual behavior. *Pediatrics*, 114, 280-289.
5. Cope-Farrar, K. M., & Kunkel, D. (2002). Sexual messages in teens' favorite prime-time TV programs. In J. D. Brown, J. R. Steele, & K. Walsh-Childers (Eds.), *Sexual Teens, Sexual Media* (pp. 59-78). Mahwah, NJ; Lawrence Erlbaum.
6. Fouts, G., & Burggraf, K. (2000). Television situation comedies: Female weight, male negative comments, and audience reactions. *Sex Roles*, 42, 925-932.
7. Montemurro, B. (May, 2003). Not a laughing matter: Sexual harassment as "material" on workplace-based situation comedies. *Sex Roles*, 48, Nos. 9/10, 433-445.
8. Estes, R. & Weiner, N. (2001). *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico*. A Report of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work Center for the Study of Youth Policy.
9. CDC's 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf
10. Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization, 2010," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2011), Table 1, <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv10.pdf>
11. *ibid.*, *calculated from* Table 5.
12. *ibid.*
13. David Finkelhor et al., "Children's Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive National Survey," (Washington, DC: OJJDP, 2009), 1, <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227744.pdf>
14. U.S. Department of State, "Remarks on the Release of the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report," (Washington, DC: June 27, 2011), <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/06/167156.htm>
15. Ward, L. M. and Friedman, K. (2006), Using TV as a Guide: Associations between Television Viewing and Adolescents' Sexual Attitudes and Behavior. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 16: 133-156.

17. Bussey, K., Bandura, A. (1984). Influence of gender constancy and social power on sex-linked modeling. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 47, 1292–302.
18. Bussey, K. and Bandura, A. (1992) 'Self-regulatory mechanisms governing gender development', *Child Development*, 63, pp. 1236–50.
19. Huston, A. & Wright, J. (May 1998). Television and the Informational and Educational Needs of Children. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* vol. 557 no. 1 9-23.
20. American Psychological Association. (2007). *Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
21. Saewyc EM, MacKay LJ, Anderson J, and Drozda C. (2008). *It's not what you think: Sexually exploited youth in British Columbia*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia School of Nursing.