

Research on the Influence of Sex Scenes on Teenagers

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Abstract

Teen pregnancies in the U.S. carry risks to the mother as well as their infants. There are a variety of factors that lead to teen pregnancy, and advertising scenes of teens' sex-related behaviors without pinpointing their risks is one of those factors. In the study, in order to see if there would be a correlation between sexual content in movies and teens' sexual drives, data from 100 people was collected. As a consequence, the results showed that the majority of teenagers were prone to develop sex drives after watching sex-related movies and they reported most of those movies did not emphasize the severity of being pregnant as teenagers. These conclusion illuminated that abundant sex scenes in the media can lead to an elevation of sex drives on teenagers, which might eventually cause a rising teen pregnancy rate. At the end, several suggestions and recommendations that could help lower the teen pregnancy rate were proffered.

Keywords

Media, teenagers, teen pregnancy, sex drives, sex scenes.

1. Introduction

According to the Nationwide Children's Hospital (2016) [1], infants that were born by teenage moms are apt to have lower birth weights and higher risk of death. Many factors could cause teen pregnancy and sex scenes in media is one of those factors. As the research shows, "As much as 80% of all movies shown on network or cable television stations have sexual content. An analysis of music videos indicates that 60% portray sexual feelings and impulses, and a substantial minority display provocative clothing and sexually suggestive body movements." (Gruber, E, and J W Grube, 2000) [2] Sex shots in the film mainly vary by subject matter, but most of them are presented in a positive and obscure angle, and rarely mention the potential risks as well as adverse consequences of sexual behavior. Sex shots also appear more frequently in music videos: most of them come in the form of self-touch or sexual advances. In addition, female artists usually show more sexual shots than male artists. Take game characters as an example, because male artists are more important in the game, female artists will be designed by the designer to be dressed in provocative clothes to highlight gender characteristics. However, exposure to such content is related to changes in attitudes toward gender, earlier sexual activity, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections among adolescents. Some researchers used to make an experiment about teenagers' sexual experiences and also their television viewing habits. As researchers previously explain, "youths who watched the most sexual content 'acted older': a 12-year-old at the highest levels of exposure behaved like a 14- or 15-year-old at the lowest levels." (Collins, Rebecca L., et al, 2004) [3] As a result, researchers have documented the growing prevalence of sexual behavior in televised media, as well as the relationships between adolescent viewing patterns and their sexual activities. For instance, "data from a few studies of older youth indicate that sexual displays on social media sites are related to problematic beliefs and behaviors among those who post this content and among viewers." (Collins et al, 2017) [4] For teenagers only, as the first beneficiary of the digital media era, they are the most susceptible to electronic media. Therefore, the main purpose of this

research is trying to appeal to electronic media practitioners to effectively cut down on sex shots and parents to supervise young people's choice of watching.

2. Methodology

2.1. Design

As it was vital to collect young people's perspectives about watching sexual content in movies, a questionnaire asking a variety of questions, such as the hometowns, ages, and genders of those participants was created online. In addition, two "yes" or "no" questions were asked, which were "do you have a sexual drive after watching those sex-related movies?" and "do you think these movies mention potential risks of teen pregnancy?". At the end of this questionnaire, an open-ended question asking how they often have access to media resources was set up as well. After finishing designing the questionnaire, WeChat, the most popular multi-purpose social media and messaging app in China, was utilized to conduct further information gatherings - questionnaire distribution. The decision to publish two public posts in WeChat with a link to the questionnaire was made. In the meantime, people around Wechat were asked to help complete information gathering. After those questionnaires were completed three days later, researchers from this project made a decision to privately message several of them to gain their attitudes toward sexual content in movies, and, more importantly, ask if they have high sex drives after watching such content in movies.

2.2. Sample and Data Collection

As there were totally 100 people who completed the questionnaires within three days since the questionnaire was published, the sample number of this work was 100. What's more, in order to particularly examine the relationship between youth's sex drive and their exposure to sex-related content in movies, researchers from this project also sent private messages to 10 of them to see how they felt about their sex drive after watching sex-related content in movies, and, in order to make sure their answers were accurate, researchers of this project promised them that our conversation would not be leaked to the third person.

2.3. Procedure

Three days after researchers of this project posted the link to the questionnaires in WeChat, 100 people voluntarily helped answer those questions. Their information, such as genders, ages, hometowns, and answers to the questions, was collected in the backstage. After finishing collecting those data, in order to further examine how sex-related content in movies impacted young people's sex drive, ten of them were being reached out by researchers of this project to initiate conversations about the emergence of sex drive after watching such tableau.

2.4. Interview Questions

As this work have mentioned previously, besides asking for participants' basic personal information. questions that could be answered with a "yes" or "no" responses, such as "do you have a sexual drive after watching those sex-related movies?" and "do you think these movies mention potential risks of teen pregnancy?", were asked. Lastly, in order to understand which types of media channels our participants were prone to utilize to view sexual content, questions: "what sorts of media channels (e.g. cable TV/internet/print media) do you often utilize to watch movies?" were asked by researchers of this work.

2.5. Analysis

All of participants in this study were young Chinese adults that studied in the U.S. during the time they were being interviewed. Two of them were young males while the rest eight of them were young females, and their overall age range was 17-20 years old. Ultimately, a conclusion

that the majority of participants reflected they were likely to boost high sex drives after watching sex-related scenes through media channels, which were mainly movies, was made. Hence, it was overt that young people were apt to have increased sex drives after being exposed to sexual content in movies, and, in the meantime, such movies did not mention negative impact that might come up with teen pregnancy, which could further lead to a rising of teen pregnancy rate.

3. Result & Discussion

Researchers in the work collected statistics on 100 teenagers and conducted private interviews with 10 of them. The following is our analysis of this group of data.

3.1. Gender Distribution

Most people interviewed were around 17-20 years old. Figure 1 shows 58.58% were female and 42.42% were male among the respondents.

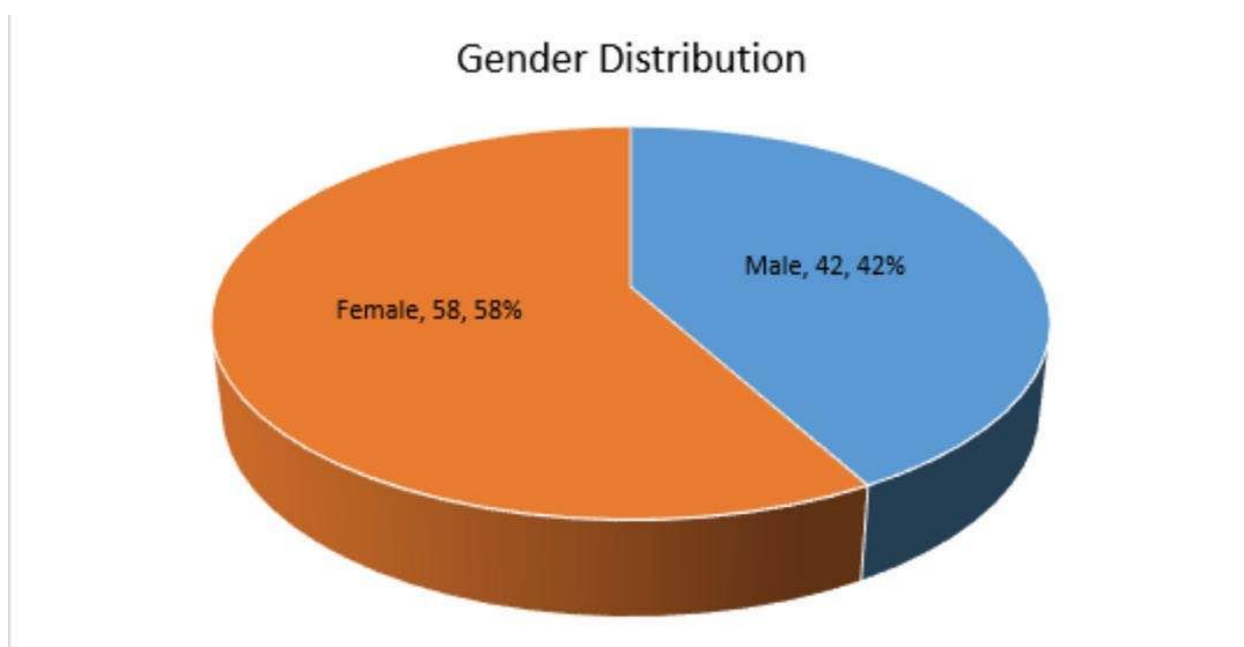


Figure 1. Gender Distribution

3.2. Media Distribution

Figure 2 shows 35.71% of the respondents had at least one or more TV sets in their homes. Similarly, 35.71% of the respondents indicated that they would use other electronic media to contact the media besides the TV. Further, more than 90% of adolescents reported that their peers found out some or a lot about sex, drugs, and violence from television shows, movies, and other entertainment media.

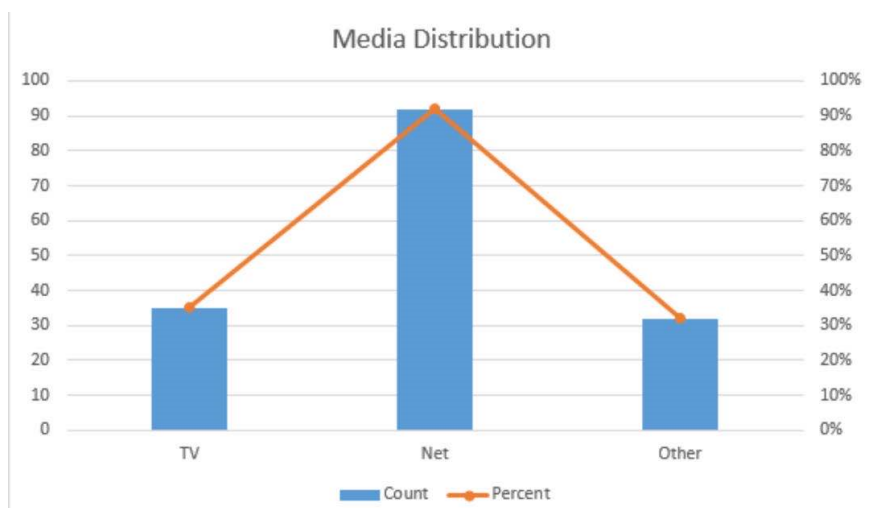


Figure 2. Media Distribution

What we know about the potential effects of televised sexual content on adolescents is based largely on content analyses of media that quantify levels of sexual material.

3.3. Sexual Scene Distribution

The researchers counted 100 interviewees' favorite movies and asked them if they considered such movies involved teens sex shots, 65.65% said "yes" as shown in Figure 3.

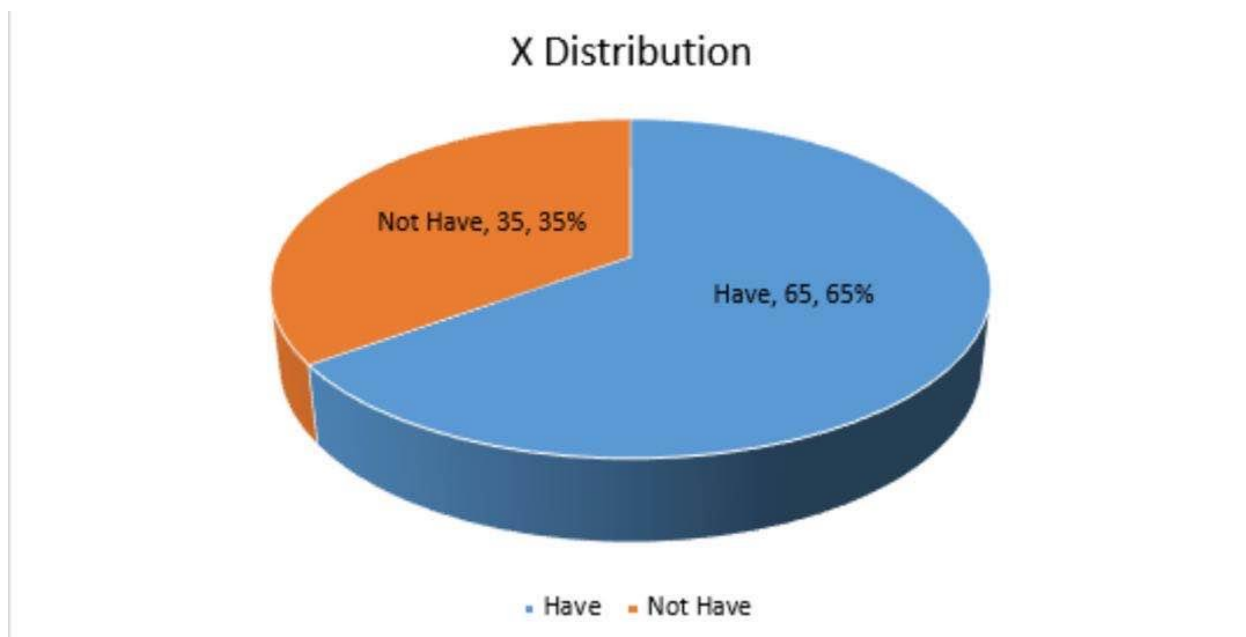


Figure 3. X Distribution

3.4. Movie Protect Distribution

Therefore, the researchers further investigated 17 people who answered "yes" about whether sexual behaviors in the movie mentioned the potential risks and undesirable consequences and it was found that more than 80% of the sexual footage did not mention the hidden dangers of sexual behavior as shown in Figure 4.

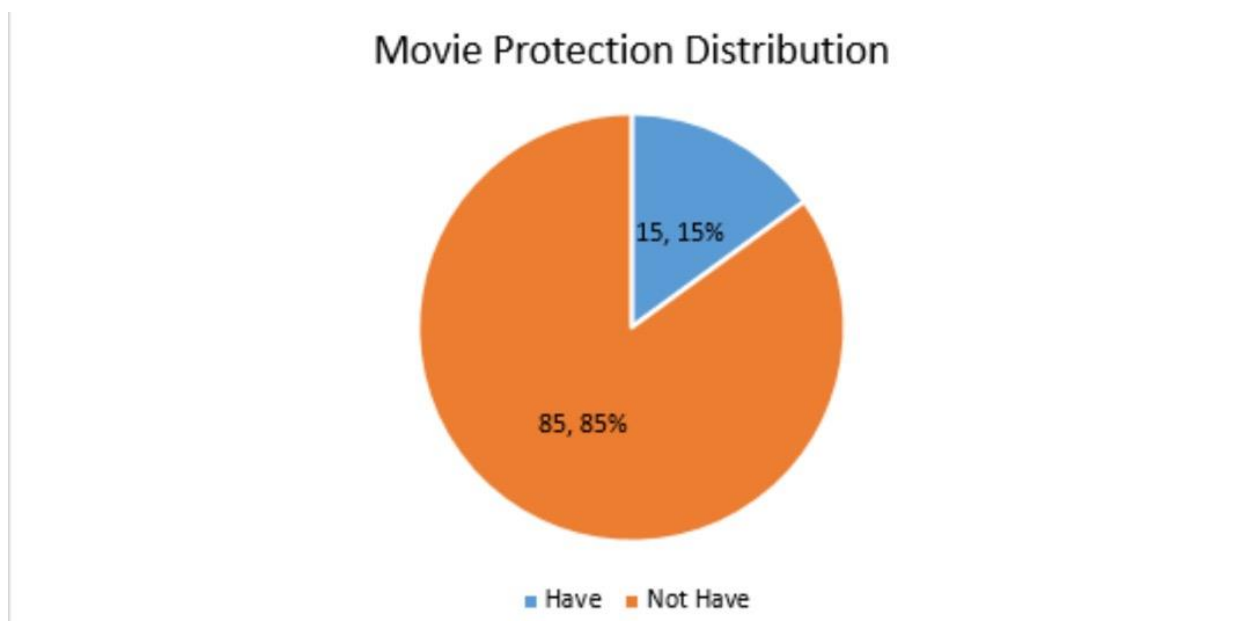


Figure 4. Movie Protection Distribution

The above data are presented that adolescents are exposed to a huge amount of sexual images and messages on television. Adolescents use the media as sources of information about sex, drugs, AIDS, and violence as well as to learn how to behave in relationships. In order to conduct a deeper investigation into the influence of sex scenes on teenagers, the researchers conducted a separate and specific interview with 10 girls from their sample. As for the choice of the gender of interviewees, the reason is that girls tend to be sexually sensitive. They have been asked if they were sexually aroused after watching the sexual content in the movies. Nine of them said yes and the remaining one said she didn't have a sexual urge for the sex scene in the movie she filled out but maybe he would have had it in a different type of movie. However, sexual content is almost universally presented in a positive light with little discussion of potential risks and adverse consequences. Therefore, the lack of a sexual concept has taken its toll on teenagers. For instance, "exposure to sexual content on television predicted teen pregnancy, with adjustment for all covariates." (Chandra et al, 2008)[5] Teens who were exposed to high levels of television sexual content (90th percentile) were twice as likely to experience a pregnancy in the subsequent 3 years, compared with those with lower levels of exposure (10th percentile). The researchers concluded watching too much sexual content in movies can indirectly lead to an increasing teen pregnancy rate.

It is critical to delve how the society could do to prevent teens from being pregnant as they tend to have increased sex drives after watching movies that have sex scenes. Several feasible solutions can be offered to reduce the number of pregnant teenagers. For instance, enabling age restrictions on movies or music videos can prevent teenagers from watching certain inappropriate sex scenes. That is to say, movies released on the internet can require viewers to put their ages to be certified before they click on the "start playing" button, and cinemas can ask certain young customers to provide their IDs before selling the tickets of movies that have scenes of teens' sex-related behaviors. Nevertheless, it is still possible that teenagers may borrow others' IDs before watching sex-related movies online. Hence, parents should be accountable to their children for watching suitable movies as well. Lastly, media can also function as a channel to propagandize several things that may help teenagers not get pregnant. To be specific, TV can display scenes that discuss negative outcomes of teen pregnancy during a period of time in which teenagers are most likely to watch TV.

4. Conclusion

In a nutshell, as a number of movies have contained scenes of teens' sex-related behaviors without emphasizing potential risks that could come up with such behaviors, teenagers are likely to imitate what they see from those sorts of movies, which could indirectly lead to an increasing rate of being infected by STD and being pregnant as teens. It is vital to notice that teenagers do not usually have the ability to raise children during such young ages. For example, the paucity of income and responsibilities impede them from taking care of their own kids. Hence, it is crucial for people to seek potential solutions that could help prevent teens from being pregnant.

In this study, 100 random people were interviewed and, as a consequence, several things were concluded. For instance, almost 70% of Chinese teenager participants were likely to watch movies on the internet. What's more, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of them reported that they developed sex drives after watching movies that had teen sex scenes and 73% of those people believed such movies did not point out potential risks of teen pregnancy. The correlation between teens sex scenes in movies and changes of teenagers' sex drives after they watching such movies was canvassed by us to explore how sex scenes could impact teenagers. As a consequence, the conclusion that teenagers reported that they had noticed an absence of indicating negative influences of teen pregnancy after viewing those movies came up. Moreover, almost all of them addressed that they were apt to have elevated sexual drives after finishing watching those movies.

References

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