Holier Than Thou? No Partisan Gap in the Consumption of Pornography Online*

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Abstract

Consumption of pornography has been blamed for a variety of societal ills, including the rise in misogyny, sex crimes, and the coarsening of culture. Using passively collected browsing data from YouGov, we investigate how much pornography Americans consume online. We find that there is a sharp positive skew in the consumption of pornography, with a small number of users consuming lots of pornography and most consuming small amounts. Only about 32 percent of the respondents consumed pornography online during the month long observation period. Of the people who consumed pornography, the median consumer spent about 44 minutes consuming pornography and 95 percent spent less than 337 minutes. Lastly, we find that, unlike previous research (MacInnis and Hodson, 2015; Edelman, 2009), which relied on ecological inference, Democrats consume about as much pornography online as Republicans.

^{*}You can download the replication materials from https://github.com/soodoku/adult

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Consumption of pornography is associated with a variety of disturbing attitudes, beliefs, emotions, and behaviors. Consuming pornography is associated with support for violence against women (Hald, Malamuth and Yuen, 2010; Malamuth, Hald and Koss, 2012; Donnerstein, 1984), belief in rape myths (Foubert, Brosi and Bannon, 2011), increased gender role conflict, lesser sexual satisfaction (Szymanski and Stewart-Richardson, 2014; Stewart and Szymanski, 2012), poorer relationship quality (Szymanski and Stewart-Richardson, 2014; Szymanski, Feltman and Dunn, 2015), and sexually risky behaviors such as engaging in paid sex, and having extramarital sex (Wright and Randall, 2012). A lot of popular pornography also contains a healthy dose of violence. An analysis of popular pornography revealed that 88.2% of the scenes contained physical aggression, and 48.7% verbal aggression (Bridges et al., 2010). For all these reasons, there are serious concerns about consumption of pornography.

In this paper, we investigate how much pornography Americans consume online. Using passive browsing data from YouGov, we find that there is a sharp skew in the consumption of pornography, with a small set of users consuming a large chunk of pornography. About 68 percent of the respondents abstained from consuming pornography online during the month long observation period. Of the people who consumed pornography, the median consumer spent about 44 minutes consuming pornography and the 95th percentile consumer spent 337 minutes.

We also use the data to shed light on an age-old debate—whether Democrats consume more pornography than Republicans or vice versa. Both parties claim the higher moral ground. And in surveys both parties think consumption of pornography is abhorrent. Unlike previous research, which relied on ecological inference, we find that Democrats consume about as much pornography online as Republicans (MacInnis and Hodson, 2015; Edelman, 2009). Adjusting for background attributes like age, gender etc., makes little difference.

Data

We use data from YouGov to measure the consumption of adult content (?). YouGov maintains a large panel that is recruits using various methods. YouGov uses matched sampling to survey respondents: it first draws a random sample from a large synthetic representative sampling frame, finds respondents that match the sampled individuals from its panel, and invites them to take a survey. For data on how well Yougov is able to approximate a random sample, see Rivers and Bailey (2009). For our sample, panelists also shared de-identified web browsing data tracked via passive metering software installed voluntarily on their computers. The software, called RealityMine, captures online visits independent of the type of browser or browser-specific privacy settings.

The data are from 1,200 respondents and contains a month of data from June, 2022. In all, we have data on about 6 million visits. For each visit, we have information on the domain (e.g., wikipedia.org), the time of visit, and the time spent on the domain. The respondents visited about 64k unique sites, of which 900 are pornographic sites.

Our data also includes characteristics of the 1,200 individuals. We have data on demographic characteristics like birth year, state, gender, race, and education level. We also have information on their party identification. Except for 120 respondents who did not respond or picked not sure/don't know, the rest stated the party they identified with. Of the 1,080 individuals who report party identification, 82 percent lean either Republican or Democrat. The remaining 18 percent identify as independent.

Measuring Pornographic Content

We code pornographic content at the domain level. Our main analysis depends on the domain classifications that come with YouGov data. We code domains that YouGov categorizes as "Adult" as pornographic sites. These include "Adult" (e.g., xvideos.com), "Adult,

Business" (e.g., onlyfans.com), and "Adult, Entertainment" (e.g., hentainfox.com). Yougoc classifies certain domains as 'Adult' that do not primarily carry pornographic content, e.g., urbandictionary.com and 4chan.org. Given the skew in the data (See Figure SI 1.1 and Figure SI 1.2)¹, we manually check the top adult domains to remove such sites. If there is graphic nudity on the landing page or if the site is some form of erotica, we classify the site as a pornographic.

In SI 3, we leverage the piedomains package to classify which domains are pornographic sites using machine learning (Chintalapati and Sood, 2022). We leverage the probability estimates to produce a low false negative and low false positive version. The key results remain unchanged.

Results

Consumption of Pornography

Across all respondents, only a small fraction of the web browsing visits, approximately 84,000 visits or 1.3 percent, are to pornographic sites. And these visits are concentrated among a few people. Only about 32 percent of the respondents consumed pornography online during the sample period. The average consumer of pornography online spent approximately 230 minutes (standard deviation of 576 minutes).

The consumption of pornography is also highly concentrated among a few sites, with ten most frequented pornography sites receiving more than 12 times the traffic to all other pornographic sites (approximately 109 minutes vs. 9 minutes, see Figure SI 1.3). Close to 80 percent of the traffic to pornographic sites is to just one pornographic site. Looking at the

¹We use the forestplot (?) and tableone (?) packages to tabulate key descriptive figures.

characteristics of consumers of pornography, expectedly, consumers of pornography online are younger and are more likely to be male ??

Partisan Differences in Consumption of Pornography Online

Our primary dependent variables of interest are: total time spent on pornographic sites and the proportion of time spent on pornographic sites. (In SI 5.2, we show similar analysis for visits. The upshot is that the key conclusions are unaffected.)

Given the skew in the data, we ran a quantile regression, regressing the duration on party. As Figures 1 and 2 show, there are no significant differences in consumption of pornographic content between the parties. To account for the possibility that this may be a result of confounding demographic differences between the parties, we control for immutable characteristics like age and gender. (Table SI 2.3 shows differences in age, gender, and race by party identification.) We use these variables in our analyses of pornography consumption below. Given how concentrated pornographic consumption is in our data, it is unlikely to make much of a difference and that is indeed what we find — see Figure 1.

Discussion

Consumption of pornography has been attributed to a variety of ills. It is also considered problematic from a religious perspective. For instance, Christian theologians believe that consumption of pornography leads people away from purity and hence should be avoided.². The Internet has dramatically increased access to pornography. This has led to the concern that pornography consumption has become very widespread and extensive. Our data suggest

help-for-pornography-users/effect-of-pornography

²https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/

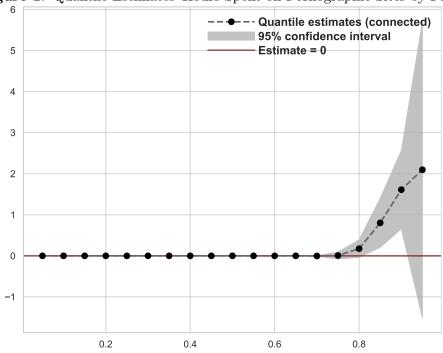


Figure 1: Quantile Estimates–Hours Spent on Pornographic Sites by Party

Notes: Dependent variable is the number of hours individuals in our sample spent on pornographic sites. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors. See Figure SI 2.1 for the same plot controlling for individual characteristics.

that pornography consumption online is highly concentrated with very few people consuming a lot of pornography and most people consuming very little or none.

The second contribution of our paper is estimates of partisan differences in consumption of pornography online. Both the parties claim the higher ground when it comes to women—one's case for morality is steeped in religion, the other's in enduring concern for women. Our data suggest that the partisan differences are likely very small.

Our research has three major limitations. The first concern with our data is that we may not have all the Internet visitation data from a user. If the respondent changes their behavior in response to the knowledge that their data is being collected (even if it is de-identified), for e.g., they may modify their behavior on the machine or figure out ways to evade detection, it may bias our results. In fact, we think it is likely that people would be less likely to search for pornography on machines on which they have installed passive

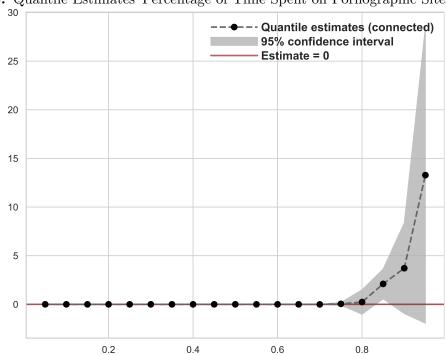


Figure 2: Quantile Estimates-Percentage of Time Spent on Pornographic Sites by Party

Notes: Dependent variable is the percentage of time individuals in our sample spent on pornographic sites. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors. See Figure SI 2.2 for the same plot controlling for individual characteristics.

monitoring software (though the data are de-identified). If that is so, our estimates are a lower bound of net consumption of pornography. If this bias varies by party, our estimates of partisan differences will also be biased.

The second concern with our measurement is that we code content at a domain level. This runs the risk of incurring some ecological fallacy. For instance, our classification would code websites like Tumblr as not carrying pornographic content but some of Tumblr content is pornographic.

The third concern is that our measures are a point in time. We have data from one month in one year—June, 2022. It is possible that people consume less pornography online and instead spend time outside in June when the weather in many parts of the US is more pleasant than in preceding or following months.

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Supporting Information

SI 1 Descriptive Analysis

SI 1.1 Skew in Website Visits

Figure SI 1.1: Top 25 Pornography Sites

Site	Category (via YouGov)	Hours	Visits					
xvideos.com	Adult	311	9,368					•
pornhub.com	Adult	184	7,811		ı		•	
xnxx.com	Adult	207	6,540		I		•	
onlyfans.com	Adult, Business	53	5,805			•		
rule34.xxx	Adult	35	5,797		1	•		
fetlife.com	Adult, Business	10	3,577		1 •			
xhamster.com	Adult	104	3,465		•			
chaturbate.com	Adult	23	2,798		•			
motherless.com	Adult	29	2,507		10			
literotica.com	Adult	47	2,305		4			
myfreecams.com	Adult, Streaming Media	20	2,142		•			
hentaifox.com	Adult, Entertainment	5	1,468	•	1			
imagefap.com	Adult	8	1,235	•	1			
gelbooru.com	Adult	3	1,020	•				
spankbang.com	Adult	9	935	•				
youporn.com	Adult	32	926	•	1			
stripchat.com	Adult	9	904	•	I			
livejasmin.com	Adult	3	851	•	99th pe	ercentile		
porzo.com	Adult	1	719	•	1			
pornone.com	Adult	9	678	•	1			
pornpics.com	Adult	2	667	•	I			
dirtyleague.com	Adult	10	659	•				
nhentai.net	Adult, Entertainment	4	608	•	1			
hentairead.com	Adult, Entertainment	6	539	•	I			
manyvids.com	Adult, Shopping	5	528	•				
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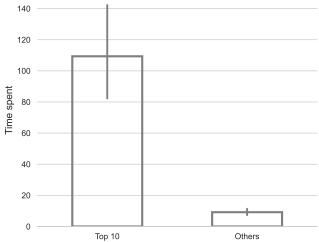
Notes: Table shows the top 25 pornographic sites that individuals visit in the sample period. Pornography sites are as categorized by YouGov (see the Data section). The Hours column are the total number of hours that individuals in the sample spent on the site. The Visits column is total number of visits by individuals in the sample to the site. Sites to the right of the vertical dashed are the top 1 percent of pornographic sites.

Figure SI 1.2: Top 25 (Non-Porn) Domains

		•		,				
Site	Category (via YouGov)	Hours	Visits					
google.com	Search Engines and Portals	4,135	628,361				•	
facebook.com	Business, Social Networking	5,701	443,263	ı		•		
google.com	Chat and Instant Messaging	2,664	278,233	ı	•			
bing.com	News and Media, Search Engines and Portals	1,471	231,155		•			
youtube.com	Entertainment, Streaming Media	4,449	227,981	ı	•			
/ahoo.com	Chat and Instant Messaging	1,661	174,977	•				
twitter.com	Social Networking	1,112	111,320	•				
amazon.com	Shopping	1,401	103,487	•				
decipherinc.com	Business	250	84,099	. •				
live.com	Chat and Instant Messaging	1,014	75,495	•				
reddit.com	Messageboards and Forums, News and Media	736	59,141	•				
instagram.com	Media Sharing, Social Networking	359	48,440	•				
google.com	Translation Sites	83	40,400	I •				
nsn.com	News and Media, Streaming Media	287	39,085	•				
/ahoo.com	Entertainment, News and Media	506	39,042	•				
aol.com	Chat and Instant Messaging	327	38,964	•				
clarity.ms	Business, Information Technology	91	34,935					
nicrosoftonline.com	Information Technology	195	34,335	99th percentile	Э			
ebay.com	Shopping	333	28,497	•				
vikipedia.org	Education	377	26,998	•				
valmart.com	Shopping	324	26,489	•				
samplicio.us	Business	84	26,155	•				
orivatelink.de	Business	33	26,006	•				
sentry.io	Business, Information Technology	61	24,969	•				
capitaloneshopping.com	Shopping	110	23,353	•				
				0 150,000	300,000	450,000	600,000	750

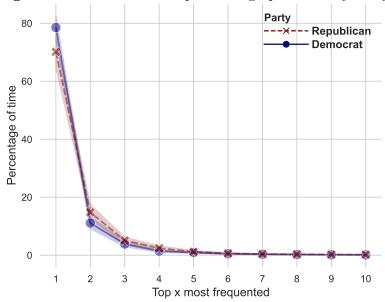
Notes: Table shows the top 25 non-pornographic sites that individuals visit in the sample period. The *Hours* column are the total number of hours that individuals in the sample spent on the site. The *Visits* column is total number of visits by individuals in the sample to the site. Sites to the right of the vertical dashed are the top 1 percent (of non-pornographic sites).

Figure SI 1.3: Traffic to Top 10 Pornographic Sites



Notes: The Top 10 bar indicates traffic to the top 10 pornographic sites in the data (see Figure SI 1.1). The Others bar indicates traffic to all other pornographic sites outside of the top 10. The y-axis is the total time spent on pornographic sites, averaged across individuals. Time units is hours. Vertical bars are 95% confidence intervals from bootstrapped standard errors (n = 1,000).

Figure SI 1.4: Traffic to Top x Pornographic Sites by Party



Notes: Figure shows concentration of pornography consumption based on individuals' most frequented pornographic sites. Shaded areas are 95% confidence intervals from bootstrapped standard errors (n = 1,000).

SI 1.2 Skew in Consumption of Pornographic Content

Table SI 1.1: Distribution of Consumption of Pornography Online

Percentile	Hours
0.00	0.00
0.10	0.03
0.20	0.08
0.30	0.19
0.40	0.41
0.50	0.73
0.60	1.47
0.70	2.38
0.80	4.53
0.90	10.09
0.95	20.04
0.96	22.04
0.97	26.76
0.98	29.10
0.99	40.76
1.00	93.96

Notes: Table shows key percentiles (each of the ten deciles plus quantiles at the right tail) and their corresponding values for the duration (hours) spent by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period.

Table SI 1.2: Percentage of Time Spent on Pornographic Sites

Percentile	% time
0.00	0.0
0.10	0.0
0.20	0.1
0.30	0.7
0.40	1.3
0.50	3.1
0.60	4.8
0.70	8.4
0.80	14.3
0.90	36.4
0.95	58.5
0.96	63.5
0.97	64.8
0.98	69.8
0.99	74.5
1.00	87.5

Notes: Table shows key percentiles (each of the ten deciles plus quantiles at the right tail) and their corresponding values for the duration (hours) spent by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period.

SI 2 Partisan Differences

SI 2.1 Distribution of Differences

Table SI 2.1: Distribution of Consumption of Pornography Online by Party

	Hours								
Percentile	Republicans	Democrats							
0.00	0.00	0.00							
0.10	0.06	0.02							
0.20	0.18	0.05							
0.30	0.33	0.11							
0.40	0.68	0.23							
0.50	1.36	0.46							
0.60	2.18	0.74							
0.70	3.02	1.55							
0.80	5.48	2.74							
0.90	11.17	7.03							
0.95	25.43	13.84							
0.96	27.06	18.28							
0.97	27.93	19.92							
0.98	30.03	22.03							
0.99	36.53	45.97							
1.00	37.54	90.46							

Notes: Table shows splits by party and by key percentiles (each of the ten deciles plus quantiles at the right tail) for the duration (hours) spent by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period.

Table SI 2.2: Percentage of Time Spent on Pornographic Sites by Party

	% time								
Percentile	Republicans	Democrats							
0.00	0.0	0.0							
0.10	0.1	0.0							
0.20	0.5	0.1							
0.30	0.9	0.3							
0.40	2.3	0.9							
0.50	4.0	1.3							
0.60	6.6	3.2							
0.70	10.7	5.7							
0.80	20.8	12.3							
0.90	36.8	35.8							
0.95	46.4	53.4							
0.96	54.8	58.6							
0.97	63.3	64.0							
0.98	68.7	65.0							
0.99	71.9	72.9							
1.00	87.5	77.4							

Notes: Table shows splits by party and by key percentiles (each of the ten deciles plus quantiles at the right tail) for the duration (hours) spent by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period.

SI 2.2 Accounting for Confounders

Table SI 2.3: Differences in Pornography Consumption and Individual Characteristics by Party

	-	Panel	A. Measures of	of pornograph	y consumption		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Subgroups	NA	Total	Democrat	Republican	P-val	SMD
n			1200	530	356		
Consume porn, n (%)	No	65	774 (68.2)	343 (68.5)	235 (70.6)	0.569	0.046
	Yes		361 (31.8)	158 (31.5)	98(29.4)		
Minutes, mean (SD)		65	73.4 (342.1)	58.8 (331.7)	75.8(277.4)	0.423	0.056
% of time, mean (SD)		65	3.4(11.2)	2.9(10.7)	3.5(11.1)	0.486	0.049
Visits, mean (SD)		65	74.3 (328.9)	59.9(298.9)	73.7(271.1)	0.489	0.048
% of visits, mean (SD)		65	2.2(7.1)	1.7(6.1)	2.3(7.1)	0.238	0.085
			Panel B. Indi	ividual charac	teristics		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Subgroups	NA	Total	Democrat	Republican	P-val	SMD
n			1200	530	356		
Party (7-point), mean (SD)		120	3.6(2.2)	1.7(0.8)	6.3(0.8)	< 0.001	5.670
2020 Pres. election, n (%)	Other/No vote	170	270(26.2)	97(20.2)	47 (14.1)	< 0.001	3.296
	Vote Biden		419 (40.7)	369 (76.9)	8 (2.4)		
	Vote Trump		341 (33.1)	14(2.9)	278 (83.5)		
Age, mean (SD)		0	49.5 (18.1)	48.7 (17.8)	55.4 (18.0)	< 0.001	0.373
Gender, n (%)	Female	0	635 (52.9)	312 (58.9)	174 (48.9)	0.004	0.201
	Male		565 (47.1)	218 (41.1)	182 (51.1)		
Race, n (%)	Asian	0	49(4.1)	31 (5.8)	6(1.7)	< 0.001	0.747
	Black		152(12.7)	96 (18.1)	7(2.0)		
	Hispanic		176 (14.7)	87 (16.4)	35 (9.8)		
	Others		61 (5.1)	29(5.5)	9(2.5)		
	White		762(63.5)	287 (54.2)	299 (84.0)		
Education, n (%)	College	0	525 (43.8)	258 (48.7)	158 (44.4)	0.625	0.091
	HS		354 (29.5)	146(27.5)	103(28.9)		
	No HS		73(6.1)	24 (4.5)	17(4.8)		
	Some college		248 (20.7)	102(19.2)	78(21.9)		
Region, n (%)	Midwest	8	239(20.1)	100 (19.0)	83(23.4)	0.034	0.204
	Northeast		$210\ (17.6)$	103 (19.6)	50 (14.1)		
	South		502(42.1)	208 (39.6)	159 (44.8)		
	West		$241\ (20.2)$	114 (21.7)	63 (17.7)		

Notes: Table shows splits by party for pornography consumption and for individual characteristics for the 1,200 individuals. Party identification is based on a 7-point scale. We code 1–3 as "Democrat", 4 as "Independent", 5–7 as "Republican". Column (1) shows subgroups for categorical variables. Column (2) indicates the count of missing variables, if any. Columns (3)–(5) show means and standard deviations for continuous variables and count and percentage of data for categorical variables, for the full sample, Democratic individuals, and Republican individuals. Standard deviations and percentages in parentheses. Column (6) and column (7) report the p-values and standardized mean differences for Democrats vs Republicans. Given the skew in consumption of pornography, we also performed tests for difference in means for the measures of pornography consumption by party. See Table SI 2.5.

Table SI 2.4: Differences in Pornography Consumption and Individual Characteristics by Pornography Consumers

	Panel A. Measures of pornography consumption							
	(1)	$\overline{(2)}$	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
	Subgroups	ŇÁ	Total	Non-Consumers	Consumers	P-val	$\overline{\text{SMD}}$	
n			1200	774	361			
Minutes, mean (SD)		65	73.4 (342.1)	0.0(0.0)	230.8 (576.3)	< 0.001	0.566	
% of time, mean (SD)		65	3.4 (11.2)	0.0(0.0)	10.6 (17.9)	< 0.001	0.833	
Visits, mean (SD)		65	74.3 (328.9)	0.0(0.0)	233.5 (550.8)	< 0.001	0.599	
% of visits, mean (SD)		65	2.2(7.1)	0.0(0.0)	6.9 (11.2)	< 0.001	0.870	
			Panel B. I	ndividual characte	ristics			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
	Subgroups	NA	Total	Non-Consumers	Consumers	P-val	SMD	
n			1200	774	361			
Party (7-point), mean (SD)		120	3.6(2.2)	3.6(2.2)	3.6(2.1)	0.580	-0.037	
2020 Pres. election, n (%)	Other/No vote	170	270(26.2)	145(22.1)	110 (34.9)	< 0.001	0.287	
	Vote Biden		419 (40.7)	281 (42.8)	114(36.2)			
	Vote Trump		341 (33.1)	230 (35.1)	91 (28.9)			
Age, mean (SD)		0	49.5 (18.1)	$51.3\ (18.2)$	$46.1\ (17.1)$	< 0.001	-0.295	
Gender, n (%)	Female	0	635 (52.9)	487 (62.9)	109(30.2)	< 0.001	0.695	
	Male		565 (47.1)	287(37.1)	252 (69.8)			
Race, n (%)	Asian	0	49(4.1)	37(4.8)	9(2.5)	0.059	0.193	
	Black		152 (12.7)	86 (11.1)	58 (16.1)			
	Hispanic		176 (14.7)	$113\ (14.6)$	55 (15.2)			
	Others		61 (5.1)	36 (4.7)	20 (5.5)			
	White		762 (63.5)	502 (64.9)	219 (60.7)			
Education, n (%)	College	0	525 (43.8)	363 (46.9)	131 (36.3)	0.002	0.244	
	HS		354 (29.5)	228 (29.5)	115 (31.9)			
	No HS		73 (6.1)	46 (5.9)	22(6.1)			
	Some college		248 (20.7)	137 (17.7)	$93\ (25.8)$			
Region, n (%)	Midwest	8	239(20.1)	147 (19.2)	78(21.7)	0.659	0.081	
	Northeast		$210\ (17.6)$	140 (18.3)	$60 \ (16.7)$			
	South		502 (42.1)	328 (42.8)	146 (40.6)			
	West		$241\ (20.2)$	152 (19.8)	76(21.1)			

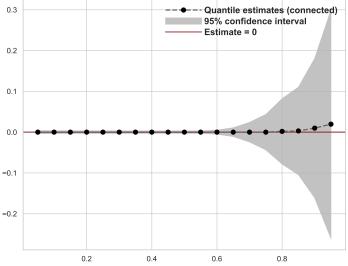
Notes: Table shows splits by consumers of pornography for pornography consumption and for individual characteristics for the 1,200 individuals. 65 of the 1,200 individuals did not clocked any browsing activity and are in the first panel. These 65 individuals are not substantially different in characteristics than those included in the sample (untabulated). Party identification is based on a 7-point scale. We code 1–3 as "Democrat", 4 as "Independent", 5–7 as "Republican". Column (1) shows subgroups for categorical variables. Column (2) indicates the count of missing variables, if any. Columns (3)–(5) show means and standard deviations for continuous variables and count and percentage of data for categorical variables, for the full sample, non-consumers of pornography, and consumers of pornography. Standard deviations and percentages in parentheses. Column (6) and column (7) report the p-values and standardized mean differences for non-consumers vs consumers.

Table SI 2.5: Differences (in Medians) in Pornography Consumption

			,	0 1 7	1					
	Measures of pornography consumption									
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)			
	Subgroups	NA	Total	Democrats	Republicans	P-val	SMD			
n			1200	530	356					
Minutes, median [Q1,Q3]		65	0.0 [0.0, 4.8]	$0.0 \ [0.0, 3.1]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 3.6]$	0.981	0.056			
% of time, median [Q1,Q3]		65	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.1]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.1]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.1]$	0.842	0.049			
Visits, median [Q1,Q3]		65	$0.0 \ [0.0, 8.0]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 6.0]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 8.0]$	0.933	0.048			
% of visits, median [Q1,Q3]		65	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.2]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.1]$	$0.0 \ [0.0, 0.2]$	0.916	0.085			

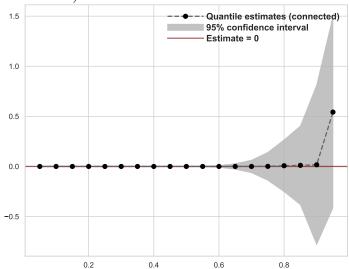
Notes: Table shows splits by party for pornography consumption and for individual characteristics for the 1,200 individuals. This table focuses on differences in medians. Party identification is based on a 7-point scale. We code 1–3 as "Democrat", 4 as "Independent", 5–7 as "Republican". Column (1) shows subgroups for categorical variables. Column (2) indicates the count of missing variables, if any. Columns (3)–(5) show the medians, the first quartiles, and the third quartiles, for the full sample, Democrats, and Republicans. 1st and 3rd quartiles in brackets. Column (6) and column (7) report the p-values and standardized median differences for Democrats vs Republicans. See Panel A of Table SI 2.3 for differences in means.

Figure SI 2.1: Quantile Estimates—Hours Spent on Pornographic Sites by Party (with covariates)



Notes: Dependent variable is the number of hours individuals in our sample spent on pornographic sites. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. Covariates included on the right-hand side are: gender (Female/Male), race (White/Black/Hispanic/Asian/Others), education level (no HS/HS graduate/some college/college graduate), age and its quadratic, and region (NE/MW/S/W). 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors. See Figure 1 for the same plot without covariates.

Figure SI 2.2: Quantile Estimates–Percentage of Time Spent on Pornographic Sites by Party (with covariates)



Notes: Dependent variable is the percentage of time individuals in our sample spent on pornographic sites. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. Covariates included on the right-hand side are: gender (Female/Male), race (White/Black/Hispanic/Asian/Others), education level (no HS/HS graduate/some college/college graduate), age and its quadratic, and region (NE/MW/S/W). 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors. See Figure 2 for the same plot without covariates.

SI 3 Alternate Ways of Measuring Pornography

SI 4 Consumption of Pornography Among Independents

SI 5 Alternate Measures

SI 5.1 Proportion of Partisans Who Consumed Any Pornography

Figure SI 5.1: Pornography Consumption by Party

Notes: Figure shows proportion of individuals in the sample who ever consumed pornography in the sample period by party. Capped vertical bars are 95% confidence intervals from bootstrapped standard errors (n = 1,000).

SI 5.2 Analyses of Visits

2,000

1,500

sets 1,000

1,000

10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Figure SI 5.2: Distribution of Traffic to Pornography Online

Notes: Figure shows the number of visits to pornography sites by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period. Individuals are split into deciles with each bin containing approximately the same number of individuals. Height of bars indicate mean of each bin. Capped vertical bars are 95% confidence intervals.

31 3.3: Percentage of Trainc to Pornography (

Figure SI 5.3: Percentage of Traffic to Pornography Online

Notes: Figure shows the proportion of visits to pornography sites by individuals who consumed pornography in the sample period. Individuals are split into deciles with each bin containing approximately the same number of individuals. Height of bars indicate mean of each bin. Capped vertical bars are 95% confidence intervals.

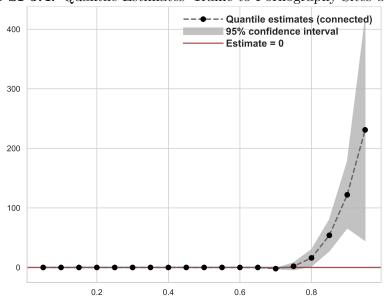
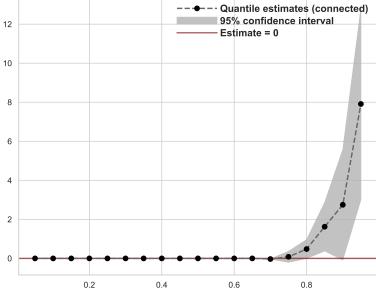


Figure SI 5.4: Quantile Estimates-Traffic to Pornography Sites by Party

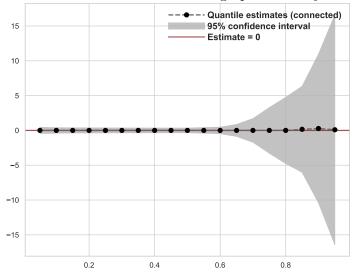
Notes: Dependent variable is the number of visits to pornographic sites by individuals in our sample. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors.

Figure SI 5.5: Quantile Estimates—Percentage of Traffic to Pornographic Sites by Party



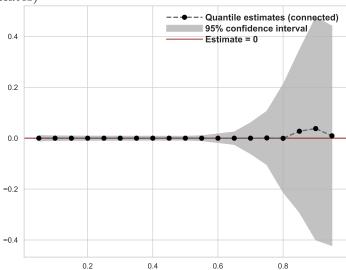
Notes: Dependent variable is the percentage of traffic to pornographic sites by individuals in our sample. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors.

Figure SI 5.6: Quantile Estimates-Traffic to Pornographic Sites by Party (with covariates)



Notes: Dependent variable is the number of visits to pornographic sites by individuals in our sample. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. Covariates included on the right-hand side are: gender (Female/Male), race (White/Black/Hispanic/Asian/Others), education level (no HS/HS graduate/some college/college graduate), age and its quadratic, and region (NE/MW/S/W). 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors.

Figure SI 5.7: Quantile Estimates—Percentage of Traffic to Pornographic Sites by Party (with covariates)



Notes: Dependent variable is the percentage of traffic to pornographic sites by individuals in our sample. Each point indicates the difference between Republicans and Democrats and corresponds to a quantile regression at the quantile indicated by the x-axis. Covariates included on the right-hand side are: gender (Female/Male), race (White/Black/Hispanic/Asian/Others), education level (no HS/HS graduate/some college/college graduate), age and its quadratic, and region (NE/MW/S/W). 95% confidence intervals constructed from standard errors.