

CHILD PORNOGRAPHERS: CLINICAL FEATURES OF A VIRTUAL ASSAULT

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Introduction: The child pornography collecting process and the way the pornographer considers his collection need to be better understood. It is these psychopathological issues and the risk of the person acting out his fantasies that need to be analyzed.

Objectives: We want to understand the phenomenon of child pornography, because it is sometimes a matter of deviance without leading to actual abuse.

Aims: The aim of our study is thus to identify the characteristics of people who download child pornography.

Methods: We collected data from forensic psychiatric assessments. The criterion for inclusion was the possession of pornographic images of minors. We studied pathological characteristics of this sample.

Results: Subjects were almost exclusively male with an average age of forty years. They have generally a good academic level. A significant difference is observed between the childhood aspects of child pornographers, sex online and offline offenders. A sense of loneliness is expressed in 32.8%.

Conclusion: Child generally fulfills a fantasy of a pedophile nature. Different profiles of child pornographers have been proposed which are not always related to pedophilia. Our study has permitted to have information about the sexuality of child pornographers. The feeling of not being well integrated could explain the use of virtual means of telecommunication. Clinical differences can be made between child pornographers and sex online offenders.