

Why are we having less sex?

Video transcript – Getting turned on

Natalie Emmanuel: Prof Andy's web sex study is the first of its kind. He's asked nearly 900, 16-24 year-olds from across the UK how they using the internet in their sex-lives and relationships.

And the headline figure is this, an amazing 80% of those asked have used either a smartphone or the web for some kind of sexual contact.

This is the first time anyone's had any kind of figures about how widespread web sex is.

Professor Andy Phippen: I think when I saw you before we wanted to understand whether this is main stream or if this is deviant behaviour and I think definitely we can say its mainstream.

Natalie Emmanuel: So, what are the main things you've found?

Professor Andy Phippen: The vast majority of our respondents are saying that technology had a positive impact on their relationship.

Interestingly the vast majority also say said that people behave more promiscuously online than offline and they behave differently online and offline as well.

Natalie Emmanuel: I have to agree with that, a lot of my friends say that social networking destroys your relationships, so I have to kind of, agree.

Professor Andy Phippen: I certainly think that some of our results would support that. We're having quite a lot of people saying that online activities have caused problems in their offline relationships and interestingly around 20% of people were saying that they've met their current or previous sexual partner online now.

I think one of things that really surprised us, (I guess because it's very new technology) is that of those people that use webcams and explicit interactions, around 40% of them were happy to do that with a stranger.

Natalie Emmanuel: Are you talking about web sex?

Professor Andy Phippen: Yes, web sex, and in a lot of the cases with strangers.

Natalie Emmanuel: Wow, that's a lot. That's a lot more than I thought it would be. That's actually really surprising.

Professor Andy Phippen: We asked the question, alright if you have met up with a stranger online and then you meet up with them offline, what is it you're meeting up with them for?

Now, not the majority, but certainly a large proportion of our respondents said they met up for casual sex.

So, we found that quite alarming, if we're talking about a large percentage of the population of this age, their meeting up, then it does demonstrate again a very relaxed attitude to sexual relationships and is technology facilitating it.

So I think really what we're saying is that in a few years it's gone from no-one using this sort of technology (as basically it wasn't possible) to a large number of people using it to engage in explicit practices but also we're seeing a pushing of the boundaries with it.

Alright we're doing this, it's becoming mainstream - what else might we do with it. That's the interesting thing, if this is what's happened in this time frame, what's going to happen in another ten years.

What sort of things will be possible in another ten years and what sort of things are people going to be doing in another ten years.