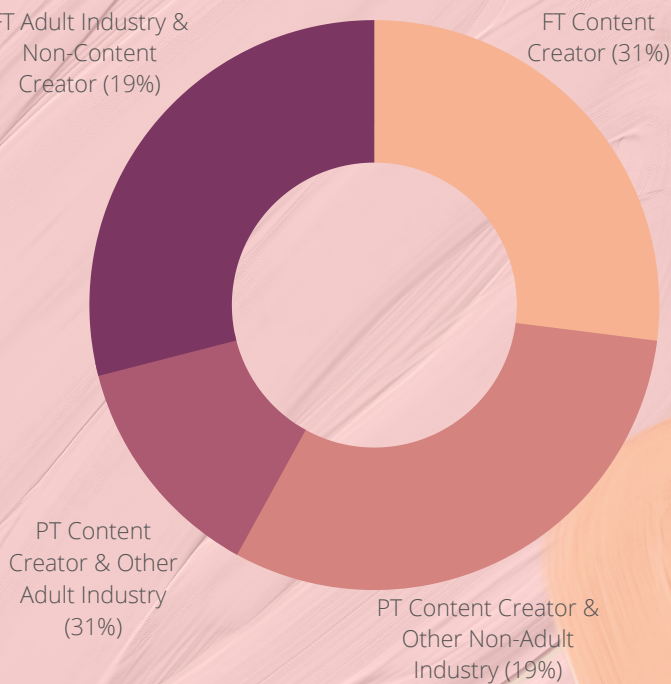


Report on Adult/Sex Work Experiences Survey

In Spring and Summer 2022, academic researchers partnered with Erotic Service Providers Union (ESPU) and Sex Workers Project (SWP) to collect data on content creators in the adult industry. Our goal was to understand the experiences of adult content creators. The final sample varied by question and was between five and 45. The sample size is modest, so interpret with caution, though some preliminary trends are notable.



Earning strategies varied widely including clip sites (e.g., OnlyFans, FanCentro, Manyvids, Clips4Sale), Tiktok, Instagram, Twitter, PTVs (pay-to-views), S4S (shoutout-for-shoutout), Sexting, Reddit, and Tubesites (e.g., Pornhub). Eight participants reported their accounts had been banned in the last 12 months.

Type of content also varied widely. Solo content was the most frequently identified, followed by explicit, fetish, hardcore, and taboo content. Others included niche, blasphemy, femdom, GFE (girlfriend experience), nude gaming, and xxx-rated sexual health content.

The amount of time content creators spent planning, generating, and posting content ranged from 1 to 50 hours per week. Several participants reported that they offered free short clips or short messages to encourage subscribers. Many also engaged with people on multiple platforms to build their brand and business. As one participant put it, *"I market myself on twitter and insta with both my porn and a creative project I do. Subscribers seem to like that I do something creative too and are drawn to me because I do that."*

By The Numbers (Currency in USD)

\$880.06

Average **highest** weekly earnings in the last 3 months

\$158.93

Average **lowest** weekly earnings in the last 3 months

\$10.91

Average rate per subscriber

\$7.79

Average rate per private message

20.11

Average weekly hours spent creating content

We also asked a series of open-ended questions. While these may be less common in surveys, they are crucial to informing others and ensuring that the right questions are asked in future research. It is through this rich source of data that we can challenge damaging narratives about workers in this space.

What effect does your work as an adult content creator have on your emotional well-being?

"It can be hard at times but honestly working in this industry gave me self-confidence that I never had before."

Overall it has improved my emotional well-being. It has massively improved my confidence and my ability to accept my own body, and I no longer feel like I should need to hide aspects of my life.

What effect does your work as an adult content creator have on your personal relationships?

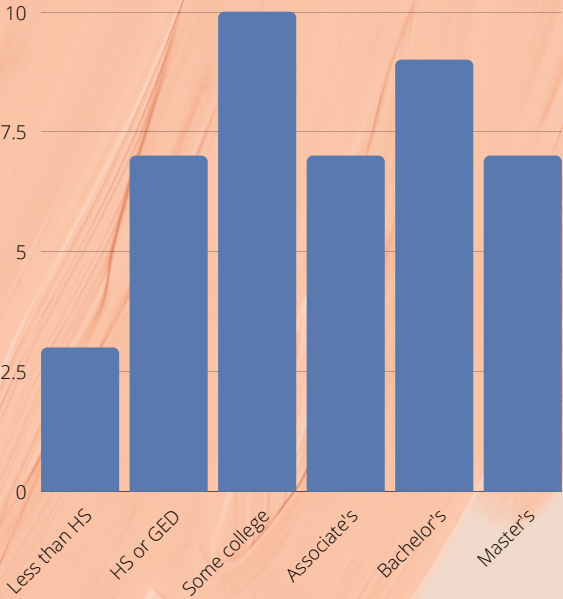
I am not "out" to portions of my family so it can be tricky to explain why I can't go to an event on a Sunday (one of my biggest income days). However, I have many people who are supportive of what I do and are cheering me on in reaching these goals ... Conversely, the stigma is very real and it has caused me to distance myself from people that I don't want to share this information with.

What motivated you to begin creating adult content online?

While money was a motivator for many, it was not the sole reason for working in the adult industry or creating online content. For some, it was about their passion for creativity, or the flexibility of scheduling. For others, it was an opportunity for empowerment.

"I am transgender, and was struggling massively with my body; having gone through years of therapy and several suicide attempts, I found that putting images online was the first thing that helped with my confidence and to actually accept my imperfections and the anatomy that I have. I did not and am not in it with the intention of making money from it."

Demographics



Most respondents indicated Cisgender female/Woman (30 of 42; 71%). Four indicated Nonbinary/Genderqueer, three indicated Transgender Female/Woman, two preferred to self-describe (e.g., "Genderqueen but pass as ciswoman"), two indicated Cisgender male/Man, and one preferred not to say.

Participants ranged from 21 to 71 years old ($M = 37.63$, $SD = 11.42$).

Most participants reported being White (28 of 42; 62%). Five (11%) indicated American Indian or Alaska Native, four (9%) indicated Black or African American, three indicated Asian, and two indicated Latino/a or Hispanic. Seven (17%) participants indicated they were more than one race/ethnicity.

Thank you

Research Contacts:
Emily Champion: ecampion@odu.edu
Kate Keeler: keeler.79@osu.edu