

How protective against child and adolescent aggressive behavior is a violence-free media diet?

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Growing Up
With Media

* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses can be found in: Ybarra M, Diener-West M, Markow D, Leaf P, Hamburger M, & Bower P. Linkages between internet and other media violence with seriously violent behavior by youth. Pediatrics. 2008;122(5):929-937, or by contacting GIPHR for further information.

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Presenter Disclosures

Michele Ybarra

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Motivation for study

Media violence's contribution to aggressive behavior has been reported across several studies (see the work of Huesmann, Eron, Bushman, Anderson, etc)

The role of violence-free media in preventing violent and aggressive behavior is less well studied.

Brief Description of the Growing up with Media survey

Online data collection among randomly identified households with adult members of Harris Poll OnLine

- Baseline data collected August – September 2006
- 1,588 households
- Youth between the ages of 10-15 years
- Internet use monthly in the last 6 months
- English speaking
- 26% response rate
- Data weighted to approximate US households with children 10-15 years of age
- Propensity scoring applied to address selection bias due to membership in the HPOL

Exposure to violent media

In the last 12 months,
 when you watch **TV or movies**, how many of them show...
 when you listen to **music**, how many songs talk about ...
 when you play **video, computer or Internet games**, how many show ...
 how many of the **websites** you go to show **real people**...
 how many of the **websites** you go to show **cartoons**...

physical fighting, hurting, shooting, or killing?

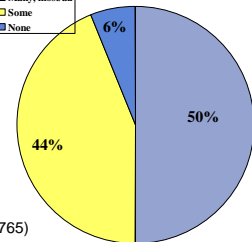
Almost none/none
 Some of them
 Many of them
 Almost all/all

(Cronbach's alpha = 0.76)

Composite 'violence exposure'

Based upon their answers, youth were placed into one of three categories:

■ Many, most/all
 ■ Some
 ■ None



"Almost none / none" on all 5 media types: 6.2% (n=113)

At least "Some" on at least one media type: 43.5% (n=710)

"Many" or "Almost all / all" on at least one media type: 50.3% (n=765)

Seriously violent behavior

- Shooting / stabbing someone: 1%, n=10
- Aggravated assault (involvement in a fight where someone required medical care, threatening someone with a weapon): 3%, n=66
- Robbery: 1%, n=25
- Sexual aggression: 2%, n=37

4.8% (Cronbach's alpha = 0.87)

Other aggressive behavior

Bullying: 38%, n=573

→ Shoving or pushing someone

Fighting: 29%, n=438

→ Been in a fight in which someone was hit,

→ Gotten into a fight where a group of your friends were against another group of people

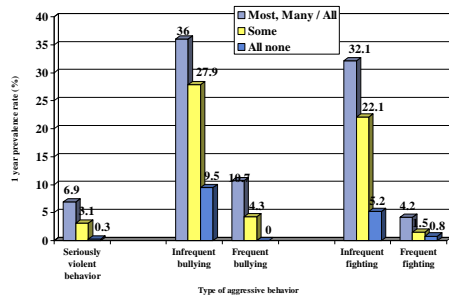
Demographic characteristics

Characteristic	"Many" or "Most/all"	Some	All None	P value
Youth age (mean)	12.9	12.4	11.9	<0.05
Female	39%	53%	80%	<0.001
White race	69%	72%	90%	0.009
Hispanic ethnicity	20%	18%	6%	0.04
Household income <\$35,000	24%	21%	22%	0.79
Parents married	73%	76%	72%	0.68

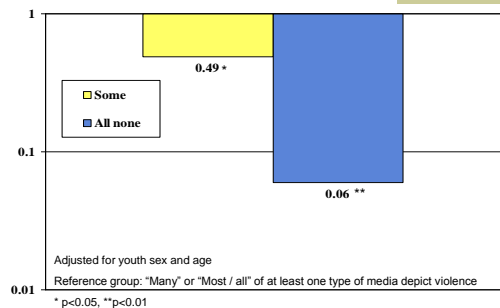
Psychosocial characteristics

Characteristic	"Many" or "Most/all"	Some	All None	P value
Alcohol consumption	18%	8%	0.9%	<0.001
Marijuana use	8%	3%	0%	0.008
Witness of attack in real life	57%	42%	22%	<0.001
Witness of spousal abuse	12%	6%	2%	0.001
Propensity to respond to stimuli with anger (Mean) (range: 10-30)	19.5	18.3	17.0	<0.05
Emotional closeness with caregiver (Mean) (range: 3-14)	6.0	5.2	4.5	<0.001

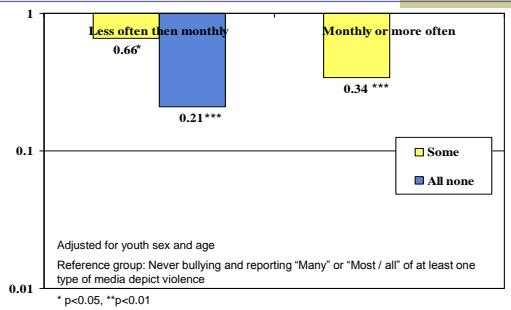
Prevalence of violent, bullying, and fighting behavior based upon violent media exposure



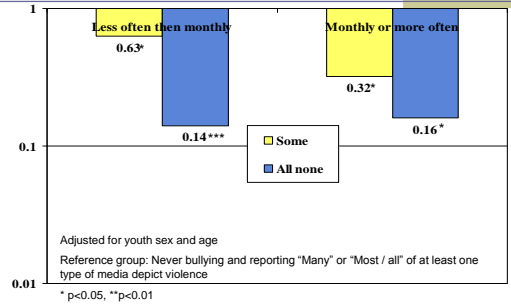
Relative odds of any **seriously violent behavior** given exposure to violent media



Relative odds of **bullying** given exposure to violent media



Relative odds of **fighting** given exposure to violent media



Synopsis

1 in 16 youth report **no exposure** to violence in media

Youth reporting no exposure to violence in media are more likely to be:

- White race, non-Hispanic ethnicity
- Younger
- Female
- Not reporting psychosocial problems (e.g., alcohol use, poor caregiver child relationships)

Synopsis

Youth who report **no exposure** to media violence are more than **80% less likely to concurrently report:**

- seriously violent behavior
- bullying behavior
- frequent fighting

When compared to otherwise similar youth of the same sex and age who report 'many', or 'almost all / all' of at least one type of media they consume is violent.

Limitations

Cross-sectional data preclude temporal inferences.

It's just as likely that a lack of exposure to violent media is leading to a reduction in aggressive behavior; or that less aggressive behavior leads to a lack of exposure to violent media

Findings are relevant only to households where caregiver and child have Internet access.

Respondents were not observed during the data collection process. It is possible that:

- Children were monitored by their parents
- Parents completed the youth survey

Implications

A lack of exposure to violent media may be protective against aggressive behavior.

→ even just moving youth from 'many', 'most/all' to 'some' violence may be influential.

Efforts to engage parents and increase their dedication to a 'no violent media' home should be increased.

→ particularly for Hispanic, non-White homes