

Reading Guide 7

Bushman, B. J., & Anderson, C. A. (2021). Solving the puzzle of null violent media effects. *Psychology of Popular Media*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000361>

1. What was the primary purpose of this article?

The purpose of this article is to describe the variance and invalid studies on the topic of harmful effects of violent media on adolescents. The article also details reasons and evidence as well as ideas on how to create a stronger study on this highly sought out topic.

2. Theoretically, what psychological processes are involved in short-term effects?

The psychological processes involved in short term effects are the effect of violent media may cause an increase in physiological arousal, connections to stimulating aggressive concepts in memory, and copying aggressive behavior.

3. Theoretically, what psychological processes are involved in long-term effects?

The psychological processes involved in long term effects are observance of an aggressive model influencing social learning, desensitization of emotion processing caused after continued exposure of violent media.

4. Define the following terms.

Trait aggression: Someone who is more likely to feel/be aggressive in response to situations.

Demand characteristics: Participants trying to understand the study by acting in unnatural ways.

5. After reading the section called, "Solving the Puzzle of Null Violent Media Effects," read through the factors listed in tables 1 and 2. Choose **three** factors that you find particularly compelling. Identify them, describe what they mean, and explain why you chose them.

Insufficient Exposure to Violent Media: Not showing enough and or media that was not violent enough. Chosen due to the effect on how what is shown is very important to these studies.

Lack of Suspicion Check and Lack of Manipulation Check: Determining if participants are on to the study/scheming it to affect the results.. It seems like these types of studies are easy to detect and manipulate as a participant, how might they check and be fully sure the participant is not onto the study?

6. Summarize the section called, "Different Researchers Might Have Different Objectives."

The section details on using partial effects as a way to control variables may affect violent media exposure. Using this technique allows researchers to use a larger audience and limit factors that could interrupt the study.

7. In the section called, “Interpreting the Magnitude of Violent Media Effects,” what do the authors conclude about the size of these effects?

The authors conclude that aggression is not only caused by violent media, with most studies having a small amount of effects between the two. Other factors are in account when studying the aggression of an individual.

8. What is the replication crisis?

The replication crisis means that the reproduction of studies can be difficult to accurately reproduce.

9. Were you convinced of the authors’ argument that media violence does have effects?

No. After reading the article what stood out was how one's personal traits of aggression would significantly affect studies. A lot of outside variables account to each person involved in the experiments that do not relate to violent media causing aggression.

10. Is there anything about this article that you found hard to understand (for Dr. Kretz to explain)? How long have studies on violent media been going on?