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## **The Impact of Media Violence on Children and Adolescents**

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June 2009

- A recent large-scale study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has established a conclusive link between exposure to media violence and adolescents' violent behavior and general aggression (Boxer et al., 2009).
- Boys who view violent television programming at ages two to five years are at increased risk for antisocial behavior at ages seven to 10 years (Christakis & Zimmerman, 2007).
- "At this time, well over 1000 studies—including reports from the Surgeon General's office, the National Institute of Mental Health, and numerous studies conducted by leading figures within our medical and public health organizations—our own members—point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. The conclusion of the public health community, based on over 30 years of research, is that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behavior, particularly in children" (Joint Statement on the Impact of Entertainment Violence on Children, Congressional Public Health Summit, 2000).
- There is consistent evidence that violent imagery on television and in other media increases the likelihood of aggressive or fearful behavior in younger children, especially in boys (Browne & Hamilton-Giachritsis, 2005).
- Children and adolescents exhibiting chronic, severe, aggressive behaviors are exposed to more television and video game violence than those not exhibiting such behaviors, even when controlling for intelligence, gender, and age (Kronenberg et al., 2005).
- A meta-analysis of studies on the impact of television violence on viewers revealed that it impairs memory for advertisements among all types of viewers, suggesting that sponsoring violent programming may not be profitable to advertisers (Bushman & Phillips, 2001).

- In a study of parents who visited their child health care providers, only 53% reported always limiting their children's violent television viewing; 73% believed that their children viewed television violence at least once a week (Cheng et al., 2004).
- A study of prime-time commercials on six television networks revealed that ratings disclosure information is often incomplete and falls far short of meeting the standard of the Federal Trade Commission, which was created to address marketing of violent entertainment to youth (Hoy & Andrews, 2006).
- An analysis of prime-time broadcast television programming revealed that fewer than four in 10 programs were labeled with the content-based ratings designed to alert parents to the presence of sexual and violent content, and a sizable number of programs without such ratings contained such content (Signorielli, 2005).

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