

## Television Violence

The US Center for Media and Public Affairs conducted a content analysis of a typical day of US television programming. The staff analyzed eighteen hours on ten channels on April 2, 1992. It typical day of television programming.

The ten channels chosen included the three major networks, Fox, public television, and some popular cable channels. In the 180 hours analyzed there were:

1,846 individual acts of violence

175 scenes of violence resulting in fatalities

389 scenes of serious assault

362 scenes of gunplay

673 scenes of punching, slapping, or pushing

226 scenes of threats involving a weapon

Remember, this was a typical day of American television. Other studies confirm these findings.

The US National Institute of Mental Health, found that 80.3% of all TV programs contain acts of violence.

What we can infer from these figures is that the average child regularly viewing, without parental guidance, will witness approximately two hundred thousand acts of violence on television by the time he/she is eighteen years old. This will include forty thousand murders.

The message to our children is that violence is normal -- that it is the way of dealing with problems, expressing anger, settling arguments, and proving oneself.

Source: Are We Teaching Violence? By David Walsh, Ph.D.  
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