

TABLE 13.4 Summary of Research Linking Media Depictions of Violence and Aggression

Study Type	Findings	Interpretation
Correlational	Children who watch lots of violent TV shows are more aggressive than those who watch little or no TV violence.	Viewing violence on television and aggression are correlated, but the causal direction is unclear.
Laboratory experiments	In a laboratory setting, participants randomly assigned to watch violent media behave more aggressively than those who do not watch violent media, especially if they are high in hostility and have been angered, frustrated, or insulted.	Viewing media violence has demonstrable short-term effects in laboratory settings, particularly for people who are already high in hostility and have been provoked.
Field experiments	In a naturally occurring environment, participants randomly assigned to view media violence do not behave more aggressively than those who do not watch media violence.	The causal effect of media violence in real-world settings has yet to be firmly established.