

Television's Impact on Children

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ABSTRACT. Television has a major impact on children's knowledge, attitudes, and behavior. Research has demonstrated the association between television viewing and four areas: (1) children's aggressive behavior; (2) racial and sex-role stereotypes; (3) decreased interest in reading and school activities; and (4) poorer health habits and attitudes. Methodological limitations make it difficult to draw firm conclusions about a causal relationship between television viewing and children's behavior. Representative studies in these four areas are reviewed, important methodological concerns are pointed out, and conclusions from the research findings are drawn. The implications of the data for pediatricians and other health professionals are discussed. *Pediatrics* 1985;75:233-240; television, health habits, aggression, sex roles, racial stereotypes, reading.

Television is a major source of information and influence for children's lives. More than 96% of American homes have at least one television set; the average American child spends more time watching television than in the classroom. In recent years, television is increasingly being perceived as having a negative impact on the mental and physical well-being of children. The theoretical basis for concern about television's impact on children is social learning theory, which predicts that a child will learn and imitate behavior seen on television, even in the absence of any obvious reinforcement. This learning through observation can apply to any content area presented, regardless of the intentions of the message and regardless of whether the message appears on programs or commercials.

As physicians, psychologists, and educators have become more involved in assessing television's im-

port and vocalizing their concern, they have focused primarily on television violence. However, during the last decade, three less well publicized areas of research have been developing. These areas include television's influence on children's attitudes toward minorities and women, its impact on children's reading abilities and classroom behaviors, and the effect of television advertising on children's health attitudes and behaviors. The purpose of this paper is to review the data of representative studies of television's impact on children in the four areas outlined above. In addition to summarizing the data, we shall also critically review the research methodologies for two reasons: (1) there is a controversy about the causal relationship between television viewing and children's behavior, stemming from limitations of the methodologies used, and (2) contradictory findings have been reported that may be a consequence of different assessment procedures for the variables assessed rather than of true differences. Regarding the first point, most of the research has demonstrated only an association rather than a causal relationship between television viewing and children's behavior. A causal relationship could only be proven by a longitudinal study in which children were randomly assigned to watch specific television programs over long periods of time. Because this is not possible, studies that assess the impact of television on children's behavior and attitudes independent of other possible confounding factors will be emphasized in this review. Regarding the second point, different procedures have been used to assess television viewing. For example, some studies use the total amount of television viewed, other studies assess specific types of television programs viewed, whereas still others measure children's expressed preference for certain types of programs. In addition, television viewing has been measured by parental recall, children's recall, or the use of a diary. The reliability of these methods is rarely reported. Finally, studies use different measures of assessing the same outcome

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Televisions Impact On Children And Adolescents A Special Interest Resource Guide In Education

Karin Nielsen-Saines



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The Research Process Myrtle S. Bolner, Gayle A. Poirier, 2004 *Television's Impact on Children and Adolescents* Sara Lake, 1981 **Responding To the Screen** Jennings Bryant, Dolf Zillmann, 2013-11-05 This volume takes the next step in the evolution of mass communication research tradition from effects to processes a more detailed and microanalytical analysis of the psychological processes involved in receiving and reacting to electronic media messages This domain includes investigations into those psychological processes that occur between the process of selecting media messages for consumption and assessments of whatever processes mediate the long term impact such message consumption may have on consumers subsequent behavior The editors strive to further understanding of some of the basic processes underlying the ways we gain entertainment and information **Ethics and Environmental Policy** Frederick Ferré, Peter Hartel, 1994 In this collection of essays leading environmentalists and philosophers explore the relationship between environmental ethics and policy both in theory and practice The first section of the book focuses on four approaches to change in ethical theory ecological science feminist metaphysics Chinese philosophy and holistic postmodern technology In subsequent sections the contributors emphasize the need for nontraditional solutions and attempt to expand awareness of the most pressing practical problems Among the topics discussed are the possibilities of real international cooperation the inequitable but economically intractable issue of global gasses the political and ethical challenges of city planning and the growing evidence of fundamental inappropriateness in treating land as legal private property This volume is based on essays presented in 1992 at the Second International Conference on Ethics and Environmental Policy The conference was held in response to the increasing need for a new ethics that would counter the traditional human centered dominantly individualistic approach of the industrial world toward the environment *Resources in Education* , 1992-04 **Children and Families Watching Television** , 1985 **Television and Young People** Kurt Aimiller, Paul Löhr, Manfred Meyer, 1989 **Resources in education** , 1992-07 *Subject Catalog* Library of Congress, 1970 **The Publishers' Trade List Annual** , 1989

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