



## AP Psychology 2000 Student Samples

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AP Psychology

2

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Page 1

In designing a study to research the claimed relationship between <sup>new city</sup> teenage arrests and popularity among New City teens of violent television shows, one would first need to operationally define the variables involved. The first variable is ~~defi~~ "violent crime", which can be defined as crime which involves harm inflicted on someone else. The other variable is "violent shows", which can be defined as shows which depict violence in an comical manner or as socially acceptable. To conduct the survey, a random, representative sample ~~would~~ of teens who are/have been arrested would need to be found. Next, a survey would be given to the teens about their show preferences and the amount of time spent watching these shows. Because the sample is random and representative, it can be generalized to represent the population. Two ethical concerns that would need to be addressed are the right to privacy of the teens, and the need for their consent to be apart of the survey/study.

I would not support the police chiefs' conclusion that watching violent television shows leads teens to commit violent crimes in New City because even though there may be a correlation in the data, correlation does not necessarily imply causation. There may be many other factors in the teens lives or upbringing that affects their actions.

A. The experiment involves one group of delinquents who watch violent shows and another control group which watches a Disney movie. Afterwards, the participants are tracked for a month and ~~the~~ whether or not they are arrested is recorded.

The independent variable is the amount of violence shown to the participants. For the experimental group, there is at least 45 minutes of violent behavior such as shooting, fighting, etc. In the control group, there is under 10 minutes of violence.

The dependent variable is the number of participants from each group that ~~is~~ are arrested in a one month period.

The population is drawn from all the 17 year olds (male & female) attending New City Highschool. The collection is ~~drawn~~ randomly by randomly selecting school identification numbers.

Due to the diverse population of New City Highschool, the random sample contains representatives from all racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, thus allowing the

Results to be generalized to all 17 year olds in New City. However, since only 17 year olds are used and due to differences in environments other than New City Highschool, the results can only be generalized to New

City 17 year olds. <sup>to be used in the experiment</sup> Permission is obtained from all of the subjects and also from their parents due to the fact that they aren't yet 18. No one is forced to participate without their consent.

Plus, when the chief of police announced the results of the experiment, no names are mentioned. Also, participants are free to quit if they feel it is <sup>the experiment</sup> necessary.

B. I do not support her conclusion. There are confounding variables in the experiment that ~~lead to~~ could lead to faulty results. Some teenagers might be naturally inclined to behave in ways that will lead to arrest due to the environment they live in or the behavior of close friends

2

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and family. There is no guarantee that their arrest was caused by watching a violent show, there are too many factors that have not been eliminated such as environment, past experiences, and personality.

Also, since the experiment was only for 17 year olds, it cannot be generalized to say that all teens commit crimes due to watching violence on television.

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AP Psychology

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page 1

UPON COMMENCING THIS STUDY I WOULD HYPOTHESE THAT WATCHING VIOLENT T.V. SHOWS INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ONE WILL PERFORM A VIOLENT ACT. I WOULD THEN HAVE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY OUTSIDE VARIABLES, SUCH AS: WHO THE PEOPLE HANG AROUND WITH, WHAT DO THEY DO IN THEIR FREE TIME, HOW MUCH T.V. DO THEY ACTUALLY WATCH, ARE THEY RELIGIOUS, DO THEY ATTEND SCHOOL/HAVE A JOB, & OTHER MATTERS WHICH MIGHT IMPACT ON MY STUDY. I WOULD THEN MAKE UP A QUESTIONNAIRE ASKING SUCH QUESTIONS, & OTHERS LIKE: WHAT VIOLENT PROGRAMMING DO YOU WATCH, DID YOUR PARENTS PHYSICALLY PUNISH YOU, WHAT IS YOUR ETHNICITY, & HOW MUCH ~~DO YOU~~ IS YOUR ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD BUDGET. I WOULD THEN <sup>RANDOMLY SAMPLE</sup> ~~SELECT~~ TEENS FROM THE COMMUNITY ENSURING I GET SOME FROM EVERY CLASS, RACE, & SOME WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE VIOLENT CRIMES, & SOME WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE OUTSTANDING CITIZENS. OF THOSE PARTICIPANTS, EACH WOULD FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN IT. I WOULD, BEFORE GIVING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE, ENSURE THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO NOT HAVE THE ~~FOR~~ RESULTS OVER GENERALIZED. I WOULD ALSO MAKE SURE THAT UPON PUBLISHING MY RESULTS, I DO NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION ANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS ~~AND~~ & THEIR INFORMATION, EG. JOHN SMITH IS CAUCASIAN WITH HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$1,000,000,000. I ALSO HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO PINPOINT THE CAUSE AS IT COULD HAVE DAMAGING EFFECTS. EG. AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 72% ~~OF~~ ~~THE~~ PEOPLE WHO COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS. THIS COULD CAUSE SOME MAJOR RACIAL WARS.

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AP Psychology

2.B.

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Page 2

I WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE POLICE CHIEFS CONCLUSION AS CORRELATION DOESN'T MEAN CAUSATION. THERE COULD BE (AND PROBABLY ARE) OTHER INFLUENCES WHICH CAUSE THE TEENS TO ACT THE WAY THEY. FOR EXAMPLE THE TEEN COULD HAVE HAD A VIOLENT UPBRINGING OR MAY BE HE GOT INFLUENCED BY A BAD CROWD.