

## **Chronology of Findings, Statements, and Actions on Media Violence (Excerpt from *Assassination Generation*)**

- In 1969, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence cited TV violence as a contributing factor to violence in our society.
- In 1972, the Surgeon General issued a report citing a clear link between aggressive behavior and violence in TV and movies.
- In 1975, the National Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) adopted a resolution demanding that networks and local TV stations reduce the amount of violence in programs and commercials.
- In 1976, the American Medical Association adopted a resolution “to actively oppose TV programs containing violence, as well as products and/or services sponsoring such programs” in “recognition of the fact that TV violence is a risk factor threatening the health and welfare of young Americans, indeed our future society.”
- In 1982, the National Institute of Mental Health found clear consensus on the strong link between TV violence and aggressive behavior.
- In 1984, the U.S. Attorney General’s Task Force on Family Violence reported on overwhelming evidence that TV violence contributes to real violence.
- Also in 1984, the Eron and Huesmann longitudinal study, which tracked 875 boys and girls for 22 years, concluded that those who watched more violent TV as children were more likely as adults to commit serious crimes and to use violence to punish their own children. In that same year, the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Task Force on Children and Television cautioned physicians and parents that TV violence promotes aggression.
- In 1985, the American Psychological Association’s Commission on Youth and Violence cited research showing a clear link between TV violence and real violence.

## **Chronology of Findings, Statements, and Actions on Media Violence (Excerpt from *Assassination Generation*)**

- In 1989, the National PTA again called upon the TV industry to reduce the amount of violence in its programs.
- In 1990, Congress passed the Television Violence Act, which gave the three major networks an antitrust exemption for three years so they could formulate a joint policy to reduce violence in TV programming. When the networks failed to do so, Congress threatened sterner legislation two years later. Ultimately, Congress decided that no major reduction in the level of violence on television occurred as a result of the act.
- In 1992, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* concluded, “The introduction of television in the U.S. in the 1950s caused a subsequent [15 years later] doubling of the homicide rate.” The study continued, “If, hypothetically, TV technology had never been developed, there would today be 10,000 fewer murders each year in the U.S., 70,000 fewer rapes and 700,000 fewer injurious assaults.”
- Also in 1992, an American Psychological Association report concluded that 40 years of research on the link between TV violence and real-life violence had been ignored. “The scientific debate is over,” it concluded, and that federal policies were needed to protect society from the effects of media violence.
- In 1994, the Center for Media and Public Affairs found that, from 1992 to 1994, depictions of serious violence on TV increased 67 percent.
- In 1998, the National TV Violence Study concluded that 60 percent of all TV programs were violent and that “there are substantial risks of harmful effects from viewing violence.”
- Also in 1998, UNESCO reviewed studies of media violence from 25 countries and documented an international concern that violent television and movies were forming a

## **Chronology of Findings, Statements, and Actions on Media Violence (Excerpt from *Assassination Generation*)**

“global aggressive culture.” The organization particularly cited violent TV and movies produced in the U.S. that were being exported around the world.<sup>i</sup>

- V. Mathews et al., “Media Violence Exposure and Frontal Lobe Activation Measured by Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Aggressive and Nonaggressive Adolescents,” *Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography* 29, no. 3 (2005): 287-92
- C. Anderson, A. Sakamoto, D.A. Gentile, N. Ihori, A. Shibuya, S. Yukawa, M. Naito, and K. Kobayashi, “Longitudinal Effects of Violent Video Games on Aggression in Japan and the United States,” *Pediatrics* 122, no. 5 (2008): e1067-e1072.
- D. Gentile, C. Hyekyung, A. Liao, T. Sim, D. Li, D. Fung, and A. Khoo, “Pathological Video Game Use Among Youths: Two-Year Longitudinal Study,” *Pediatrics* 127, no. 2 (2011): e319-e329.
- T. Hummer, “Media Violence Effects on Brain Development,” *American Behavioral Scientist* 59, no. 14 (July 2015): 1790-1806.

---

<sup>i</sup> You can read more *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill*, pages 132-136 by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.