

Do Violent Video Games Make Kids Violent?

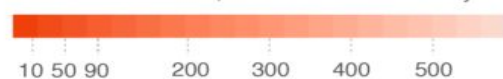
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What's The Big Deal?

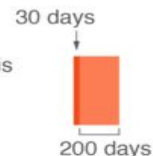
Days Between School Shootings Since Columbine

In recent years, the average number of days between school shootings in the United States has decreased.

The darker the color, the fewer number of days between school shootings



The number of days is also indicated by the width of the bands



Average number of days between shootings

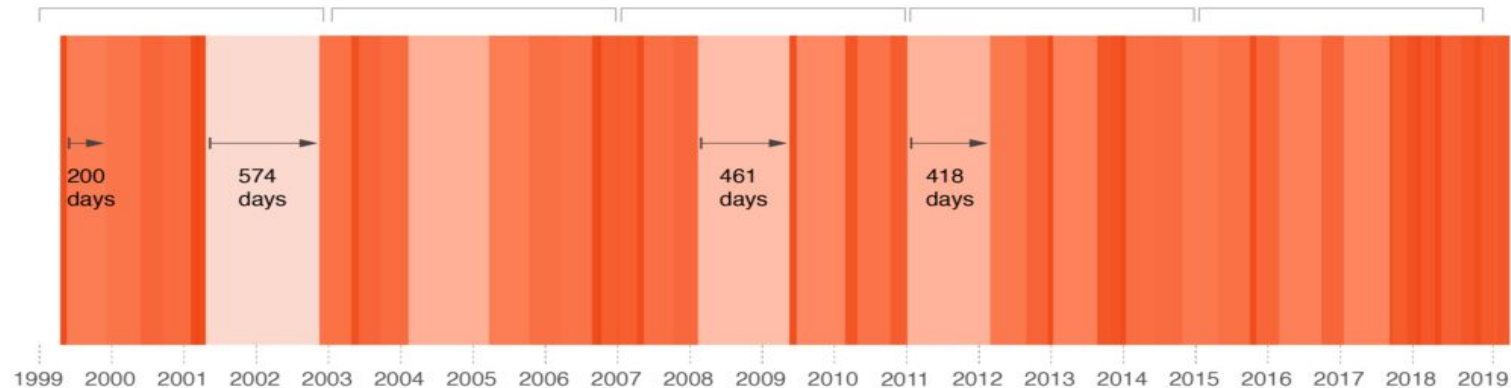
1999-2002
122

2003-2006
112

2007-2010
133

2011-2014
133

2015-2018
77



Myth about video games causing violence

- The availability of violent video games has caused an epidemic of violence among young people
- According to federal crime statistics, juvenile crime is at a 30 year low
- Most young people play video games but most of them do not go on to commit violent acts
- Strongest risk factors for school shootings are mental stability and home life, not violent video games

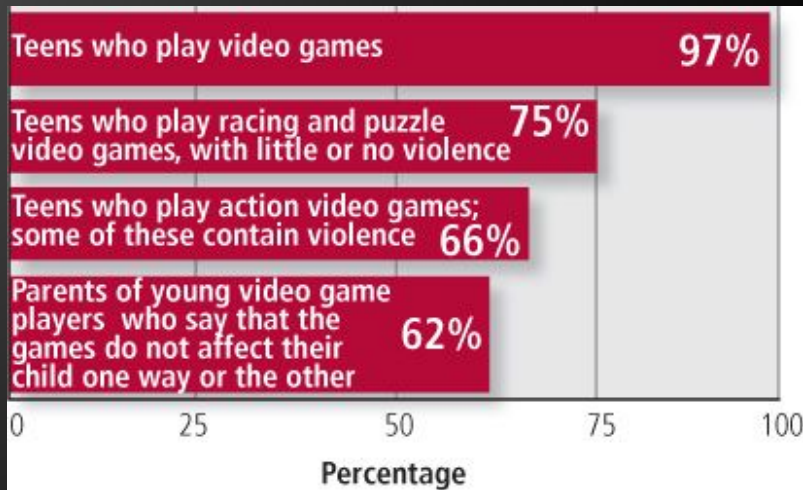
Argument #1: Violent Media Cause Kids to be Violent

- All media has become more violent as time passes
- While TV shows and movies may show violent content, the individual takes an active role in video games
- People also argue that violent video games desensitize teens to violence

Argument #2: Video Games Are Not Responsible for Violent Behavior

- Mass shootings where teens are involved are mostly due to the individual's environment or mental state
- Most recent mass shooters had manifestos that outlined their unhealthy thought processes, which resembled “us vs them” mindsets

Source: PEW Internet & American Life Project, September 2008.



Results Found Through Studies

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwv_wTUNwLs

- While violent video games do not necessarily have a correlation to violent acts, they do have a correlation between aggression
- How this aggression is acted upon depends on the individual's environment, surrounding situation, and mental state
- The 3 biggest personality traits that tend to lead to action based of aggression are:
 - High neuroticism
 - Disagreeableness
 - Low levels of conscientiousness

Discussion Questions

1. After listening to us, what are your thoughts on the question of whether video games cause violence?
2. Do you think violence in video games should be toned down, or do you think they are fine as is?

URLs of Sources:

<https://www.chds.us/ssdb/are-school-shootings-becoming-more-frequent-we-ran-the-numbers/>

<https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/07/us/ten-years-of-school-shootings-trnd/>

<https://www.pbs.org/kcts/videogamerevolution/impact/violence.html>

<https://www.dana.org/article/do-violent-video-games-lead-to-violence/>

https://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/violent-video-games-and-young-people

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/09/no-evidence-that-violent-video-games-are-causing-mass-shootings.html>