Surveying the television habits of teenagers, this annotated bibliography contains 30 references of articles and papers in the ERIC database. The first section, "Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol," addresses such issues as the relationship of viewing sexual content to sexual activity and sex role acquisition, and relationships between amount of viewing and the way youth deals with stress and other pressures. Sources in the second section, "TV Violence and Teenage Behavior," examine concerns such as the relationship between media content and antisocial behavior and possible connections between fantasy violence and real-world violence. Sources cited in the section on "Impact on Other Social Behaviors" deal with TV's possible role as a socializing agent and relationships between television viewing and academic achievement. In the last section, "Viewing Habits," the sources cited examine and report on the monitoring of television viewing, parental intervention, educational uses of television, and other concerns parents and teachers are likely to have. (MS)
Teenage Television Viewing

by Michael Shermis

While working as a group home houseparent with juvenile delinquent boys, I frequently wondered how much effect their television viewing was having on them. I watched as they viewed normal prime-time television filled with violence, sexual content, and sometimes with apparently misleading or stereotyped information. Were these programs harmful to them or helpful in their socialization? Were there any benefits to the shows they were watching? Which might be educational? Could the television facilitate communication with these youths? Or was TV's only benefit that it could be a source of escape? How much TV should I let them watch? Those teachers and parents who are concerned with these questions and others will find this selection of documents from the ERIC database helpful and informative.

This FAST Bib has been divided into four sections. Sources cited in the first, "Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol," address such issues as the relationship of viewing sexual content to sexual activity and sex role acquisition, and relationships between amount of viewing and the way youth deals with stress and other pressures. Sources in the second section, "TV Violence and Teenage Behavior," examine concerns like the relationship between media content and antisocial behavior and possible connections between fantasy violence and real-world violence. Sources cited in the section on "Impact on Other Social Behaviors" deal with TV's possible role as a socializing agent and relationships between television viewing and academic achievement. In the last section, "Viewing Habits," the sources cited examine and report on the monitoring of television viewing, parental intervention, educational uses of television, and other concerns parents and teachers are likely to have.

Abstracts for some of the articles cited here have been abbreviated to conform to the FAST Bib format. The ED numbers for sources included in Resources in Education have been included to enable the user to go directly to microfiche collections, order from the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS), or go to PIIE for the full abstract on those sources not available through EDRS. The citations to journals are from the Current Index to Journals in Education, and these articles can be acquired most economically from library collections or through interlibrary loans. Reprint services are also available from University Microfilms International (UMI) and from the

Original Article Tearsheet Service (OATS) of the Institute for Scientific Information.

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Impact on Health, Sexual Behavior, Use of Alcohol


Examines the relationship of the frequency of viewing sexual content on television and sexual activity among a sample of adolescents.


Examines and evaluates the main findings of recent work on television and sex role acquisition, points out gaps and limitations in present inquiry, and sketches a framework around which future research might usefully address some of the remaining questions.


Examines the intervening and/or conditioning roles of integration into peer groups (as a traditional socializing agent) and access to new video technology via home cable viewing (as a new socializing agent) in the relationship between television viewing and adolescents' sex-role images.


Draws upon ideas about "television effects" and the adolescent peer group to illustrate how interconnections between these two socializing agents contribute to the adolescent's "construction of social reality." Examines how gender, sexual, consumer, and occupational roles as enacted by teenagers are a product of media and peer group influences.


Focuses on the association between early sexual activity and, respectively, household structure, television viewing, sex education, race, and parer 1-teen communication.
Impact on other Social Behaviors


Examines how children's understanding of social interaction portrayed on television changes with age.


Finds that students (grades 6-12) who were heavy viewers of crime shows were more likely to have anticult-libertarian attitudes. Suggests that television entertainment may be an important source of political learning.


Summarizes research from the California Assessment Program (1980) and the Foundation for Child Development (1976) concerning the relationship between student academic achievement and television viewing habits.


Examines both general and specific parent-child television viewing experiences together and interactions related to television, whether the child has watched with a parent or alone.


Outlines research into teenage viewing preferences which was undertaken prior to production of a television series for CITY-TV, Toronto that was designed to attract as large a teenage audience as possible, and to promote "socially responsible" attitudes. Discusses effects on instructional television programming.


Examines both the short-term and long-term effects of television advertising on the development of adolescents' consumption-related orientations.

Viewing Habits


Examines the influence of duration and amount of soap opera viewing by sixth and seventh graders on their perceptions of relational fragility and importance of talk in managing relationships. Mediating variables of viewing motives, experience with peer relations, and family structure are also examined.


Contends that parental intervention with respect to television viewing is necessary for both young children and adolescents. Lists guidelines that give a purpose for watching television.


Discusses pressures that may cause stress in children and adolescents. States that shifting family patterns due to divorce or working parents, stressful situations at day care centers, busy schedules during adolescence, test anxiety at school, and watching violence on television all can increase stress for today's children.


Determines the extent to which light, moderate, or heavy television viewers differ regarding alcohol use. Finds that heavy television viewers consumed alcohol significantly more often than light and moderate viewers, especially the former, particularly when demographic variables were controlled simultaneously.


Finds that middle-school level students watch more television than any other age group and that they are exposed to violence, sex, use of drugs, and sex role socialization in many programs. Suggests schools can help students become discriminating consumers of television.

**TV Violence and Teenage Behavior**


Concludes that adolescent aggression increases with perceived reality of television violence.


Investigates relationships among factors such as teenagers' videogame playing, watching violent television programs, antisocial behavior, and self-esteem.


Contains the testimony of researchers from governmental agencies and media organizations, representatives of scientific associations, scholars, early childhood educators, and television personalities concerning the effects of televised violence on the behavior of children, adolescents, and adults.


Explores the hypothesis that heavy television viewing, particularly the viewing of a great deal of violence, cultivates certain misconceptions about social reality. Finds that for adolescents there was only scant evidence that television might alter perceptions of social reality in a way that is consistent with its content.
Compton, Mary F. "Television viewing habits of early adolescents," Clearing House, 57 (2), October 1983, pp. 60-62.  Disputes previous research findings that the amount of time spent viewing television declines significantly during the adolescent years.

Comstock, George, and Paik, Hae Jung. "Television and children: A review of recent research." ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, Syracuse, N.Y., 1987. 71 pp. [ED 292 466]  Reviews recent empirical research on the effects of television on children and teenagers by examining the results of two surveys which were conducted to determine the opinions of experts in the field.


Gallup, George, Jr. "Forecast for America," Television and Families, 8 (1), Winter 1985, pp. 11-17.  Examines views of current U.S. teenage population regarding valued traits and family-shared television viewing habits, as well as overall trends in society among the adult population. Reports on a national survey conducted to determine proportion of adults who viewed television with their children on a regular basis.


Lawrence, Frances Cogle, et al. "Adolescents' time spent viewing television," Adolescence, 21 (82), Summer 1986, pp. 431-436.  Examines the amount of time adolescents spend viewing television. Finds that 1) adolescents viewed television 147 minutes per day; 2) employment of mother significantly affected the time adolescents spend viewing television; and 3) sex of adolescent; age of father, mother, and adolescent; education of father and mother; income of family; and day of week were not significant factors.

