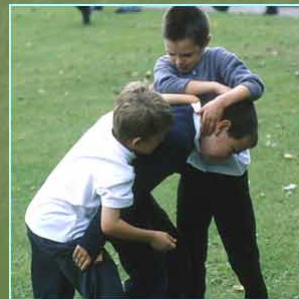


# Media Violence as a Risk Factor for Children: A Longitudinal Study



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## The Challenge I Received

- Study of 607 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders  
(Gentile, Lynch, Linder, & Walsh, 2004, *Journal of Adolescence*)
- Students who play more violent video games:
  - Hostile attribution bias ( $r = .11$ )
  - Arguments with teachers ( $r = .20$ )
  - Physical fights ( $r = .32$ )
  - Negatively correlated with grades ( $r = -.23$ )

All correlations  $p < .001$





## Participants



- 430 3<sup>rd</sup> ( $N = 119$ ), 4<sup>th</sup> ( $N = 119$ ), & 5<sup>th</sup> ( $N = 192$ ) graders
- Five MN schools:
  - 1 Private, 4 Public
  - 4 Suburban, 1 Rural
- 51% Male, 49% Female
- 7-11 ( $M = 9.7$ ;  $SD = 1.0$ )
- 86% Caucasian



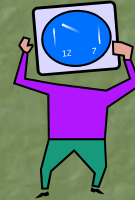
## Method

- Surveyed at two points in time during school year
- Students – 3 surveys
  - Home media habits (TV, Video Games, Movies/Videos)
  - Hostile attribution bias
  - Peer nomination
- Teachers – 1 survey
  - Child aggressive and prosocial behaviors



## Average Media Use

- TV: 20.8 hours/week ( $SD = 13.9$ )
  - Boys: 22.6 ( $SD = 13.9$ )
  - Girls: 19.0 ( $SD = 13.6$ ) ( $t(414) = 2.6, p < .01$ )



- VG: 9.6 hours/week ( $SD = 11.6$ )
  - Boys: 13.4 ( $SD = 13.5$ )
  - Girls: 5.9 ( $SD = 7.8$ ) ( $t(407) = 6.8, p < .001$ )

## Simple Correlations Time 1 → Time 2



- Students who consume more media violence at Time 1:
  - Time 2 Hostile attribution bias ( $r = .22^{***}$ )
  - Time 2 Verbal aggression ( $r = .31^{***}$ )
  - Time 2 Relational aggression ( $r = .02$ )
  - Time 2 Physical aggression ( $r = .44^{***}$ )
  - Time 2 Prosocial behavior ( $r = -.35^{***}$ )
  - Time 2 Peer rejection ( $r = .15^{**}$ )
  - Time 2 Grades ( $r = -.14^*$ )

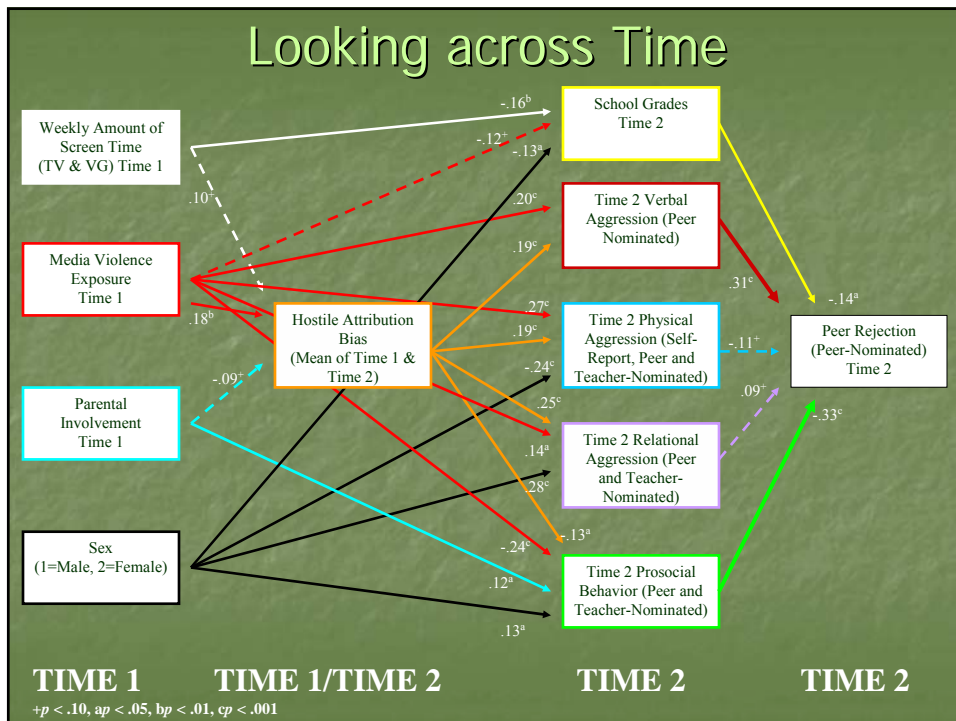
\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$



# Longitudinal Results



- Media Violence Exposure at Time 1 was a significant predictor of
  - Time 2 Hostile Attribution Bias  
(Controlling for sex, race, lag, parental involvement, & Time 1 Hostile Attribution Bias)
  - Time 2 Verbally Aggressive Behavior
  - Time 2 Physically Aggressive Behavior  
(Controlling for sex, race, lag, parental involvement, Time 1 Hostile Attribution Bias, and Time 1 Agg Beh)



*"Abeunt studia in mores."*  
(Pursuits become habits.)

Ovid

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence,  
then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle

"The chains of habit are generally too small to  
be felt until they are too strong to be broken."

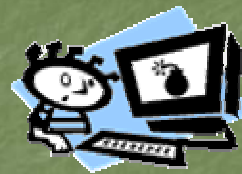
Samuel Johnson

"Habit is second nature, or rather, ten times  
nature."

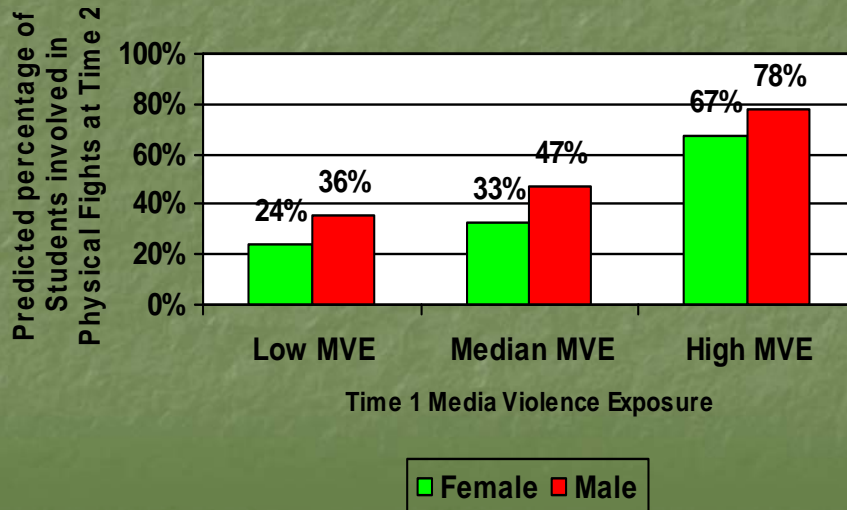
William James

## Reconceptualizing Media Effects

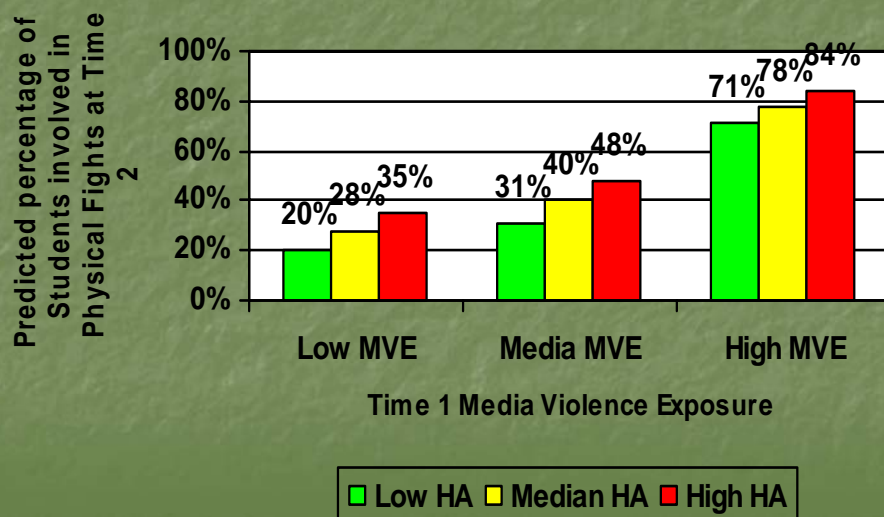
- Beyond basic question
- Moderators & Mediators
  - e.g., Hostile Attribution Bias, sex, etc.
- Risk & Resilience Developmental Framework



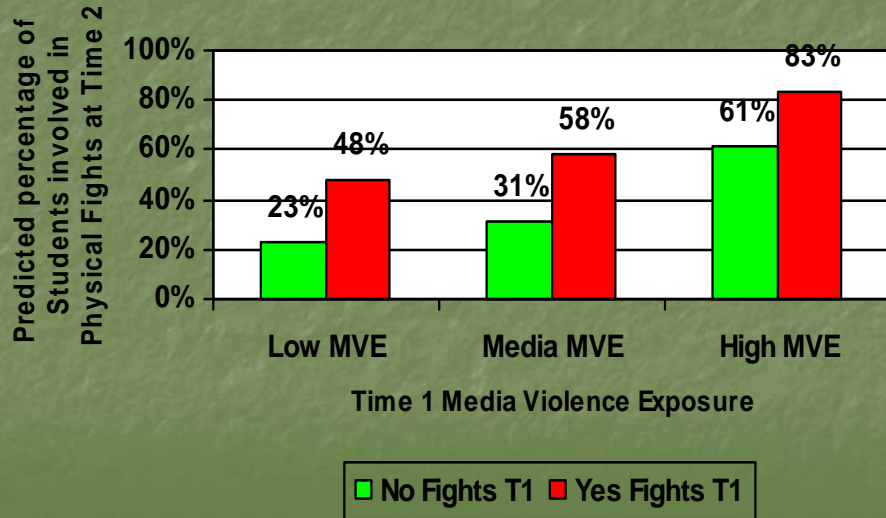
## Risk Factors: Sex & Media Violence Exposure



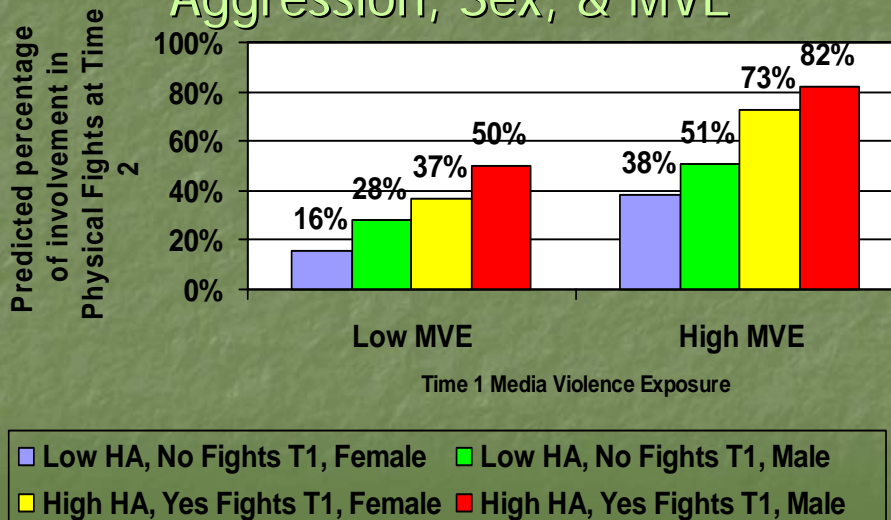
## Risk Factors: Hostile Attribution Bias & MVE



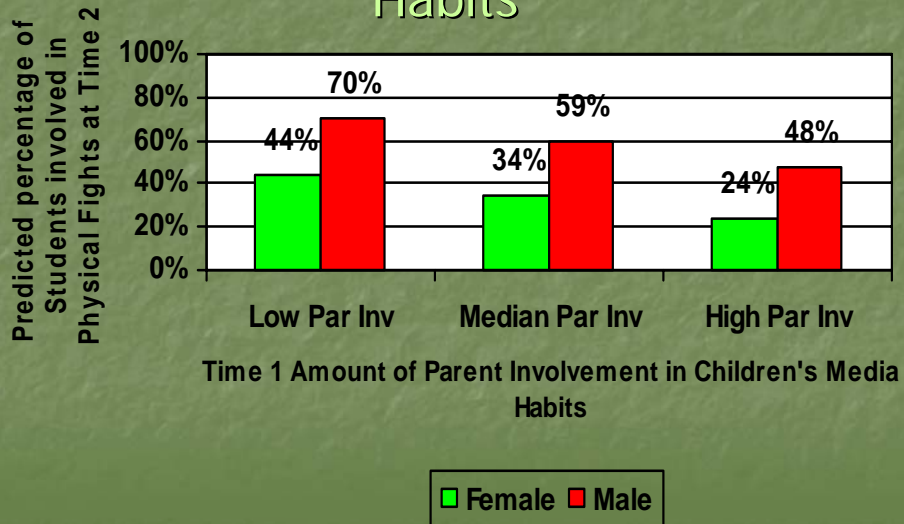
## Risk Factors: Prior Aggression & MVE



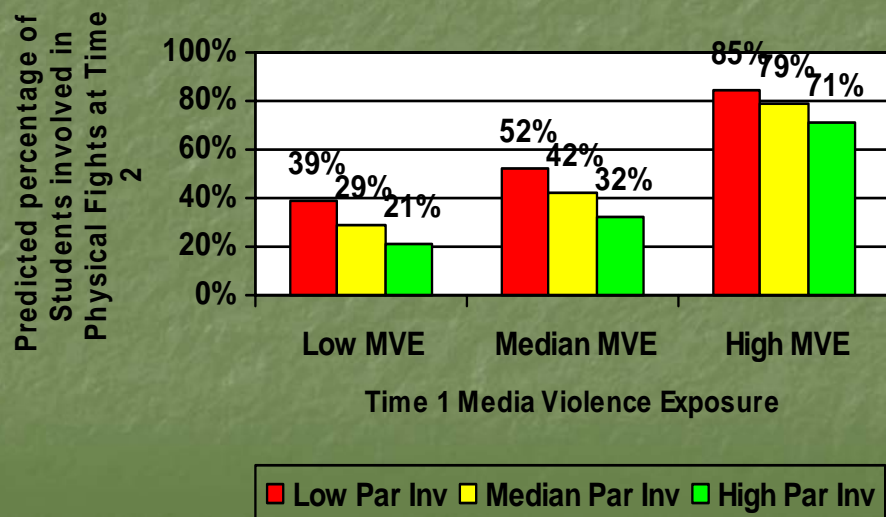
## Cumulative Risk Factors: Hostile Attribution Bias, Prior Aggression, Sex, & MVE



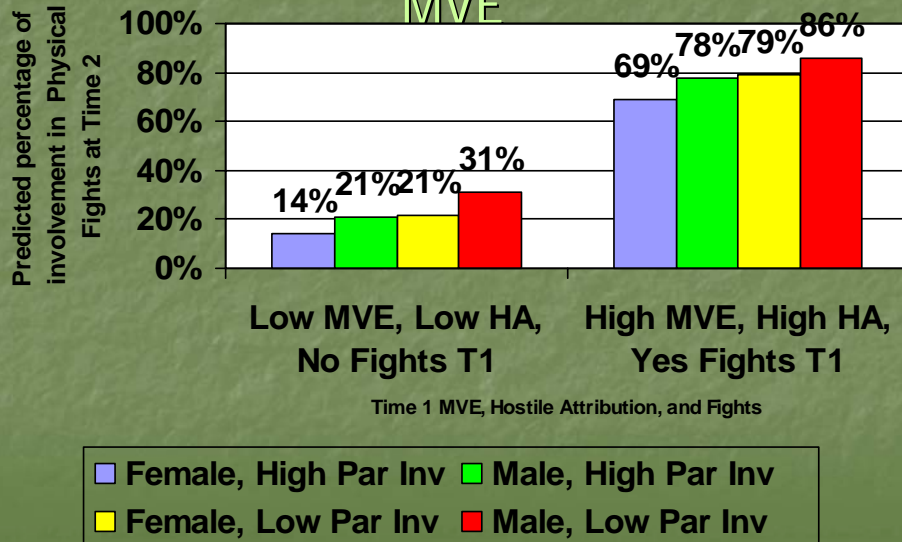
## Protective Factors: Parental Involvement in Children's Media Habits



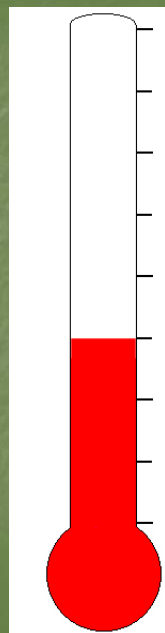
## Protective & Risk Factors: Parental Involvement & MVE



## Sex, Parent Involvement, Hostile Attribution Bias, Prior Aggression, & MVE



## Media Violence as a Risk Factor



- Shooting or stabbing someone
- Hitting with intent to injure
- Occasional threats of violence
- Pushing and shoving
- Occasional violent thoughts/fantasies
- Verbally aggressive behavior
- Occasional aggressive thoughts/fantasies
- Occasional rude behavior
- Routinely respectful and polite behavior