


Nunes, K. L., Pedneault, C. I., & Hermann, C. A. (2022, July 18-22). Do evaluative attitudes toward violence affect violent behavior? In K. L. Nunes (Chair), *Evaluative attitudes toward violence* [Symposium]. International Society for Research on Aggression XXIV World Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

You hitting a guy.


bad



7

You hitting a guy who hurts someone you care about.


sad



8

You hitting a guy who steals from you.

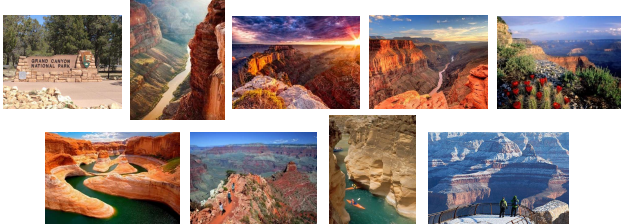
spoil



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Control Condition


- The Grand Canyon is an impressive site with something for everyone to enjoy.



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You hitting a guy.


bridge



11

You hitting a guy who hurts someone you care about.

page




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You hitting a guy who steals from you.


section



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Violent Behavior Vignette Questionnaire (VBVQ)


- VBVQ (Nunes et al., 2021) was designed to measure men’s current criminal violent behavior against other men



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VBVQ

- 10 vignettes
- Say what you really would do if you were actually in that situation right now
 - Initial scenario
 - First response
 - Reaction from antagonist
 - Second response



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Response Options: “What do you do?”

- **Report it to someone** – report what he’s doing (or what he did) to someone like the manager, police, or security, and ask them to deal with the problem
- **Talk it out** – without insulting him **Non-violent** let him know you’re not okay with what he’s doing (or what he’s doing) things out peacefully
- **Insult him** – say something insulting to him, like swearing at him or calling him a name
- **Joke about it** – joke about it to yourself or other people around you
- **Shove him**
- **Hit, punch, kick, or tackle him** **Violent**
- **Threaten to hurt him**
- **Ignore it** – don’t do or say anything about it
- **Leave** – go somewhere else to get away from the person or situation **Non-violent**

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VBVQ Total Scores


- **Continuous:** Proportion of vignettes with a violent response
 - Total scores can range from 0.00 (no violent responses at all) to 1.00 (a violent response for all 10 vignettes).
- **Dichotomous:** No violent responses at all (0) vs. Any violent response for any vignette (1)



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Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ)

- EVQ (Nunes et al., 2021) was designed to measure men’s evaluative attitudes toward their own (real or hypothetical) violence against other men
- 17 items rated on one of three 4-point evaluative response scales
- Total score = mean of item responses; can range from 1.00 to 4.00




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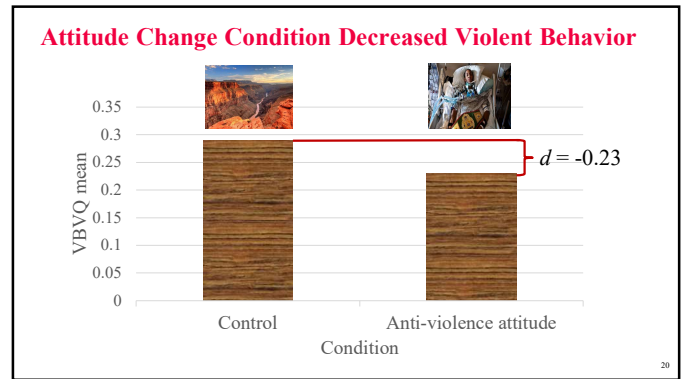
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Manipulation Check

- Mean EVQ scores were lower for participants in the experimental condition ($M = 1.99, SD = 0.75$) than in the control condition ($M = 2.17, SD = 0.77$; $d = -0.24, 95\% CI [-0.47, -0.004]$).




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Correlation Between Evaluative Attitudes and Violent Behavior


- More positive evaluative attitudes toward violence (as measured by the EVQ) were strongly associated with more violent behavior on the VBVQ
 - Overall $r = .62, 95\% CI [.54, .69]$
 - Attitude-change condition $r = .64, 95\% CI [.52, .75]$
 - Control condition $r = .60, 95\% CI [.48, .70]$



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Limitations


- Small effect, likely temporary
- VBVQ: selection vs. enactment of violent behavior
- Focused on men
- Demand characteristics?



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Conclusion

- Evaluative attitudes towards violence may play a role in violent behavior



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Thank you!






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Do Attitudes Toward Violence Affect Violent Behavior?

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ABSTRACT
Attitudes toward violence are important in theoretical explanations of violent behavior and efforts to reduce violent behavior. Though an association between attitudes and violent behavior has been demonstrated, most studies have used correlational/observational research designs. We conducted a randomized experiment to test the effect of attitudes toward violence on violent behavior with 285 men from the community. Participants were randomly assigned to receive material to

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