
Comparing Treatments for Aggression among Youth Exposed to Violence

**Chris D. Erickson, Ph.D. & Monica M.
Megivern, Ed.D.**

The George Washington University

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Introduction

- Prevalence of Youth Violence
- Consequences of Youth Violence

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Causes of Youth Violence

- Violence Exposure
- Aggressive Attitudes
- Mental Health Concerns

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Violence Exposure

- Rates of exposure among youth
- Consequences of exposure – short term
- Consequences of exposure – long term

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Aggressive Attitudes

- Associated factors
- Usefulness as an indicator of violence

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Treating Youth Violence

- Theoretical underpinnings of interventions
- Common approaches to programming
- Outcome research
- Need for additional research

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Comparison of Treatments

- Methods
- Sample
- Interventions

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Research Questions:

- *Does conflict coping skills training or trauma reduction counseling reduce the aggressive attitudes of youth exposed to violence significantly more than no treatment?*
- *Does either intervention significantly affect students' attitudes toward school?*
- *Is the effectiveness of either treatment significantly related to students' reported level of exposure to violence?*

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Study Design

Pre-test	Treatment I	Post-test
Pre-test	Treatment II	Post-test
Pre-test	Control Group	Post -test

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Treatment I: Conflict Coping Skills Training

- Session I: Experiences with Conflict
- Session II: Styles of Interpersonal Influence
- Session III: Competition and Cooperation
- Session IV: Coping with Anger
- Session V: Achieving Cooperative Outcomes
- Session VI: Applying Skills for Solutions

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Treatment II: Treatment of Violence Exposure

- Session I: Experiences with Conflict
- Session II: Our Conflict History
- Session III: Common Themes about Conflict
- Session IV: Making Sense of Our Experiences
- Session V: Coping with Reactions to Conflict
- Session VI: Applying Awareness for Solutions

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Instrumentation

- Exposure to violence
- Family conflict
- Aggressive attitudes
- Conflict resolution style
- Attitudes toward school
- Commitment to school

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Implementation Issues

- Making students feel “singled out”
- Issues of student motivation
- Scheduling challenges

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Preliminary Findings

- Sample Characteristics
- Exposure to Violence
- Aggressive Attitudes

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Limitations of the Study

- Self-report methodology
- Duration of treatments
- Generalizability

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Implications for Violence Prevention Programs

- Need to take outcome study results into consideration
- Need for more proven approaches that can be imported
- Need for training of school personnel in risk assessment

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Implications for Future Research

- Challenges of comparison research
- Need for standardized outcomes measurement
- Need for large scale testing – model development