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## Parents' Knowledge and Beliefs about the Impact of Exposure to Media Violence on Children's Aggression

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**Abstract:** The current study aimed to assess Jordanian parents' knowledge and beliefs about the effects of violent media on children's aggressive behavior. A sample of 262 parents of children aged 6-11 years completed a MediaQuotient questionnaire about children's media habits, media effects, and children's aggressive behavior. Parents reported that their children spend an average of 4.83 h (SD=2.12) watching TV, 3.20 h (SD=2.29) playing video games, 1.07 h (SD = 0.88) listening to music, and only 0.52 min (SD = 0.67) reading for pleasure per day. Parents have a moderate level of knowledge about the media effect (M = 15.49, SD = 3.439). Children of parents who have adequate knowledge about the media effect, spend less time watching TV ( $r = -.355$ ,  $p < .001$ ), playing video games ( $r = -.265$ ,  $p < .001$ ), and listening to music ( $r = -.347$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Ninety-two percent (n=241) of parents were concerned about the amount of sexual and of violent content their children see in movies or on TV. Children who spend more time playing video games ( $r = .201$ ,  $p = .004$ ) show aggressive relational behavior. This study suggests that increasing parents' knowledge of media of evidence-based programs may have a protective effect on children's behavior.