Lecture Outline

1. Aggression: What is it?
2. Types of aggression
3. Causes of aggression
Is It Aggression?

A hit man kills an unfaithful husband for 1,000 dollars

A jealous man kills his wife and her lover

A prison ward executes a criminal

A depressed person commits suicide

A man mentally rehearses a murder

A hunter kills an animal for a trophy

A Girl Scout tries to help an elderly women cross the street, but trips her by accident

A person punches a hole in the wall in anger

One person calls another a racial slur

A person slams a door shut after an argument
Aggression: What is it?

Any form of behavior directed toward the goal of harming or injuring another living being who is motivated to avoid such treatment.

- Behavior
- Directed toward a living organism
- Intentional
- Victim motivated to avoid harm
Types of Aggression

1. Instrumental aggression:
   A means to an end
   Intentional harm for purpose other than desire to inflict harm
Examples of Instrumental Aggression

A hit man kills an unfaithful husband for 1,000 dollars

A prison ward executes a criminal

A hunter kills an animal for a trophy

An American soldier kills an Iraqi soldier
Types of Aggression

2. Hostile aggression:

Aggression IS the end goal

Intentional harm done for purpose of inflicting harm
Examples of Hostile Aggression

A jealous man kills his wife and her lover

One person calls another a racial slur
Self-Esteem: valuing yourself

Narcissism: inflated view of self
Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality
Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality

- High in Narcissism: More aggressive
- Low in Narcissism
Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality
2. Aversive (unpleasant) situations – provocation
Provocation Study  
O’Leary & Dengerink (1973)

Computer programmed to give:

- consistently high shocks
- shocks of increasing intensity
- shocks of decreasing intensity
- consistently low shocks
What level shock did the participant give in return?

1. Consistently high shock
2. Consistently low shock
3. Increasing shock
4. Decreasing shock

![Graph depicting shock levels across trials](image-url)
Causes of Aggression

1. Narcissistic Personality
2. Aversive (unpleasant) situations
   - provocation
   - hot temperatures
Temperature and Violent Crime
Anderson (1987)

Temperature associated with...
- murder
- rape
- aggravated assault

Temperature not associated with...
- robbery
- burglary
- motor vehicle theft
Temperature

Violent crime higher when it’s hot outside

Implication:

Hot cities should have many more violent crimes than cold cities
# Hotopolis vs. Coolton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotopolis</th>
<th>Coolton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop. 600,000</td>
<td>Pop. 600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot days: 70</td>
<td>Hot days: 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 4 more murders in Hotopolis
- 14 more rapes in Hotopolis
- 122 more assaults in Hotopolis
Alternative Explanations

Culture: More crimes in south than north because south more steeped in a “culture of violence”

Demographics: Temperature doesn’t matter. Age, race, SES of South is what matters

Idle hands: More crimes summer than winter because children out of school and adults on vacation
Hot Temperature Study
Anderson et al., (1997)

Looked at relationship between temperature and crime from 1950 - 1995

Findings rule out each alternative explanations
RESULTS

1. Violent crime higher in hotter summers than cooler summers in both South and North *(rules out culture)*

2. Violent crimes higher in hotter summers than cooler summers in the same cities *(rules out demographics)*

3. Violent crime higher in hotter summers than cooler summers even though in both summers kids are not in school and adults take vacations *(rules out idle hands)*
Global Warming

Increases of 2 - 8 degrees

Increase in temperature should result in increase in violent crime