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 woman 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

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
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

Temperature and Violent Crime
Anderson (1987)

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

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

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

Temperature

Violent crime higher when it’s hot outside

Implication:
Hot cities should have many more violent crimes than cold cities

Hotopolis vs. Coolton

Hotopolis
Pop. 600,000
Hot days: 70
4 more murders in Hotopolis
14 more rapes in Hotopolis
122 more assaults in Hotopolis

Coolton
Pop. 600,000
Hot days: 30
Hot Temperature Study
Anderson et al., (1997)

Looked at relationship between temperature and crime from 1950 - 1995

Findings rule out each alternative explanation

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