Prevent Child Abuse America®

Resolution 11.14.02

Resolution on Violence in the Media

Whereas, American children on average spend more than six-and-a-half hours a day in front of television, computers, videotaped movies and video games.[1]

Whereas, 61 percent of television programs contain some level of violence, and only 4 percent of television programs with violent content feature an "anti-violence" theme.[2]

Whereas, violent television programming rarely shows the condemnation or consequences of violence; in fact, only 16 percent of violent programs feature the long-term, realistic consequences of violence.[3]

Whereas, research has found a positive correlation between media violence and aggressive thoughts and behaviors among children. [4]

Whereas, the prevalence of violent and sexually explicit song lyrics and music videos creates an atmosphere in which violence and sexual exploitation are more socially acceptable and may be considered routine or expected.

Therefore, be it resolved, that PCA America supports:

Reducing the amount of violence depicted in all multimedia forums, including but not limited to television, feature films, computer and video games, and music lyrics and videos, while also promoting the development of nonviolent entertainment.

Placing warning labels on audio or visual entertainment that contain sexually explicit and violent lyrics and images.

Encouraging ongoing collaboration among parents, educators, advocacy groups, broadcasters and government in order to create more hours of programming depicting positive, nonviolent themes in media.

[1] Woodard, IV, Emory, H, and Gridina, N (2000). *Media in the Home 2000, The Fifth Annual Survey of Parents and Children*. The Annenberg Public Policy Center of The University of Pennsylvania. Survey Series, No. 7.
[2] Smith and Donnerstein, National Television Violence Survey, 1998.
[3] Smith and Donnerstein, National Television Violence Survey, 1998.
[4] Bushman & Huesmann, 2000; Comstock & Scharrer, 1999; Geen & Thomas 1986; Huesmann et al. 1997; Rule & Ferguson, 1986; Paik & Comstock 1994 (meta-analysis).

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