

Baumeister, Roy F., Boden, Joseph M., & Smart, Laura. (1996). Relation of Threatened Egotism to Violence and Aggression: The Dark Side of High Self-Esteem. Psychological Review. 103(1), 5-33.

Purpose:

- Exam how self-appraisals are related to interpersonal violence.
- Exam how self-esteem affects violence in certain cases such as: murder and assault, rape, domestic violence between partners, and other domestic violence with parents and children.

Literature Review: Many studies have been done on self-esteem and the effect that it may have on violence. E. Anderson (1994) cited that low self-esteem was a persistent cause of violence among youth gangs, while Jankowski (1991) referred to “self-concept” of gang members as a cause of violence. Renzetti (1992) said that jealousy and possessiveness lead to domestic violence; Gondolf (1985) notes that wife beaters are usually characterized in having low self-esteem. All of these studies show evidence in violence due to self-esteem.

Methods:

- Sample: View many different researches done by many different researchers on different views. Some focusing on murder and assault, rape, domestic violence between partners, and other domestic violence with parents and children.
- Variables: In each case above researchers determined if the offender had a low or high self-esteem due to the action taken.
- Procedure: Used high self-esteem theory, a schematic representation of the relation of threatened egotism to violent behavior.

Results/Conclusions:

- It is threatened egotism rather than low self-esteem that leads to violence.
- Certain forms of high self-esteem heighten one’s proneness to violence.
- The higher the self-esteem, the greater the vulnerability to ego threats.
- Much violence is due to responses to derogatory remarks or acts by others.
- Violence may be more likely when the individual lacks alternative means to prove or gain his superiority.