Methods

• Meta-Analysis:
  - Effect Sizes:
    - Figure 1 shows the search strategy.
  - Inclusion criteria:
    - However, a substantial percentage of children do not report adverse effects of exposure to scary media.
    - Over 75% of 5-6 year olds report television induced fear (Korhonen & Cantor, 1999; Hoeckstra, Harris, & Helmick, 1999).
    - Films viewed in childhood (Cantor & Reilly, 1982).
    - Over 75% of 5-6 year olds report television induced fear (Korhonen & Cantor, 1999; Hoeckstra, Harris, & Helmick, 1999).

• Figure 1: Study search strategy

Moderator Variables

• Methodology: Experiment vs. Correlational.
  - Respondor: Child vs. Parent.
  - Age of Participant: Participants under 10 years old: under 10 vs. 10 or older.
  - Measure Type: Purely TV vs. Mixed Data.
  - Media Content: News vs. Fictional.
  - Outcome Measure: Fear, PTSD, Physiological, Sadness, Sleep problems.

Table 1: Moderators of Fear Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moderator</th>
<th>k</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-0.121</td>
<td>0.043</td>
<td>-2.85</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>.005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respondor</td>
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<td>0.085</td>
<td>-0.14</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>.894</td>
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<td>Age Under 10</td>
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<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>0.17</td>
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<td>.866</td>
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<td>.744</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Content</td>
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<td>0.15</td>
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<td>.999</td>
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<td>Outcome Measure</td>
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<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>.795</td>
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</table>

Results

• There was significant heterogeneity in effect sizes: \( Q(31) = 73.47, p < .001 \).
• There was a modest but consistent effect of scary TV exposure on children's fears: \( Zr = 0.30 [0.16, 0.44], p < .001 \).
• Table 2 shows the effect of each moderator variable on effect sizes.
  - Effect sizes were significantly stronger in experimental studies \( Zr = 0.30 [0.18, 0.42], p < .001 \), than cross-sectional ones, \( Zr = 0.18 [0.03, 0.36], p < .001 \).
  - All other moderator variables had small, non-significant effects.