

Review of: "Testosterone and the “Honor Culture” of Young Black Men"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is an interesting study that attempted to examine the relationship between high testosterone levels and increased violence among poor black males. This article is overall well-written and organized. Several issues can be considered to improve this paper.

I may disagree that “honor culture” itself can increase T levels among black males. I think, “honor cultures” or vigilance is mostly likely or partially to result from a high T level. I think it is critical to understand what we already know about the important determinants of T levels in males. For example, what are the biological, social, and physical factors which impact T levels in males? These factors could be genetic or social-environmental factors (e.g. sexual activities, physical activities, nutrition, etc). The understanding and examination of these factors could help us better understand why poor black males might have a higher T level if it is true.

In the introduction, it may be better to include background about the research on T levels and aggressive behavior. Many studies have suggested a link between T levels and aggression. For example:

Archer, J., Graham-Kevan, N., & Davies, M. (2005). Testosterone and aggression: A reanalysis of Book, Starzyk, and Quinsey's (2001) study. *Aggression and violent behavior*, 10(2), 241-261.

Book, Angela S., Katherine B. Starzyk, and Vernon L. Quinsey. "The relationship between testosterone and aggression: A meta-analysis." *Aggression and Violent Behavior* 6, no. 6 (2001): 579-599.

Batrinou, Menelaos L. "Testosterone and aggressive behavior in man." *International journal of endocrinology and metabolism* 10, no. 3 (2012): 563.

Archer, John. "Testosterone and aggression." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 21, no. 3-4 (1994): 3-25.

In the method, a section on “statistical analyses” may need to be included. I thought the author added the information in the results, which is inappropriate. In the section on “statistical analyses”, the author needs to clarify what statistical methods were used, how to address the complex survey data structure, the normal distribution of T levels, etc.

In the results, please add the line legends to each graph. It is easier to read the graphs.

