

LINK → DOES THE SOUND OF A  
CRYING BABY CORRELATE TO  
DISTRESS IN ADULTS?

All Links at the End

## STUDY I - INFANT CRIES RATTLE ADULT COGNITION

- “The findings suggest that cognitive control processes contribute to an attention bias to infant signals”
- In other words – this study effectively portrays that infant cries are distracting (and annoying) – in theory, this should cause a raise in blood pressure but that’s another area to research
- If infant cries effect thinking - they most likely have other physiological effects – this study makes our proposed experiment especially interesting

## STUDY 2 – THE CRY OF THE CHILD AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEARING LOSS IN PARENTAL GUARDIANS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- “The authors found that elevated noise levels produced from crying children can cause acute discomfort and mild pain to those exposed”
- “The findings thus support the notion that infant cries elicit a negative arousal bias that is distracting”
- Theory that constantly hearing the cries of babies can result in hearing loss
- Also – parents may be more likely to act impulsively to try to stop the discomfort they are feeling due to the crying – could be a factor in child abuse
- In conclusion – this study, while it focuses mostly on the relationship of a chronic crying baby and hearing loss, it also mentions the negative feelings adults can experience when listening to crying baby – and therefore is evidence for the question we are testing

## STUDY 3 - PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTIVITY TO INFANT CRYING: A BEHAVIORAL GENETIC STUDY

- Most promising study (for our experimental concerns) yet
- “Both males and females, parents and non-parents respond with physiological arousal to infant cry sounds, as manifested by cardiac acceleration and increases in skin conductance”
- In other words, proven that repeated infant cries → increased heart rate
- Does this mean increased blood pressure?

## STUDY 4 - DO WE NEED TO TEST BOTH MEN AND WOMEN EQUALLY AND FACTOR GENDER IN OUR EXPERIMENT?

- “Researchers asked men and women to let their minds wander, then played a recording of white noise interspersed with the sounds of an infant crying. Brain scans showed that, in the women, patterns of brain activity abruptly switched to an attentive mode when they heard the infant cries, whereas the men’s brains remained in the resting state”
- Therefore – we should test both men and women and record gender data, as this could have a serious impact on the results of our experiment
- Should we test if blood pressure rises higher in women than in men on top of whether it rises in general (when hearing crying baby sound)?

## WORKS CITED

Study 1

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4871531/>

Study 2

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25844672/>

Study 3

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1601-183X.2010.00624.x>

Study 4

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/womens-mens-brains-respond-differently-hungry-infants-cries#:~:text=%E2%80%9COur%20findings%20indicate%20that%20men,to%20care%20for%20the%20infant.>