

# Headline: Is age just a number when it comes to game restrictions?

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Today's societies are familiar with the phrase "video games" but are their age limits effective?

Some sources are indicating that age restrictions are not as influential as previous years, due to an increase in game console use. Although there are many negative drawbacks, some studies show that games can improve concentration and vision in teenagers. Dr Jo Twist, chief executive of the Association of UK Interactive Entertainment, said: "PEGI will provide a clear and consistent direction of age ratings for parents." However, due to a recent survey — which suggested 60% of participating students play videos games that are designed for eighteen year olds — 30% of parents were unaware of what their children were doing.

Although it is not illegal for parents to buy games for a child who is under the stated age, researcher Jürgen Freund said that parents think their child is mature enough, so that games will not influence them. This shows that they are not aware of the content of the game.

It is clear that age restrictions are not effective because games are being played by audiences that they're not intended for; therefore the system needs a dramatic change to allow games to be inaccessible for players under the permitted age. The first step in making it clear to the public that these games are not designed for younger gamers is to put in place more serious penalties for selling games to the younger generation. Daily articles are filled with tragic events involving violence, many involving young people; the games that involve crime are being constantly fed to teenagers, who play these games for up to six hours a day—perhaps there is a link?

The most highly sold game last year was a popular game involving guns and mature content, rated an 18, selling a staggering 80million copies worldwide. Something must change in restrictions on games, to stop the conflict and halt the increase in younger people being convicted for crime.