Violence Prevention, Health and Development

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Overview

1. How violence harms development?
2. Preventing violence: a great advance
3. What's missing from the current development agenda?
4. Strengthened agenda: strategies that work
5. Strengthened agenda: the necessary foundation
6. Conclusion
1. How violence harms development
The magnitude of the problem

Global Estimated Deaths due to Selected Health Problems

- Malaria: 2.78
- Road traffic: 1.66
- Violence: 1.61
- Tuberculosis: 1.19
- HIV/AIDS: 1.08

Millions of deaths per year
Suicide 54%

Homicide 35%

Collective violence 11%
Violent deaths by country income status, year 2004

N = 1.6 million

High income
9%

Low & middle income
91%
## Top 10 causes of death in ages 5-44 years, both sexes, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>5-14 years</th>
<th>15-29 years</th>
<th>30-44 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Childhood cluster</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 139</td>
<td>855 406</td>
<td>855 406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>118 212</td>
<td>354 692</td>
<td>368 501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>113 614</td>
<td>238 021</td>
<td>354 692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Respiratory infections</td>
<td>Self-inflicted injuries</td>
<td>Ischaemic heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>112 739</td>
<td>216 661</td>
<td>224 986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Diarrhoeal diseases</td>
<td>Interpersonal violence</td>
<td>Self-inflicted injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88 430</td>
<td>188 451</td>
<td>215 263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>War injuries</td>
<td>Interpersonal violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76 257</td>
<td>95 015</td>
<td>146 751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46 022</td>
<td>78 639</td>
<td>145 965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>War injuries</td>
<td>Respiratory infections</td>
<td>Cirrhosis of the liver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 671</td>
<td>65 153</td>
<td>135 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Poisonings</td>
<td>Respiratory infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36 362</td>
<td>61 865</td>
<td>102 431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tropical diseases</td>
<td>Fires</td>
<td>Liver cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 845</td>
<td>61 341</td>
<td>84 279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health consequences of violence

- Harms across development spectrum

Death
Injury
Mental illness
Chronic disease
Psycho-social impact
Overburdened health systems
Economic consequences of violence

→ hampers development

Direct Costs

- Medical
- Mental health
- Emergency response services
- Law enforcement services
- Judicial services

Indirect Costs

- Premature deaths
- Lost productivity
- Absenteeism
- Economic development
- Quality of life
- Other intangible losses

Vicious circle: ➔ violence ➔ deprivation
Violence obstructs achievement of MDGs

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

By far the largest burden of violence is borne by the poor and high level of interpersonal violence can exacerbate poverty.

Violence in the home, both between adults and against children, is linked with reduced attendance and non-completion of studies.
2. Preventing violence: a great advance
World report on violence and health

• First comprehensive review of the problem on a global scale
  •Magnitude and impact
  •Key risk factors
  •Interventions and policy responses
  •Recommendations

Violence can be prevented and its impact reduced

→ Public health approach
The public health approach to violence prevention

- Preventing violence before it occurs
- Focuses on preventing violence at the level of the population, not the individual
- Ecological model: individual, family/relationship, community, and societal levels
The public health approach to violence prevention

Systematic, evidence-based approach with 4 steps:

1. Define & describe
   What is the Problem?

2. Identify risk
   What are the risk factors and causes?

3. Develop and evaluate interventions
   What works and for whom?

4. Scaling up and cost-effectiveness
   Implement on large-scale & cost
Intersectoral action

Public health
Others
Justice
Housing
Police
Welfare
Education
Employment
Recommendations of WRVH

1. Create, implement, and monitor a national action plan for violence prevention
2. Enhance capacity for collecting data on violence
3. Define priorities for, and support research on, the causes, consequences, costs, and prevention of violence
4. Promote primary prevention responses
5. Strengthen responses for victims of violence
6. Integrate violence prevention into social and educational policies, and promote gender and social equality
7. Increase collaboration and exchange of information on violence prevention
8. Promote and monitor adherence to international treaties, laws, and other mechanisms to protect human rights
9. Seek practical, internationally agreed response to the global drugs trade and the global arms trade
Recommendations of WRVH

1. Create, implement, and monitor a **national action plan** for violence prevention
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3. Define priorities for, and **support research** on, the causes, consequences, costs, and prevention of violence
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Advocacy and political support

• National launch of the WRVH
• World Health Assembly Resolutions
• WHO regional committee resolutions
3. What's missing from the current development agenda?
• What's weak or missing?
  • **Types of violence**
    • Youth violence weak
    • Suicide/self-directed violence very weak
    • Elder abuse almost absent
  • **Gender** focus
    • Males: victims of 80% of homicides
  • **Policy and programme guidance**
    • Intersectoral approaches
    • Evidence-based approaches
    • Data collection and research
4. Strengthened agenda: strategies that work
General recommendations:

1. Expand programmes to address gaps
2. Use sectoral entry points currently neglected
3. Data collection and research on violence prevention (esp. evaluation)
4. Target shared risk factors in order to address different types of violence & victims/perpetrators simultaneously
10 “best buys” in violence prevention:

1. Increase safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and their parents
2. Reduce availability and misuse of alcohol
3. Reduce access to lethal means
4. Improve life skills and enhance opportunities for children and youth
5. Promote gender equality and empower women
10 “best buys” in violence prevention:

6. Change cultural norms that support violence
7. Improve criminal justice systems
8. Improve social welfare systems
9. Reduce social distance between conflicting groups
10. Reduce economic inequality and concentrated poverty.
4 “best buys” for reducing the consequences of violence:

1. Engage the health sector in violence prevention
2. Provide mental health and social services for victims
3. Improve emergency responses to injuries from violence
4. Reduce recidivism among perpetrators
5. Strengthened agenda: the necessary foundations
Foundation building at the national level

- National action plan and lead agency
- Capacity for collecting data
- Collaboration and exchange of information
- Implement and evaluate specific violence prevention actions
- Strengthen victim care and support systems
Foundation building at the International level

- Common criteria for “upstream”, evidence-based VP programming
- Expand entry points
- Include violence indicators in routine poverty and development surveys
Prevention and victim service tools
Violence: A Global Public Health Response

Legend
- Launch of World Report on Violence and Health
- Designated violence prevention focal person
6. Conclusion
Challenges to violence prevention

• Weak support from international development agencies
• Neglect of intersectoral & evidence-based approaches
• Inadequate appreciation of life-long and far-reaching consequences
• Lack of outcome evaluation studies in low- and middle-income countries
• Inadequate country capacity – data collection and evaluation
• Violence normative & taboo
• Inadequate enforcement of existing laws

Stakes are highest in low- and middle-income countries
Invest in violence Prevention

Scaled-up investment in violence prevention would:

• demonstrate that violence is preventable
• Saves lives and prevent disability and other health consequences
• Create a safe society
• Free up the development potential currently lost to violence
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http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention

Global Campaign for Violence Prevention
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