Violence prevention: a global public health challenge

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Violence in perspective

Global Estimated Deaths due to Selected Health Problems

- Violence: 1.61 million deaths per year
<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 200 139</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS 855 406</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS 855 406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries 118 212</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries 354 692</td>
<td>Tuberculosis 368 501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Drowning 113 614</td>
<td>Tuberculosis 238 021</td>
<td>Road traffic injuries 354 692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Respiratory infections 112 739</td>
<td><strong>Self-inflicted injuries</strong> 216 661</td>
<td>Ischaemic heart disease 224 986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Diarrhoeal diseases 88 430</td>
<td><strong>Interpersonal violence</strong> 188 451</td>
<td><strong>Self-inflicted injuries</strong> 215 263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Malaria 76 257</td>
<td><strong>War injuries</strong> 95 015</td>
<td><strong>Interpersonal violence</strong> 146 751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS 46 022</td>
<td>Drowning 78 639</td>
<td>Cerebrovascular disease 145 965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>War injuries</strong> 43 671</td>
<td>Respiratory infections 65 153</td>
<td>Cirrhosis of the liver 135 072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tuberculosis 36 362</td>
<td>Poisonings 61 865</td>
<td>Respiratory infections 102 431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tropical diseases 31 845</td>
<td>Fires 61 341</td>
<td>Liver cancer 84 279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health consequences of violence
Violent deaths by country income status, year 2002

N = 1.6 million

High income 9%

Low & middle income 91%
Costs of violence

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
Underlying causes and risk factors

Examples:
- Inequalities
- Norms that support violence
- Availability of means
- Weak police/criminal justice
- Local illicit drug trade

Examples:
- Concentration of poverty
- High residential mobility
- High unemployment
- Social isolation
- Local illicit drug trade

Examples:
- Psychological factors
- Experiences of abuse
- History of violent behaviour
- Inexperience or inadequacy of police/criminal justice

Examples:
- Poor parenting
- Marital conflict
- Friends who engage in violence
- Experiences of abuse

Societal
Community
Relationship
Individual
Shared risk factors (alcohol, substance abuse, parental loss, crime, mental illness, social isolation, household poverty, norms condoning violence, access to weapons, inequalities,...)
Launch 2002
>30,000 copies
>15 languages
World report on violence and health

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>30,000 copies
>15 languages
Country-level WRVH recommendations

- Developing a national plan of action
- Increasing data collection capacity
- Researching violence
- Promoting primary prevention
- Promoting gender and social equality
- Strengthening victim care and support services
2003 - Implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*, WHA56.24

2003 – WHO regional Committee for the Americas

2004 – WHO Regional Committee for Africa

2005 – WHO Regional Committee for Europe

2003-4 – African Union, Council of Europe, WMA, etc
A multisectoral solution

- Public health
- Protection
- Education
- Employment
- Police
- Diplomacy
- Justice
- Others
Public health contribution

Public health

Data collection
Research
Prevention
Evaluation
Advocacy
Services
Policy
Evidence-based prevention strategies

**Examples**
- Pre-school enrichment
- Life skills training
- Incentives to complete schooling
- Vocational training
- Preventing unintended pregnancies

**Examples**
- Parenting programmes
- Home visitation
- Family therapy

**Examples**
- Reducing alcohol availability
- Strategic approaches to policing
- Improving school settings
- Public information campaigns
- Improving emergency medical services

**Examples**
- Reduce media violence
- Strengthen police and judicial systems
- Reduce poverty and inequality
- Educational reform
- Tackle gun and knife violence
- Job creation programmes
Prevention and victim service tools
Let us not limit health development to the Millennium Development Goal targets for the health of women and children, for turning back the epidemics of HIV, malaria and TB, for increasing access to essential drugs. We must also address reproductive health, violence and injuries, and the growing burden that chronic diseases place on development.

Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, acceptance speech to 9 Nov 2006 World Health Assembly