



GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

BACKGROUND

Globally, in 2008, there were approximately 530,000 homicides and over 16 million cases of non-fatal violence-related injuries severe enough to require medical attention. Approximately 20% of women and 5–10% of men report being sexually abused as children, while 25–50% of all children report being physically abused. A WHO multi-country study found that between 15–71% of women reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Around 4–6% of elderly people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home.

Beyond deaths and injuries, violence has serious, life-long, and far-reaching consequences. These include mental health problems; job, school, and relationship difficulties; involvement in further violence as a victim or perpetrator; and the adoption of high-risk behaviours such as alcohol and substance misuse, smoking, and unsafe sex. Often years later, these can lead to cardiovascular disease, cancer, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Thus, violence places a massive burden on national economies, costing countries billions of US dollars each year in health care, law enforcement, and lost productivity.

Unless action is taken, rates of violence are unlikely to abate. Homicide, for instance, is projected to increase from the 21st leading cause of death in the world in 2008 to the 16th by 2030.

To begin to address this problem, in 2002 WHO launched the *World report on violence and health* which provided the first comprehensive review of the problem of violence on a global scale – what it is, whom it affects and what can be done about it. Chapters on all main types of violence presented state-of-the-science reviews about what was known about the magnitude and consequences; causes and risk factors, and prevention of each type. Since its launch, the *World report on violence and health* and the nine recommendations for action contained in its concluding chapter have been widely endorsed and generated significant momentum in violence prevention within many countries. However, exactly how Member States have responded to violence and the extent to which they have implemented these recommendations remain unclear.

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The *Global status report on violence prevention* will for the first time evaluate the extent to which countries have been implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*, as called for in WHA Resolution 56.24, “Implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health”.



World Health
Organization

It will focus on interpersonal violence, which includes child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and elder maltreatment. Much like similar reports on road safety, tobacco control, and mental health, this snapshot of the state of interpersonal violence prevention in each country will serve:

- As benchmark for countries to assess their violence prevention efforts;
- As a baseline to track future progress in violence prevention internationally;
- To identify gaps in national responses to violence that need to be addressed; and
- To catalyze further prevention action.

Its ultimate aim is to strengthen Member States' capacity to prevent violence.

Data for the *Global status report on violence prevention* will be compiled by National Data Coordinators in each country and collected using a standardized questionnaire which will include indicators such as:

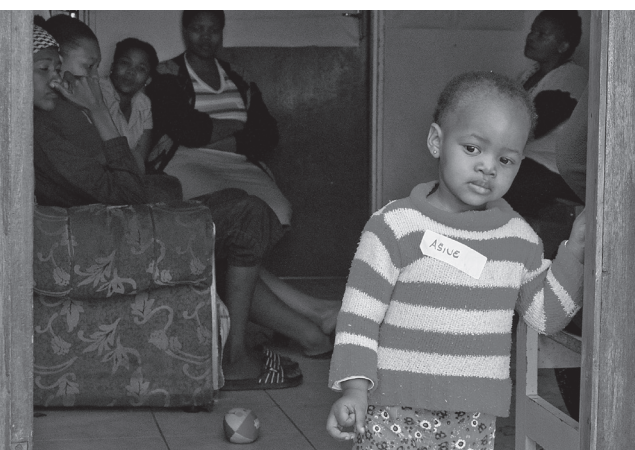
- The existence of national action plans for violence prevention and mechanisms for collaboration and exchange of information on violence prevention;
- Data on the magnitude of violence and countries' capacity for collecting such data;

- Primary prevention responses – policies, programmes, and laws and their enforcement, in particular;
- The existence of services for victims of violence.

Data collection will begin in 2013 and will be carried out in all WHO Member States that agree to participate, working through WHO Regional and Country Offices. In each country, the National Data Coordinator will be responsible for data collection. Data will be collected from violence prevention experts from different sectors including justice, law enforcement/police, interior, education, gender and women, relevant non-governmental organizations, and research institutions. These experts will then come together as a multi-sectoral consensus panel and provide one set of data that best represents the situation in their country. Following official government endorsement of the completed questionnaires, the data will be collated and analyzed to provide input for the *Global status report on violence prevention*.

The major components of the report will be:

- 1 30–40 pages of text summarizing main messages, providing an overview of the main country findings, and formulating recommendations for next steps;
- 2 a set of one-page country profiles that will present in text and graphs key results of the survey; and
- 3 a detailed statistical annex.



The *Global status report on violence prevention* will be launched in late 2014.

For more information about this project please visit:

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en/
or contact Dr Alexander Butchart butcharta@who.int