HOMICIDE AMONG YOUTH IN THE AMERICAS

Homicide is the leading cause of death among youth in the Americas.

- 24% Homicides
- 20% Traffic fatalities
- 7% Suicides

MORE THAN 45,000 YOUNG PERSONS AGED 15-24 YEARS DIE FROM HOMICIDE EACH YEAR

9 OUT OF 10 ARE MALES

HOMICIDE AND NON-FATAL ASSAULTS INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE BURDEN OF PREMATURE DEATH, INJURY AND DISABILITY AMONG YOUTH.

RISK FACTORS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN OR EXPOSURE TO YOUTH VIOLENCE INCLUDE:

- LOW ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS
- ENGAGEMENT IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND GANGS
- EASY ACCESS TO ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND GUNS
- LIVING IN COMMUNITIES WITH CONCENTRATED POVERTY
- LOW LEVELS OF PARENTAL AND CAREGIVER INVOLVEMENT AND SUPERVISION
- LIVING IN AREAS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF CRIME AND GANGS

YOUTH HOMICIDES ARE PREVENTABLE

- ENFORCE laws to prevent youth alcohol and drug use
- LIMIT youth access to firearms and other weapons
- INCREASE school enrollment and promote a safe and enabling school environment
- IMPLEMENT life and social skills development programs to help young people build healthy peer relationships
- PROVIDE comprehensive health services for survivors, including emergency and mental health services
- PROVIDE counselling and therapeutic interventions to help teens manage anger and behavioral problems
- IMPLEMENT economic strengthening programs for families and communities
- ADDRESS "hot spots" and improve the built environment
- PROMOTE equitable and positive peer, gender, and social norms
- PROMOTE responsible and safe bystander interventions
- IMPLEMENT positive parenting and caregiver programs

References:
bit.ly/2dmZfyv
#YouthHealth
www.paho.org

Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization