Pan-American Health Organization
Expert’s Meeting on Strengthening the Public Health Approach to Youth Violence in the Americas
7 - 8 October, 2019 - Washington, DC

public health strategies for preventing youth violence

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Introduction

• PAHO: Violence Prevention in the American Region
• WHO: DIVP - Public health Approach to violence
  • Since WHA, 1996
    • Diagnosis
    • Risk factors
    • Evaluation
  • Challenges: YVP
Introduction

- Youth violence: multiple types and nature:
  - Physical, Psychological, sexual
  - Bullying and dating violence
  - Homicide, police violence, gang violence

- 10 to 29 years-old: children, adolescents and young adults
  - Autonomy, identity, social roles
  - School, University, work
  - Peers x family
  - Drug, alcohol, sex

Adolescents and young adults don’t go regularly to health facilities. Part of our task is to approach them, get their attention, develop strategies to make what we have to offer interesting for them.
Introduction

- Youth violence Prevention in LMIC - in Latin America
  - Higher youth violence rates
  - Distinct cultural background, political systems, and structural problems
  - Poverty and inequality,
  - High levels of political corruption and instability, police violence, youth gangs and criminal organization, sexual exploitation of children and adolescentes, human trafficking, a fragile education system

- A glimpse in violence scenario in Brazil
In 2017, 62,782 deaths due to aggression were recorded, with 56% occurring in the 10-29 age group.

Homicide: 1980 - 2017
1989: exceeds traffic accident
1990’s: First cause of ECD (youth); PYLL
### Police Violence in São Paulo, 2014 - 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Department (y35)</th>
<th>Police records</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of deaths</strong></td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (mean, sd)</strong></td>
<td>23.5 (8.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P50 (IQR)</strong></td>
<td>21 (18-28)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Male sex</strong></td>
<td>99.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black skin color</strong></td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Up to 3 years (schooling)</strong></td>
<td>71,7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>99.8%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>55%</strong></td>
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Involvement with bullying. 9th grade students in São Paulo City (n=2680). SP-PROSO, 2017

Involvement with violence. 9th grade students in São Paulo City (n=2,680). SP-PROSO, 2017

Victim
Perpetrator
Victim-perpetrator
Not involved

VIOLÊNCIA, BULLYING E REPERCUSSÕES NA SAÚDE:
Resultados do projeto São Paulo para o desenvolvimento social de crianças e adolescentes (SP-PROSO)
public health strategies for preventing youth violence
FIGURE 3
Public health approach to violence prevention

1. Surveillance
   What is the problem?
   Define the violence problem through systematic data collection.

2. Identify risk and protective factors
   What are the causes?
   Conduct research to find out why violence occurs and who it affects.

3. Develop and evaluate intervention
   What works for whom?
   Design, implement and evaluate interventions to establish what works.

4. Implementation
   Scaling up effective policy and programmes
   Scale-up effective and promising interventions and monitor their impact and cost-effectiveness.

INSPIRE components adapted to youth violence prevention
Cross-cutting activity 1: multisectoral action & coordination

- National/State and Local governments
- Multiple sectors: health, education, Security, Justice, Social welfare, Human rights, etc.
- Civic Society, NGOs, private sector, Academic and research institution, religious institution
- International organizations

Coordinated and integrated action: primary, secondary and tertiary prevention

> Emphasis PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES

National/local coordination mechanism: Government

- Coordination of prevention and response activities

Sharing of information and optimization of resources and responses

Extremely challenging: political and technical negotiation/ power and protagonist: distinct sectors/cultures/backgrounds/conceptual frameworks/ lack of recognition

Regular data sharing: early identification of problems & prompt and adequate responses
Cross-cutting activity 2: Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring
  - Magnitude, distribution, associated factors (risk/protective/causal)
  - Implementation and Impact - feedback - adjustments
    - Population based surveys (National/local)
    - Official secondary data
- Evaluation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSPIRE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation and enforcement of laws</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Search and identify existing laws that give support for violence prevention strategies, childhood and youth protection: ex: firearm control, anti-bullying laws, laws against the use of physical punishment, use of alcohol &amp; drugs, access to school and education, gender equality, racial discrimination, LGBT and gender identity, others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Norms &amp; values</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of violence to solve conflicts, acceptance of violence against Women, gender intolerance, racism, Support for deviant behavior, masculinity, moral neutralization - school based, community based, life skills</td>
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<td><strong>Safe environments</strong></td>
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<td>Community violence and disorder, police violence, public spaces and urbanization, oriented policing (hot spot, Community policing), gang violence prevention, gun control</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parenting and caregiver support</strong></td>
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<td>Early childhood intervention (home visiting), development of parenting skills, early child development strategies</td>
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<td><strong>Income and economic strengthening</strong></td>
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<td>Primary prevention: effects medium/long term.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Response and support services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug/alcohol; victims of violence; perpetrators</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education &amp; life skills</strong></td>
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<td>Conflict resolution, self-control, school attachment, school climate, bullying prevention,</td>
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<td><strong>Public policies to reduce inequality and broaden access to rights</strong></td>
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What is the role of the health sector?

- Is part of the multisectoral response

- Leading role: why?
  - Duty to prevent and respond to all major causes of death and morbidity
  - Economic reasons: direct costs to health sector
  - Tradition and strong skills to collect and analyze data, provide care, coordinate multisectoral efforts
  - Help to raise awareness among other sectors
What is the role of the health sector?

- Specific role:
  - Home visiting/Family health program/Primary health care/prenatal care/Health promotion
  - Parenting skills, early child development
  - Alcohol/drug use prevention: school-based
  - Adolescent Health services: include the topic in the agenda; give information, approach risk factors, design intervention and create strategies to effectively reach the group
  - Response: Therapeutic/Mental Health

Epidemiological analysis and Epidemiological surveillance system
Thanks

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