A complex issue?
Violence varies by context and has multiple social roots

Violence intersects and changes across the life course and is different for women, men, boys and girls from different groups.

There are important country and sub-regional variations in the magnitude, types, risks and consequences of violence, for example:

- Youth homicide – often intersecting with organized crime, narcotrafficking and gang activity
- Exposure to child maltreatment and peer violence, such as physical fighting and bullying in adolescence – a key risk for involvement or experience of violence in later life and opportunities to intervene early e.g. in schools
- Sexual violence against girls – rooted in gender inequality and especially underreported
A four-step public health approach offers a useful framework for preventing violence:

1. Defining the problem
2. Identifying causes and risk factors
3. Designing and testing interventions
4. Implement and scale up effective interventions, supported by continuous M&E.
Violence prevention is not new

1993: CD 37.19 encourages governments to develop policies and plans to address all forms of violence

1996: WHA 49.25 declares violence a leading worldwide public health problem

2003: WHA 56.24 on implementing recommendations of WHO’s 2002 World report on violence and health

2004: WHA 57.12 on global reproductive health strategy highlights violence against women

2008: CD 48.R11 on preventing violence and injuries and promoting safety

2010: CD 50.R16 on health and human security

2015: CD 54/9, R.2 on violence against women

2016: WHA 69.5 on inter-personal violence, in particular against women, girls, children

2017: CSP29/INF/3 On Impact of Violence on the Health of Populations in the Americas applauds progress but stresses need for scale up

Current PAHO mandates & achievements
If we don’t advocate for change, who will?

...but advocacy for a public health approach continues to be needed
What are **PRIORITY DIMENSIONS** of youth violence that must be understood and addressed in the Americas?

What are **PRIORITY DETERMINANTS** that must be addressed by public health?

What are **MESSAGES** and/or **STRATEGIES** for advocating for a public health approach to youth violence?