**Violence in the Americas**

**What must be done?**

Violence affects a large proportion of the population in the Americas.

- The Region has the highest homicide rate in the world (17.9 per 100,000) – 3 times the global average. Youth aged 15 to 29 years, particularly young men and boys, are especially vulnerable.
- An estimated 58% of children experience physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse every year in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 1 out of 3 women has experienced violence by an intimate partner.
- Elder abuse is estimated at 12% in the Region, though numbers may be higher. Globally, only 1 in 24 cases are reported.
- An estimated 58% of children experience physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse every year in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**The costs are enormous:** The most visible consequence is death, but many more women, men, boys and girls suffer injuries and ill health as the result of violence.

**We know enough to act now**

Violence does not just “happen” – it can be prevented, and its social roots can be addressed.

- Challenge harmful social norms that make violence acceptable
- Prevent early exposure to violence, especially in childhood
- Foster the development of safe, stable and nurturing relationships
- Strengthen access to education and build life skills
- Reduce alcohol and drug use
- Limit access to weapons, including guns and knives
- Promote safe environments and urban upgrading, including addressing “hot spots”
- Improve economic security
- Reduce social inequality
- Provide quality health services and strengthen referral to other essential services

Of course, no single sector will be able to reduce violence alone – but health has a critical role to play.

**Together we can end violence in all its forms!**

References: