Session 5
Understanding violence from a public health perspective





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:

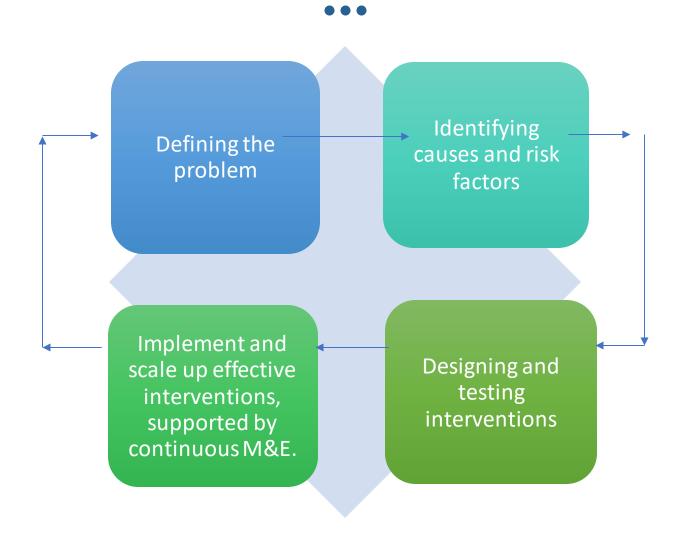
 Youth homicide – often intersecting with organized crime, narcotrafficking and gang activity

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

## PAHO/WHO

# A four-step public health approach offers a useful framework for preventing violence



# 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 interpersonal 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







...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?

