Rationale

- EB approaches at the heart of public health approach to violence prevention
- Last overview was WRVH
- Lots of emerging evidence since 2002
  - Need to take stock
- Need overview accessible to non-specialists
Aim

• Provide succinct overview of evidence for the effectiveness of main strategies for violence prevention

• Package information so that it is easily accessible to non-specialists
  – Remaining true to complexity
  – Neither under- nor over-stating the case

• Take measure of where we stand and identify main gaps in the current evidence base

• Encourage implementation of these interventions
Choice of 7 strategies

• Strategies for which there is substantial evidence
• Selected in the framework for action on violence prevention in LMICs countries developed at a workshop at the IOM of the US National Academies.
Target audience

• Non-specialists
  – Policy makers, advocates, programme designers
  – others with decision-making authority at local, national, and international level.
Methods

• Academic & grey literature
  • Database searches
    • e.g. Pub Med
  • Systematic reviews
  • Internet searches
• Balance between high quality evidence and geographical coverage
• Peer review process
Developing safe, stable & nurturing relationships between children & their parents & caregivers

Early, primary prevention to avoid the development of violence such as child abuse and childhood aggression

- Parenting programmes
  - Information & support for parents
- Parent & child programmes
  - Preschool education, family support, child/health services etc.
- Social support groups
  - e.g. peer support for parents
- Media interventions
  - e.g. raise awareness & knowledge of child maltreatment

Some strong evidence that parenting programmes and parent and child programmes can reduce child maltreatment and problem/aggressive behaviours in youth.
2 Developing life skills in children and adolescents

Cognitive, emotional, interpersonal & social skills to enable youth to deal with the challenges of everyday life

- Preschool enrichment
  - Child skills, parent programmes

- Social development training
  - Empathy, relationships, conflict resolution, anger management..

- Academic enrichment
  - Study & recreation out of school

- Educational incentives
  - E.g. finance for completing school

- Vocational Training
  - Providing skills to find work

Some strong evidence that preschool enrichment and social development programmes can reduce aggression and improve social skills, particularly in at-risk youth.
Reducing alcohol availability and harmful use of alcohol

Addressing the strong links between alcohol and violence

- Regulating alcohol availability
  - Sales times, outlet density
- Raising alcohol prices
  - E.g. taxation, minimum price
- Reducing alcohol use in problem drinkers
  - E.g. brief interventions, treatment for alcohol dependence;
- Improving drinking environments
  - Community partnerships, responsible retailing, strict enforcement, physical design…

Evidence promising, suggesting that alcohol-focused interventions can reduce violence. However, barriers to intervening and few available studies
Reducing access to guns, knives and pesticides; the means of lethal violence

- Legislative measures
  - E.g. bans and licensing schemes
- Increased enforcement
  - E.g. test purchasing, stop and search
- Weapons amnesties
- Safer storage
  - E.g. provision of pesticide storage facilities
- Reducing demand
  - E.g. gang and drug reduction strategies

Some evidence of success, mainly for firearms legislation. Elsewhere evidence base poorly developed. More research needed, particularly in developing countries.
Promoting gender equality to prevent violence against women

**Challenging ideas that one sex has more power and control over another; a reason for violence against women**

- **School-based interventions**
  - Addressing gender norms and attitudes, e.g. safer dating
- **Community interventions**
  - Microfinance programmes, combined with gender equity training
- **Life skills programmes**
  - Educate about gender-based violence and develop relationship skills

**Good evidence for school-based programmes. Some evidence for community-based interventions, although further research is needed**
Changing cultural and social norms that support violence

Challenging rules or expectations of behaviour within a social or cultural group that tolerate violent behaviour

- Campaigns for dating and sexual violence
  - Challenges harmful beliefs about dating and encourages healthy relationships

- Campaigns for youth violence
  - Challenges violence as a method of resolving conflict and promotes non-violent conflict resolution

- Laws and policies
  - Implementing laws that make violent behaviour an offence.

Limited evidence for mass media campaigns, including edutainment initiatives. However, further rigorous evaluations are needed.
7

victim identification, care and support programmes

Providing effective care and support to victims of violence to protect against further violence and minimise harm

• Screening and referral
  • Identifying and supporting victims of violence

• Advocacy support
  • Support and guidance to victims, e.g. counselling, education, legal aid.

• Psychosocial interventions
  • Treat emotional & behavioural problems linked to victimisation.

• Protection orders
  • Prohibit perpetrators from further abusing their victims

Good evidence for the use of advocacy support programmes. Promising evidence for screening and referral, psychosocial interventions and protection orders.
Violence Prevention Evidence Base and Resources

Violence destroys the lives of millions of people throughout the world. In the UK alone, almost three million incidents of violence are estimated to be committed towards adults each year, with thousands more directed at children. Yet, violence and its devastating impacts on individuals, families, communities and wider society can be prevented.

The purpose of this website is to provide a violence prevention resource for policy makers, practitioners and others working to tackle and prevent violence. The website includes:

- **Evidence Base**: abstracts of systematically reviewed literature providing evidence of measures that can work to prevent violence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early intervention and juvenile delinquency prevention: evidence from the Chicago Longitudinal Study</td>
<td>Mann EA, Reynolds AJ.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AMR</td>
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<td>Anger, interpersonal relationships, and health-related quality of life in bullying boys who are treated with outpatient family therapy: a randomized, prospective, controlled trial with 1 year of follow-up</td>
<td>Nickel MK, Krawczyk J, Nickel C, et al.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>EUR</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Long-term follow-up to a randomized clinical trial of multisystemic therapy with serious and violent juvenile offenders.</td>
<td>Schaeffer CM, Borduin CM.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>AMR</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Assessing the long-term effects of the Safe Dates program and a booster in preventing and reducing adolescent dating violence victimization and perpetration</td>
<td>Foshee VA, Bauman KE, Ennett ST, et al.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>AMR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of an intervention program for the reduction of bullying and victimization</td>
<td>Baldry AC, Farrington DR.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusions

• Sufficient evidence to take action now and implement interventions
• Intensify and expand violence prevention awareness
  – among decision makers in low-income and middle-income countries
  – leaders of high-income countries and international donor agencies
• Enhance investment in research on violence and violence prevention
  – especially in low-income and middle-income countries
  – expanding the number of outcome evaluation studies
• Increase the flow to low-income and middle-income countries of
  – financial resources
  – technical support for violence prevention.
• Strengthen evidence-based, prevention-oriented collaborative work between public health and criminal justice agencies