Dear Colleague:

Attached is the latest issue of Prevent: the Newsletter for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.

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HEADLINES

Population-based prevention using the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) shows significant decrease in child maltreatment

In an evaluation of Triple P in South Carolina in the United States, 18 counties were randomly assigned to either dissemination of the Triple P or to services-as-usual. Dissemination involved Triple P professional training for the existing workforce (over 600 service providers), as well as universal media and communication strategies. The Triple P resulted in 688 fewer cases of substantiated child maltreatment, 240 fewer out-of-home placements, and 60 fewer children with injuries requiring hospitalization or emergency room treatment for every 100 000 children under age eight years. This study is the first to randomize geographical areas and show preventive impact on child maltreatment at a population level using evidence-based parenting interventions. Reference: Prinz RJ, Sanders MR, Shapiro CJ, Whitaker DJ, Lutzker JR. Population-based prevention of child maltreatment: The U.S. Triple P system population trial. Prevention Science, 2009, 10(1):1-12. To download this article, please visit: http://www.springerlink.com/content/a737l8k76218j7k2/

UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence against Children Appointed

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Ms Marta Santos Pais of Portugal as Special Representative on Violence against Children at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. The General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, adopted resolution 62/141 requesting the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. The Office of the Special Representative will be in New York and provided with administrative support by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). For more information, please visit: http://www.unric.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23544&Itemid=42
HIGHLIGHTS

Featured outcome evaluation: New policy reduces male suicides in Slovenia

A new study assessed the impact on suicide mortality of a national policy in Slovenia that limits the availability of alcohol. Data on monthly total, male, and female suicide counts in Slovenia were obtained for the period between January 1997 and December 2005 and then the effect of the alcohol policy, which was implemented in March 2003, was examined using an interrupted time-series analysis. Results showed that there was a significant decrease in the total number of monthly suicides following the policy's implementation. Subsequent analyses revealed this association to be caused solely by the impact on male suicides. Specifically, there was an immediate and permanent reduction of 3.6 male suicides per month or approximately 10% of the pre-intervention average. The policy had no statistically significant effect on female suicides. This study demonstrates the effectiveness of this specific policy in reducing male suicides in Slovenia and gives an indication of the potential of public policy to reduce the public health burden of alcohol-related harm more generally.


Eighth International Security Forum, Geneva

The 8th International Security Forum (ISF) took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 18-20 May 2009. Alongside the traditional ISF focus on war-related violence, this 8th Forum included a new strand of discussion focused upon the prevention of armed violence in non-conflict settings characterized by high rates of homicide and other forms of interpersonal violence. During a workshop session titled “Setting out a Global Armed Violence Prevention Agenda”, representatives from UNDP, the Small Arms Survey, the Quaker United Nations Office and WHO discussed the practical challenges facing armed violence prevention. One of three closing sessions highlighted the importance of turning preventive attention to interpersonal violence, which far outstrips the number of deaths due to war in the global burden of deaths due to armed violence. For more information, please contact Dr Alexander Butchart (butcharta@who.int).

Meeting on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Public Health

On 4-5 May 2009 at a meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, WHO and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention jointly convened 15 experts from developed and developing countries who are planning or conducting work examining the links between childhood adversities (including child maltreatment), health risk behaviours, and chronic disease consequences. Important meeting outcomes included the establishment of a global adverse childhood experiences network; recommendations for developing standardized core and optional survey questions on childhood adversities and their consequences, and agreement to promote future cross-country and cross-study comparisons in this area. For more information, please contact Dr Alex Butchart (butcharta@who.int) or visit http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/ACE/.

UN-interagency mission to Kenya for the Armed Violence Prevention Programme

On 2–9 April 2009, a UN-interagency Armed Violence Prevention Programme mission met in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was organized by UNDP and agencies attending included UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNODA and WHO. The mission objectives were to assess the status of peace agreements in Kenya and their implementation, and discuss armed violence prevention initiatives at the global level and in Kenya. For further information, please contact Dr Luk Cannoodt (cannoodtl@who.int) or Dr. David Meddings (meddingsd@who.int).
Launch of Scottish Government-University of St Andrews-WHO collaboration
On 31 March 2009, a collaboration between WHO, the Scottish Government and the University of St Andrews to support the development and implementation of violence prevention policies in low- and middle-income countries was launched at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Partner organizations and invited stakeholders, including the Minister for Community Justice, attended the launch to hear about the programme goals and to discuss how Scottish expertise, acquired mainly through the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, can be used to meet these goals. For further information, please contact Ms Alison Gehring (gehringa@who.int).

Launch of Fetzer research project on readiness for child maltreatment prevention
In February 2009, a two-year project on child maltreatment prevention readiness was launched thanks to generous funding from the Fetzer Institute in Michigan (http://www.fetzer.org/). The project aims to help understand why, given the value of child maltreatment prevention programmes to the individual and society, so few nations are investing adequate resources in them. Five research teams in low- and middle-income countries will develop a model and an instrument to identify community and national child maltreatment prevention readiness and apply them to produce five country case studies assessing community and national child maltreatment readiness; specifying measures to increase readiness; and formulating plans for the development of national capacity and policy. For further information, please contact Dr Chris Mikton (miktonc@who.int).

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)–Latsis Symposium on Violence
This symposium, titled Understanding Violence: Recent advances in biology, sociology and modeling was held on 11-13 February 2009, at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland. Despite interest in understanding the major causes of violence and in developing effective prevention programmes, expert knowledge tends to remain fragmented and confined within disciplines. This EPFL-Latsis Symposium sought to foster multi-disciplinary interaction and promote an integrated view of the causes of violence that incorporates sociological and psychological aspects, together with biological, evolutionary and modelling approaches. For more information, please visit http://latsis2009.epfl.ch/index.php.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

Regional Activities

Americas

39th Session of Organization of American States General Assembly violence prevention resolution
At its 39th Session on 4 June 2009, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly, adopted Resolution AG/DEC. 60 (XXXIX-O/09) “Declaration of San Pedro Sula: Toward a culture of non-violence”. The resolution calls on OAS Member States to, among other things, promote opportunities for collaboration and dialogue between public officials and communities to develop violence prevention and conflict resolution programmes; and to promote the maintenance and development of up-to-date statistical instruments and systems for the purpose of implementing government and social efforts to combat violence in the domestic and public spheres. For more information, please visit http://www.oas.org/39ag/english/.

United States-Mexico Border Health Association, 67th Annual Meeting: Focus on Violence and Injury Prevention
On 3-5 June 2009 in El Paso, Texas, USA, approximately 400 public health experts and practitioners from Mexico and the United States convened for the 67th Annual Meeting of the United States Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA) Annual Meeting. The meeting theme — "Human Security: A New Border Response"— provided an opportunity to introduce the topic of violence and injury prevention as a public health priority. During the inaugural ceremony, Dr Mirta Roses Periago, PAHO Director; Dr Arturo Cervantes, Director General, National Center for the Prevention of Accidents, Mexican Ministry of Health, and a senior representative of the Mayor of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, each made prominent reference
to the challenges of violence and injury prevention, noting that for Mexican youth, homicide and road traffic injuries are by far the leading causes of death. Ciudad Juarez, for instance, has an overall homicide rate of 100 per 100,000 population. On 3 June 2009, a daylong workshop reviewed Mexican federal, state and citywide efforts to prevent violence and injuries, including the Ciudad Juarez Municipality's newly established Observatory for Violence and Injury. For further information please contact Dr Alberto Concha-Eastman (conchaal@paho.org) or Dr Alex Butchart (butcharta@who.int).

Europe

Norwegian support for violence prevention activities
The Norwegian government has been a major contributor to WHO's violence prevention program in the European region in 2008 and 2009. Capacity building has been a priority. With Norwegian support four new TEACH-VIP lessons on alcohol and violence have been developed and TEACH-VIP lessons on violence are being translated into Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Romanian and Turkish. In 2009, TEACH-VIP workshops targeting policy makers, health professionals and academics concerned with higher education will be held in Belarus, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, The Russian Federation, Turkey and Uzbekistan. For more information, contact Dr Alberto Concha-Eastman (conchaal@paho.org) or Dr Alex Butchart (butcharta@who.int).

Strengthening violence prevention activities in Latvia
Latvia is one of the countries that has shown great commitment and considerable progress in the field of violence prevention. Violence prevention has been selected as one of the priorities for collaboration between the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia. As part of this collaboration and with financial support from the Norwegian government, a national report on violence and health has been developed and protocols and training tools for addressing domestic violence will be implemented in maternal health care settings. In addition, a Nordic Baltic workshop on the prevention of family violence: the role of health sector in multisectoral response was held in Riga on 8-9 June. The workshop was jointly organized by WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Public Health Agency of Latvia and the Nordic Council of Ministers. For more information, please visit http://www.euro.who.int/violenceinjury or contact Ms Hedda Bie (heb@euro.who.int).

European Conference on Care and Protection of Senior Citizens
On 25-26 May the "European Conference on Care and Protection of Senior Citizens: the Dignity and Hazards of Elderly" was held under the auspices of the Czech Presidency of the European Union in Prague, Czech Republic. The conference highlighted the significant changes occurring in the care and protection of senior citizens throughout the European Union and how hazards for the elderly can be avoided and their dignity preserved. Conference themes focused on care of the elderly within the family; guardianship of older people; health complaints and disability in the elderly; care of the elderly in hospitals and in long-term care facilities; the human rights of older people; and elder abuse. For further information, please contact Dr Chris Mikton (miktonc@who.int) or Dr Dinesh Sethi (DIN@ecr.euro.who.int).

South-East Asia Region

Western Pacific

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sexual Violence Research Forum 2009
6–9 July 2009
Johannesburg, South Africa
For more information, please visit: http://svriforum2009.svri.org/

18th International Conference on Safe Communities
13–15 August 2009
Cali, Colombia
For more information, please visit: http://www.cisalva.univalle.edu.co/flyer_ingles.pdf
Fourth Milestones in a Global campaign for Violence Prevention meeting
17-18 September 2009
WHO-HQ, Geneva, Switzerland
The 4th Milestones Meeting, entitled "Boosting global violence prevention", will make plans to substantially increase action, political support, and funding for violence prevention worldwide. It will convene representatives of Official Development Assistance agencies, other UN agencies, and large NGOs to find ways to step up support for violence prevention. The meeting will include ministers of health and from other sectors as keynote speakers and presenters. Of the 150 participants expected to attend, many will be policy-makers, high-level planners, and others with decision-making authority at local, national, and international level. For more information, please visit: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/4th_milestones_meeting/en/index.html or contact Dr Alex Butchart at butcharta@who.int or Dr Chris Mikton miktonc@who.int

10th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion "Safety 2010"
21-24 September 2010
London, UK
Safety 2010 is a major world conference bringing stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries and violence from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The conference will be co-sponsored by the World Health Organization. The key theme of the conference is Safe and Equitable Communities. This theme has been chosen to reflect the disproportionate burden from almost all types of injuries that falls on poorer communities. Such differences are apparent both within countries, between countries and even between global regions. For more information, please visit: http://www.safety2010.org.uk/

RELATED LINKS

PUBLICATIONS

Interpersonal violence and illicit drugs
On 14 June 2009, Liverpool John Moores University, Centre for Public Health, in collaboration with WHO's Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, published a briefing that summarizes the links between interpersonal violence and illicit drug use, identifies risk factors for involvement in drug-related violence, outlines prevention measures that address drug-related violence, and explores the role of public health in prevention. To download the briefing, please visit: http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/interpersonal_violence_and_illicit_drug_use.pdf.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization: Special Theme on childhood injuries and violence
This month's Bulletin of WHO is a special theme issue dedicated to childhood injuries and violence. This issue of the Bulletin seeks to promote greater attention to this significant public health problem and to explore ways in which this burden can be lowered. Issues addressed include shaken baby syndrome, child mental health problems in Brazil, burn injuries in children in the Czech Republic, child sexual abuse in Swaziland, motorcycle helmets for children in Viet Nam, trauma care for injured children, and what is needed worldwide to prevent injuries in children, among others. To download, please visit: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/5/en/index.html

New policy paper from the OECD: "Armed violence reduction: enabling environment"
This new policy paper from the OECD identifies several significant emerging trends, including the increasing link between conflict and crime; growing youth populations in low- and middle-income countries and the emergence of ungoverned urban spaces and youth gangs in many parts of the world; and increasing ties between local, national, regional and global security, for example through the trafficking of drugs, arms or people. Donors have given relatively little attention to these issues compared to conflict or war and most donor organizations are set up to respond at national, not local or regional, levels. The paper provides a methodology which can help donors tackle the challenges outlined above, which builds on existing frameworks, approaches and lessons learned from security sector reform, as well
as conflict and crime prevention and public health. It provides guidance for addressing the root causes of armed violence and for conducting assessments and managing programmes.
To download the policy paper, please visit: http://www.oecd.org/document/21/0,3343,en_2649_33693550_42281877_1_1_1_1,00.html.

Thai Health Report 2009: Special Focus on Violence Prevention
In May 2009 the Thai Health Working Group published the sixth issue of Thai Health. The working group agreed that the issue of violence has been becoming increasingly prominent in Thai society for many years, and is having increasingly serious effects on the health of Thai people. The violence in the southernmost provinces, political conflict, violent crime, violence against children and women, and violence on television all contribute. Consequently, the special issue for the 2009 report is “Stop Violence for Well-being of Mankind”. Building upon recommendations from the WHO World report on violence and health, the report collates national statistics on violence and its consequences and provides a number of recommendations for the development of national violence prevention policies and programmes. To download the report, please visit: http://www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th/ipsr/PublicationBook.aspx