Global Campaign for Violence Prevention
October 2014

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Recent events

2014 Annual Meeting of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA)
This two-day meeting was held in Washington DC, USA on 14-15 October. Some 70 participants attended, representing 46 VPA member organization and a dozen organizations attending as observers. The first day was devoted to discussing how the VPA can support the launch and dissemination of the Global status report on violence prevention, the WHA resolution Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence in particular against women and girls, and against children (WHA 67.15), and the development of a global information system for violence prevention. The second day focused on the work of the VPA project groups and broader questions about the VPA's aims and strategy in coming years, in particular how to better align VPA activities with recent developments in the field of violence prevention, such as the recent WHA resolution and the Global Plan of Action called for by the resolution. In light of these discussions, it was decided to embark on a process of electronic consultation to revise the VPA's mission statement and terms of reference in coming months. For more information on the VPA, see: http://www.who.int/violenceprevention/en/ or contact Berit Kieselbach (kieselbachb@who.int).

WHO's Prevention of Violence Unit in a new and expanded Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention (NVI)
This new Department, which results from the merger of the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention (VIP) and the Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases (MND), was officially established on 15 September 2014. NVI will support regions and countries to strengthen their capacity to address these major health and development challenges in an integrated way in the context of the new realities of the post-2015 era. The WHO Director-General has appointed Dr Etienne Krug, current Director of VIP, as Director of NVI.

WHO and University of Cambridge Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014: "Global Strategies to Reduce Violence by 50% in the Next 30 Years"
This conference was held on 17-19 September 2014 at King's College, University of Cambridge, UK. Its aim was to explore strategies to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. Plenary presentations addressed the ambition of halving violence in three decades and focused on child maltreatment, youth violence, violence against women, and crosscutting issues such as good governance, policing, and treating violent offenders. Two parallel sessions addressed issues such as the evidence-base for global violence prevention, research capacity, and penal policy. The conference highlight was a public lecture by Steven Pinker (Harvard University) in which he presented his thesis that death rates due to war and homicide, and the prevalence of childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence, are at their lowest levels for centuries in developed countries. He suggested that factors ranging from widening commercial relations, expansion of state authority, enhanced self-control, and increased capacity for empathy due to the rise of literacy are likely to underlie these declines. For more information on the conference, visit: http://www.vrc.crm.cam.ac.uk/conference.

European child maltreatment prevention action plan 2015-2020 adopted
On 17 September 2014 the 64th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe adopted a historic resolution to implement "Investing in children: the European child maltreatment prevention action plan 2015-2020". Health ministers from 53 countries gave overwhelming support to implementing the Action Plan. The Action Plan draws attention to the high prevalence, burden, and costs of child maltreatment. In the WHO European Region, the prevalence ranges from 9.6% for sexual abuse, through 22.9% for physical abuse, to 29.1% for psychological abuse. The Action Plan stresses that maltreatment and other adverse childhood experiences lead to the adoption of health risk behaviour (such as smoking, excessive drinking, and unsafe sex) to cope with the ensuing psychological difficulties and result in poorer mental and physical health and worse social and educational outcomes throughout the life-course for those affected. The Action Plan sets a regional target to reduce child maltreatment and homicides by 20% by 2020. To achieve this, it has three objectives: 1) make child maltreatment more visible by setting up information systems in Member States and publishing comprehensive reports on the incidence and prevalence of child maltreatment; 2) strengthen governance for child maltreatment prevention by developing national plans involving multiple sectors; and 3) reduce risks and consequences through prevention by strengthening health systems. To access the action plan: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/233728/64wd19e_InvestChildMaltreat_140439.pdf. A short film accompanying the action plan is available here: http://bit.ly/video-prevent-child-abuse.

WHO supports review of mortuary-based fatal injury surveillance in Africa
On 27-28 August, WHO in collaboration with the Emergency Medical Association of Tanzania, hosted a two-day multi-country workshop to review implementation of the WHO/Monash University Fatal injury surveillance in mortuaries and hospitals: A manual for practitioners. The manual aims to improve national
injury and violence data for public health action and is intended for professionals working in institutions responsible for the collection, compilation and use of cause-of-death data with a focus on injuries and violence. Since its release, there have been efforts by ministries of health, police and pathologists in the WHO African Region to implement a mortuary-based data system which includes the recommended minimum data set from the manual. With WHO’s support such systems have been established in selected mortuaries in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. The project aligns with international efforts to improve the gathering of cause-of-death data in developing countries. For further information, contact Ms Kärdet Bartolomeos (bartolomeosk@who.int).

Strengthening the health sector response to violence against women - A joint webinar for the Latin America and Caribbean Region by PAHO/WHO/UNFPA/UN Women
On 8 August, WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) hosted a Spanish-language workshop co-organized with UNFPA and UN Women on strengthening the health sector response to violence against women, based on Responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women: WHO clinical and policy guidelines. There were over 40 participants from multiple countries in the region, including UN staff and representatives from governments and civil society. For further information, contact Ms Alessandra Guedes (guedesa@who.int).

Side event on “Violence against women: from evidence to action” during 53rd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, 66th session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas
This side event took place on 30 September and was opened by Dr Carissa Etienne, Director of PAHO. Its aims were to draw attention to the impact of violence against women on women’s health and on the health of children in the Americas, to present PAHO/WHO’s evidence-based recommendations for the provision of health care to survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence, and to encourage action by providing an overview of effective interventions and country experiences. For further information, contact Ms Alessandra Guedes (guedesa@who.int).

Upcoming events

*2014 meeting of the American Society of Criminology* from 19-22 November 2014 in San Francisco, California, USA. Meeting theme: Criminology at the Intersections of Oppression. For more information, see: [https://www.asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm](https://www.asc41.com/annualmeeting.htm).


Publications

*First WHO report on suicide prevention calls for coordinated action to reduce suicides worldwide*
More than 800,000 people die by suicide every year - around one person every 40 seconds, according to WHO’s first global report on suicide, *Preventing suicide: a global imperative*, published on 4 September. Globally, suicide rates are highest in people aged 70 years and over. In some countries, however, the highest rates are found among the young. Notably, suicide is the second leading cause of death in 15-29 year-olds globally. Some 75% of suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries. Pesticide poisoning, hanging, and firearms are among the most common methods of suicide globally. The report reveals that limiting access to these means, early identification and management of mental and substance use disorders, follow-up care by health workers for people who have attempted suicide, and responsible media reporting can help prevent people dying by suicide. Another key to reducing deaths by suicide is a commitment by national governments to establish and implement coordinated plans of action. To access the report, visit [http://www.who.int/topics/suicide/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/suicide/en/) and for further information, contact Dr Alexandra Fleischmann (fleischmanns@who.int).

*New UNICEF report “Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action”*
This new UNICEF report focuses on the evidence for what is working to prevent violence and is directed at government leaders, civil society representatives, the private sector, and the international development community. This report features strategies drawn from UNICEF’s decades of experience, and is informed by key partners, notably the World Health Organization and the United Nations Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children. Case studies from around the globe are highlighted. Access the report and related materials at [http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74866.html](http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_74866.html).

*Special Issue of the Journal of Interpersonal Violence on Violence Against People With Disability*
This special issue highlights violence against people with disability. People with disabilities make up some 15% of the world’s population. Children with disabilities have a threefold increased risk of being victims of violence in the past year, while adults with disability have a 50% higher chance of being victims of violence in the past year, increasing to a threefold increased risk for people with mental health conditions. The papers in the Special Issue are:

- Introduction to Special Issue on Violence Against People With Disability by Christopher Mikton and Tom Shakespeare
- Examining the Impact of Disability Status on Intimate Partner Violence Victimization in a Population sample by Josephine Hahn, Marie McCormick, Jay Silverman, Elise Robinson, and Karestan Koenen
- Developing an Evidence Base for Violent and Disablity Hate Crime in Britain: Findings from the Life Opportunities Survey by Eric Emerson and Alan Roulstone
• Prevalence and experiences of intimate partner violence against women with disabilities in Bangladesh: results of a sequential exploratory mixed method study by Md. Tanvir Hasan, Tisa Muhaddes, Suborna Camellia, Nasima Selim, Sabina Faiz Rashid
• The prevalence and psychological costs of household violence by family members against women with disabilities in Cambodia by Jill Astbury and Fareen Walji
• Intimate Partner Violence in the Relationships of Men with Disabilities in the US: Relative Prevalence and Health Correlates by Monika Mitra and Vera E. Mouradian
• Looking Beyond Prevalence: A Demographic Profile of Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence with Disabilities by Michelle Ballan, Molly Freyer, C. Nathan Marti, Jules Perkel, Katie Webb, and Meghan Romanelli
• Sexual victimization of youth with a physical disability: An examination of prevalence rates, and risk and protective factors by Katrin Mueller-Johnson, Manuel P. Eisner, Ingrid Obsuth
• A systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent and respond to violence against persons with disabilities by Christopher Mikton, Holly Maguire, and Tom Shakespeare

For access to special issue, visit: http://jiv.sagepub.com/content/29/17.toc.

Calls for applications and proposals

Reminders:

For a wealth of information on violence prevention, visit the WHO VIP Prevention of Violence web-site: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en/


To download WHO Short Courses on Violence and Injury Prevention, visit: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/capacitybuilding/courses/en/index.html

To access Violence Prevention: Evidence Base and Resources, visit: www.preventviolence.info/