Preventing Youth Violence: Taking action and generating evidence

6th Milestones Meeting of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention

Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability
Berit Kieselbach (kieselbachb@who.int)

World Health Organization
What do we know?

- Prevalence data
- Consequences
- Risk factors
- Interventions

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Reviews of the evidence

- Focus on high income countries
- Not based on evidence
- Limit on certain settings or levels of intervention (e.g. schools)
- Tertiary prevention

- Focus on low- and middle-income countries
- Science-based
- Comprehensive
- User-friendly and accessible
Review Process

- Advisory group
- Wide geographical representation
Review Process

- Primary and secondary prevention programmes
- Focus on low- and middle-income countries
  - for parents and in early childhood
  - for children and youths in schools
  - For youths at risk and those outside schools
  - Community level interventions
  - Policies
Review Process

- 27 prevention strategies
- 3 languages

Scoping → Systematic Review → Expert group
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Review Process

- Scoping
- Systematic Review
- Expert group
- GRADE

Development of recommendations
- Evidence
- Feasibility
- Acceptance
- Additional benefits / harms
Review Process

Scoping → Systematic Review → GRADE → Guideline

- Scoping
- Systematic Review
- GRADE
- Guideline

Expert group
Practitioners
Classification of results

- Effective and recommended
- Promising, but more research is needed
- Not effective or harmful, not recommended
What works at home?

- Home visiting programmes
- Parenting programmes
- Nutritional interventions
What works in pre-school education?

- Multi-component early childhood development
- Academic enrichment
What works in primary school?

- Social and life-skills development programmes
- Whole school approaches/ Anti Bullying Programmes
- Peer mediation programmes
...and in secondary school?

- Social and life-skills development
- Drug and alcohol prevention
- Dating violence
- Financial incentives and education grants
What works outside schools?

- Some gang and street violence prevention programmes
- Universal juvenile curfew policies
- Structured leisure time activities
...and those that are about to start their first job?

Vocational training programmes
...for youths already engaged in violence?

Cognitive-behavioural therapeutic approaches
Address drug dependence
Mentoring
Boot camps and shock probation
What works for places and communities?

- Community- and problem-oriented policing strategies
- Urban upgrading
- Bystander interventions
- Community-level change programmes bringing together the community and local organizations
Policies which can reduce youth violence

- Restrict access and harmful use of firearms
- Reducing harmful use of alcohol
- Changing social norms
Challenges

- Lack of longitudinal studies
- Few studies on community level interventions
- Many interventions are theoretically promising but do not measure violence as an outcome
What's next?

- User-friendly short guide
- Dissemination
- Capacity Development
- Support to adaptation, implementation
Key messages

- What do we know? Data, risk factors!
- What we don't know: Consequences, interventions!
- Some interventions work better than others
- More outcome evaluations needed, especially in countries with limited resources
Thank you!


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