Youth violence is violence occurring between people aged 10–29 years. It often occurs among youth who are not relatives and who may not know each other, and generally takes place outside of the home. It includes harmful behaviours that may start early and continue into adulthood. Some violent acts — such as assault — can lead to serious injury or death. Others, such as bullying, slapping or hitting may result more in emotional than physical harm.

Key facts:
- Worldwide an estimated 200,000 homicides occur each year among youth aged 10–29 years, accounting for 43% of all homicides annually.
- In over 80% of deaths due to youth violence the victim is a male.
- For each young person killed, many more sustain injuries requiring hospital treatment.
- Beyond deaths and injuries, youth violence can lead to mental health problems and increased health risk behaviours, such as smoking, alcohol and drug use, and unsafe sex.
- Perpetrators and victims of youth violence often have a long history of involvement in violence, and many were victims of child maltreatment.

Findings from the survey
While more than half of surveyed countries report having adopted national action plans to address youth violence, only a quarter of countries report having national surveys to measure the magnitude and consequences of youth violence, and identify its risk factors.

Prevention approaches
A variety of approaches have been developed to reduce violent behaviour among young people. The most common approaches help children and adolescents manage anger, resolve conflict and develop the necessary social skills to solve problems.

Globally, more than 500 young people are murdered every day.
Preschool enrichment
Preschool enrichment programmes introduce young children to the skills necessary for success in school, thereby increasing the likelihood of future academic success. Preschool enrichment programmes can reduce arrests for violence among those aged 20–24 years by up to 40%.

Life skills training
Life skills training programmes are designed to help older children and adolescents manage anger, resolve conflict and develop the necessary social skills to solve problems. Life skills training programmes can reduce adolescent violence by up to 29%.

Mentoring
Mentoring programmes match a young person at high risk of antisocial behaviour or growing up in a single-parent family with a caring older person from outside the family. Mentoring can reduce illicit drug initiation, truancy and other risk factors for youth violence.

Bullying prevention
Bullying prevention programmes can involve anger management, social skills and assertiveness training for children involved in bullying; teaching peers active listening and problem solving skills to help those involved; and whole-school approaches such as developing an anti-bullying policy.