

Prevent | 19

ISSUE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION



Prevent: October (Issue 19)

HEADLINES

WHO hosts 5th Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting

On 6-7 September 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, nearly 300 violence prevention experts from over 60 countries convened to discuss progress in WHO's Global Campaign for Violence Prevention and strategize the way ahead. The meeting was hosted by WHO, the Ministry of Health of South Africa, and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, with financial support from the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, The California Wellness Foundation and the Open Society Foundation. Keynote addresses by Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health of South Africa, and Ms Helen Zille, Premier of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, focused on violence prevention efforts in South Africa, including concerted drives to reduce access to and misuse of alcohol, a leading risk for all forms of interpersonal violence. Dr Etienne Krug, Director the WHO Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, presented on achievements, obstacles, and opportunities in global violence prevention. Plenary sessions included state-of-the-science reviews on the prevention of child maltreatment, intimate partner and sexual violence and youth violence; explorations of the role of civil society in advancing violence prevention; and an overview of major international initiatives to strengthen violence prevention capacities. Key stakeholders committed to supporting development of a global status report on violence prevention and to identifying a small set of policy, legal and programme-delivery targets at national level towards which global violence prevention efforts can be directed. Related materials, including the meeting programme, list of participants and presentations, are available here http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/5th_milestones_meeting/en/index.html. For further information, please contact Dr Alexander Butchart (butcharta@who.int).

UBS Optimus Foundation: symposium on ethical and methodological issues in the international epidemiology of sexual abuse

On 5 September 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, the UBS Optimus Foundation convened a symposium aimed at comparing research results from surveys of violence against children in different countries, and reviewing methodological and ethical questions on researching child sexual abuse and other forms of violence against children. Some 40 researchers and policy-makers from around the world attended the meeting. Some of the regional studies presented found unexpectedly high self-reported prevalence of sexual abuse in boys and small differences between boys and girls, especially in China and South East Asia. Several studies also reported an increasing prevalence of new forms of non-contact victimization, such as victimization through Internet and text messaging. The debate on ethical issues focused mainly on the minimum age for respondents to surveys of child sexual abuse. Participants observed that there are currently no indications that research on sexual abuse in children is actually harmful, but further research on potential negative effects is needed. For further information, please contact Dr Christopher Mikton (miktonc@who.int).

20th International Safe Community Conference hosted in Sweden

The 20th International Safe Community Conference was held in Falun, Sweden from 7-9 September 2011. The theme of the conference addressed the need for participating communities to implement evidence-based interventions and evaluate the impact of these programmes. Delegates also discussed a new governance mechanism for the Safe Community movement. A steering committee

has been tasked to refine a business plan for further discussion. The programme and abstracts of presentations may be downloaded from the following site: www.falun.se/safecom2011 . For further information, please contact Dr Margie Peden (pedenm@who.int) or Dr Dinesh Sethi (DIN@ecr.euro.who.int).

Featured outcome evaluation

The Philadelphia foot patrol experiment: a randomized controlled trial of police patrol effectiveness in violent crime hotspots

Research has found that foot patrols improve community perception of the police and reduce fear of crime, but they are generally unable to reduce the incidence of crime. Previous tests of foot patrols have, however, suffered from statistical and measurement issues and have not fully explored the potential dynamics of deterrence within small areas. In this paper, the authors report on the efforts of more than 200 foot patrol officers during the summer of 2009 in Philadelphia, USA. Geographic information systems (GIS) analysis was the basis for a randomized controlled trial of police effectiveness across 60 violent crime hotspots. The results identified a significant reduction in the level of violent crime after 12 weeks in the areas with targeted foot patrols. Target areas in the top 40% on violent crime counts before the foot patrols began had significantly less violent crime during the operational period. Target areas outperformed the control sites by 23%, resulting in a total net effect (once displacement was considered) of 53 violent crimes prevented. The results suggest that targeted foot patrols in violent crime hotspots can significantly reduce violent crime levels as long as a threshold level of violence exists initially. The findings contribute to a growing body of evidence on the contribution of hotspots and place-based policing to the reduction of crime, and especially violent crime, which is a significant public health threat. Authors suggest that intensive foot patrol efforts in violent hotspots may achieve deterrence at the level of small areas, primarily by increasing the certainty of disruption, apprehension, and arrest.

Reference: Ratcliffe JH, Taniguchi T, Groff ER, Wood JD. (2011) The Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Police Patrol Effectiveness in Violent Crime Hotspots. *Criminology*, 49(3):795-831.

REGIONAL

Africa

MOH focal points from the WHO African Region gather in South Africa

For the first time ever on 4-5 September 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, Ministry of Health focal points for injury and violence prevention from the WHO African Region gathered to update their knowledge on injury and violence; share experiences, approaches and challenges; and define potential collaboration with each other and with WHO. The meeting drew together representatives from 20 countries in the region as well as from nine WHO sub-regional and country offices. Dr Etienne Krug, WHO Director, gave an overview of violence and injury prevention in the world today while Dr Martin Ekeke Monono, WHO Regional Adviser, highlighted responses across the WHO African Region. Ministry of Health focal points from Benin, Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa presented on their ongoing injury and violence prevention efforts. The meeting resulted in the creation of a regional network of Ministry of Health focal points and plans to organize a regional training. For further information, please contact Dr Martin Ekeke Monono (ekekem@afro.who.int).

Open Society Foundation: workshop on policing and violence prevention

On 5 September 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, the Open Society Foundation's Crime and Violence Prevention Initiative convened over 50 police officials, experts on policing, and representatives of civilian police oversight bodies to discuss lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities around violence and its prevention. While the majority of participants were from African countries, there were several from Central America and Europe. With the exception of South Africa, where the idea of preventing interpersonal violence through policing and by addressing risk factors is well entrenched, the police in other African countries appears to play a limited role in addressing

mob/collective violence, and almost no role in preventing interpersonal violence. For further information, please contact Dr Alexander Butchart (butcharta@who.int)

University of Cape Town, South Africa: Safety and Violence Initiative, first conference

On 8-9 September 2011, the first conference of the University of Cape Town's Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI) convened around 60 participants; most were from the Western Cape, but about 10 were international. SaVI brings together scholars from various departments and institutes within the University of Cape Town, including the Institute of Criminology; the Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit; the Law, Race and Gender Research Unit; the Department of Psychology; the School of Public Health and Family Medicine; the Department of Social Anthropology; the Department of Social Development; the Centre for Social Science Research; and the Department of Surgery, among others. The conference highlighted a rich array of applied and academic research on all types of interpersonal violence, and suggests that SaVI has the potential to become a major resource for violence prevention research, policy and programme development for South Africa and the wider African region. For further information, please contact Dr Alexander Butchart (butcharta@who.int)

Europe

Third European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion hosted in Hungary

On 16-17 June 2011, the Third European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion was held in Budapest, Hungary, as one of the official events of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union. There were over 200 participants from 39 countries present, including injury prevention practitioners, scientists and policy-makers from government and civil society. The conference was organized by EuroSafe, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Resources of Hungary, and was funded by the European Commission and sponsored by WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Conference was opened by the Hungarian Deputy Secretary of State for Health and the conference theme was the challenges of local implementation. WHO's Regional Adviser, Dr Dinesh Sethi, gave a keynote address entitled "From international exchange to local implementation". Delegates agreed upon a draft declaration calling for greater priority in the area of injury and violence prevention, which will be forwarded to the European Commission, respective health ministries and WHO. For further information, please contact Dr Dinesh Sethi (Din@ecr.euro.who.int).

Western Pacific

Meeting in Philippines on child maltreatment prevention and the Positive Parenting Programme

On 20 June 2011, a meeting of 150 stakeholders was convened in Manila, Philippines, to discuss the possibility of implementing the Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) to prevent child maltreatment in the Philippines. Participants included the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health, the police, other government departments and NGO's. The main speakers were Dr Bernadette Madrid from the Child Protection Unit, University of the Philippines, Dr Christopher Mikton from WHO, and Professor Matt Sanders, the main developer of Triple P. For further information, please contact: Dr Christopher Mikton (miktonc@who.int).

Regional workshop on the prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence

A three-day workshop on the prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence was held in Manila, Philippines, from 18-20 July 2011. In total, some 30 people from the Western Pacific region participated including from Kiribati (e.g. Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Social Development), Lao People's Democratic Republic (e.g. a Member of Parliament, Ministry of Health), the Philippines (e.g. Department of Social Welfare and Development and academia), Samoa (e.g. Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development), Solomon Island (e.g. Ministry of Health and Social Services) and Viet Nam (e.g. Department of Health) and from the United Nations Population Fund and the Australian government's overseas aid programme. The workshop was facilitated by WHO and Partners for Prevention and aimed to increase participants' understanding of the primary prevention of intimate partner violence and sexual violence and related strategies. Participants also identified opportunities for implementing this knowledge in their countries upon their return. For further information, please contact: Dr Christopher Mikton (miktonc@who.int).

Publications

WHO and World Bank launch first ever *World report on disability*

On 9 June 2011 at UN headquarters in New York, WHO and the World Bank launched the *World report on disability*. The launch, which was an official side event of the High Level Meeting on AIDS, featured the WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan; World Bank Vice President, Ms Tamar Manuelyan Atinc; Ministers of Health from Mexico and Rwanda, and the Australian Ambassador to the UN, among others. Testimonies from people with disabilities including Professor Steven Hawking were shared. The ceremony was chaired by WHO Director for Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, Dr Etienne Krug, and attended by about 250 people from governments, UN agencies, disabled people organizations, and academia. Some of the 380 experts who contributed to the report were among those who participated. The report was very well received by all present, and is clearly considered a landmark achievement for the field of disability. In addition to the formal speeches from dignitaries, the WHO Coordinator for Disability and Rehabilitation, Ms Alana Officer, presented an overview of the report. Excellent media coverage accompanied the launch of the report. To access the report, visit http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html.

The better angels of our nature: the decline of violence in history and its causes

From the publisher "This riveting, myth-destroying book reveals how, contrary to popular belief, humankind has become progressively less violent, over millennia and decades. Can violence really have declined? The images of conflict we see daily on our screens from around the world suggest this is an almost obscene claim to be making. Extraordinarily, however, Steven Pinker shows violence within and between societies - both murder and warfare - really has declined from prehistory to today. We are much less likely to die at someone else's hands than ever before. Even the horrific carnage of the last century, when compared to the dangers of pre-state societies, is part of this trend. Debunking both the idea of the 'noble savage' and an over-simplistic Hobbesian notion of a 'nasty, brutish and short' life, Steven Pinker argues that modernity and its cultural institutions are actually making us better people. He ranges over everything from art to religion, international trade to individual table manners, and shows how life has changed across the centuries and around the world - not simply through the huge benefits of organized government, but also because of the extraordinary power of progressive ideas. Why has this come about? And what does it tell us about ourselves? It takes one of the world's greatest psychologists to have the ambition and the breadth of understanding to appreciate and explain this story, to show us our very natures."

See: <http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,,9780141959740,00.html> and for interview of author see: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904106704576583203589408180.html>

