

## Chapter 5



# Interpersonal Violence: Global Impact and Paths to Prevention

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## INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal violence is a pervasive public health, human rights, and development challenge (Rosenberg and others 2006). Its effects reverberate through families, communities, and nations and across generations. It is a leading cause of death among adolescents and young adults in most parts of the world. Exposure to interpersonal violence increases individuals' lifelong vulnerability to a broad range of emotional, behavioral, and physical health problems. Interpersonal violence directly affects health care expenditures worldwide; indirectly, it affects national and local economies—stunting development, increasing inequality, and eroding human capital (WHO 2008).

Attention to interpersonal violence as a global issue has expanded dramatically since the World Health Assembly identified violence as a public health priority in 1996. Reports by the United Nations (UN) have contributed greatly to increased awareness (Krug and others 2002; Pinheiro 2006; UN 2006). These and other efforts culminated in specific targets for eliminating interpersonal violence in the UN's post-2015 Action Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN 2015).

## NATURE AND BURDEN OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Globally, the three primary forms of violence are interpersonal violence; self-directed violence, including suicide; and collective violence, including war, terrorism, and state-perpetrated violence in the form of genocide or torture (Dahlberg and Krug 2002). This chapter focuses on interpersonal violence.

### Definitions of Interpersonal Violence

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines *violence* as follows: “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation” (Dahlberg and Krug 2002, 5). This definition encompasses interpersonal, self-directed, and collective violence.

Interpersonal violence involves the intentional use of physical force or power against other persons by an individual or small group of individuals. Interpersonal violence may be physical, sexual, or psychological (also called emotional violence), and it may involve

deprivation and neglect. Acts of interpersonal violence can be further divided into family or partner violence and community violence.

- *Family or partner violence* refers to violence within the family or between intimate partners. It includes child maltreatment, dating and intimate partner violence (IPV), and elder maltreatment.
- *Community violence* occurs among individuals who are not related by family ties but who may know each other. It includes youth violence, bullying, assault, rape or sexual assault by acquaintances or strangers, and violence that occurs in institutional settings such as schools, workplaces, and prisons.

### The Burden of Interpersonal Violence

Information on the magnitude, nature, and consequences of interpersonal violence is critical for program and policy development.

#### Deaths Resulting from Interpersonal Violence

WHO's Global Health Estimates (GHE) indicate that approximately 1.4 million people died in 2011 as a result of all three major forms of violence (table 5.1). Of those deaths, 35.3 percent, or 504,587, were due to interpersonal violence. GBD estimates find that 83 percent of all violence-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and 91.4 percent of deaths due to interpersonal violence occur in LMICs. In 2011,

the estimated rate of deaths due to interpersonal violence or homicide in LMICs was 8.0 per 100,000 people, compared with 3.3 per 100,000 in high-income countries (HICs).

Rates and patterns of violent death varied by region (figure 5.1). Homicide rates were highest in LMICs in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Sub-Saharan Africa, and lowest in East Asia and the Pacific and in some countries in northern Africa. In 2010, homicide was the leading cause of years of life lost in tropical and central Latin America, the fourth leading cause in southern Sub-Saharan Africa, and the eighth leading cause in the Caribbean and Eastern Europe (Lozano and others 2012). Poorer countries, especially those with large gaps between the rich and the poor, tend to have higher rates of homicide than wealthier countries (Butchart and Engstrom 2002).

Homicide rates differed markedly by age and gender (table 5.2). For infants and young children ages 0–4 years, the rates for male and female homicide victims are 2.9 and 3.2 per 100,000, respectively; this is the only age range in which the female rate exceeds the male rate. For the 15- to 29-year-old age group, rates for males were nearly five times those for females; for the remaining older age groups, rates for males were around two to four times those for females. Homicide rates for females doubled between the ages of 5–14 and 15–29 years and then decreased; however, the rates increased again in women ages 70 years and above. Rates for males increased almost tenfold for

**Table 5.1** Estimated Violence-Related Deaths, by Type and Income Level, 2011

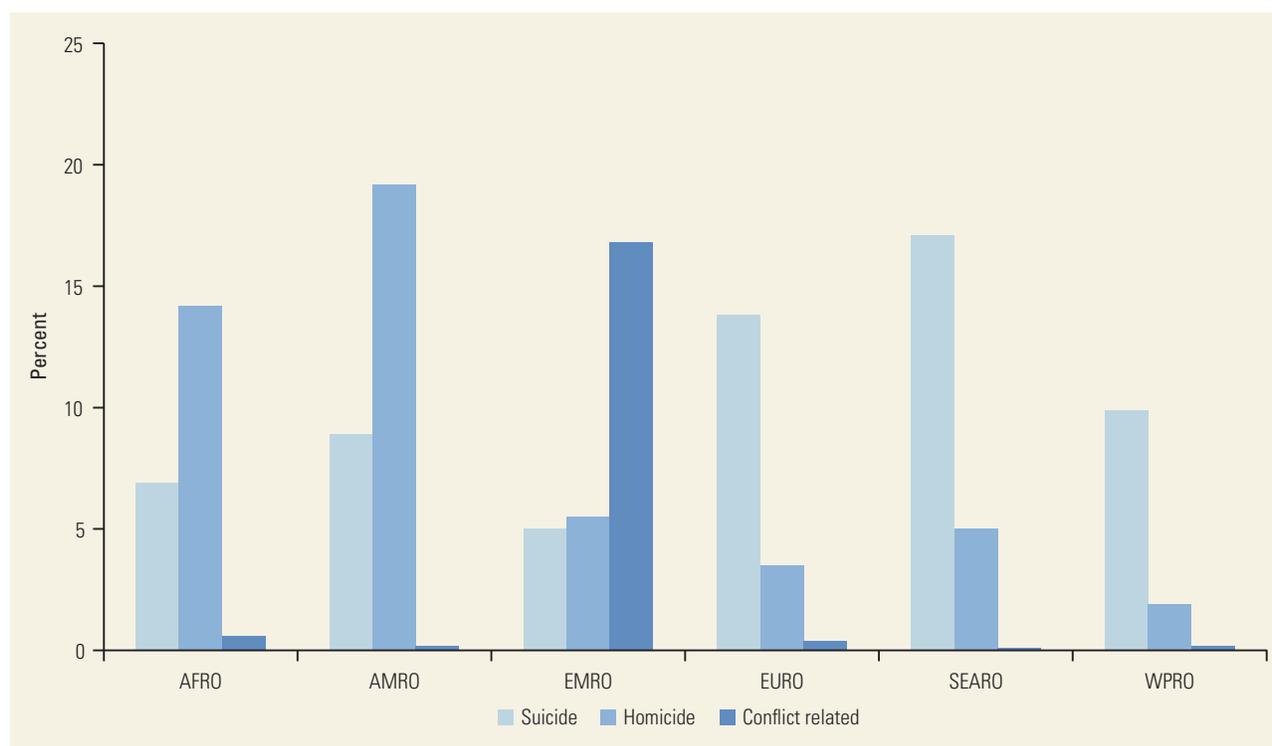
Category	Number	Rate per 100,000 people <sup>a</sup>	Proportion of total (percent)
<b>Suicide</b>	803,900	11.4	56.3
LMICs	606,698	10.5	75.5
HICs	197,201	15.2	24.5
<b>Interpersonal</b>	504,587	7.1	35.3
LMICs	461,429	8.0	91.4
HICs	43,158	3.3	8.6
<b>Conflict related</b>	119,463	1.7	8.4
LMICs	117,131	2.0	98.0
HICs	2,332	0.2	2.0
<b>All types of violence</b>	1,427,949	20.2	100.0
LMICs	1,185,259	20.5	83.0
HICs	242,691	18.8	17.0

Source: WHO 2014.

Note: HIC = high-income country; LMIC = low- and middle-income country.

a. Age standardized.

**Figure 5.1** Homicide, Suicide, and Conflict-Related Fatality Rates, by Region, 2011



Source: WHO 2014.

Note: AFRO = African Regional Office; AMRO = Americas Regional Office; EMRO = Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office; EURO = European Regional Office; SEARO = South-East Asia Regional Office; WPRO = Western Pacific Regional Office.

**Table 5.2** Estimated Global Homicide and Suicide Rates, by Age and Gender, 2012

Age	Homicides <sup>a</sup>		Suicides <sup>a</sup>	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0–4 years	2.9	3.2	0.0	0.0
5–14 years	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.2
15–29 years	19.4	3.7	15.6	11.3
30–49 years	15.4	2.8	17.6	7.8
50–59 years	9.6	2.0	21.7	9.3
60–69 years	6.8	2.2	24.6	13.1
70+ years	6.4	3.5	43.2	20.8
Total	11.4	2.8	14.5	8.2

Source: WHO 2014.

a. Per 100,000 people.

males 15 to 29, declined slightly for those 30 to 49, and then decreased with age. Overall, homicides resulted in the deaths of slightly more than 4 males for every 1 female. Recent estimates indicate that, globally, about one in seven homicides, and more than one in

three homicides of females, are perpetrated by an intimate partner (Stöckl and others 2013).

Firearms are associated with a substantial number of homicides around the world. In 2010, an estimated 196,200 firearm homicides were committed in

nonconflict situations (Lozano and others 2012). Firearm suicides are also an important problem in many countries, such as in the United States, where more than 60 percent of all firearm deaths are suicides. The number of suicides committed with firearms globally is unknown.

### **Nonfatal Interpersonal Violence**

In recent years, multiple reports using household survey data have characterized the prevalence of interpersonal violence.

#### **Violence against Children and Youth**

Results from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) in 33 countries found that an average of 76 percent of children ages 2 to 14 years had experienced some form of violent physical or psychological discipline during the previous month (UNICEF 2010). Surveys of violence against children in five countries (Haiti, Kenya, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe) found that the prevalence of sexual violence against girls was 26 percent to 38 percent, and against boys it was 9 percent to 21 percent (CDC, INURED, and the Comité de Coordination, 2014; Reza and others 2009; UNICEF, CDC, and KNBS 2012; UNICEF, CDC, and Muhimbili University 2012; ZIMSTAT, UNICEF, and CCORE 2012). The prevalence of physical violence against girls was 61 percent to 74 percent, and against boys it was 57 percent to 76 percent. The prevalence of emotional violence against girls was 24 percent to 35 percent, and against boys it was 27 percent to 39 percent. Regardless of the type of violence, perpetrators are largely known to the victim, and violence tends to occur in homes.

In meta-analyses of studies worldwide, 11 percent to 22 percent of girls and 4 percent to 19 percent of boys have experienced child sexual abuse, 14 percent to 55 percent have experienced child physical abuse, 12 percent to 22 percent have experienced physical neglect, and 13 percent to 25 percent have experienced emotional neglect (Stoltenborgh and others 2011; Stoltenborgh and others 2013a; Stoltenborgh, Bakermans-Kranenburg, and van Ijzendoorn 2013b). The hidden nature of child sexual and physical abuse is poignant. When compared with official reports, self-reported prevalence of child sexual abuse was more than 30 times the official rate (Stoltenborgh and others 2011); self-reported prevalence of physical abuse was more than 75 times the official rate (Stoltenborgh and others 2013a).

In youth ages 10 to 24 years, interpersonal violence was the fifth leading cause of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in 2004, accounting for 3.5 percent of all DALYs in this age group (Gore and others 2011). Unfortunately, few studies in LMICs examine the nonfatal consequences of youth violence. This research gap urgently requires filling.

#### **Violence against Women**

The prevalence of violence against women has been documented by Demographic and Health Surveys conducted in Sub-Saharan African countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and by Reproductive Health Surveys (RHS) conducted in Central and South American countries (Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Paraguay). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the DHS findings show that the prevalence of physical violence against women ranged from 30 percent in Malawi to 60 percent in Uganda, with most perpetrators being intimate partners; the prevalence of sexual and emotional violence by intimate partners was also high (Borwankar, Diallo, and Sommerfelt 2008). For Central and South America, RHS findings show prevalence of physical violence against women ranging from 17 percent in Jamaica to 31 percent in Ecuador (Bott and others 2012). Global and regional estimates of violence against women demonstrate that 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence (or both), and most of that violence was perpetrated by intimate partners (WHO 2013).

#### **Violence against Elderly People**

Elder maltreatment has been examined using population-based surveys and records from adult protective services. In surveys, 6.0 percent of older people reported significant abuse in the past month, and 5.6 percent of couples reported physical violence in their relationship in the past year (Cooper, Selwood, and Livingston 2008). In studies involving vulnerable elders in nursing or care homes, nearly 25 percent reported significant levels of psychological abuse. Rates of abuse reported to adult protective services are generally very low (1 percent to 2 percent).

### **Consequences of Interpersonal Violence**

The consequences of experiencing interpersonal violence are pervasive and enduring. Evidence confirms that exposure to violence increases the risks of injuries, infectious diseases, mental health problems, reproductive health problems, and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

### **Cause of Physical or Psychological Injury**

Although *injury* historically has been defined as an individual's experience of physical damage, the definition has been expanded to include damage that is psychological, with the potential to lead to maldevelopment or deprivation (Norton and Kobusingye 2013). Whether they are physical or psychological, violence-associated injuries commonly go unrecognized and range from self-limiting to severe. Physical injuries include lacerations, bruises, wounds, fractures, broken teeth, ocular damage, burns, internal injuries, and head injuries. Such injuries, especially those associated with highly lethal means such as firearms, may lead to disability, including brain damage, amputations, or paralysis (Buchanan 2013).

### **Link to Infectious Diseases**

The association between sexual and physical violence and infectious diseases, particularly sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is well supported. Evidence across multiple studies demonstrates that these associations are strong, largely consistent, graded, and biologically plausible (Andersson, Cockcroft, and Shea 2008; Machtinger, Wilson, and others 2012). Emerging evidence suggests that violence may be associated with the transmission and progression of infections, increases in antiretroviral failure, high-risk behaviors, and an independently elevated risk of HIV/AIDS-associated death (Machtinger, Haberer, and others 2012). The importance of gender-based violence as a driver of HIV/AIDS in women is so prominent that multilateral donors such as UN Women view elimination of violence against women and children as a key strategy for advancing prevention (IOM 2013).

### **Increased Risk of Reproductive Problems**

Multiple studies document the reproductive consequences of exposure to child maltreatment and IPV. These forms of violence are associated with unintended pregnancy and teen pregnancy, and they influence victims' associated risk behaviors, such as multiple partners and early initiation of sexual activity (Hillis and others 2004). The intergenerational effects of exposure to childhood violence may be extreme. For example, violence against girls increases the future risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as fetal death (Hillis and others 2004). In addition, mortality for young children is significantly higher when their mothers are victims of IPV (Silverman and others 2011). A review of studies from 17 LMICs shows that IPV leads to an increased prevalence of pregnancy-associated mental health disorders, such as postpartum depression, which impair a mother's ability to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for her children (Fisher and others 2012).

### **Increased Risk of Mental Health Problems**

Globally, studies from high-, middle-, and low-income countries document that violent experiences lead to various mental health consequences. The WHO World Mental Health Survey findings from 21 countries demonstrate that violence during childhood is associated with mood, anxiety, behavior, and substance disorders, as well as suicidal behavior, during adulthood (Kessler and others 2010). Furthermore, studies involving 21,000 women from Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean confirm strong associations between various forms of violence—including experiencing and witnessing IPV, nonpartner physical violence, and childhood sexual abuse—and suicides (Devries and others 2011).

### **Increased Risk of Future Violence**

Exposure to violence during childhood increases the risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence later in life. Experiencing child maltreatment and witnessing partner abuse have consistently been shown to increase the risk of becoming either a perpetrator or a victim of sexual violence and IPV as an adult (Capaldi and others 2012; Sharp and others 2012). This intergenerational effect of childhood violence increases the risk that men will become perpetrators and that women will become victims. An assessment of Reproductive Health Surveys in six countries in the Americas found that the proportion of women reporting IPV was more than twice as high for those who experienced sexual or physical abuse in childhood as for those who did not (Bott and others 2012).

### **Increased Risk to Special Populations**

Although most reports addressing interpersonal violence focus on the general population, some recent studies have addressed infectious, reproductive, and mental health consequences of violence for children outside of family care, including street children, trafficked children, those affected by crises and armed conflict, and those living in institutions such as orphanages. For street children, studies from LMICs report HIV/AIDS seroprevalences of 40 percent and higher among those who experienced childhood violence, in contrast to general population prevalences of 1 percent (Kissin and others 2007; Robbins and others 2010). Associations between violence and elevated risks of HIV/AIDS and STIs, pregnancy, psychiatric pathology, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide have been reported among victims of sex trafficking and armed conflict, as well as among those in orphanages (Reed and others 2012; Silverman and others 2009; Zapata and others 2011, 2013).

### Increased Risk of NCDs

Violence during childhood is also associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that often only become evident decades later. Exposure to childhood violence leads to consistent and graded increases in the four NCDs that accounted for nearly 60 percent of the 53 million deaths globally in 2010—cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, and diabetes (Lozano and others 2012; Norman and others 2012). In both HICs and LMICs, childhood violence has been associated with major risk factors for these diseases, including alcohol abuse, tobacco use, physical inactivity, and obesity (Anda and others 2010). Beyond health effects, serious psychosocial effects of childhood violence that are observed decades later include severe problems with finances, family, jobs, anger, and stress (Hillis and others 2004).

### Basic Science Evidence

The biological underpinnings of the empirical associations between exposure to violence and subsequent major causes of mortality in adulthood have been established through basic science. Recent evidence demonstrates that traumatic stress, such as that associated with violence in childhood, impairs brain architecture (both structure and function), immune status, metabolic systems, and cellular inflammatory responses (Anda and others 2010). It is clear that early exposure to toxic stress in childhood confers lasting damage at the most basic levels of the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems, and that such exposures can alter the physical structure of DNA (epigenetic effects) (Danese and McEwen 2012). Important research summarizing the effects of early childhood experiences suggests that those multifaceted gene-environment interactions that cause negative health consequences after exposure to chronic stress also appear to confer positive health consequences after exposure to early environments that are engaging and nurturing (Heim and Binder 2012). Epidemiologic research complements these findings, demonstrating that early nurturing in the home leads to sustained positive economic and psychosocial consequences up to five decades later (Hillis and others 2010).

## ECONOMIC BURDEN OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Given the high prevalence of interpersonal violence and its extensive consequences, the associated economic impact is substantial. However, no comprehensive framework for estimating the total economic burden of violence exists.

### Framework for Estimating the Costs of Violence

Challenges in creating such a framework include “weaknesses in the knowledge base both in economic costing and in violence prevention, difficulty in creating a universal algorithm for diverse settings, and disagreements in types of costs to include” (IOM and NRC 2012, 7). Although no methodology exists to enumerate the full impact of violence, costs that are commonly considered include *direct costs*, which arise proximal to the violent event, and *indirect costs*, which result from consequences, externalities, or lost opportunities (IOM and NRC 2012). In general, direct costs typically include those associated with medical care, psychological care, property damage, policing, incarceration, and residential treatment; indirect costs are those commonly associated with lost wages and decreased productivity. Current approaches that largely confine estimates of health-related costs to proximal consequences lead to marked underestimates because they fail to incorporate costs of HIV/AIDS, chronic diseases, and other conditions attributable to violence.

A comprehensive approach to estimating costs will strengthen global efforts to elevate the urgency of violence prevention (WHO 2004). Comparisons across countries of the costs of interpersonal violence are complicated by variations in definitions, types of costs, discount rates, comparable data, and methodology. Reports vary greatly in the types of costs they include, whether such costs are disaggregated, and whether they include costs associated with both victimization and perpetration. Although the absolute costs appear to be higher in HICs than LMICs, the relative costs of violence as a proportion of government spending are often high in both types of economies (table 5.3).

Reports of direct and indirect societal costs of interpersonal violence in general vary widely, ranging from US\$75.2 million (2013 dollars) for homicide in New Zealand in 1992 to US\$579.4 billion (2013 dollars) for homicide, child abuse, sexual and other assault, and robbery in the United States in 1993 (Fanslow and others 1997; Miller, Cohen, and Wiersema 1996). Estimates of the costs of both interpersonal and collective violence in the Americas show that direct and indirect economic costs ranged from 5.1 percent of 1997 gross domestic product (GDP) in Peru to 24.9 percent of 1997 GDP in El Salvador (Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999). Other estimates found that interpersonal violence accounted for 4.0 percent of GDP in Jamaica in 2006, 1.2 percent in Brazil in 2004, and 0.4 percent in Thailand in 2005 (Butchart and others 2008; Ward and others 2009).

Reports that estimate the national costs of child maltreatment are largely from HICs, whereas those that address IPV also include LMICs. In HICs, for example,

**Table 5.3** Summary of Costs of Interpersonal Violence, by Types of Violence

Study	Country	Costs included (time frame)	Discount rate	Total costs (per year)	Costs converted to 2013 U.S. dollars*	Violence-associated costs as percentage of national health expenditures	Violence-associated costs as percentage of GDP
<i>Interpersonal violence in general</i>							
Miller, Cohen, and Wiersema 1996	United States	Victim costs: medical and mental health care, victim services, productivity and quality of life losses (1993) (lifetime)	n.a.	US\$358.0 billion for homicide, child abuse, sexual and other assault, and robbery (1993)	US\$577.2 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Bellis and others 2012	England and Wales	For homicide, wounding, assault, and sexual assault: criminal justice system, health and victim services, foregone output, and physical and emotional costs (lifetime)	n.a.	£29.9 billion (2008–09)	US\$53.8 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Mayhew 2003	Australia	For homicide, assault, and sexual assault: medical costs, lost wages, intangible costs such as pain, suffering, and reduced quality of life (annual)	n.a.	\$A2.6 billion (2001)	US\$1.8 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Fanslow and others 1997	New Zealand	Lost earnings, legal fees, incarceration, and policing costs associated with homicide (annual)	n.a.	\$NZ83.0 million, averaging \$NZ1 million per homicide (1992)	US\$74.9 million, averaging US\$900 thousand per homicide	n.a.	n.a.
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	Peru	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5.1 percentage of 1997 GDP
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	Brazil	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10.5 percentage of 1997 GDP
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	Venezuela, RB	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	11.8 percentage of 1997 GDP

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**Table 5.3** Summary of Costs of Interpersonal Violence, by Types of Violence (continued)

Study	Country	Costs included (time frame)	Discount rate	Total costs (per year)	Costs converted to 2013 U.S. dollars*	Violence-associated costs as percentage of national health expenditures	Violence-associated costs as percentage of GDP
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	Mexico	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12.3 percentage of 1997 GDP
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	Colombia	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	24.7 percentage of 1997 GDP
Buvinic, Morrison, and Shifter 1999	El Salvador	For both interpersonal violence and collective violence: health impacts; private and public expenditures on police and security services; citizens' willingness to pay to live without violence; and value of goods lost, ransoms, and bribes (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	24.9 percentage of 1997 GDP
Butchart and others 2008	Brazil	Lifetime medical and productivity losses associated with self-directed and interpersonal violence (lifetime)	3 percent	R\$16.1 billion (2004)	US\$6.4 billion	0.4 percent	1.2 percentage of 2004 GDP
Butchart and others 2008	Jamaica	Lifetime medical and productivity losses associated with self-directed and interpersonal violence (lifetime)	3 percent	J\$29.6 billion (2006)	US\$530.0 million	12.0 percent	4.0 percentage of 2006 GDP
Butchart and others 2008	Thailand	Lifetime medical and productivity losses associated with self-directed and interpersonal violence (lifetime)	3 percent	B15.7 billion (2005)	US\$453.3 million	4.0 percent	0.4 percentage of 2005 GDP
<b>Child maltreatment</b>							
Fang and others 2012	United States	Childhood health care, adult medical, lost productivity, child welfare, criminal justice, and special education costs (lifetime)	3 percent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US\$124.0 billion lifetime costs from new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment (2010)</li> </ul>	US\$132.5 billion	n.a.	n.a.

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**Table 5.3** Summary of Costs of Interpersonal Violence, by Types of Violence (continued)

Study	Country	Costs included (time frame)	Discount rate	Total costs (per year)	Costs converted to 2013 U.S. dollars*	Violence-associated costs as percentage of national health expenditures	Violence-associated costs as percentage of GDP
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US\$210,012 average lifetime costs per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment</li> <li>• US\$1,272,900 average lifetime costs per death (2010 dollars)</li> </ul>			
Habetha and others 2012	Germany	Costs associated with health care, social, and educational services; foster care; productivity losses (lifetime)	n.a.	€11.1 billion (2008)	US\$9.7 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Mendonca, Alves, and Cabral Filho 2002	Recife, Brazil	Hospital costs (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	Violence against children and adolescents accounted for 65.1 percent of hospital admissions and 77.9 percent of all hospital costs in the state of Pernambuco (1999)	n.a.
<i>Intimate partner violence</i>							
CDC 2003	United States	Medical and mental health care costs, lost productivity (annual)	n.a.	US\$5.8 billion (1995)	US\$8.9 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Day 1995	Canada	Costs of health care, policing, legal fees, incarceration, lost earnings, and psychological trauma (lifetime)	n.a.	Can\$1.2 billion (1992)	US\$1.7 billion	n.a.	n.a.
Morrison and Orlando 1999	Chile	Lost productive capacity of abused women (annual)	n.a.	Ch\$1.6 billion (1996)	US\$5.8 million	n.a.	2.0 percentage of 1996 GDP
Morrison and Orlando 1999	Nicaragua	Lost productive capacity of abused women (annual)	n.a.	C\$29.5 million (1996)	US\$5.2 million	n.a.	1.6 percentage of 1996 GDP

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**Table 5.3** Summary of Costs of Interpersonal Violence, by Types of Violence (continued)

Study	Country	Costs included (time frame)	Discount rate	Total costs (per year)	Costs converted to 2013 U.S. dollars*	Violence-associated costs as percentage of national health expenditures	Violence-associated costs as percentage of GDP
International Center for Research on Women 2009	Bangladesh	Costs of health care, justice, and lost productivity (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4.5 percentage of 2007 per capita gross national income
International Center for Research on Women 2009	Morocco	Costs of health care, justice, and lost productivity (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22.0 percentage of 2007 per capita gross national income
International Center for Research on Women 2009	Uganda	Costs of health care, justice, and lost productivity (annual)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4.0 percentage of 2007 per capita gross national income
Roldós and Corso 2013	Ecuador	Costs of medical and legal services, and productivity losses (annual)	n.a.	US\$109.0 million (2012)	US\$110.6 million	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Youth violence</b>							
Miller, Fisher, and Cohen 2001	Pennsylvania, United States	Total victim costs, including quality of life and productivity losses of juvenile violence (lifetime)	2.5 percent	US\$5.4 billion (1993)	US\$8.7 billion	n.a.	n.a.

Note: \* Conversions to 2013 U.S. dollars using Department of Labor Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator; GDP = gross domestic product; n.a. = not applicable.

Fang and others (2012) estimated the U.S. total lifetime economic burden resulting from new cases of child maltreatment in 2008 to be US\$135 billion (2013 dollars); an analysis using similar methods showed total costs of US\$19.0 billion (2013 dollars) in Germany (Habetha and others 2012). HIC estimates of the annual direct and indirect costs of IPV against women exceeded US\$8.9 billion in the United States and US\$1.7 billion (all 2013 dollars) in Canada (CDC 2003; Day 1995). For LMICs, costs of the lost productive capacity of abused women as a percentage of GDP were equivalent to 2.0 percent in Chile, 1.6 percent in Nicaragua, and 22.0 percent in Morocco (table 5.3) (ICRW 2009; Morrison and

Orlando 1999). Although adolescents and young adults commit a disproportionate share of all violence and, therefore, account for a high proportion of its cost, youth violence has been the subject of few economic cost studies (WHO 2004).

### Risk and Protective Factors for Violence

Violence results from the interplay of risk factors and protective factors. In table 5.4 these risk factors are organized by levels of the ecological model, which examines the relationship between individual and contextual factors and considers violence as the product of these

**Table 5.4 Risk for Perpetrating Violence**

Level of the ecological model	Risk factors
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early exposure to violence and adverse events, including child maltreatment and intimate partner violence</li> <li>• Male gender</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Neuropsychological deficits, including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and learning disabilities</li> <li>• Personality disorders</li> <li>• Alcohol and substance misuse</li> <li>• History of violence</li> </ul>
Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intimate partner violence</li> <li>• Household members with criminal records</li> <li>• Harsh, cold, or inconsistent parenting</li> <li>• Low socioeconomic status</li> </ul>
Peer group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association with others who use and endorse the use of violence</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High residential mobility</li> <li>• High unemployment</li> <li>• High population density</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Drug trade</li> <li>• Inadequate victim care services</li> </ul>
Societal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid social change</li> <li>• Economic inequality</li> <li>• Gender inequality</li> <li>• Policies that sustain or increase inequalities</li> <li>• Patriarchal norms that prioritize men's power over women and adults' power over children</li> <li>• Societal norms that support violence</li> <li>• Poor rule of law</li> <li>• Weak criminal justice system</li> <li>• Availability of lethal means, for example, firearms</li> </ul>

Source: Krug and others 2002.

multiple levels of influence on behavior (Dahlberg and Krug 2001). Identifying these factors is important, because increasing protection and decreasing risk underlie effective prevention. Several cross-cutting risk factors for perpetrating violence are described in table 5.4. Many of these factors also increase an individual's likelihood of being a victim; for example, young men ages 15 to 44 are most likely to be both victims and perpetrators in any country. Additional factors, such as having a disability (Hughes and others 2012), increase the risk of becoming a victim but not a perpetrator.

The recognition that different types of interpersonal violence share common risk factors, often occur in combination, and may be causal factors for one other is important (Reza, Mercy, and Krug 2001). For example, child maltreatment is a risk factor for youth violence and IPV. Three cross-cutting risk factors bear particular mention because they represent factors that, if successfully addressed by prevention initiatives, could have substantial impact: parenting, substance abuse (particularly alcohol), and the availability of lethal means.

Harsh, cold, and inconsistent parenting has been linked to youth violence (van der Merwe, Dawes, and Ward 2012), IPV (Ireland and Smith 2009), and the increased risk of abusing one's own children (Thornberry, Knight, and Lovegrove 2012). In contrast, children who receive warm, consistent parenting tend to have better outcomes (Eisenberg and others 2005; Smith, Landry, and Swank 2010).

Substance abuse, and particularly alcohol abuse, is implicated in a number of ways in both victimization and perpetration of violence (Monteiro 2007; WHO 2006). Maternal use of alcohol during pregnancy can result in fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, with their attendant executive functioning disorders (Mattson and others 2013), which increase the risk of aggression in affected children. Alcohol use also reduces self-control and the ability to process information (Giancola 2000), making it more likely both that drinkers will use violence in response to perceived threats and that they will be vulnerable to victimization (Klosterman and Fals-Stewart 2006). Alcohol misuse has been implicated across all forms of violence, including perpetration of child maltreatment (Gilbert and others 2009) and elder abuse (Lachs and Pillemer 2004), and in both victimization and perpetration of youth violence (van der Merwe, Dawes, and Ward 2012) and IPV (Jewkes 2002).

Access to lethal means of perpetrating interpersonal violence, such as firearms and sharp objects, contributes substantially to the likelihood that such violence will result in death or serious injury (Beaman and others 2000). In the United States, the presence of a firearm in the home is associated with an increased

risk of homicides, especially among women (Miller, Azrael, and Hemenway 2013). The same authors report that in cross-national comparisons of HICs, higher homicide rates have been associated with greater access to firearms.

## INTERVENTIONS AND THEIR APPLICABILITY TO LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Public health interventions aim to prevent violence from occurring. Prevention efforts addressing common underlying risk factors have the potential to decrease several different forms of violence simultaneously. Such efforts include two broad groups of interventions:

- The first group targets documented risk and protective factors (for example, enhancing support for parents, reducing the availability and abuse of alcohol, and reducing access to lethal means) in well-defined target groups, such as adolescents. This group includes specific violence prevention programs implemented at the community, state and provincial, and national levels.
- The second group consists of policies and programs that address the social determinants of violence, including efforts to improve the conditions of daily life and to promote more equitable distribution of power, money, and resources.

Policy makers understand that a single intervention or policy will not solve the whole problem, nor will one sector solve it alone; as with automobile safety, the solutions will be incremental and will require multisectoral collaboration among policy makers in criminal justice, public health, education, and other areas.

The design, targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of both groups of interventions are enabled by the availability of timely and reliable surveillance information about outcomes of interest, including homicides, nonfatal injuries treated in emergency departments, and self-reported violence recorded through surveys. Indeed, one program that has significantly reduced violence-related injuries in Cardiff, Wales, is based on the systematic sharing of anonymous data from hospital emergency rooms and the police to better identify high-risk locations for violence (Florence and others 2013). Such locations become the focus of situation-specific interventions to reduce risks, for example, by increasing the presence of police patrols at high-risk times where alcohol is served, altering practices around the serving of alcohol (such as the mandatory use of plastic barware), and instituting crowd control at public transportation stops.

### **Specific Violence Prevention Programs**

Most of the scientific evidence for specific prevention programs to date is from HICs. Although conditions differ in LMICs, table 5.5 shows seven categories of violence prevention programs in HICs that are scientifically credible, along with the types of violence they prevent and considerations for their applicability in LMICs.

#### **Developing Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships between Parents or Caregivers and Children**

Interventions that support the development of safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between parents or caregivers and children in their early years can prevent child maltreatment and reduce childhood aggression (Bilukha and others 2005; Kaminski and others 2008). Emerging evidence suggests that such relationships can also reduce violence in adolescence and early adulthood; theoretical grounds exist for assuming they decrease IPV and self-directed violence in later life (Caldera and others 2007; Olds and others 1998; Walker and others 2011). In addition, these relationships offer the potential to prevent problem behaviors, such as substance misuse, eating disorders, and unsafe sex, which are important risk factors for NCDs; STIs, including HIV/AIDS; and unintentional injuries.

Although most evidence for the effectiveness of parenting programs comes from HICs (Knerr, Gardner, and Cluver 2013; Mikton and Butchart 2009), several initiatives to evaluate such programs in LMICs have recently been established, for example, the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund. In addition, parenting programs are quite widely implemented in LMICs to support early child development, raising the possibility that violence prevention components could be integrated into those programs.

#### **Developing Life Skills in Children and Adolescents**

Social development programs to build social, emotional, and behavioral competencies can prevent violence (Hahn and others 2007; Hawkins and others 1999; Klevens and others 2009). Preschool enrichment programs that provide children with academic and social skills at an early age appear promising (Baker-Henningham and others 2012; Nelson, Westhues, and MacLeod 2003). However, outcomes vary greatly across programs, and relatively few programs have been evaluated for their effects on violence (Durlak, Weissberg, and Pachan 2010).

School-based programs can address gender norms and attitudes with the aim of preventing dating violence. The Safe Dates program in the United States (Foshee and others 2005) and the Youth Relationship

Project in Canada (Wolfe and others 2009) are evidence-based approaches that could be adapted to LMICs. Life skills and social development training programs are popular in LMICs. Some include evaluations of effectiveness (for example, PREPARE in South Africa). However, because programs are typically delivered in schools, they depend on the readiness of the educational system to implement the program and reinforce its effects. Oversight and management structures must be in place before such programs are implemented.

#### **Reducing the Availability and Harmful Use of Alcohol**

Alcohol availability can be regulated by restricting the hours of sale and reducing the number of alcohol retail outlets (Cohen 2007; Duailibi and others 2007; Nemtsov 1998). Reduced hours of sales have been associated with reduced violence, and higher outlet densities have been associated with higher levels of violence. Empirical evidence has shown that higher prices for alcohol can decrease consumption and reduce mortality attributed to alcohol (Zhao and others 2013). Moreover, economic modeling suggests that price increases can reduce violence (Markowitz and Grossman 1998, 2000). Brief interventions and longer-term treatment for problem drinkers have been shown to reduce child maltreatment and IPV (Dinh-Zarr and others 2004). Interventions in and around drinking establishments that target crowding, management practice, physical design, staff training, and access to late night transportation also show promise in reducing violence (Bellis and Hughes 2008; Graham and Homel 2008).

Although most evidence for the effectiveness of interventions in preventing violence comes from HICs, several success stories come from LMICs, including the reduced trading hours in Brazil (Duailibi and others 2007). Given that LMICs show some of the greatest increases in alcohol consumption, more outcome evaluations of strategies to address alcohol-related violence in these settings are urgently needed. Two areas that should be explored are the effectiveness of (1) minimum drinking-age laws and (2) efforts to regulate the marketing of alcohol. However, in many LMICs, a large proportion of alcohol consumed is produced at home. In such settings, establishing policies to regulate alcohol production and sale is an important prerequisite for effective prevention (WHO and Liverpool John Moores University 2006). As WHO Member States, all LMICs are committed to implementing the global plan of action on alcohol and health (WHO 2010). That plan includes the interventions described.

**Table 5.5** Overview of Violence Prevention Strategies Showing Evidence for Effectiveness and Applicability in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Intervention	Type of violence					LMIC applicability
	Child maltreatment	Intimate partner violence	Sexual violence	Youth violence	Elder abuse	
<i>Developing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and their parents and caregivers</i>						
Parent training, including home visitation by nurses	●			○		These programs are likely to be highly applicable in LMICs. Few such programs in LMICs have been evaluated for violence prevention outcomes; several such studies are underway. Programs are resource-intensive and need to be adapted to the requirements of and assets available in LMICs.
Parent-child programs	○			○		
<i>Developing life skills in children and adolescents</i>						
Preschool enrichment programs				○		Most programs are delivered in schools and depend on the school system to deliver the program and reinforce its effects. Oversight and management structures must be in place before such programs are implemented.
Social development programs				●		
School-based programs to address gender norms and attitudes		●	○			
<i>Reducing the availability and harmful use of alcohol</i>						
Regulation of alcohol sales			○			Alcohol is an established risk factor for all types of violence. Some LMICs have seen rapid increases in alcohol consumption. Strategies to address alcohol may eventually be relevant to LMICs where alcohol is currently not available.
Increases in alcohol prices			○			
Interventions for problem drinkers		●				
Well-managed and well-designed drinking environments				○		
<i>Reducing access to lethal means</i>						
Restrictive firearm licensing and purchase policies				○		There is limited evidence of the effectiveness of programs and policies in reducing access to lethal means of perpetrating violence in LMICs. Emerging evidence from LMICs that have changed policies will shed light on the effectiveness of strategies for firearm injury prevention.
Enforced bans on carrying firearms in public				○		
<i>Promoting gender equality to prevent violence against women</i>						
Microfinance combined with gender equity training		○				Strong evidence for the effectiveness of such programs is limited to outcome evaluation studies in low-resource, rural communities in South Africa. Several outcome evaluation studies of similar programs are underway in other LMICs.
Life skills interventions		○				

table continues next page

**Table 5.5** Overview of Violence Prevention Strategies Showing Evidence for Effectiveness and Applicability in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (continued)

Intervention	Type of violence					LMIC applicability
	Child maltreatment	Intimate partner violence	Sexual violence	Youth violence	Elder abuse	
<i>Changing cultural and social norms that support violence</i>						
Social marketing to modify social norms		○	○			Programs that aim to change social norms supportive of violence through standalone mass-media campaigns are popular in LMICs. However, there is no evidence that such standalone programs are effective. They should be delivered in combination with other programs that address risk and protective factors more directly.
<i>Instituting victim identification, care, and support programs</i>						
Screening and referral		○				Stark differences exist in access to services (for example, between high- and low-income groups, and between urban and rural settings). The shortage of highly trained, well-supervised staff has been a barrier to the implementation of services in LMICs. However, in the psychosocial arena, new approaches using community health workers are promising.
Advocacy support programs		●				
Psychosocial interventions			○			
Protection orders		○				

Source: WHO 2009.

Note: LMICs = low- and middle-income countries; ● = well supported by evidence (multiple randomized controlled trials with different populations); ○ = emerging evidence.

### **Reducing Access to Lethal Means**

Evidence from North America is the primary basis of two systematic reviews and one meta-analysis that summarize the effects of various strategies to prevent firearm-related violence. One systematic review (Hahn and others 2005) concluded that the evidence is insufficient to determine whether firearm laws have any effect on violence. Such laws include bans on specified firearms or ammunition, restrictions on the acquisition of firearms, waiting periods for acquisition, firearms registration, licensing of owners, “shall issue” carry laws that allow people who pass background checks to carry concealed weapons, child access prevention laws, and zero tolerance laws for firearms in schools. Another systematic review (Koper and Mayo-Wilson 2009) found that directed police patrols focusing on illegal gun carrying can prevent gun crimes (including murders, shootings, robberies in which guns are used, and armed assaults). One meta-analysis (Makarios and Pratt 2012) suggests that bans on the sale of firearms had small effects, and law enforcement strategies had moderate effects in reducing gun violence.

More recent evidence suggests that the use of street outreach workers to mediate conflicts and provide social support, such as job referrals and access to social services in the U.S. context, may be effective in reducing youth homicides and firearm offenses (Webster and others 2012). In addition, studies from Brazil and South Africa have found that stricter licensing and reduced circulation of firearms accounted for significant decreases in firearm-related injuries (Marinho de Souza and others 2007; Matzopoulos, Thompson, and Myers 2014). These reports therefore suggest, from a limited evidence base, that some strategies addressing access to firearms show promise, but additional research is needed.

Public health can make a critical contribution to preventing firearm injuries and deaths by collecting data and evidence. A range of strategies exists for reducing firearm-related violence, but further research and evidence are needed to assess their effectiveness (IOM and NRC 2013). Strategies identified by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and others as being in particular need of additional research include the following:

- Increasing efforts to control access to firearms by individuals at risk of harming themselves or others (for example, the safe storage of guns, waiting periods, and background checks)
- Changing how firearms are used (for example, where firearms may be carried and provision of safety education)

- Reducing the lethality of guns (for example, designing firearms to make them safer and addressing magazine size).
- Evaluating strategies to reduce the use of military firearms in the aftermath of war or conflict, including strategies to disarm former combatants, disband armed groups, and reintegrate former combatants into civilian society.

Sound data and evidence on firearm injuries are needed to determine what programs and policies actually work in preventing these injuries while preserving the rights of legitimate gun owners.

### **Promoting Gender Equality to Prevent Violence against Women**

Several outcome evaluation studies demonstrate the effectiveness of multisector interventions to prevent violence against women by promoting gender equality. The Intervention with Microfinance and Gender Equity in South Africa, which combines microloans and gender equity training, reduced rates of self-reported violence by more than 50 percent (Pronyk and others 2006). The Stepping Stones program implemented in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa is a life skills training program that addresses gender-based violence, relationship skills, assertiveness training, and communication about HIV/AIDS and has shown promising results (Jewkes and others 2008; Paine and others 2002). The popularity of microfinance and conditional cash transfer programs in LMICs, into which violence prevention objectives could be integrated, further underscores their applicability.

### **Changing Cultural and Societal Norms That Support Violence**

Interventions that challenge cultural and social norms supporting violence are widely used, and their relatively low cost makes them a popular option. Such interventions are often restricted to standalone mass-media campaigns that are intended to raise awareness about the harmful effects of violence, thereby reducing the likelihood of future acts of violence. No evidence shows that such campaigns are effective; however, some evidence suggests that programs combining awareness-raising efforts with other mechanisms to change norms (for example, social development and life skills training and legislation) are effective. In South Africa, the Soul City initiative used television (through a soap opera series), radio, and nationally distributed information booklets to raise awareness of new IPV laws. The intervention increased the proportion of people who saw such violence as unacceptable (Usdin and others 2005).

### **Implementing Victim Identification, Care, and Support Programs**

Interventions to identify victims of interpersonal violence and to provide effective care and support are critical for protecting health and breaking cycles of violence from one generation to the next. Evidence of effectiveness is emerging in several areas:

- Screening tools to identify victims of IPV and refer them to appropriate services (Ramsay and others 2002)
- Psychosocial interventions, such as trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, to reduce mental health problems associated with violence (Bass and others 2013; Kornør and others 2008)
- Protection orders, which prohibit perpetrators of IPV from contacting victims (Holt and others 2003), to reduce repeat victimization.

Several trials have shown that advocacy support programs—which offer services such as counseling, safety planning, and referral—increase victims’ safety behaviors and reduce the risk of further harm (McFarlane and others 2006).

### **Policies and Programs to Address the Social Determinants of Violence**

Violence is strongly associated with social determinants, such as employment, income equity, rapid social change, and access to education. The expectation that policies and programs can prevent violence by addressing social determinants derives from ecological studies that use cross-sectional and time-series methods to document associations between social determinants and violence. Comprehensive violence prevention strategies should do more than just address the risk factors targeted by the specific programs; such strategies should be integrated with policies directed at the inequities that fuel violence. This integration is particularly important in LMICs, where daily living conditions can undermine the opportunities for positive early child development. For example, the context can include economic and social policies that exacerbate gaps between rich and poor and between men and women.

## **ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF INTERVENTIONS**

Economic evaluation provides a way to compare gains resulting from an intervention, which has its own costs and risks. Given the high prevalence of interpersonal violence and its direct and indirect costs, identifying

effective, low-cost interventions to reduce violence is an urgent priority. However, the same challenges that complicate measuring the costs of violence also complicate measuring the benefits associated with its prevention (Barnett 1993; WHO 2004). Despite widely varying methodologies, most studies show that behavioral, legal, and regulatory interventions are cost-effective (WHO 2004). Evidence addressing specific types of violence, largely from HICs, has identified a variety of cost-effective interventions to prevent child maltreatment, IPV, and youth violence (table 5.6). Despite the disproportionate effects of violence in LMICs, economic evaluations of interventions are rare; therefore, systematic research to measure the economic benefits of violence prevention efforts in LMICs would fill a critical gap.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

The gap between the science and the practice of violence prevention is growing. Although numerous effective programs, policies, and innovations have been identified, they are unlikely to have a substantial public health impact unless they are widely disseminated, implemented with quality and scale, and sustained over the long term (Rhoades, Bumbarger, and Moore 2012). Moreover, the benefits of their implementation must also be monitored. The infrastructure needed to support the dissemination, scaling up, and sustenance of effective programs and policies is slowly emerging.

Given the rapid expansion of and increasing demand for evidence-based violence prevention innovations, especially in LMICs, building an infrastructure that can more effectively move innovations from research to action is increasingly important. That infrastructure requires attention to three interrelated sets of functions and activities that should be coordinated across global, country, and local levels: prevention synthesis and translation, prevention support, and prevention delivery (Wandersman and others 2008).

### **Prevention Synthesis and Translation**

The greater the extent to which innovations for violence prevention are accessible (both from informational and financial perspectives), user-friendly, and clearly communicated, the more likely it is that effective approaches will be successfully disseminated and implemented (Clancy and Cronin 2005). The seven-part series on *Violence Prevention: The Evidence* is an example of an effort to synthesize and translate the scientific evidence into easily understandable and accessible

**Table 5.6** Summary of Economic Evaluations of Interventions to Prevent Interpersonal Violence, by Type of Violence

Type of violence	Intervention type	Intervention details	Cost-effectiveness
Child maltreatment	Home visiting	Nurse-family partnerships provide home visiting for low-income mothers to improve prenatal health-related behaviors, provide more responsible and competent care of infants and toddlers, and improve parents' economic self-sufficiency (Lee and others 2012). Location: United States	Net benefit (in 2011 dollars) for each program participant was US\$13,181 (US\$13,617 in 2013 dollars); benefit-to-cost ratio was US\$2.37 for every US\$1.00 spent (US\$2.46 in 2013 dollars).
	Parent-child interaction therapy	Empirical treatment for conduct disorders is based on behavioral interventions to improve parent-child interaction (Lee and others 2012). Location: United States	Net benefit (in 2011 dollars) for each program participant was US\$5,617 (US\$5,820 in 2013 dollars); benefit-to-cost ratio was US\$4.62 for every \$1.00 spent (US\$4.79 in 2013 dollars).
	Educational and family support	The Child-Parent Center Program is a program for economically disadvantaged children and parents that provides a stable early learning environment and educational and support services for parents (Temple and Reynolds 2007). Location: Chicago, Illinois	Range of benefit-to-cost ratio (in 2002 dollars) was US\$5.98 (US\$7.76 in 2013 dollars) to US\$10.15 (US\$13.18 in 2013 dollars) for every US\$1.00 spent.
Intimate partner violence (IPV)	Microfinance with gender and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) training	The Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity (IMAGE) provides a combination of microfinance with gender and HIV/AIDS training for women to improve health, income, behavioral skills, communication, and norms (Jan and others 2011). Location: Rural South Africa	Cost per disability-adjusted life year averted for the initial scale-up was US\$2,307 (in 2004 dollars; US\$2,852 in 2013 dollars).
	Education for primary care providers	Training allows clinicians to increase their identification and referral of survivors of IPV (Norman and others 2010). Location: United Kingdom	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio was £2,450 per quality-adjusted life year (in 2005 pounds) (\$4,228 in 2013 dollars).
	Shelters for victims	Shelters provide a safe haven for women and child victims of IPV, including support and safety planning (Chanley, Chanley, and Campbell 2001). Location: Arizona	Net social benefit was US\$3.4 million dollars (in 1999 dollars); minimum benefit-to-cost ratio was US\$4.60 for every US\$1.00 spent (US\$6.45 in 2013 dollars).
Youth violence	Anonymized information sharing between police and hospital emergency department	The Cardiff model provides information to direct targeted prevention measures. Youth were among those most likely to benefit (Florence and others 2013). Location: Cardiff, United Kingdom	The cumulative social benefit-to-cost ratio was £82 (in 2003 pounds) for every £1.00 spent (US\$163 in 2013 dollars).
	Multicomponent, long-term school and family-based program	Fast Track, a program for at-risk children in grades 1–10, includes tutoring, parent support, child social-skills training, and home visits (Foster, Jones, and the Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group 2006). Location: Durham, North Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; Seattle, Washington; and rural central Pennsylvania	The intervention was not cost-effective at a threshold of US\$50,000 willingness to pay (in 2004 dollars; US\$61,817 in 2013 dollars) for an act of interpersonal violence.

*table continues next page*

**Table 5.6** Summary of Economic Evaluations of Interventions to Prevent Interpersonal Violence, by Type of Violence (continued)

Type of violence	Intervention type	Intervention details	Cost-effectiveness
	Mobilization of community stakeholders to implement evidence-based systems	Communities That Care (CTC) mobilizes stakeholders to collaborate on preventing adolescent substance use, delinquency, and interpersonal violence (Kuklinski and others 2012). Location: 24 communities in seven states	Very cost beneficial in the United States; net present benefit of CTC was US\$5,250 per youth (in 2004 dollars; US\$6,491 in 2013 dollars), with a benefit-to-cost ratio of US\$5.30 for every US\$1.00 spent (US\$6.55 in 2013 dollars).
	Educational incentives	Incentives included four years of cash and other incentives to induce disadvantaged high school students to graduate (Greenwood and others 1996), Location: California	For every US\$1.0 million (in 1993 dollars; \$1.62 million in 2013 dollars), 258 serious crimes were prevented.
	Parent training and family therapy	The intervention included training for parents and therapy for families with young school-age children who have shown aggressive behavior (Greenwood and others 1996). Location: California	For every US\$1.0 million (in 1993 dollars; US\$1.62 million in 2013 dollars), 157 serious crimes were prevented.
	Supervision	The intervention included monitoring and supervising high school–age youth who have exhibited delinquent behavior (Greenwood and others 1996). Location: California	For every US\$1.0 million (in 1993 dollars; US\$1.62 million in 2013 dollars), 72 serious crimes were prevented.
	Home visiting and day care	The intervention included home visits by child care professionals from birth through the first two years of childhood, followed by four years of day care (Greenwood and others 1996). Location: California	For every US\$1.0 million (in 1993 dollars; US\$1.62 million in 2013 dollars), 11 serious crimes were prevented.

briefing documents that demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions to prevent interpersonal and self-directed violence (Liverpool John Moores University 2013; WHO 2009).

### **Prevention Support**

Synthesizing and translating information about violence prevention innovations, although important, are likely to be insufficient to change prevention practices. Countries, districts, and communities seeking to apply violence prevention innovations need the capacity to be successful in scaling up effective programs with fidelity (Wandersman and others 2008). A growing body of research suggests that providing support in the form of specialized training, monitoring of fidelity, technical assistance, and coaching, along with improving the skills and motivation of implementing organizations, increases the use and successful implementation of innovations (Fixsen and other 2005; Mihalic and Irwin 2003; Wandersman and others 2008).

An example of a well-functioning prevention support system in the United States is the state of Pennsylvania's Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) at the University of Pennsylvania (Rhoades, Bumbarger, and Moore 2012). The EPISCenter uses flexible, targeted, and research-based technical assistance to develop the capacity of communities to support the implementation of evidence-based violence prevention programs.

### **Prevention Delivery**

The successful implementation of evidence-based innovations requires that they be carried out and sustained in organizational settings (Wandersman and others 2008). Organizations' capacities to deliver the violence prevention innovations include maintaining a well-functioning organization; recruiting and maintaining well-trained staff members; developing community support; working with other organizations; and improving skills in selecting, implementing, and sustaining an innovation over time (Mihalic and Irwin 2003; Wandersman and others 2008). The Parent Centre in South Africa and Raising Voices in Uganda are two examples of organizations in LMICs that are seeking to sustain the implementation of interventions to prevent violence against women and children (Butchart and Hendricks 2000; The Parent Centre 2013; Raising Voices 2013).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The primary rationale for addressing interpersonal violence as a public health problem has been its role in causing physical injury and homicide. Evidence has shown that interpersonal violence also plays an important role in the etiology of mental illness, chronic disease, and even infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, such wide-ranging effects remain largely invisible to public health leaders, policy makers, and the public. Violence is often hidden, victims rarely come into contact with official or service agencies, and many of the health and social consequences are not evident until years after exposure. Greater awareness of these impacts is now leading to actions that can reduce the enormous health and social burden of violence.

Many LMICs face daunting challenges, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ongoing wars and conflicts, cardiovascular and other chronic diseases, suicide, and traffic injuries. Given the effects of violence on these outcomes, preventing interpersonal violence can become a powerful lever that, if successfully engaged, will allow LMICs to more effectively address a broad range of challenges.

The study of violence crosses many domains, and collaboration across different government sectors and across different disciplines and professions is critical, both to fully understand the problem and to effectively prevent it. Violence affects almost every government sector, including justice and law enforcement, social services, protection of women and children, education, transportation, finance, health care and public health, labor, tourism, foreign affairs, interior affairs, commerce, and tourism. The disciplines that have important contributions to make include law, psychology, sociology, social work, medicine and almost every medical specialty, anthropology, engineering, business, architecture and design, and urban planning. Given this influence, the involvement of foundations, multilateral agencies, and corporations in programs to prevent violence is also expanding.

Progress in preventing interpersonal violence is advancing rapidly, and clearly the global public health community's increased understanding and capacity to prevent interpersonal violence will make a difference. The lessons learned during their brief experience with violence prevention efforts are consistent with the lessons from the community's much longer experience with the prevention of infectious and chronic diseases. Violence can be prevented if citizens, their governments, and the global community start now, act wisely, and work together.

## NOTE

Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this chapter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the World Health Organization (WHO).

World Bank Income Classifications as of July 2014 are as follows, based on estimates of gross national income per capita for 2013:

- Low-income countries (LICs) = US\$1,045 or less
- Middle-income countries (MICs) are subdivided:
  - a) Lower-middle-income = US\$1,046 to US\$4,125
  - b) Upper-middle-income (UMICs) = US\$4,126 to US\$12,745
- High-income countries (HICs) = US\$12,746 or more.

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