KNOW VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD
A Global Learning Initiative

www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org
kNOwing and measuring community violence

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in conclusion

• kNOw violence is a learning-based advocacy initiative to prevent violence against children in the home, at school, and in the community

• Community violence concentrates in specific places, among certain people, around particular behaviors

• Strategies that focus on these concentrations more efficient and effective than those that do not

• For community violence, homicide is the most important indicator

• Monitoring and evaluation strategies should be as focused and strategic as possible
about kNOw violence

• A time-bound learning-based advocacy initiative
• Aimed at leveraging existing information on violence during childhood and effective policies, practices, and programs to prevent such violence
• As a means of stimulating global, prioritised and coordinated action to end violence
• Brought into being by networks of committed actors – researchers, practitioners, policy makers, investors, advocates
kNOw violence builds on three central premises:

1. **Violence is preventable** – Prevention can help build better lives for children, optimizing well-being and development

2. **Sound evidence and effective communication should inform policy** – This will help global, regional and national policymakers focus attention and take action

3. **Countries can learn from each other** — Transferring knowledge across national boundaries and between different contexts is useful
the kNOw violence approach:

- **Address fragmentation**: synthesize evidence base fragmented and siloed across disciplines, sectors, and borders
- **Engage with diversity**: bring regional voices and champions together, include literature in different languages, understand what drives action and change in different contexts
- **Promote integrated understanding**: move towards a broader framework integrating human development and child rights
What we will do:

Over 30 months, we will:

• **review and reframe** evidence to **reposition** issues of violence in childhood, especially for new audiences

• **build conversations** across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries

• **publish outputs**, **disseminate** widely, and **engage** identified leaders and organisations
Progress to date:

• **Three learning groups** (homes, schools, and community) have been established, convened, and are drafting papers

• **Regional roundtables** in process, with half completed

• **Flagship report** drafting in process, expected publication date November 2016
“To date, no meta-reviews have included the full range of programs that are intended to prevent youth violence; additionally, no meta-reviews have used both quantitative and qualitative approaches.”

Matjasko et al., 2012
WHAT WORKS IN REDUCING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE:
A META-REVIEW AND FIELD STUDY FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE
The Effects of “Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime

Anthony A. Braga and David L. Weisburd

Systematic Review

What Works in Youth Violence Prevention: A Review of the Literature

Abigail A. Fagan

Effective correctional treatment and violent reoffending: A meta-analysis

Craig Dowden and D.A. Andrews

Effects of Cognitive-Behavioral Programs for Criminal Offenders

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Field study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Clinics</td>
<td>219/330</td>
<td>Waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>182/230</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Clinics</td>
<td>204/245</td>
<td>Waiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>159/305</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Clinics</td>
<td>168/390</td>
<td>Waiver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Construyendo Comunidades en Armonía
Methodology

• For meta-review, synthesized results of 1,400+ individual studies,
• For field study, conducted 20+ site visits, 50+ semi-structured field interviews
• Meta-review based on Campbell Collaboration methodology
Violence defined

The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against another person or group that results in physical injury or death.
Violence described

- **Home**: Rarely lethal, Occurs in private, Involves few, Spontaneous, Expressive, Common
- **School**: Rarely lethal, Occurs in private, Involves few, Spontaneous, Expressive, Common
- **Community**: Frequently lethal, Occurs in public, Involves many, Planned, Instrumental, Uncommon
- **Gang**
- **Organized**
- **State**
Community violence concentrates globally

Countries with 11% of the world’s population account for 46% of homicide victims
Community violence concentrates locally

Community violence is highly concentrated among small number of places, people, and behaviors
Community violence concentrates locally

• In Boston, 70% of shootings in 5% of city (Braga & Winship, 2015)

• In 5 Latin American cities, 50% of homicides in 1.6% of blocks (CAF, 2014)

• In most cities, 0.5% of population causes 75% of homicides (Muggah, 2015)

• Carrying guns, belonging to violent groups, excessively consuming alcohol all strongly associated with violence
Focused interventions most effective

- Interventions focusing on highest risk places, people, and behaviors generate strongest effects. True for:
  - Policing (Braga, 2015)
  - Gangs (Gravel et al., 2012)
  - Youth violence (Matjasko et al., 2012)
  - Adult and juvenile rehabilitation (Hollin, 1999; Lipsey & Cullen, 2007)
- Tertiary and secondary prevention generally more effective than primary prevention
  - Limbos et al. (2007) examined 15 randomized controlled trials of anti-violence interventions - 2 of 6 (33%) primary, 3 of 7 (43%) secondary, 2 of 2 (100%) tertiary prevention interventions effective in reducing violent behavior
Concentrating efforts most efficient

• Most strategies associated with only modest or moderate effects

• Given this, success may lie in accumulation of *individually modest but collectively robust* programmatic effects

• Programmatic effects must be *aligned and coordinated* with one another, not simply co-located
  • The “comprehensive” conundrum

• **Displacement is generally minimal**, with impact to surrounding areas more likely to be positive than negative
  • “[O]ver 30 years of research evidence on this topic... suggests that crime relocates in only a minority of instances” (Johnson et al., 2014)
  • **Note**: organized crime more capable of relocating
Measure what matters most

Goals and targets
(from the 2030 Agenda)

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by age group and sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.1.2* Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population (disaggregated by age group, sex and cause)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.1.3 Percentage of the population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months</td>
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<td>16.1.4* Proportion of people that feel safe walking alone around the area they live</td>
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Why homicide?

• Universally accepted as most **serious** form of violence, crime
• Mostly **costly** form of violence, crime
• Most easily **measured** form of violence, crime
• Most **comparable** measure across countries, contexts
• Leading **indicator** for other forms of violence, crime
• Deeply **regressive**, impacting poorest – other forms of violence, crime less so
Monitoring

• Build/improve reporting systems for homicide first, expand from there
  • At least three forms of reporting – law enforcement, public health, victimization survey
  • Data must granular, geocoded
  • Begin with place, then move to people and behaviors, using best information available

• Study and publicize national, state, and local costs of violence
  • Ideally studies should use consistent methodology across contexts
  • Goal: policy change that recognizes centrality of violence prevention to development

• Monitor responsive institutions – police, hospitals, prevention providers, etc. – not schools
Evaluation

• Begin with evidence-informed approaches, blending global knowledge with local innovation and expertise
  • Build local capacity for monitoring and evaluation, don’t just contract out
• Evaluate with a strategic emphasis on cumulative, comparable knowledge
  • Focus on most important strategies (e.g. CBT) and outcomes (e.g. homicide)
  • Replication is critical – reliability over novelty
  • Use consistent methodologies across contexts
  • My suggestion: plan in advance for systematic reviews
  • Who can do this? Funders.
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