

Violence, Bullying and Delinquency

Violence is a global health problem and its prevention is essential. The World Health Organization (WHO) refers to violence as an intentional use of physical force or power directed against oneself or against another person or group that can result in death, abuse, psychological damage, loss or development deficits (WHO, 2002). There are no social groups or individuals who are truly immune to its consequences, though some accumulate a greater number of social factors and individual protection.

The WHO (2002) world report on violence had as main objectives the description of the magnitude and impact of violence worldwide, the description of the main risk factors for violence, the systematization of the types of intervention and policy responses that have been implemented as well as its effectiveness, and makes recommendations for action at local, national and international level. This report also highlights that the type of domestic violence varies between different communities within a single country. Besides being able to cause death and disability, violence can also have other consequences, such as the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, the development of depression and sleeping, eating and anxiety disorders, obesity and the engagement in risky sexual behavior (HIV and other sexually transmitted infections) (WHO, 2004).

In addition to a direct action on children and youth, and since school, family and community have a great influence on the behavior of individuals, preventive programs, particularly in the area of violence should be focused in these contexts and target specifically to:

- a) Influence young people's family and social environment and change norms and values at an individual, family and neighborhood level, favoring networks of belonging and social support.
- b) Promote coordination between health and education services, as well as community structures.
- c) Encourage the sharing of responsibility for overall health / wellbeing.
- d) Develop personal skills for change, self-regulation and their long-term maintenance.
- e) Promote academic success and positive expectations about the future.

Most countries do not have systematic knowledge about types of violence, associated risk factors and specific characteristics such as gender, age, region, socioeconomic status and culture.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed some initiatives in order to answer these questions, systematizing and illustrating various aspects of violence, focusing on violence prevention programs (WHO, 2004a, 2004b).

This book is intended as a guide for parents, educators and all health professionals in the field of justice and whose lives (private and professional) intersect with the phenomenon of violence, for it identifies a set of references of programs of violence prevention, in the international and national level, that can serve as a basis for developing an intervention in this area.