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# Using a Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

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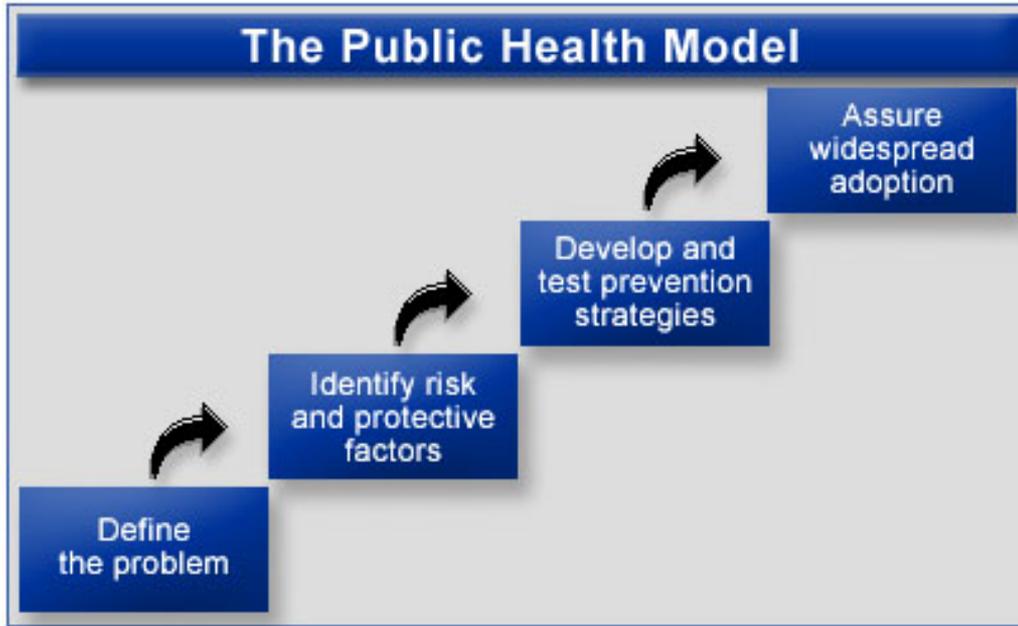
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The focus of public health is on the health, safety and well-being of entire populations.

The intent is to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people.

Programs for the primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.



**The public health approach consists of four steps.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/publichealthissue/publichealthapproach.html>

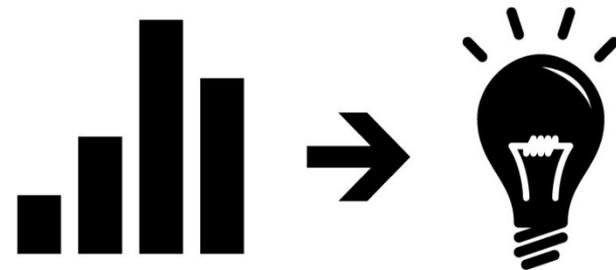
[https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/PH\\_App\\_Violence-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/PH_App_Violence-a.pdf)

# 1. Define and Monitor the Problem

- Systematic data collection (surveillance)
- Epidemiology describes the problem from the perspectives of person (who and how many), place (where) and time (when)

# Data

Public health work must be driven by data – surveillance & evaluation.

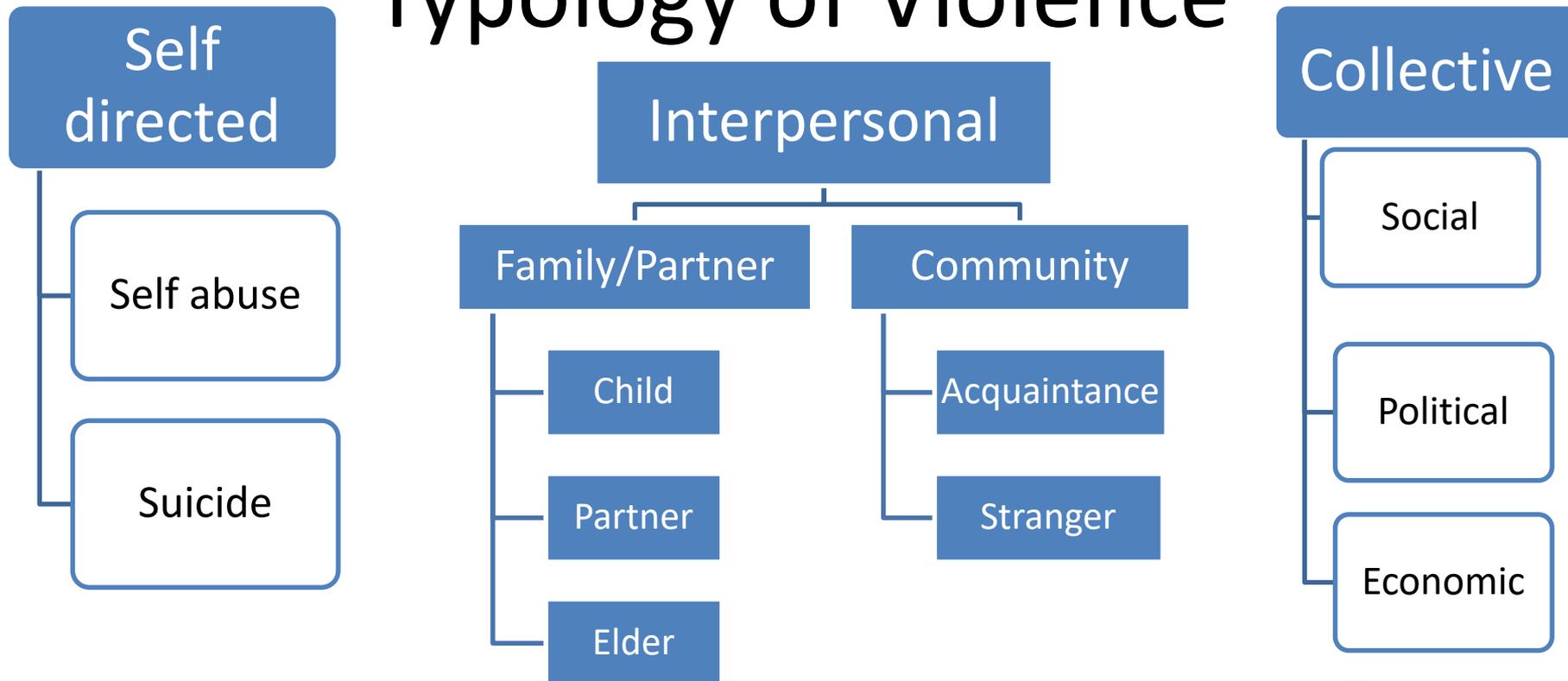


- Vital Statistics Death Files
- Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
- New York Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
- Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS)
- State and local law enforcement info, child welfare data

# Definition

Violence is a public health challenge defined by WHO as 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, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

# Typology of Violence



<https://www.who.int/violenceprevention/approach/definition/en/>

## 2: Identify Risk and Protective Factors

Establish why violence occurs using research to determine the causes and correlates of violence, the conditions that increase or decrease violence, and the factors that could be modified through interventions.

Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/>

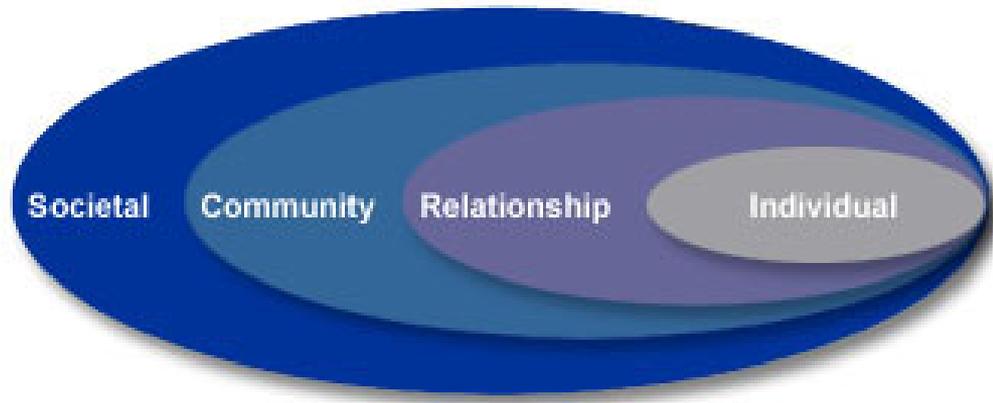


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# The Social-Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention

- The ecological framework is based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of violence, while others are more protected from it.

- This framework views violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels—the individual, the relationship, the community, and the societal.



# 1. Individual Level

- Personal history and biological factors influence how individuals behave and increase their likelihood of becoming a victim or a perpetrator of violence.
  - Ex: previous abuse, mental health or substance use disorders

## 2. Relationship Level

- Personal relationships such as family, friends, intimate partners and peers may influence the risks of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence.
  - Ex: violent friends

### 3. Community Level

- Contexts in which social relationships occur, such as schools, neighborhoods and workplaces, also influence violence.
  - Ex: unemployment level, population density, mobility, drug/gun trade

## 4. Societal Level

- Societal factors influence whether violence is encouraged or inhibited.
  - Ex: policies that maintain socioeconomic inequalities, availability of weapons, social and cultural norms re: male/female and parent/child dominance, violence as an acceptable method to resolve conflicts.

# 3: Develop & Test Prevention Strategies

- To find out what works (and for whom) to prevent violence by designing, implementing, and evaluating interventions.
- Policy, system and environmental strategies

# Guiding Questions

- Are there existing, effective strategies based on the best available evidence?
  - If not, what do we need to develop a new strategy and evaluate it?
- Who are our partners doing this work?

# Key: Partnerships



- Public Health is multi-disciplinary
  - epidemiology, medicine, sociology, psychology, criminology, education, and economics.
- Multi-sector, public-private partnerships (including community-clinical) are critical
  - Health Across All Policies for State Agency collaboration
- Prevention Agenda is a solid framework for collective action.
- Increased investments in prevention from all available sources.

## 4: Assure Widespread Adoption (Implementation)

- Implement (and scale up) effective interventions in a wide range of settings.
- The effects of these interventions on risk factors and the target outcome should be monitored, and their impact and cost-effectiveness should be evaluated.

# Next Steps

- ❑ Defining the problem –
  - ❑ Do we have consensus on our focus?
- ❑ Understanding risk and protective factors –
  - ❑ Do we need more info?
- ❑ Identifying evidence based interventions now being implemented across government. Panel discussion today and next meeting.
  - ❑ What about other NGO stakeholders. Gaps?
- ❑ How can we as a group move the agenda forward?
- ❑ Develop an action plan for discussion with the full council

