

Towards internationally comparable indicators for violence

Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data Workshop

OPHI/CRISE

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**World Health
Organization**

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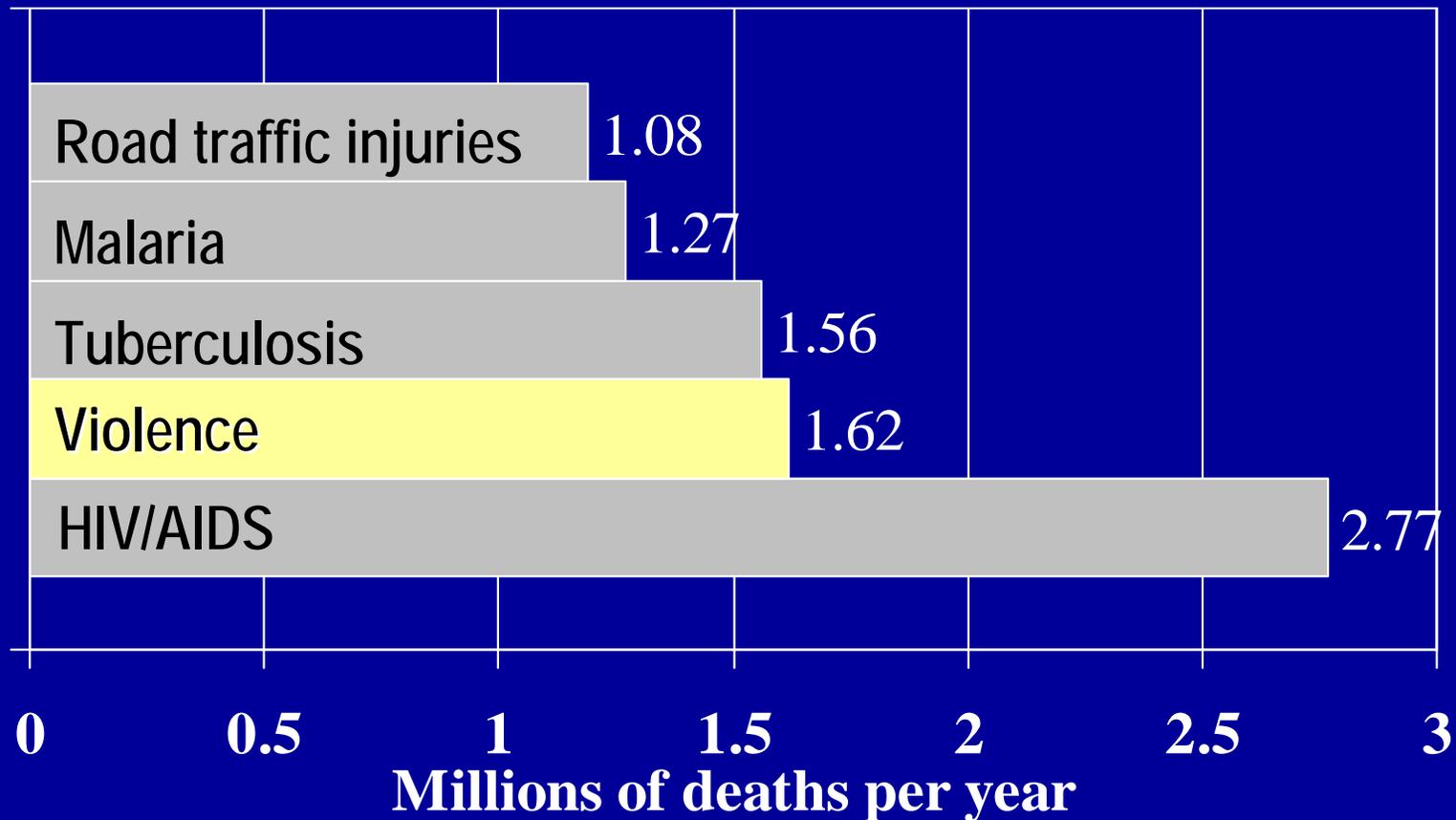
Violence defined

Violence is the intentional use of 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"

(WHO World report on violence and health 2002).

Violence in perspective

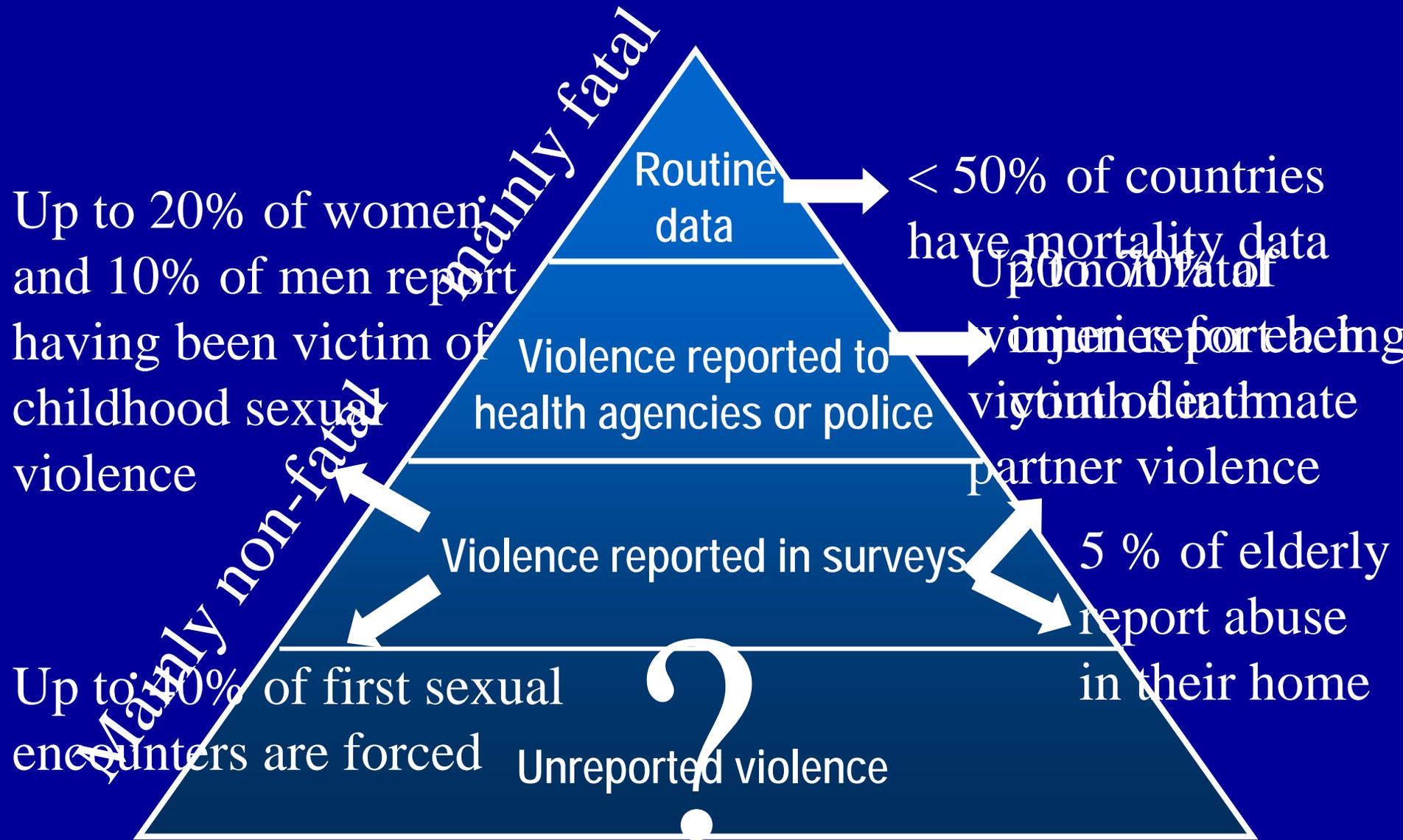
Global Estimated Deaths due to Selected Health Problems



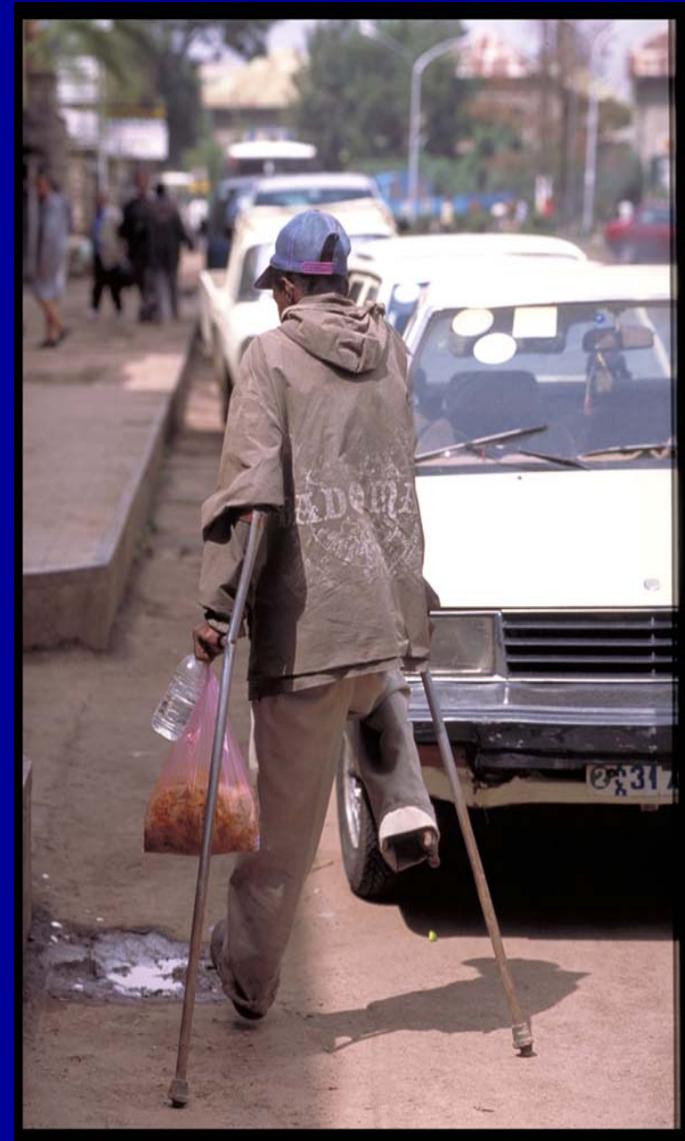
In the year 2002:

- 870,000 suicides
- 560,000 homicides
- 170,000 war deaths

Numbers



Health consequences of violence



Health consequences of violence



Why violence as a dimension of poverty?

- **Violence and threats to safety and security are a part of poverty**
- **Violence undermines development gains**
- **Violence impacts on other dimensions of poverty and sustains poverty traps**
- **Violence impedes human freedom to live safely and securely**
- **Violence is not a given - many multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and poor peoples live together peacefully**
- **Multidimensional poverty measures: identify which of the poor are most vulnerable to violence**

Violence and development

- Over 90% of violence-related deaths occur in LMICs
- Leading cause of death in economically most productive age groups
- Highest homicide rates in poorest communities of high inequality societies
- Direct and indirect costs equal 1-2% of GDP annually
- Push factor for migration

Violence and poverty: causality

- Violence results from poverty and inequality
 - Poverty alone – contradictory findings
 - Inequality PLUS poverty – consistently related
- Poverty and inequality result from violence
 - Collective violence – impoverishes many, enriches some
 - Interpersonal violence – economies grow despite high interpersonal violence, but growth is distorted and inequalities are amplified

Proposal: Research objectives

- Improve poverty measurement
- Inform strategies for poverty reduction and violence prevention
- Describe associations between violence and health, income, employment, education, sense of happiness, etc.
- Identify vulnerable groups by gender, age, ethnicity, religion, level of education, rural-urban status, migration status, and other identity groups
- Determine the inter-relationships between formal and informal authorities in responding to violence and satisfaction with the response
- Measure incidents of interpersonal violence, communal and collective violence, casualties from legal intervention, war and civil insurrection but not self harm or accidents

Proposal: Source of questions

- Barometer surveys
- Human Security Centre
 - Ipsos-Reid Poll
- UNODC
 - International Crime Victims Survey
- USAID
 - Demographic and Health Surveys
- WHO
 - Guidelines for conducting community surveys on injuries and violence
- World Bank
 - Living Standards Measurement Survey
- Other proposed questions to ensure that interpersonal and collective dimensions of crime and conflict impacts are equally addressed

Proposed questions

- Violence against property (theft, destruction, use of weapons, force and injury, perpetrators, reporting, satisfaction)
- Violence against person (robbery, assault with and without weapons, injury and death, kidnappings, bombs, and sexual violence, satisfaction)
- Domestic violence (women only) – intensity and attitudes towards punishment
- Perceptions of safety and violence in context

Background

- Demographics – religion, ethnicity, language group, rural-urban status, IDP status, migration status, gender, age, education, consumption etc
- Over 5 years
- International definitions

Threats to security and violence against property

1. In the past 5 years, have you or any members of you household been the victim of or experienced the following?

A. Someone tried to get into your house, flat or dwelling, without permission and tried to steal or stole something? (ICVS)

B. Someone actually got into your house, flat, or dwelling, without permission and stole or tried to steal something? (ICVS)

C. Someone took something from you or a member of your household (on your person), by using force, or threatening you? Or did anyone try to do so? (adapted from ICVS)

D. Someone stole something you own (not stored in the dwelling) such as vehicles, parts or contents of vehicles, motorbikes, mopeds, scooters, machinery, pumps, bicycles, store property and so on? (combined from ICVS)

E. Animals or crops were stolen from you or a member of your household? (LSMS Malawi)

F. Someone deliberately destroyed or damaged your home, shop, or any other property that you or a member of your household owns? (additional question)

Measures attempted theft, theft, and robbery of different types for rural and urban areas

Sub questions

- **Frequency of incident,**
- **Number of injuries in most recent incident**
- **Perpetrators – by individual or group,**
- **Reporting to formal and informal authorities, and**
- **Satisfaction with response**

Violence against person

2. Apart from the previous incidents, in the past five years, have you or any members of you household been the victim of or experienced the following?

A. You or a member of your household were assaulted (hit, slapped, shoved, punched, pushed, or kicked) without any weapon either inside or outside the home? (WHO)

B. You or a member of your household were assaulted (beaten, stabbed, burnt, throttled, or otherwise attacked) with a weapon (e.g. Bottle, glass, knife, club, hot liquid, rope) not including being shot by a gun or firearm? (WHO)

C. Someone shot you or a member of your household with a firearm or gun? (WHO)

D. You or a member of your household were kidnapped (taken against your will)? (additional question)

E. You or a member of your household was injured by a bomb, Molotov cocktail, landmine or other explosive device? (additional question)

F. I know this is a difficult question for you, so please take a moment to think about it. Have you or a member of your household was a victim sexual violence including rape, attempted rape, or indecent assault? (Adapted by ICVS for women only) **OR Alternative question: Since your 18th birthday have you ever experienced a sex act involving vaginal, oral or anal penetration against your will?**

Measures assault with and without weapons, and types of violence associated with conflict

Sexual violence question has two alternatives

Sub questions

- **Frequency of incident,**
- **Number of injuries in most recent incident**
- **Number of deaths**
- **Perpetrators – by individual or group,**
- **Reporting to formal and informal authorities, and**
- **Satisfaction with response**

Domestic violence against adult women

3. Has any member of you household ever done any of the following things to you? (Adapted from DHS)

A) Push you, shake you, or throw something at you?

B) Slap you?

C) Twist your arm or pull your hair?

D) Punch you with his fist or something that could hurt you?

E) Kick you, drag you, or beat you up?

F) Try to choke you or burn you on purpose?

G) Threaten to attack you with a knife, gun, or any other weapon?

H) Physically force you to have intercourse with him even when you don't want to?

I) force you to perform any sexual acts you did not want to?

Measures: intensity of violence against women

Sub questions

- **Frequency,**
- **Whether the act should be punished and by whom**
- **Reporting to informal or formal authorities,**
- **Satisfaction with action taken**

Perceptions of threat and importance of violence

4. i) In the next twelve months, what is the likelihood that you will become a victim of one of the forms of violence mentioned above? (HSR-Ipsos-Reid)

- 1) Very likely
- 2) Somewhat likely
- 3) Somewhat unlikely
- 4) Very unlikely

ii) If yes, is it more likely to be:

- 1) Against person
- 2) Against property
- 3) Both
- 4) None

5. There are many different potential threats and dangers to people's personal security in today's world. Thinking of all the threats that you might face in your life, which two (ranked) is of the most concern to you now? (HSR – Ipsos-Reid)

- 1) Criminal violence
- 2) Inter-communal violence
- 3) Armed warfare/conflict
- 4) Terrorism
- 5) Death, or incapacitation from natural disasters, health, or economic problems
- 6) Other
- 7) None

- 1) (Most important)
- 2) (Second most important)

- **Measures perceived risk of victimization**
- **Measures perception of importance of different types of violence vis a vis other problems**

Examples of indicators from data collected I

- Population rates (per 1000 or 100,000) of:
 - Different types of theft and robbery
 - Homicide and non-fatal physical violence
 - Rape, attempted rape and other sexual violence
 - Property destruction per 100,000 head of population
 - Kidnapping, gunshot, and bomb injuries

Examples of indicators from data collected II

- Geographic Risk rates (risk of people living in different geographic location to different types of violence);
- Risk of injury/death per type of violence (injury/death as percentage of frequency of type), and rates per 100,000 head of population;
- Perpetrator profiles (percentage of type of perpetrator per type of violence)
- **Correlations between: attempted rape and rape; attempted theft and theft; geographic location and risk of violence; gender and vulnerability to different types of violence; ethnic, religious, and other identities and vulnerability to different types of violence; injury and likelihood of death; different types of violence and likelihood of injury;**

Examples of indicators from data collected III

- Percentage of population reporting violent incidents to informal or formal institutions (per type, including domestic violence);
- Reporting gap (frequency of reporting as a proportion of frequency of incident)
- Percentage of population satisfied with informal institutions role in addressing violence;
- Percentage of population satisfied with state agencies role in addressing violence;
- Rates of domestic violence against women (with varying intensities of acts perpetrated)
- Attitudes of women towards punishment of domestic violence (including most appropriate domain for punishment)
- Perception of likelihood of future victimization (of property violence or human-physical violence);
- Perception of the importance of different types of violence together with other forms of shock

Examples of indicators from data collected IV

- Correlations between
 - Violence and shame/humiliation
 - Violence and consumption
 - Violence and health
 - Violence and happiness
 - Violence and employment

Proposal: Missing elements I

- Self-directed violence
 - Suicide - leading cause of death, closely associated with poverty and inequalities
- Behavioural risks for and consequences of violence (e.g. alcohol and drug misuse; unsafe sex)
 - School-based Health Surveys (e.g. CDC-WHO GSHS)
 - Chronic Disease Risk Factor Surveillance (e.g. WHO STEPS)

Proposal: Missing elements II

- Don't know why people are dissatisfied
- Doesn't include costs of violence
- Does not include violence against children or the elderly in the household
- Doesn't include if people sought health care (formal or informal)
- Doesn't ask specifically about perpetrations by the state

Proposal: Missing recommendations

- Better use of existing data on deaths
 - WHO mortality data – age-standardized mortality data by age, sex and type of violence for over 80 countries
- Tie-in with Health Metrics Network
 - Partnership to increase the availability of timely, reliable, health information by catalysing the funding and development of core health information systems in developing countries
 - By 2011: framework that will be the universally accepted standard for collection, reporting on, and use of, health information
- Tie in with Commission on Social Determinants of Health
- Better combination of data on violent crime and violent conflict