

A Workshop of the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Global Violence Prevention

**Means of Violence – A Workshop
December 18-19, 2014**

**Keck Building
500 5th Street NW, Room 100
Washington DC 20001**

AGENDA

About the Forum on Global Violence Prevention: In 2010, building on the foundation laid by the 2007 Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) workshop on *Preventing Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Finding a Place on the Global Agenda*, the IOM launched the Forum on Global Violence Prevention (the Forum). The Forum adopts the WHO's definition of violence, "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" and further explores approaches to violence prevention and bringing together global multidisciplinary experts to facilitate multisectoral dialogue and exchange on a range of crosscutting global violence prevention issues, particularly the use of a public health approach for prevention. Several times a year the Forum convenes expert workshops, that are free and open to the public, to illuminate evidence-based or -informed prevention and mitigation efforts. Building on its February 2014 workshop on mental health and violence, this ninth Forum workshop examining issues related to lethal means of global violence, is sponsored by the CDC Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, the New Venture Fund, and the Forum on Global Violence prevention.

Self-directed violence includes suicidal behavior and self-abuse, such as self-mutilation. Interpersonal violence occurs between family members and intimate partners usually in the home or between individuals who are not related or do not know each other occurring in the community or outside of the home. Lethal means of violence are those that can lead to death or grave destructive harm. In 2011, suicide and homicide respectively accounted for 798,000 and 486,000 lives lost (WHO, 2014). Violence affects all communities, but the means to commit violence can substantially vary by nation, culture, context, and often by circumstances of convenience. For instance, while less reported in the media, there is a growing magnitude of women committing suicide by pesticide ingestion in rural India and other low- and middle-income countries with 4 percent of suicides by this mean in Europe, contrasted to 56 percent in the Western Pacific region. In the United Kingdom and the Caribbean, knife and other sharp-objects violence is a major problem. Other areas of the globe may face additional means including, but not limited to, the use of explosives; chemical, biological, and radiological agents; and physical assault including torture and rape. And in a study using WHO data about firearm deaths in 23 high-income countries in 2003, 80 percent of all firearm deaths occurred in the United States (Richardson and Hemenway, 2011).

The social and economic costs of violence by lethal means are great and not always easy to measure (IOM & NRC, 2012). Individuals who survive violent victimization through lethal means often experience physical and emotional disabilities and other chronic health conditions. Individuals, families, and communities exposed to violence through lethal means often experience significant emotional distress and trauma, high levels of fear, lost productivity, and increased risk-taking behaviors. Although the evidence on the effectiveness of means restriction for preventing lethal violence is limited, there is

increasing interest in synergistically addressing risk and protective factors across types of violence and through multisectoral collaboration to prevent violence and its consequences. This workshop is an opportunity to explore these issues.

Drawing from relevant perspectives from multiple sectors and disciplines, the workshop discussions will focus on what is known about the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and mitigate violence by lethal means and the role of multiple sectors and stakeholders to collaborate for its prevention.

Workshop Objectives:

- Using a global perspective, identify the characteristics and variations of the means used to commit interpersonal and self-directed violence and the role of social determinants in the demand for and use of those lethal means
- Identify the current state of knowledge on youth possession and acquisition of lethal means, and how that knowledge can inform future research and prevention efforts
- Explore the relationship between alcohol, lethal means, and violence as well as the effects of alcohol policy on the mitigation of violence committed through lethal means
- Examine interventions that prevent individuals who have been formally identified as being at-risk for committing violence from accessing lethal means and their efficacy
- Identify the role of technology in the prevention and mitigation of violence committed through lethal means
- Determine collaborative opportunities for stakeholder communities to improve the prevention of violence committed through lethal means

DAY 1 December 18, 2014

- 8:30A **Registration (continental breakfast provided)**
- 9:00A – 9:05A **Welcome**
Dr. Patrick Kelley, *Institute of Medicine*
- 9:05A – 9:20A **A Reading from Frances Henry, *Forum on Global Violence Prevention***
- 9:20A – 9:30A **Introduction to the Workshop**
Sheldon Greenberg, *Johns Hopkins University*
Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair
- 9:30A – 10:15A **Global Status of Lethal Violence**
James Mercy, *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- 10:15A **BREAK**

I. **Alcohol and the Lethal Means of Violence**

The World Health Organization (WHO) explains that, although the prevalence and incidence rates of interpersonal violence related to the consumption of alcohol vary drastically from country-to-country, one thing is clear: alcohol and violence are inextricably linked, with each exacerbating the effects of the other. Furthermore, there is a strong association between the consumption of alcohol and an individual's likelihood of becoming either a perpetrator or victim of violence. This panel seeks to examine the complex relationship between alcohol and the lethal means of violence by highlighting current data; policy and public health interventions; and the needs for future research and interventions.

10:30A – 11:45A

Moderator: Peggy Murray, *National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*

10:30A – 10:35A **Introduction**

Peggy Murray, *National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*

10:35A – 11:00A **Alcohol and Firearms Violence: A Literature Review**

Charles Branas, *University of Pennsylvania*

11:00A – 11:15A **Response**

Garen Wintemute, *University of California-Davis*

11:15A – 11:45A **Questions and Answers**

II. **A Personal Perspective**

According to WHO, self-directed lethal violence, or suicide, claims the lives of over 800,000 people annually. In 2012, it was the second leading cause of death in 15-29 year olds globally. Ingestion of pesticide, hanging, and firearms are among the most common means of suicide around the globe. To reduce self-directed violence, suicide prevention experts advocate for

reducing access to lethal means that can be used by people intent on ending their own lives. Survivor and suicide-prevention advocate Kevin Hines shares his personal experience.

11:45A – 12:45P **LUNCH (provided) BRING BACK TO ROOM FOR LUNCH SPEAKER**

11:55P – 12:00P **Speaker Introduction:** Frances Henry, *Forum on Global Violence Prevention*

12:00P – 12:45P **A Survivor's Perspective of Bridge-jumping the Golden Gate**
Kevin Hines, *Author & Suicide Prevention Advocate*

III. Youth Possession and Acquisition of the Lethal Means of Violence

According to WHO, a quarter-million homicides occur annually among young people ages 10-29 years worldwide, accounting for approximately 41% of annual homicides globally. Furthermore, for each young person killed, an additional 20 to 40 young people sustain injuries that require hospital treatment. Youth violence can place a dramatic burden on communities by increasing the costs of health, welfare and criminal justice services; reducing productivity; and decreasing property values. Additionally, youth violence can cause psychological and social problems that linger well into adulthood. The underlying causes of youth violence, as well as the mechanisms by which the world's youth gain access to the lethal means of violence, can substantively differ from those found in older populations. As a result, unique and focused interventions must be developed for this specific age-group. This panel will explore the ways in which youth are gaining access to the lethal means of violence and the effects that lethal violence have on young people. Additionally, the panelists will identify and discuss current policy and public health interventions as well as areas requiring further research and intervention.

12:45P – 2:00P

Moderator: Valerie Maholmes

12:45P – 12:50P **Introduction**

Valerie Maholmes, *National Institute of Child Health & Human Development*

12:50P – 1:15P **Youth Acquisition and Possession of Firearms: A Literature Review**

Daniel Webster, *Johns Hopkins University*

1:15P – 1:30P **Response**

Elizabeth Ward, *Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica*

1:30P – 2:00P **Questions and Answers**

2:00P **BREAK**

IV. Point of Access Interventions for At-Risk Individuals and the Lethal Means of Violence

Identifying sub-populations and individuals who are at-risk of being involved in violent crime is an extremely difficult task. Although research has shown that there appear to be distinct protective and risk factors associated with violence, precise identification of who in a group will ultimately perpetrate a violent crime is nearly impossible. This panel will illuminate the current knowledge base related to the identification of at-risk individuals; the policy and public health

interventions being used to prevent the commission of violent crimes by these individuals; and identify gaps in the research that warrant further attention.

2:15P – 3:45P

Moderator: Jeff Swanson, *Duke University*

2:15P – 2:20P **Introduction**
Jeff Swanson, *Duke University*

2:20P – 2:45P **Point of Access Interventions for At-Risk Individuals and Firearms: A Literature Review**
Andrew Anglemeyer, *University of California, San Francisco*

2:45P – 3:00P **Response**
David Hemenway, *Harvard University*

3:00P – 3:15P **California Gun Violence Restraining Order Policy**
Shannon Frattaroli, *Johns Hopkins University*

3:15P – 3:45P **Questions and Discussion**

3:45P **BREAK**

V. Collective Violence and Lethal Means

Identified as: “the instrumental use of violence by people who identify themselves as members of a group – whether this group is transitory or has a more permanent identity – against another group or set of individuals, in order to achieve political, economic or social objectives,” by WHO, collective violence continues to receive more and more public attention. In the 20th century alone, an estimated 191 million people have lost their lives to conflict, and over half of them were civilians. Collective violence can disrupt entire economies and wreak havoc on both community and country-wide infrastructures. As a result, WHO explains that the indirect effects of collective violence and conflict can include: decreased access to food, leading to poor nutrition; an increased risk of communicable diseases; diminished access to health services; reduced public health programs; poor environmental conditions; and psychosocial distress. Research has shown that the availability of lethal means can significantly affect the likelihood that some individuals and groups will participate in collective violence. This panel will illuminate the risk and protective factors associated with collective violence; what drivers influence this type of violence; and what interventions are being designed or implemented to prevent or mitigate consequences of collective violence.

4:00P – 4:40P

Moderator: Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*

4:00P – 4:05P **Introduction**
Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*
Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair

4:05P – 4:25P **Radicalization, Violent Extremism, and the Lethal Means of Violence**
John Picarelli, *National Institute of Justice*

4:25P – 4:40P **Questions and Answers**

VI. Suicide and the Lethal Means of Violence

The epidemiology of suicide and the means used vary across the globe. The leading causes of suicide around the world include: the ingestion of pesticide; hanging; and firearms. WHO also reports that in higher-income countries, the proportion of men who commit suicide is about three times that of their female counter-parts. In low- and middle-income countries, approximately 1.5 men commit suicide for every female suicide. WHO also explains that, globally, suicide rates are the highest among populations aged 70 and older. However, these data does not remain constant at a country-specific level, with some countries reporting that the highest levels of suicidality are actually found in younger age groups. While there are identified risk and protective factors, the most common factor associated with suicide is the access to the lethal means used to perpetrate this form of self-directed violence. This presentation will highlight the global variance in suicidality and the lethal means used to commit it, as well policies and evidence-based interventions that show promise in reducing the overall burden of suicide.

4:40P – 5:15PM

Moderator: Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*

4:40P – 4:45P **Introduction**

Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*

4:45P – 5:05P **The Global Context of Suicide and the Lethal Means of Violence**

Dr. Alan L. Berman, *American Association of Suicidology and the International Association for Suicide Prevention*

5:05P – 5:20P **Questions and Answers**

5:20P – 5:30P **Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

5:30P **End of Day 1**

DAY 2 December 19, 2014

8:00A **Registration (continental breakfast provided)**

8:30A – 8:45A **Recap of Day 1**

Stephen Hargarten, *Medical College of Wisconsin*
Workshop Planning Committee Member

I. The Intersection of Technology and Lethal Means of Violence

In the last century alone, tremendous advances in technology have increased the lethality of across different means for violence. However, both active and passive technologies have also been used to reduce lethality, reduce or prevent unintentional consequences across various means

and types of violence, improve care for those who sustain life-threatening injury, and offer other safety benefits. This panel will examine some of these issues as well as the opportunities for increased awareness of the use of technologies and their contextual effectiveness, feasibility, acceptability, adoptability, and scalability in countries with variable resource availability, political leadership; regulatory or production standards, and health systems for quality care.

8:45A – 10:15A

Moderator: Sheldon Greenberg, *Johns Hopkins University*

8:45A– 9:00A **Introduction**

Sheldon Greenberg, *Johns Hopkins University*

9:00A – 9:15A **The Evolution of Trauma Care in Response to the Lethal Means of Violence**

Stephen Hargarten, *Medical College of Wisconsin*

9:15A – 9:30A **Smart Gun Technology**

Stephen Teret, *Johns Hopkins University*

9:30A– 9:45A **The Role of Social Media in Preventing Violence**

Zainab Al-Suwaij, *American Islamic Congress*

9:45A – 10:15A **Questions and Answers**

10:15A **BREAK**

II. Socio-Cultural Context of Violence

Violence is a complex phenomenon that affects all communities. There are many cultural factors, characteristics, and contexts that influence ideas of what is acceptable and unacceptable in terms of behavior and what constitutes harm. These factors can be both similar and different across cultures. Some factors can support or encourage the use of violence in a group or culture, while others protect against or discourage violence. The means used to commit violence can also substantially vary by nation, culture, context, and circumstances of convenience. As a result, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem of lethal violence and restricting access to the means used to perpetrate it. Interventions that challenge social and cultural values or behaviors that encourage violence are often not rigorously evaluated. This panel aims to identify and explore some of the factors that cause regional variance in the lethal means used in violence, as well as points of intervention for those specific regional or cultural factors.

10:30A – 12:00P

Moderator: Arturo Cervantes-Trejo, *National Institute of Educational Evaluation, Mexico*

10:30A–10:45A **Introduction**

Arturo Cervantes-Trejo, *National Institute of Educational Evaluation, Mexico*

10:45A – 11:00A **A Diplomatic View for Global Violence Prevention**

Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, *Gutierrez Global, LLC*

11:00A – 11:15A **Religion, Faith and Violence: An African Perspective**

Barthelemy Bazemo, *Africa Faith and Justice Network*

11:15A–11:30A **Lethal Violence in Latin America**

Andres Villaveces, *World Bank*

11:30A – 12:00P **Questions and Answers**

12:00P– 1:00P **LUNCH** (provided)

III. The Way Forward

Despite the progress made in highlighting the need and approaches for violence prevention, it remains a critical priority for global public health and safety, human rights, economic development, social development, and even safeguarding the environment. Two of the Sustainability Development Goals specifically focus on peace, justice, and safety: Goal#11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable and 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. This session will explore and discuss opportunities for stakeholders and communities to improve the prevention of different types of violence committed through lethal means. Questions for consideration include:

- 1) How can information and shared-learning about innovative and evidence-informed policy, legislative, and programmatic interventions be better disseminated or diffused into networks (policy, legislative, programmatic) for adaptation, scalability, and evaluation?
- 2) What are the gaps for research and practice that need a multidisciplinary lens or collaboration? How can these gaps be addressed?
- 3) What specific actions could be taken by stakeholder communities to align with the goals and objectives of the post-2015 development agenda?

1:00P-3:00P

Moderator: Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*

1:00P – 1:05P **Introduction**

Evelyn Tomaszewski, *National Association of Social Workers*

1:05P – 1:25P **Presentation: Building Social Cohesion and Community Resiliency to Reduce Exposure to Gun Violence**

Emily Wang, *Yale University*

Carley Riley, *Yale University*

1:25P – 2:45P **Facilitated Discussion**

Emily Wang, *Yale University*

Carley Riley, *Yale University*

Public Safety Representative, *TBA*

Brigid McCaw, *Kaiser Permanente*

2:45P – 3:00P **Wrap-Up & Adjournment**
Frances Henry, *Forum on Global Violence Prevention*