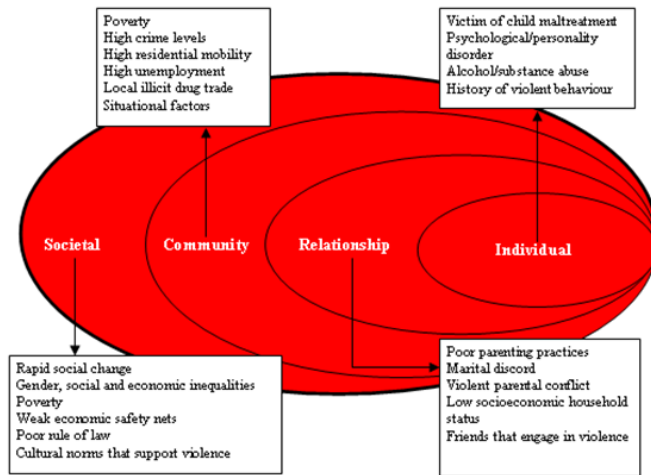


## RISK FACTORS

Violence emerges from a complex interaction of factors on individual and larger scale levels, some of which can be seen in the WHO ecological framework model below:



## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Factors at each of the above four risk levels can help reduce the risk of violence. On individual and relationship levels, strong community social support, higher levels of parental education, parental mental and emotional well-being, and strong relationships and attachments can help reduce violence. On a community and societal scale, democracy, health systems, employment promotion and education availability are factors which can mitigate the risk of violence.

## RESOURCES

Consult the other parts of the Peaceful Childhoods Series for resources on how to deal with violence and promote peace in specific contexts (available at [cprep.ca](http://cprep.ca)).

For further reading, consider the below publications:

Butchart, A. & Mikton, C. (2014). Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014. Luxembourg: World Health Organization.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Injury Prevention & Control: Division of Violence Prevention- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study.

Donnelly, P. & Ward, C. (2015). Oxford Textbook on Violence Prevention: Epidemiology, Evidence, and Policy. Oxford Textbooks in Public Health series. UK: Oxford University Press.

Krug, E., Dahlberg, L., Mercy, J., Zwi, A., and Lozano, R., eds. (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. World Health Organization.

Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace (C-PREP) is a charitable organization to support research and education in peace from a health perspective. Visit <http://cprep.ca/> for more information in the Peaceful Childhoods Series.

# PEACE, VIOLENCE, AND CHILDHOOD



**C|PREP**

Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace

# THE PROBLEM OF VIOLENCE

Violence against children occurs globally across **homes, communities, schools, and criminal justice systems** and is often rooted in cultural, economic or social practices.

Childhood is an important period of development where children learn who they are and what is important to them; violence during this time can have **negative future consequences** and influence the **parenting strategies** children will use when they are adults. Violence against children affects future generations.

Worldwide, adults reported that 23% experienced physical abuse, 37% experienced emotional abuse, 16% experienced physical neglect, 18% females and 8% males experienced sexual abuse in their childhood.

**Peace: "A quality of relationship in which no harm is done as a minimum, an equitable, reciprocal and joyful relationship exists as a maximum, and in which conflicts are resolved constructively." (Joanna Santa Barbara)**

## IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

Children who are exposed to violence may experience:

- Distress, behavioral problems, mental health problems (PTSD, anxiety, and depression), aggression, obesity, substance abuse, early sexual activity and poor academic performances
- These can be associated with later health problems including STDs, lung and heart disease, suicide and IPV.



## WHERE DO CHILDREN EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE?

**The Home:** Children experience violence in the place they are supposed to feel most supported and loved.

**Care and Justice Institutions:** Often a lack of funding, oversight, and training result in vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, juvenile offenders, and unaccompanied asylum seek-

ers, experiencing violence by staff and children. The family is the ideal situation for proper child development.



**Educational Institutions:** Physical violence and sexual harassment are too often considered a 'normal' part of school.

**Workplaces:** There are high rates of violence against domestic child laborers and children in the sex industry; children often experience stigma and isolation in addition to abuse as a result of their participation in these industries.

**Communities:** This includes regional or national conflicts, ranging from civil war to interstate wars, hostility, threats, and gang violence.

## WAYS TO HELP

- Advocate for preventative policing rather than zero tolerance crime policies
- Implement a Community Peace Worker program in your area
- Enhance the ability of hospitals, police stations, and community centers to collect data of violence
- Support primary interventions: good parenting training, firearm reduction, media campaigns, violence prevention educational and social policies, and adherence to human rights conventions