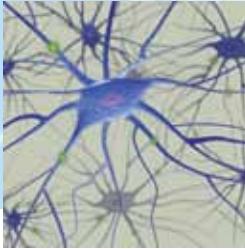


# Forum on Global Violence Prevention

The First 3 Years: 2010–2013



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In 2010, building on the foundation laid by the 2007 Institute of Medicine (IOM) workshop “Preventing Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Finding a Place on the Global Agenda,” the IOM Board on Global Health in partnership with the IOM and the National Research Council (NRC) Board on Children, Youth, and Families and the NRC Committee on Law and Justice, launched the Forum on Global Violence Prevention. The Forum further explores the principles laid out in the 2007 workshop by bringing together global experts from all areas of violence prevention and mitigation to facilitate multisectoral dialogue and exchange on a range of cross-cutting global violence prevention issues. Several times per year, the Forum convenes expert workshops, open to the public, that explore these issues and opportunities for advancing proven or evidence-informed prevention efforts. This summary brochure highlights the Forum’s activities and contributions during its first 3 operational years.

*“In most people’s minds, violence is seen as unmitigated evil, something we have had to live with since time immemorial, and not something that we can prevent. This Forum carries the clear message that violence of all sorts—child abuse and neglect, child sexual assault, dating violence, youth violence, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and suicide and self-directed violence—all of these can be understood and prevented. The Forum has opened up the potential for prevention in developed and developing nations and opened up the possibility for doing a lifetime of good for so many people around the world.”*

**Mark Rosenberg (Forum Co-Chair), Task Force for Global Health**

Violence is a major global public health problem, with multisectoral consequences for business, law enforcement, and other sectors, the impact of which is borne not only by the victims, but also by families, communities, and societies. In 2001, violence accounted for 45 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost, with low- and middle-income countries bearing the largest burden. The exact costs of violence, which include adverse health outcomes, lost productivity and economic opportunity, community deterioration, and effects on the next generations, are difficult to determine, but there is little doubt that the direct and indirect costs are great.

Nevertheless, violence can be prevented. The past quarter-century has witnessed a shift in thinking about violence—from the assumption that violence is inevitable to an emerging scientific understanding among many different stakeholders that, through effective approaches, prevention is possible. Violence is complex, whether interpersonal, self-directed, or collective, and, when not prevented, fosters more violence. Effective prevention requires cross-sectoral approaches developed through dialogue and collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers whose perspectives reflect different disciplines and experiences.

The Forum on Global Violence Prevention was established to encourage and contribute to such dialogue, bringing the power of evidence-based research to bear on violence prevention and mitigation. Through its activities and convening, the Forum seeks to foster an increasingly energized and diverse global community of agents for action who are informed by cutting-edge scientific evidence on how to advance integrated approaches to violence prevention in communities of research, practice, and policy making. The Forum takes advantage of the unique credibility of the National Academy of Sciences, a congressionally chartered, scientific, evidence-based, impartial, independent body that consistently convenes the most eminent scientists from around the world to illuminate pressing issues.

*"Global violence prevention is a large, multifaceted task that has roots in addressing socioeconomic conditions. Collaborations among nongovernmental organizations, academics, and the health care system are the most effective method for violence prevention research due to the complex, multidimensional nature of the issue. The Forum not only brings together different types of disciplines—it also allows for collaboration in different areas of violence prevention work that has often been done in silos."*

**Jacquelyn Campbell (Forum Co-Chair), Johns Hopkins School of Nursing**

During its first 3 operational years, the Forum explored different but related aspects of violence in a series of 6 public workshops, which resulted in published workshop summaries and follow-on activities. Formally appointed members of the Forum selected timely and challenging workshop topics based on relevance to multiple forms of violence, global dimensions, and opportunities for bidirectional learning. The existence of linkages and common risk factors within types of violence, as well as between different types of violence, was a constant thread through all the workshops and related activities. Understanding these relationships is critical to preventing violence. The Forum's workshop summaries highlight the key themes that emerged during the workshops. All summaries are available as free PDF downloads or for purchase in hard copy at [www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention](http://www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention).

JANUARY 2011

## Workshop on Preventing Violence Against Women and Children

*"Although violence is a threat to everyone, women and children are particularly susceptible to victimization because they often have fewer rights or lack appropriate means of protection. In some societies certain types of violence are deemed socially or legally acceptable, thereby contributing further to the risk to women and children."*

**Preventing Violence Against Women and Children: Workshop Summary, p. 1**

Using an ecological framework that focuses on points of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention, this workshop assessed violence along the lifespan of women and children. Each level has an evidence base for prevention, successful strategies, and promising interventions or emerging research that can potentially be applied in global settings. The workshop planning committee was chaired by Forum co-chair Jacquelyn Campbell.

### Key themes that emerged from the workshop were

- the value of research and interventions that address violence against both women and children rather than treating them as "siloed" types of violence;
- the intergenerational transmission of violence;
- the need to address gender norms and roles of men and boys as part of the solution;
- the research and intervention gap in low- and middle-income countries; and
- the need for responses that are multisectoral and are cross-cutting fields of violence prevention.

The workshop was webcast globally, allowing for the inclusion of more than 300 remote participants in more than 20 countries. The webcast videos are archived on the Forum's website, where they continue to be disseminated and viewed free of charge.



Jacquelyn Campbell (Forum Co-Chair),  
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing

*"Effective investments in preventing violence must recognize and address violence within the family, strengthen social norms that promote healthy relationships, and, in addition, reduce community-level risk factors."*

**Brigid McCaw (Forum Member), Kaiser Permanente**

*"We need to collaborate among forms of violence and link preventive strategies. For example, victimization in childhood heightens the risk for youth or adult violence. The Forum on Global Violence Prevention brings together the stakeholders who play different, and essential, roles in prevention."*

**Fran Henry (Forum Member), F Felix Foundation**

APRIL 2011

## Workshop on the Social and Economic Costs of Violence

*"The costs of violence are borne by all segments of society, but their measurement and impact are difficult to quantify. Traditional approaches, consisting mostly of measuring the direct economic effects of health care utilization and productivity loss, vastly underestimate the additional social and developmental costs of both morbidity and mortality."*

**Social and Economic Costs of Violence: Workshop Summary, p. 1**

This workshop presented an ecological life course framework for the impact of violence, exploring how costs can be greater than typically perceived. Often, these costs extend beyond immediate victimization, affecting families, communities, and societies, and sometimes resulting in consequences along the lifespan.

Speakers explored the economic and social value of prevention and ways in which a community can mitigate violence and its associated impacts. The workshop planning committee was chaired by Forum co-chair Mark Rosenberg.

### Key themes that emerged from the workshop were

- the difficulty of assigning costs to intangibles such as pain and suffering and externalities such as discrimination;
- the cumulative effects of adverse events on well-being across the lifespan;
- the promise of investing in early intervention but also the challenges of measuring the value of primary prevention; and
- the need for methodologies to determine the cost-effectiveness of interventions, particularly in the context of primary prevention.

For the purposes of the workshop, an original figure showing the cumulative effects of adverse events on well-being over the lifespan and a table showing the potential costs of violence at various ecological levels were developed, demonstrating the magnitude of potential social and economic costs of violence. Both the figure and table are included in the published workshop summary.



Mark Rosenberg (Forum Co-Chair),  
Task Force for Global Health

*"The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation approaches violence as a pressing health problem that can be prevented and/or reduced. The Forum on Global Violence Prevention has been critical in informing our work through its networks, case studies, and evidence-based presentations."*

**Jane Isaacs Lowe (Forum Member), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

*"Participating in the Forum has sensitized me to the public health consequences above and beyond the physical and psychological harm to immediate victims. The scientific evidence for broader consequences to individuals, family, and community is compelling. This work helped to inform the activities I have subsequently been involved in at the National Institutes of Health, where I have worked with several institutes to increase the scientific research on gun violence and health."*

**Margaret M. Murray (Forum Member), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**

DECEMBER 2011

## Workshop on Communications and Technology for Violence Prevention

*"New technologies have disrupted traditional means of communication and have provided opportunities for reaching farther and wider."*

**Communications and Technology for Violence Prevention: Workshop Summary, p. 1**

This workshop explored the use of traditional and new media to communicate evidence-based information about types and effects of violence and their prevention and new applications of social media and communications technologies for prevention. It also highlighted best practices from other areas, such as mHealth and disaster response, where use of such tools shows potential for applicability to violence prevention. The workshop planning committee was chaired by Forum member James Mercy.

### Key themes that emerged from the workshop were

- the ability of information and communications technologies (ICT) to facilitate cross-sectoral solutions;
- the potential of ICT as a platform for scaling up effective interventions;
- the need for new methodologies for effective evaluation of interventions utilizing rapidly changing ICT; and
- the opportunities for ICT as a tool to better reach vulnerable populations and address health disparities.



Michele Moloney-Kitts (Forum Member),  
Together for Girls

*"Through my involvement with the Forum, I've been reminded of the many detrimental effects of violence on individuals and society, as well as the vicious cycles that perpetuate it. Most importantly, the Forum has offered hope by providing evidence that it is possible for communities to prevent and reduce violence by disrupting these cycles."*

**Albert J. Allen (Forum Member), Eli Lilly and Company**

Avon Foundation for Women and the Institute of Medicine  
announce a *Global App Challenge*

# Ending Violence @*home*



Following the momentum of the communications and technology workshop, one of the Forum's sponsors, the Avon Foundation for Women, partnered with the IOM in a global mobile- and Web-based app challenge: Ending Violence @ Home. Similar to the workshop, the challenge brought together individuals from the fields of domestic violence prevention and communications technologies to raise awareness about and help prevent domestic violence against women and children. This was a globally-issued challenge, and teams from both the United States and abroad entered. The numerous submissions covered a wide array of innovative approaches to prevent violence at home. The four winning submissions showcased three different approaches: changing cultural attitudes about violence against women, preventing dating violence on university campuses, and equipping health care providers to detect and prevent domestic violence. The winning apps and more information can be found at [www.iom.edu/EndDV](http://www.iom.edu/EndDV).

*"A core principle of the Avon Foundation for Women's Speak Out Against Domestic Violence program is to encourage powerful communications and technology innovations that empower individuals to take action and change the attitudes and behaviors that help perpetuate violence against women. We commend the winners for creating these innovative digital tools to help keep women and children safe."*

**Carol Kurzig (Forum Member), Avon Foundation for Women**

*"The Institute of Medicine and the Avon Foundation for Women issued this challenge in recognition of the great potential of technologies such as social media and mobile apps to reduce the worldwide suffering caused by domestic violence. We are impressed with the level of creativity demonstrated by the winning products, which can make a real difference to abused individuals."*

**Harvey V. Fineberg, IOM President**

MAY 2012

## Workshop on Contagion of Violence

*"In exploring the occurrence of violence, researchers have recognized the tendency for violent acts to cluster, to spread from place to place, and to mutate from one type to another...violent acts are often preceded or followed by other violent acts."*

**Contagion of Violence: Workshop Summary, p. 1**

Understanding how and why violence is instigated, the role that context plays in its spread, and its effects on individuals and communities is critical to prevention and intervention. This workshop examined the contagion of violence and how it can be prevented and eventually ended. The workshop planning committee was chaired by Forum member L. Rowell Huesmann.

### Key themes that emerged from the workshop were

- the contagious nature of violence within and across types of violence;
- the spread of violence from both direct victimization and exposure to violence;
- the interaction between social and biological factors that contribute to violent behavior; and
- the role of cultural norms in both protecting from and increasing susceptibility to violence.

Highlighting the applicability of the contagion framework to an often-overlooked form of violence, elder abuse, Forum member XinQi Dong from the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging published an IOM commentary titled "Elder Abuse and the Contagion of Violence: One Size Doesn't Fit All." The commentary is available through the Forum's website.



L. Rowell Huesmann (Forum Member), University of Michigan (left); Arturo Cervantes Trejo (Forum Member), Federal Ministry of Health, Mexico (right)

*"Public health campaigns are necessary to demonstrate to the public that violence is a contagious disease. The more people observe violence, the more likely they are to behave violently. Consequently, interventions that reduce violence even a little can lead to eventual large reductions in violence. The Forum plays an important role in focusing on issues and producing workshops that create information that can then be disseminated to the public."*

**L. Rowell Huesmann (Forum Member), University of Michigan**

JANUARY 2013

## Workshop on Evidence for Violence Prevention Across the Lifespan and Around the World

*"The value of violence prevention programs that are grounded in evidence needs to be made known so stakeholder groups—including decision makers, practitioners, and affected communities—will support their implementation and continuous improvement across communities and cultural context."*

**Evidence for Violence Prevention: Workshop Summary, p. 1**

For evidence to be applied effectively, practitioners and policy makers need to know how to access it and how to apply it in ways that ensure that programs are culturally appropriate, acceptable, and implemented with high fidelity. The paradigm of knowledge management and its four stages—generation, integration, dissemination, and application—served as the framework for this workshop and its discussions on the evidence for violence prevention. The workshop planning committee was co-chaired by Forum members Katrina Baum and James Mercy.

### **Key themes that emerged from the workshop were**

- the value of evidence for improving the effectiveness of interventions;
- the importance of cultural context and involving stakeholder communities when implementing interventions;
- the gap between evidence and implementation; and
- the roles of researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in generating evidence and implementing violence prevention interventions.

Following the workshop, several members of the planning committee published the IOM discussion paper “Violence Prevention: Moving from Evidence to Implementation,” which examined the identified gap between evidence and implementation and suggested steps for reducing it. The discussion paper is available through the Forum’s website.

*"Suicide has not received proper attention in the field of global violence prevention because few professionals or organizations working in the area of violence prevention consider suicide part of their remit. By including suicide prevention as part of violence prevention, the Forum has highlighted the importance of suicide—the most common form of violent death—and the close relationship of the etiological factors that lead to both self-directed and other-directed violence."*

**Michael Phillips (Forum Member), Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine**

*"The Forum has brought together thought leaders, experts, and interested parties who bring unique and varied perspectives to violence prevention. Ultimately, the Forum has coalesced hearts and minds to create an environment of dialogue, interest, and commitment that seeks to address this problem with a global perspective."*

**Colleen Scanlon (Forum Member), Catholic Health Initiatives**

APRIL 2013

## Workshop on Elder Abuse and Its Prevention

*"Elder abuse is a violation of older adults' fundamental rights to be safe and free from violence and contradicts efforts toward improved well-being and quality of life in healthy aging."*

### Elder Abuse and Its Prevention: Workshop Summary

This workshop highlighted the burden of elder abuse around the world, focusing on its impacts on individuals, families, communities, and societies. In addition, the workshop addressed occurrences and co-occurrences of different types of elder abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and financial, as well as neglect and self-neglect. Opportunities for prevention within different settings were discussed. The workshop planning committee was co-chaired by Forum co-chair Jacquelyn Campbell and Forum member XinQi Dong.

### Key themes that emerged from the workshop were

- the prevalence and characteristics of elder abuse in different settings;
- the role of culture and the community in the prevention of elder abuse; and
- the opportunities for prevention within and across different sectors.



Kathy Greenlee (Forum Member), Administration on Aging/Administration on Community Living



Frances Ashe-Goins (Forum Member), Office of Women's Health, Department of Health and Human Services

*"The Forum provides the opportunity for health and behavioral health providers, in the private and public sector, to understand the complexities of violence; creates understanding through research and dialogue; and allows for a holistic approach to violence prevention. Ending discrimination calls for change at the collective or systemic level, and this level of change will be most successful when there is a solid understanding of the cultural, biological, and psychological aspects that promote and sustain change within the individual and the community."*

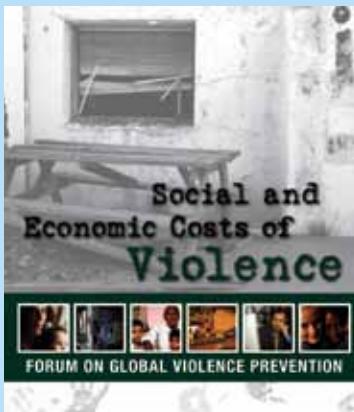
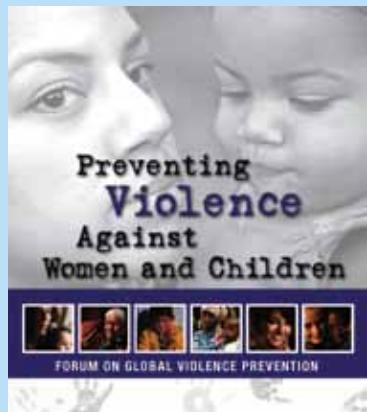
Evelyn Tomaszewski (Forum Member), National Association of Social Workers

During the Forum's first 3 years, it has produced a robust body of work and created an extensive network of researchers, policy makers, and practitioners dedicated to preventing violence through effective approaches.

Recognizing the dynamic and changing nature of the field of violence prevention, Forum members have undertaken a review process of its first 3 years and its reach. Through this process, the Forum has assessed how it can most effectively continue to contribute to the field of violence prevention, the topics and themes it will examine, the activities it will undertake, and the mechanisms through which it will carry out its work.

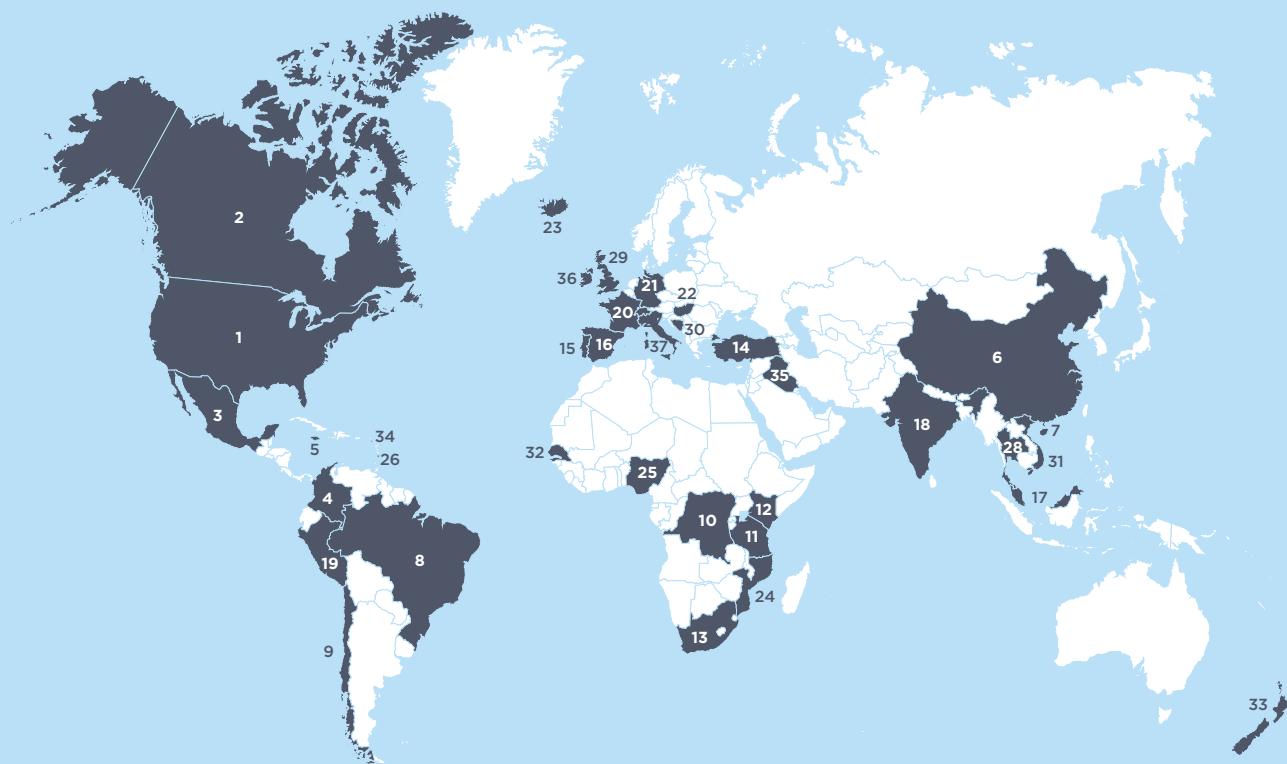
**More information about the Forum's future activities will be posted on the Forum's website ([www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention](http://www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention)).**

## Workshop Summaries Released by the Forum



## Participants in Forum Activities

Since its founding in 2010, more than 1,400 individuals from 37 countries have contributed to the Forum's activities as members, planning committee members, presenters, reviewers, judges, contestants, workshop attendees, or webcast participants. Depicted below are the geographic locations from which these individuals have been drawn.



1. United States	11. Tanzania	21. Germany*	31. Vietnam
2. Canada	12. Kenya	22. Hungary	32. Senegal
3. Mexico	13. South Africa	23. Iceland*	33. New Zealand
4. Colombia	14. Turkey	24. Mozambique*	34. St Kitts and Nevis
5. Jamaica	15. Portugal	25. Nigeria*	35. Iraq
6. China	16. Spain*	26. St Lucia*	36. Ireland
7. Hong Kong	17. Malaysia	27. Switzerland	37. Italy
8. Brazil	18. India*	28. Thailand	
9. Chile*	19. Peru	29. United Kingdom	
10. Congo*	20. France*	30. Bosnia	

\*Participated in webcast only.



### About the Forum

Violence can be stopped before it starts. The Institute of Medicine's Forum on Global Violence Prevention seeks to reduce violence and promote healthy development worldwide by encouraging multidisciplinary research that emphasizes the value of prevention. As part of its overall goal, the Forum

- provides an ongoing, regular, evidence-based, impartial setting for the multidisciplinary exchange of information and ideas concerning violence prevention;
- illuminates policy, research, and practice priorities worthy of further study or investment; and
- gathers information on the scientific basis and public health needs pertinent to global violence prevention.

More information about the Forum, including past and future activities, is available at [www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention](http://www.iom.edu/globalviolenceprevention).



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