Reducing Violence Against Women and Girls – What does the evidence say?

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Progress since the Beijing Conference

- Data from over 81 countries on the prevalence of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual assault
- IPV accepted as a risk factor for Global Burden of Disease
- Understanding of risk factors for VAWG



Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence & Measures of Gender Equality (56 countries)





Prevalence of violence

Gender Gap Index (GGI)

Gender Empowerment Messure (GEM)

What works to reduce violence against women and girls?

- GWI and the World Bank systematic review of reviews on the impacts of interventions to prevent VAWG
- The goal: To present the best synthesis possible of the 'state of the evidence' on what works to reduce VAWG



Distribution of 186 interventions by type of violence



Nearly 70% of the global evidence on what works, and what doesn't, to prevent VAWG comes from 6 high income countries that comprise 6% of the world's population.



186 Impact Evaluations by Region

Most interventions address violence after it has started, not before it begins



Types of interventions by country income level



Most studies in LMIC targets Harmful Traditional Practices



Effectiveness of interventions by type of violence



Studies by type of intervention with one or more significant positive effect

Effectiveness of interventions by type of violence



% interventions by type of violence with one or more significant positive effect

What have we learned?

Programs responding to violence:

- Target women rather than men
- Encourage autonomy and empowerment of women
- Have elements of psychosocial interventions, victim advocacy

Programs preventing violence:

- Include men AND Women
- Engage entire community
- Combine <u>multiple approaches</u> as part of a single intervention.
- Six months or longer
- Address social norms regarding acceptability of violence

What kind of evidence do we need?

- More research on all types of VAWG from the Global South (not just HTP)
- More focus on Primary Prevention
- Standardized indicators and research methods
- Address VAWG in diverse populations
- How to adapt successful programs in diverse settings

Violence against women: the missing Millennium Development Goal



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



8. Develop a global partnership for development



2. Achieve universal primary education



 Ensure environmental sustainability



3. Promote gender equality and empower women



4. Reduce child mortality



5. Improve maternal health



 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease

Every woman has a right to live without violence!