

## Violence



Violence is a public health challenge defined by 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.

## Injuries

Injuries are a major public health problem claiming more than 5 million lives every year and harming many millions more. It is caused by acute exposure to physical agents, such as mechanical energy, heat, electricity, chemicals and ionizing radiation.

## Disabilities

Disability is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; and a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. Thus disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person's body and the features of the society in which he or she lives.

The violence, injuries and disability programme works with Member States to prevent injuries and violence, to mitigate their consequences and to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities irrespective of the causes.

It does so by:

raising awareness of the magnitude and consequence of injuries, violence and disability  
analysis and disseminating information  
fostering multisectoral networks and partnerships.

The programme also supports national, regional and global efforts to:

improve data collection  
develop evidence-based approaches to injury and violence prevention, control and rehabilitation  
disseminate proven and promising interventions  
improve services for persons with disabilities, as well as victims and survivors of injuries and violence, and their families  
enhance teaching and training programmes  
create multidisciplinary policies and action plans.

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