The Public Health Approach to Preventing Violence: A Retrospective

UCLA Health Care Symposium
February 11, 2017

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Dean and Professor
Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine
CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and
advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston.

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR &
ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS
and
Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in
KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING
SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY,
and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, show
them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS
on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.
A Public Health Concern

- Why interpersonal violence became a public health concern
  - Magnitude of the problem
  - Characteristics of violence
  - Contact health professionals have w/ victims and perpetrators
  - Application of public health strategies to understanding and preventing it
Homocide Rates on a Global Scale

Homicide rates, selected regions (1955-2012, three-year moving average)

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013) and WHO Mortality Database.
Homocide Mechanisms by Region

Homicide mechanism, by region (2012 or latest year)

Africa (54 countries)
- Firearms: 42%
- Sharp objects: 28%
- Others: 30%

Americas (36 countries)
- Firearms: 17%
- Sharp objects: 17%
- Others: 66%

Asia (50 countries)
- Firearms: 47%
- Sharp objects: 25%
- Others: 28%

Europe (42 countries)
- Firearms: 13%
- Sharp objects: 54%
- Others: 33%

Oceania (10 countries)
- Firearms: 35%
- Sharp objects: 10%
- Others: 55%

Global (192 countries)
- Firearms: 35%
- Sharp objects: 24%
- Others: 41%

“Justifiable” Homocide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total firearms</th>
<th>Handguns</th>
<th>Rifles</th>
<th>Shotguns</th>
<th>Firearms, type not stated</th>
<th>Knives or cutting instruments</th>
<th>Other dangerous weapons</th>
<th>Personal weapons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
“Justifiable” Homocide

In the UCR Program, justifiable homicide is defined as and limited to:

• The killing of a felon by a peace officer in the line of duty.
• The killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.
In the News
The Relationship Between Public Health & Criminal Justice

Three Intervention Levels

Primary Prevention
- UPFRONT
- Education

Secondary Prevention
- IN THE THICK
- Behavior Modification

Tertiary Prevention
- AFTER THE FACT
- Punishment
- Criminal Justice

Public Health

Responsibility
Risk Factors for Violence

- Poverty and Income Inequality
- Access to Guns
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use
- Witnessing Violence and Victimization
- Biologic/Organic Abnormalities
- Culture of Violence
Murder Is No Accident:
The Boston Violence Prevention Movement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Violence Prevention Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1982)</td>
<td>Boston City Hospital Violence Prevention Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1985)</td>
<td>WEATOC Teen Theatre Group adds Violence Prevention to its Repertoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1985)</td>
<td>Friends for Life-PSA Campaign Ad Council of Boston</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1986)</td>
<td>South Boston Boys and Girls Club - Friends for Life Clubs and Violence Prevention Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1987)</td>
<td>Violence Prevention Curriculum for Adolescents Published for Distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1989)</td>
<td>Gang Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1990)</td>
<td>Gang Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1990)</td>
<td>Teens Against Gang Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1990)</td>
<td>Mayor's Safe Neighborhood Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1992)</td>
<td>Ten Point Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1992)</td>
<td>WBZ-TV Stop the Violence Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1994)</td>
<td>Community Policing in Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1995)</td>
<td>Cease Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1996)</td>
<td>Strike Force</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Boston Police Department
Community Empowerment: Violence Prevention and Health Promotion

Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center
Pledge for Peace

1. I am free from the anxiety and fear created by wanting others to make me and treat me just as I am and to value me as I am. I celebrate my being, I am unique, and I am valuable. I enjoy being with others and being treated with kindness and respect.

2. I am energetic and healthy. My body and mind are strong and working as they should. I use these qualities to serve others and to develop a healthy body, home, school, and community.

3. I am a person in control. Thinking, planning, and having the self-discipline to make the right choices helps me grow into the person I want to be.
MY PLEDGE FOR PEACE

I will treat others the way I would like to be treated.

I will respect differences of age, gender, race, religion, and ability.

I will work hard to make peace a reality in my community.

My Pledge for Peace Card begins with me!
American Dueling
Dueling Pistols
Timeline

- 16th Century – Dueling documented in Europe
- 1620 – First American duel documented and only a handful noted until 1760
- 1640 – Race based ban – no free Mullatoes, Negroes or Indians could own guns
- 1718, 1728 – Duels in Boston - laws passed –punishment - sit in the gallows
- 1775 – 1783 American Revolutionary War
- 1775 – VA –can’t hold an office if you duel
- 1778 – Generals in the “new” US army dueled
- 1802 – NC
- 1804 - former Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton and Vice-President Aaron Burr duel
- 1809 – TN
- 1810 – VA –Anti-dueling Act – made “fighting words’ libel, an offense
- 1815 – Illinois
- 1816 – GA
- 1819 – AL
- 1822 – Miss.
- 1822- SC elected Governor John Lyde Wilson, a dueler and author of the Code
- 1832 – Law in FL – offense to call a man a coward for refusing a duel
Timeline

- 1838 - The Code of Honor, or Rules for the Government of Principals and second in Dueling printed
- 1839 – Miss. Includes attending surgeons in the list of those who can be charged
- 1842 – the only person convicted under NY anti-dueling law - two years and pardoned
- 1844 – GA Supreme Court race-based gun laws are upheld because – not citizens
- 1858 – Miss. Granted amnesty to 15 duelers
- 1860 – CA interpretation of a law indicates that killing in a duel is NOT murder
- 1861 – 1865 – Civil War
- 1866 – Kentucky’s last duel
- 1880 – Challenged “gentleman Senator Mahone – simply refused to fight
- 1990 – New Mexico State vs. Romero – last reported case with charges of dueling
Bloody Island
TO THE PUBLIC.

The object of this placard is to inform the Public that Gen. Leigh Read has declined giving to me an apology for the insult offered me at St. Marks, on the 5th inst. That he has also refused to me that satisfaction, which as an honorable man, (refusing to apologise,) he was bound to give. I therefore pronounce him a Coward and a Scoundrel.

WILLIAM TRADEWELL.

Tallahassee, Oct. 26, 1839.
How many Duels were there? How Common a Practice was It?

Jack K. Williams, *Dueling in the Old South*:

In Mississippi in the 1840s, duels were said to be "as plenty as blackberries."

Fox Butterfield, *All God’s Children: The Boskett Family*:

An “undercount” yields a rate in Edgefield, SC from 1844-1858 of 18/100,000 per year with a 1991 Louisiana rate of 17.4/100,000.

Harriet Martineau, famous authoress and traveler, wrote:

"It is understood that in New Orleans there were fought, in 1834, more duels than there are days in the year, fifteen in one Sunday morning; that in 1835, there were 102 duels fought in that city between the 1st of January and the end of April and no notice is taken of shooting in a quarrel..."
Hamilton’s Pros and Cons

Cons
• Wife and Children
• Deeply in debt
• Bore Burr no ill-will
• Illegal in NY
• Condemned by Christianity

Pros
• Pressing necessity not to decline the call
• Cost him political support
• Essential to his ability to be useful in the future
Getting Out of the Box: Boxing Out the Violence
UNITY RoadMap Checklist

- **Partnerships**
  - **WHO** does it take to prevent violence before it occurs?

- **Prevention**
  - **WHAT** does it take to prevent violence before it occurs?

- **Strategy**
  - **HOW** can we maximize and sustain efforts to prevent Violence before it occurs?
Thank You!

DEADLY CONSEQUENCES
How Violence Is Destroying Our Teenage Population and a Plan to Begin Solving the Problem
Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.
WITH MICHAEL WEISSMAN
FOREWORD BY WILLIAM JULIUS WILSON

MURDER IS NO ACCIDENT
Understanding and Preventing Youth Violence in America
Deborah Prothrow-Stith • Howard R. Spivak

SUGAR & SPICE AND NO LONGER NICE
How We Can Stop Girls' Violence
Deborah Prothrow-Stith • Howard R. Spivak