



PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE in the LAC REGION: Evidence and Gaps

Findings from the *What Works To Prevent Lethal Youth Violence In The Lac Region: A Global Review Of The Research Study*

Prevalence

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region contains some of the highest rates of interpersonal and community-based violence in the world, accounting for one-third of all homicides despite being home to less than 10 percent of the world's population.

Population



92% of the World
8% of the Latin America and Caribbean

Homicides



67% of the World
33% of the Latin America and Caribbean

El Salvador, Jamaica, and Venezuela have the highest homicide rates in the region,



exceeding 50 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2017, with some municipal homicide rates in these countries exceeding 130 deaths per 100,000 persons.

What Works to Prevent Youth Violence?

Statistically unequivocal positive intervention effects

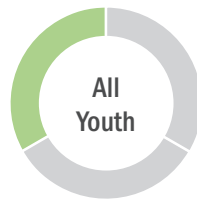
52%

46 Systematic Reviews and Single Studies

48%

Mix of positive, negative, or no effects

Of the 24 studies reporting overall positive intervention effects, nine acted across multiple prevention types, eight targeted tertiary levels of prevention (i.e., in high risk youth), five involved primary prevention programs (i.e., all youth), and two focused on secondary prevention (i.e., at-risk youth).



All Youth

- Psychosocial parenting programs
- Afterschool program



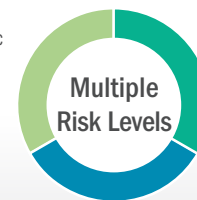
Youth at Risk

- School-based interventions to reduce aggressive and violent behavior
- Peer influence



Youth at High Risk

- Hot spots policing
- Structured interventions targeting criminogenic risk factors (e.g., thinking for a change)
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Multi-sector outreach and intervention with proven risk youth
- Focused deterrence
- Violence interruption



Multiple Risk Levels

- School-based interventions to reduce aggressive and violent behavior
- Multi-dimensional family therapy
- Domestic abuse screening and response training

Research Gaps and Opportunities | Evidence Gaps

Region



Only one systematic review was based on studies conducted solely in the LAC region

Topic



There were very few studies on violence directed at family members or between intimates

Population



Only one study examined violence prevention outcomes based on gender differences

Outcomes



Individual behavioral outcomes (e.g., recidivism, violence) were rarely measured

Research Designs and Quality



The majority of studies did not measure implementation quality or fidelity