

## Violence in contemporary society and its repercussions on collective health

This Supplement presents an expanded version of issue N° 11.2 of the *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* journal, focused on Violence in Contemporary Society and its Repercussions on Collective Health, published in English, in 2006. This publication is prompted by requests from researchers at Brazil's National Public Health School (ENSP), eager to access a specific study of violence that can be read by Brazilians who do not understand languages other than Portuguese. Sponsored by the ENSP Board, this edition joins other available inputs, aiming at a larger audience.

Its contents offer readers a broad-ranging overview with in-depth analyses of this phenomenon at this time in history, shaped by social conditions some of them structural and human society. Written by Michel Wieviorka, the Director of the L'École de Hautes Études de Sciences Sociales in Paris, this paper opens with a discussion and then moves on to in-depth analyses of the subject by highly respected experts from all over the world, including Nobel Peace Prize nominee Professor Vamik D.Volkan from the University of Virginia, USA; Dr. Duncan Pedersen, an epidemiologist at McGill University, Montreal; Etienne Krug and Linda Dahlberg from the World Health Organisation (WHO); UN Advisor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro; sociologist Roberto Briceño-León from the Central University of Caracas; Saul Franco from the Bogotá National University; Hugo Spinelli from the Lanus National University; and Miguel Malo and Alberto Concha from the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO).

There are many Brazilian researchers examining the situation of Brazil through: epidemiological analyses of accidents and other types of violence; studies of specific groups; and writings that analyze the formulation, legitimation and implementation of Brazil's National Accidents and Violence Reduction Policy, promulgated in 2001 by the Ministry of Health. Other articles present a wide range of service and care initiatives, analysing networks and experiments that are successfully preventing, promoting and dealing with many different types of violence within the sphere of the National Health System (SUS).

This Supplement completes a series of theme-specific numbers, organised by CLAVES researchers during the past twelve years: Volume 10, Supl.1, 1994 of the *Cadernos de Saúde Pública*, entitled "O impacto da violência sobre a saúde", analysed the impact of violence on healthcare through a pioneering approach to this matter, launched simultaneously in Brazil and Washington at the I Latin American Seminar on Violence Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO). Volume 4 N° 1 / 1999 of *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* starts out from the standpoint of health promotion, examining problems related to this theme and asking: Is it possible to prevent violence? ("É possível prevenir a violência?"). Launched at the XI World Congress on Public Health at 2006, Volume 11 N° 2 of *Ciência & Saúde Coletiva* offers a "Global View on Violence and Health".

The purpose of this theme-specific edition is to offer a contribution designed for healthcare practitioners and society, in order to build up a level of theoretical understanding, organising general and specific data and analysing practices that foster citizenship and social inclusion while enhancing the quality of life: these latter values are antidotes to all types of violence that can not be justified, but dramatise social issues.

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