



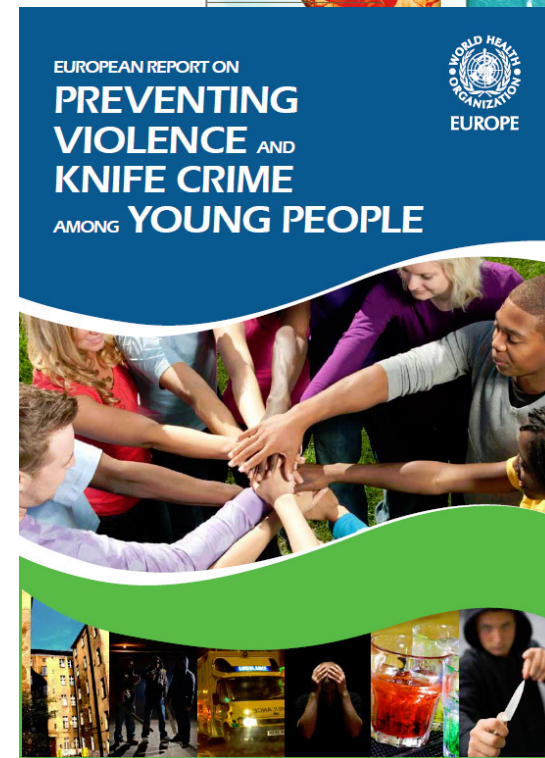
# Safety 2010 World Conference

21st-24th September 2010 - Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, UK

## Safe and equitable communities for young people in Europe

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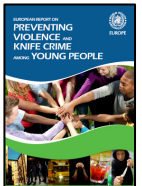
# Outline



Unintentional injuries and violence: a European challenge



Unintentional injuries and children



Violence and young people



Policy process and way forward



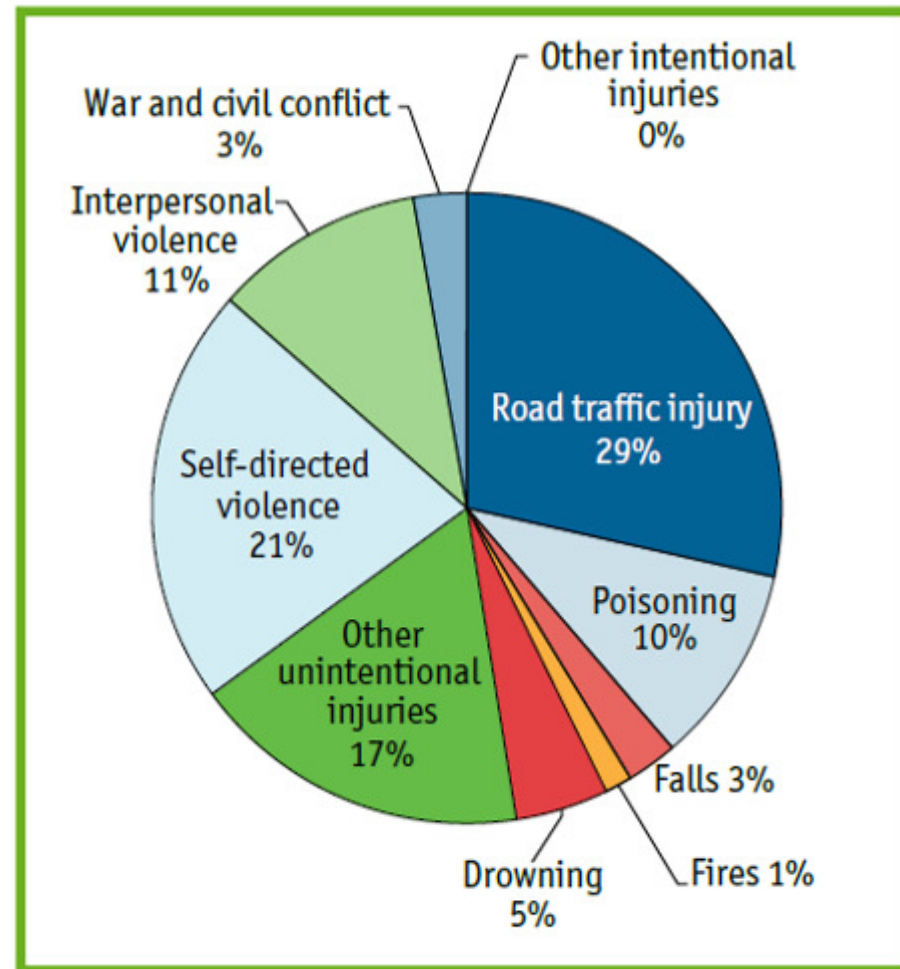
Conclusions

# Unintentional injuries and violence: a European challenge



# Top 3 causes of death in people aged 15–29 years are injury related

1. Road traffic injury
2. Self-directed violence
3. Interpersonal violence

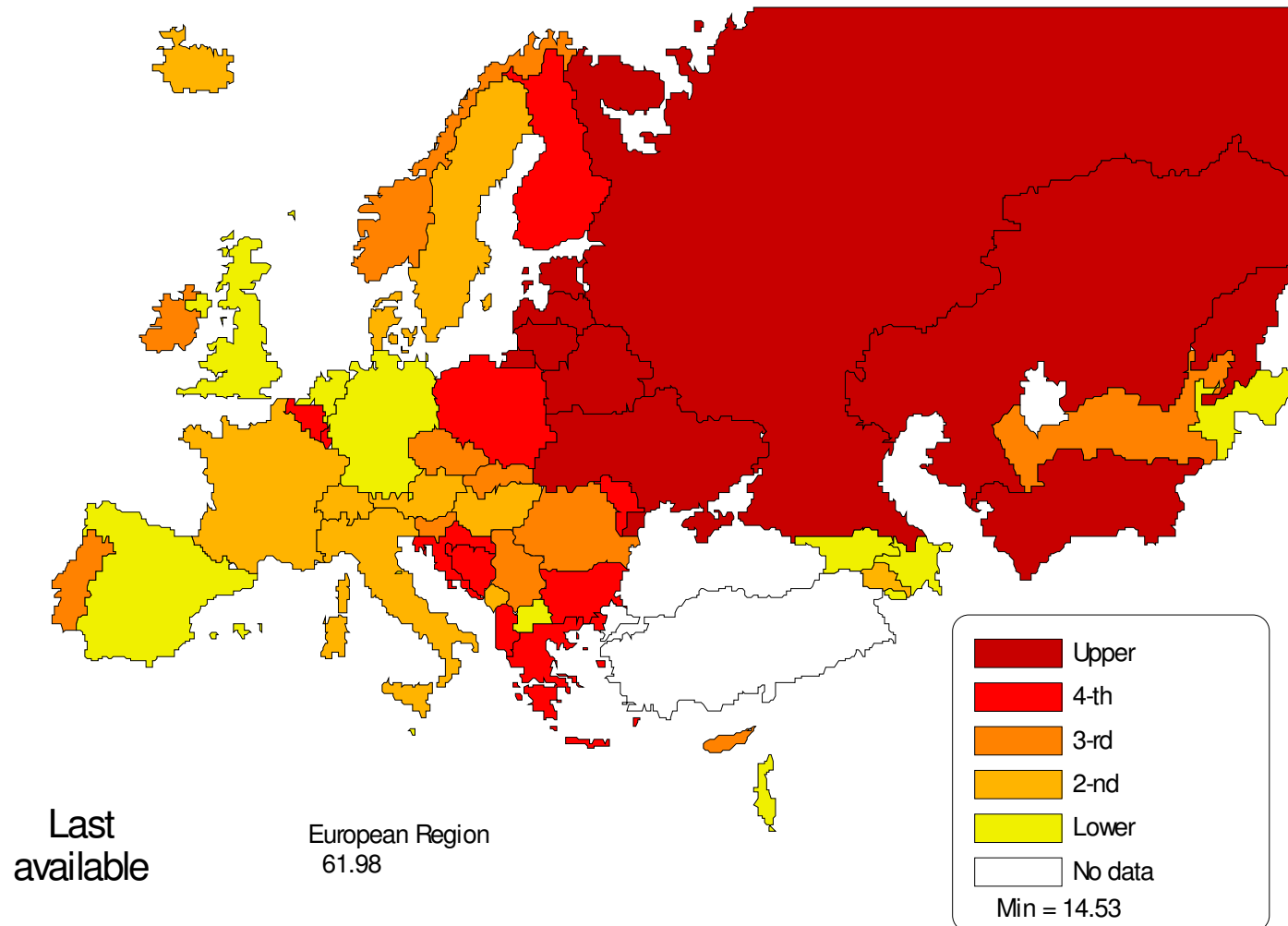


Source: *The global burden of disease, 2004 update*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2008.

# Large inequalities in deaths from injuries and violence in the European Region



SDR(15-29), External causes of injury and poisoning, per 100000

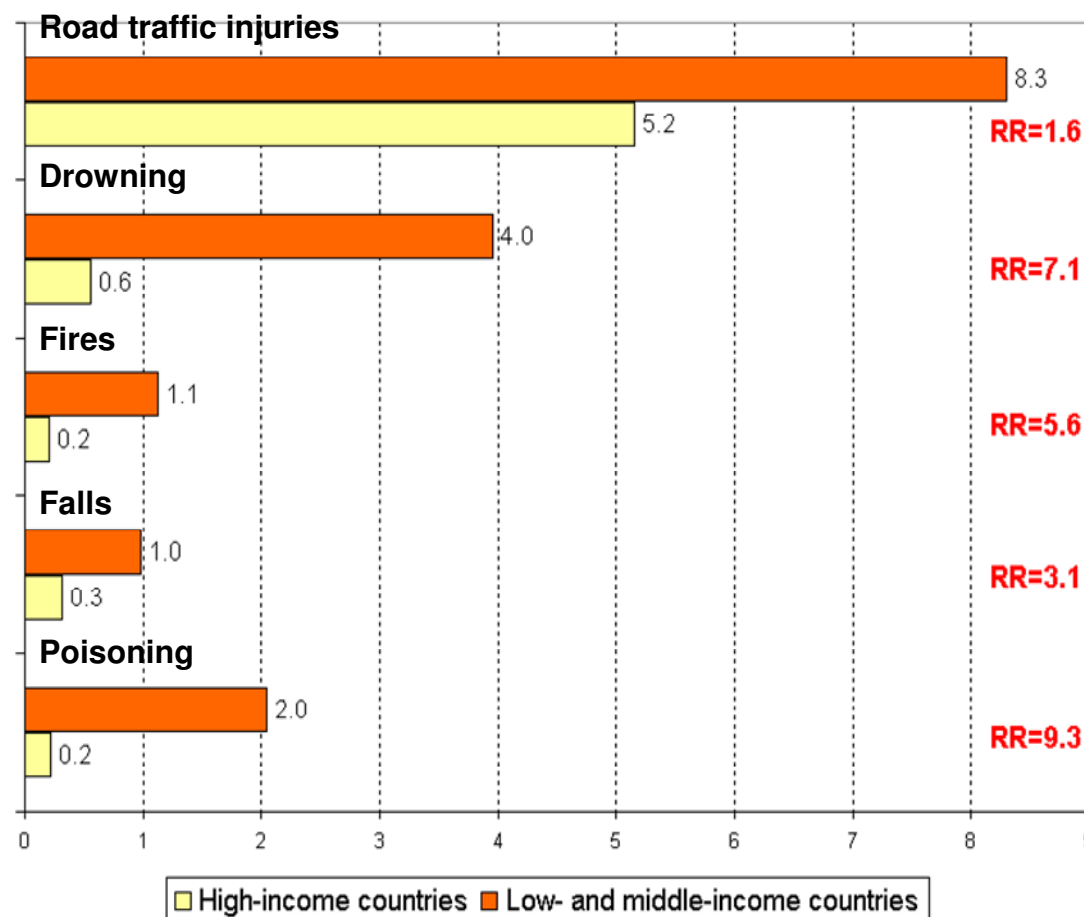


Source: WHO Health for All Mortality Database. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, July 2010.

# Injuries: leading cause of inequality in child death in Europe

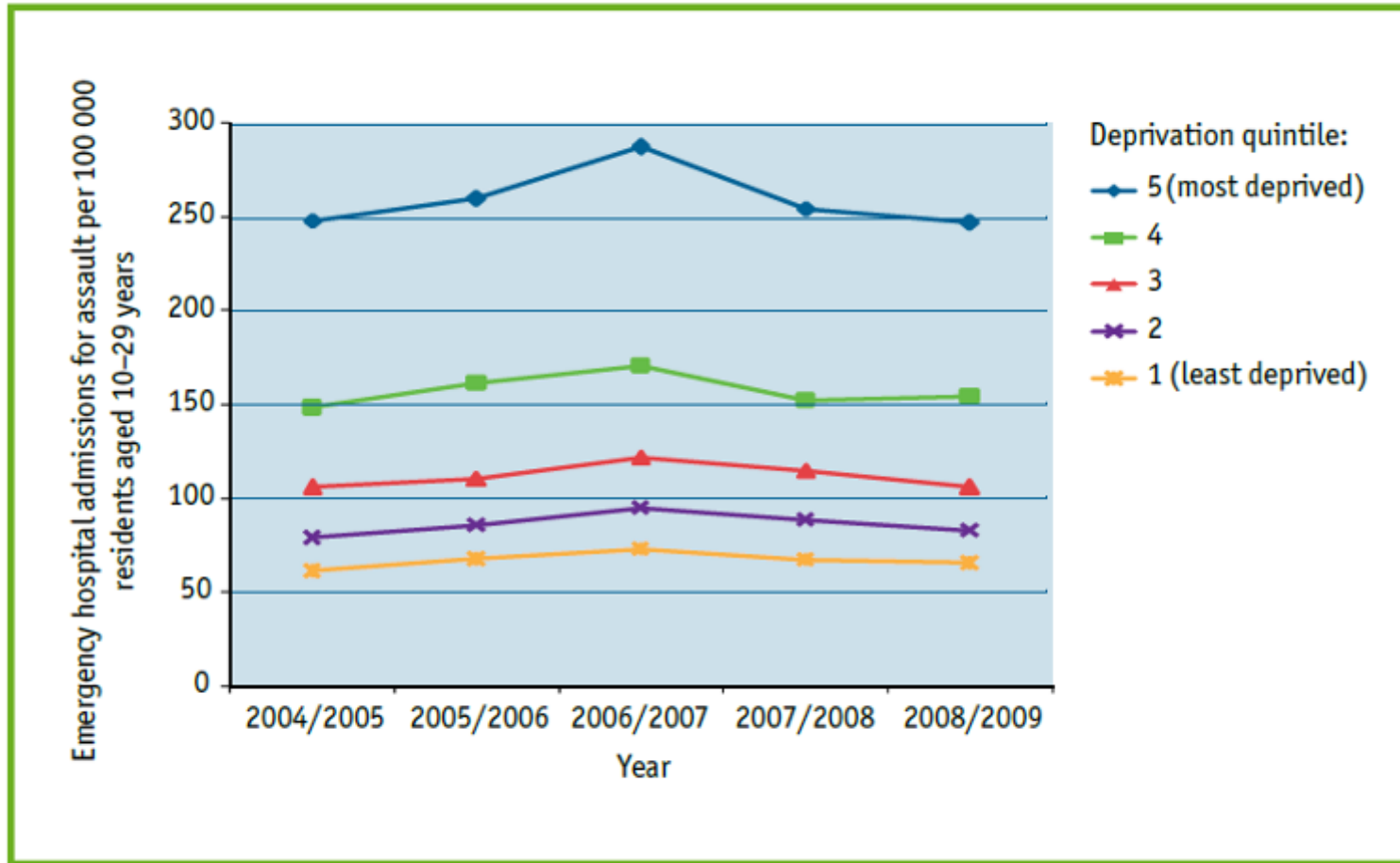


- 5 out of 6 of child injury deaths are in poorer countries.
- There is up to an 8-fold difference between countries with the highest and lowest injury death rates.
- Death rates in the Commonwealth of Independent States are 3 times those in the European Union.
- Even in high-income countries, unintentional injuries account for 40% of all child deaths.
- Within countries, death rates can vary by as much as 9 times.



Source: European report on child injury prevention. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2008.

# Violence: much higher risk for poorer young people in all countries



Source: *European report on preventing violence and knife crime among young people*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2010.

# Need to focus action on children and youth

- Childhood and adolescence are periods of vulnerability.
- Childhood is a period of exploration – and neurodevelopmental, cognitive and behavioural change – with increased exposure to risks.
- Exposure to adversity in childhood may result in mental trauma and health-damaging behaviour later in life.
- Physical and social environments need to be modified to ensure safety for children.



Photos (left to right): © Nicoletta di Tanno, Manuela Gallitto, Istockphoto, J Ozanne Smith, WHO/T. Toroyan



# Unintentional injuries and children



# Unintentional injuries: leading cause of death in European young people



- 42 000 deaths in those aged 0–19 years (115 deaths a day)
- Huge drain on health and societal resources:
  - 5 million estimated annual hospitalizations
  - 70 million visits to emergency departments in the Region

Rank	Cause of death
1	Perinatal causes
2	Lower respiratory infections
3	Diarrhoeal diseases
4	Congenital anomalies
5	Road traffic injuries
6	Self-inflicted injuries
7	Meningitis
8	Drowning
9	Leukaemia
10	Violence
11	Upper respiratory infections
12	Poisoning
13	Endocrine disorders
14	HIV/AIDS
15	Epilepsy

Source: *The global burden of disease, 2004 update*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2008.

# Huge opportunities to reduce the gap



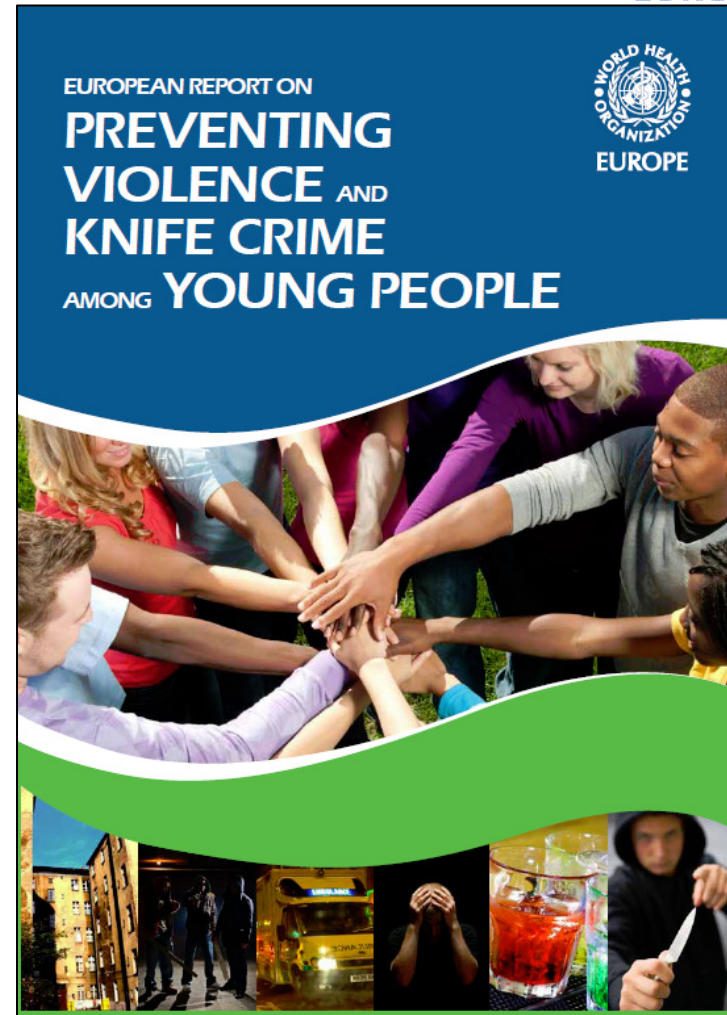
If all countries matched the lowest death rates in the Region, 3 out of 4 children's injury deaths could be prevented.

- Some of the safest countries in the world are in the European Region.
- These countries have:
  - embraced safety as a societal responsibility;
  - systematically focused on providing safe environments; and
  - developed evidence-based programmes.
- Their experience is a resource for the whole Region, and needs to be shared.



Photo: Tatiana Divakova

# Violence and young people



# New report: 40 young people are murdered in Europe every day

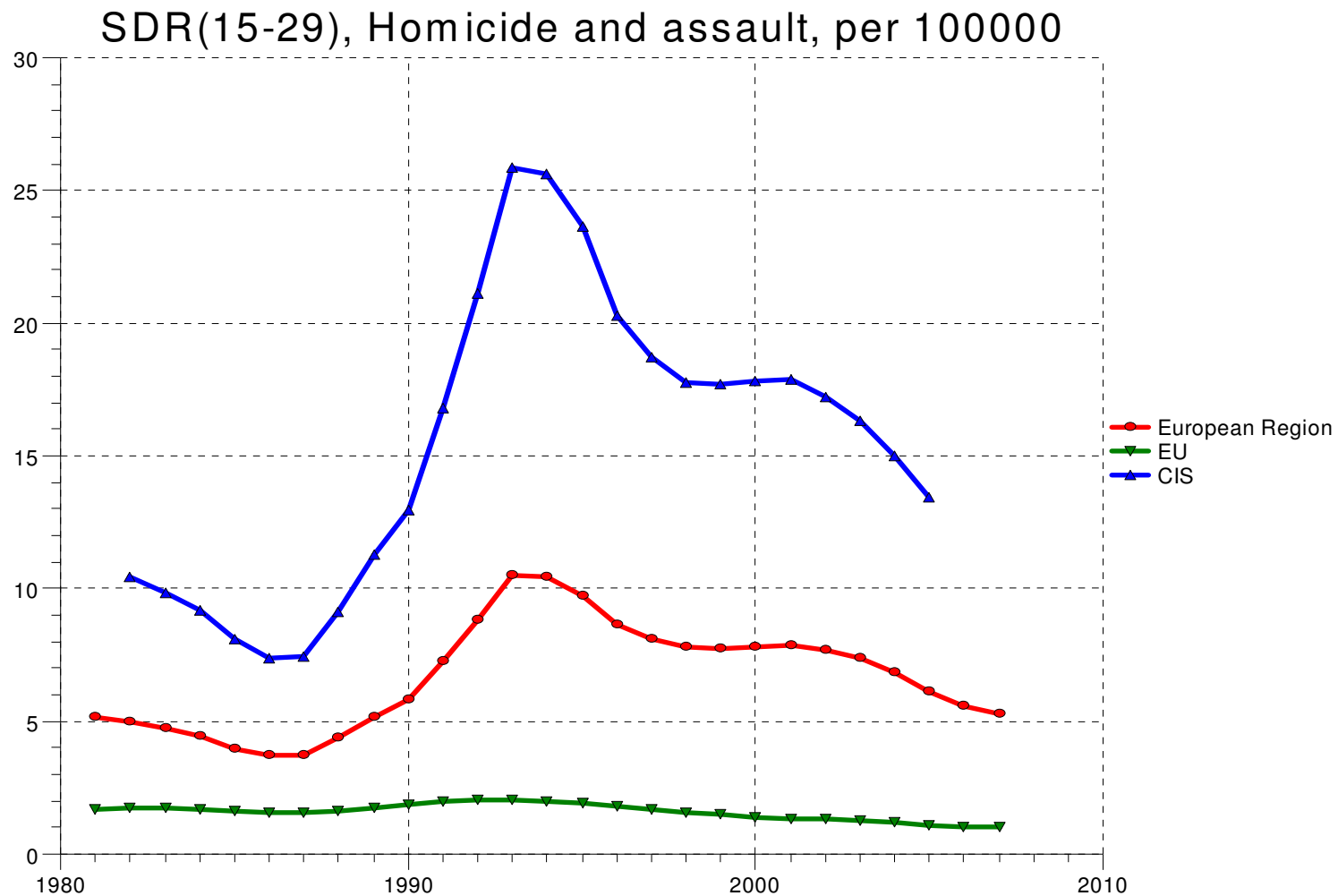
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Photo: © Bigstockphoto

- Interpersonal violence is the third leading cause of death in Europe among those aged 10–29 years, accounting for 15 000 homicides yearly.
- For every young person who dies, 20 others are admitted to hospital.
- 40% of homicides, or 6000 yearly, are carried out with knives and other sharp weapons.

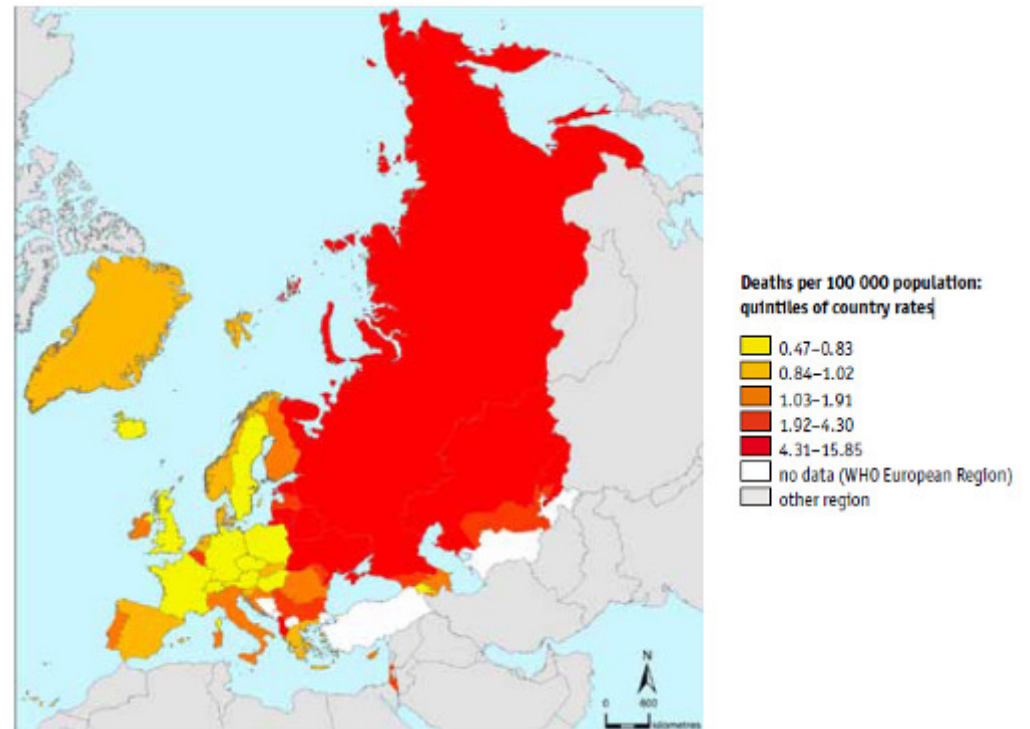
# Trends are improving



Source: WHO Health for All Mortality Database. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, July 2010.

# But violence is unevenly distributed

- 9 of 10 homicide deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- Rates in these countries are nearly 7 times those in high-income countries.
- The highest national rates in the Region are 34 times the lowest.



Source: *European report on preventing violence and knife crime among young people*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2010.

If all countries in the Region had the same homicide rates for young people as the country with the lowest rate, 9 of 10 homicide deaths would be avoided.

# Prevention is a societal responsibility

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- Young people are vulnerable to being both victims and perpetrators of violence.
- Mass media and society are quick to demonize episodes of violence among young people.
- The WHO report argues that many of the root causes arise in childhood.
- The responsibility for addressing these falls on many sectors.
- Aiming to prevent violence is more cost-effective than solely dealing with its consequences.



Photo: © Bigstockphoto



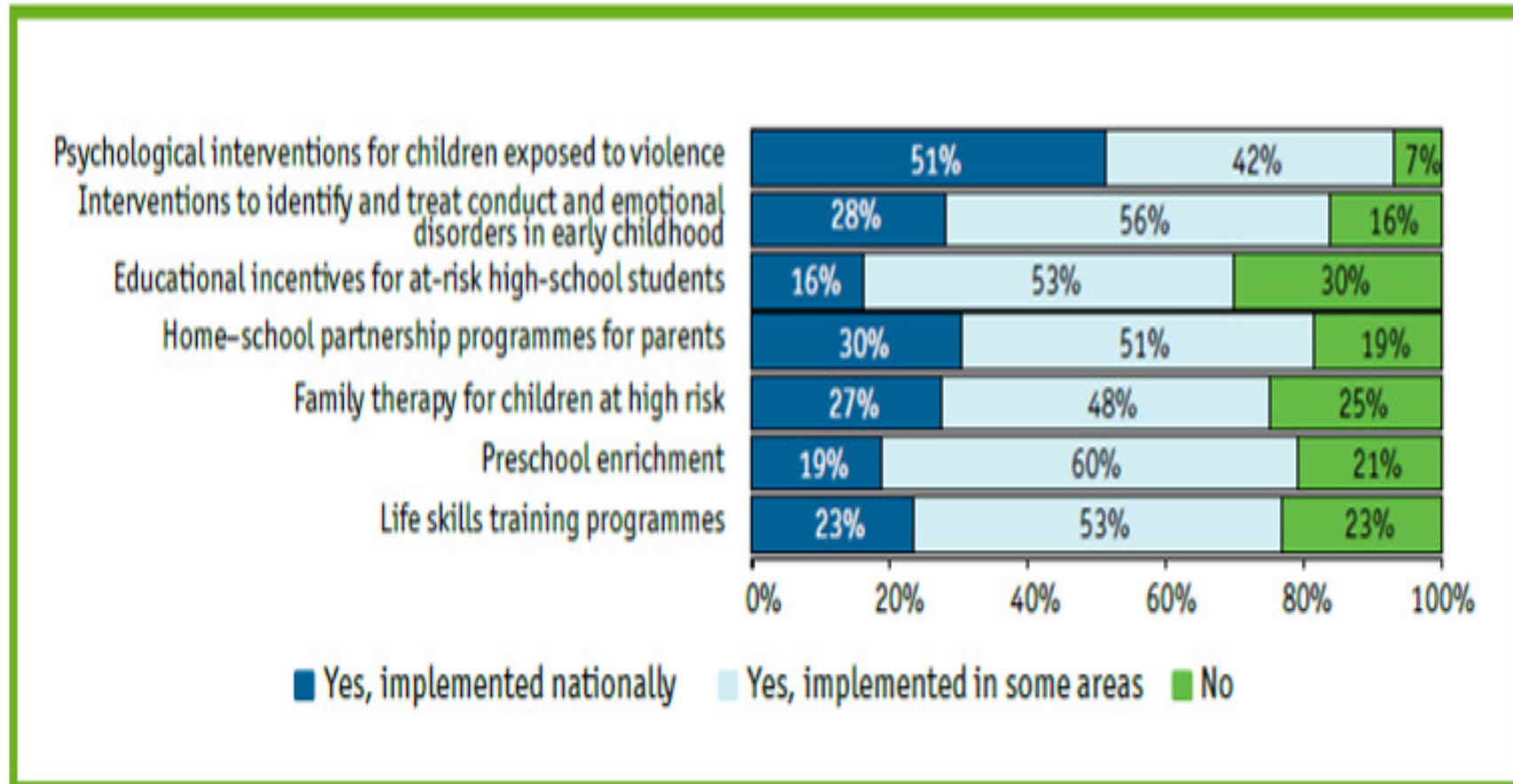
# Some cost-effective interventions

- Preschool enrichment
- Life-skills training
- Positive parenting programmes
- Home–school partnership programmes for parents
- Psychological intervention for children exposed to violence
- Interventions to identify and treat emotional disorders in early childhood
- Educational incentives for at-risk secondary-school students
- Family therapy for children at high risk



Photo: © Bigstockphoto

# Few programmes at local level



Source: *Preventing injuries in Europe: from international collaboration to local implementation*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2010.

# Policy process and way forward



# Preventive actions available to countries

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Photo: © Istockphoto

1. Develop and implement national policies and plans using a multisectoral approach
2. Implement evidence-based primary prevention
3. Strengthen responses for victims
4. Build capacity and exchange good practices
5. Improve the collection of data on the causes, effects and costs of violence and unintentional injuries
6. Define priorities for and support research
7. Raise awareness and target investment
8. Address inequity

# Supportive international and European policies



- World Health Assembly resolutions on violence and health and road safety
- Regional Committee resolution RC55/R9 on prevention of injuries
- European Council Recommendation on prevention of injuries and promotion of safety
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Tallinn Charter: “Health Systems for Health and Wealth” (emphasis on greater equity in health)
- Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health
- Parma Declaration on Environment and Health



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe  
Fifty-fifth session

Bucharest, Romania, 12–15 September 2005

EUR/RCS/R9  
15 September 2005  
54257  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## Resolution

### Prevention of injuries in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA49.25 on prevention of violence – a public health priority; WHA56.24 on implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*; WHA57.10 on road safety and health; and WHA57.12 on reproductive health; draft strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets; United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/289 on improving global road safety; the celebration of World Health Day 2004, dedicated to road safety; and the launches of the *World report on road traffic injury prevention*, and the Regional Office for Europe's report *Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe*;

Recognizing the burden of injuries in WHO's European Region, which is even increasing in some countries of the Region, and the urgent need for public health action to reduce the relentless daily loss of life and suffering caused by unintentional injury and violence;

Mindful that this response should take into account the diversity of the European Region, the inequalities in the burden of injuries across and within countries, and the opportunities created by adopting a public health approach that promotes multisectoral action in which the health sector plays a coordinating role, as well as by mainstreaming injury prevention across different policies within and outside health systems;

# Conclusions

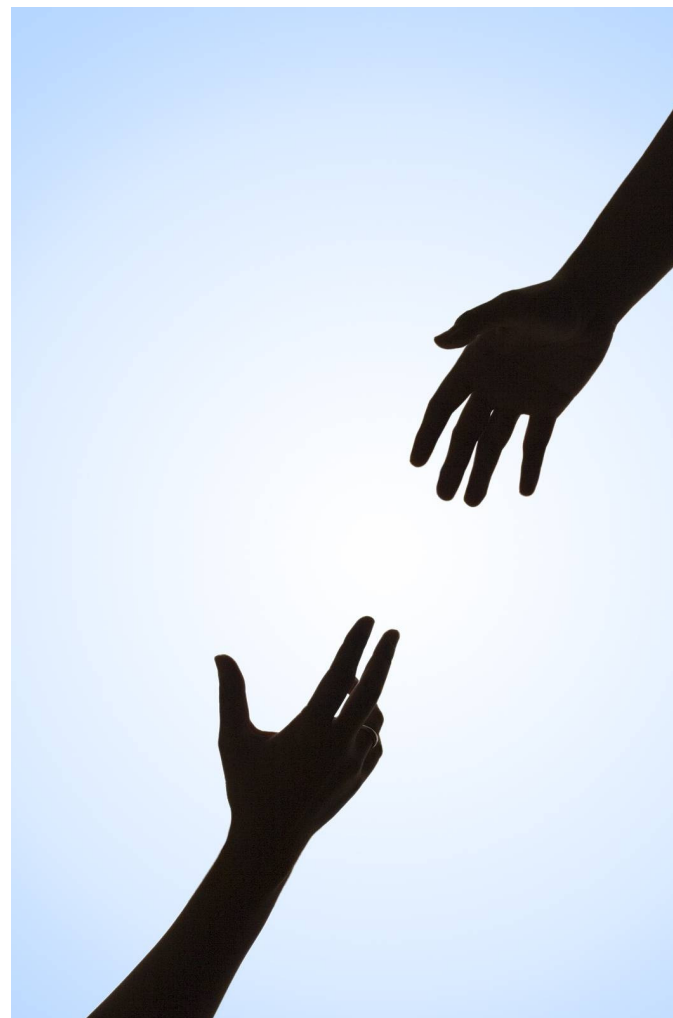


Photo: © Bigstockphoto

# Safe and equitable communities

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- Referring to key values (human rights, universality, solidarity, equity, participation and access to quality health care)  
↓
- Working across sectors  
↓
- Investing in safer physical and social environments  
↓
- Obtaining health benefits



Photo: Istockphoto



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# Thank you

## Zsuzsanna Jakab

WHO Regional Director for Europe

