

The First Arab Regional Conference on Family Protection
Working Together for Family Protection
13-15 December, 2005 Amman, Jordan

Family violence: reality and challenges



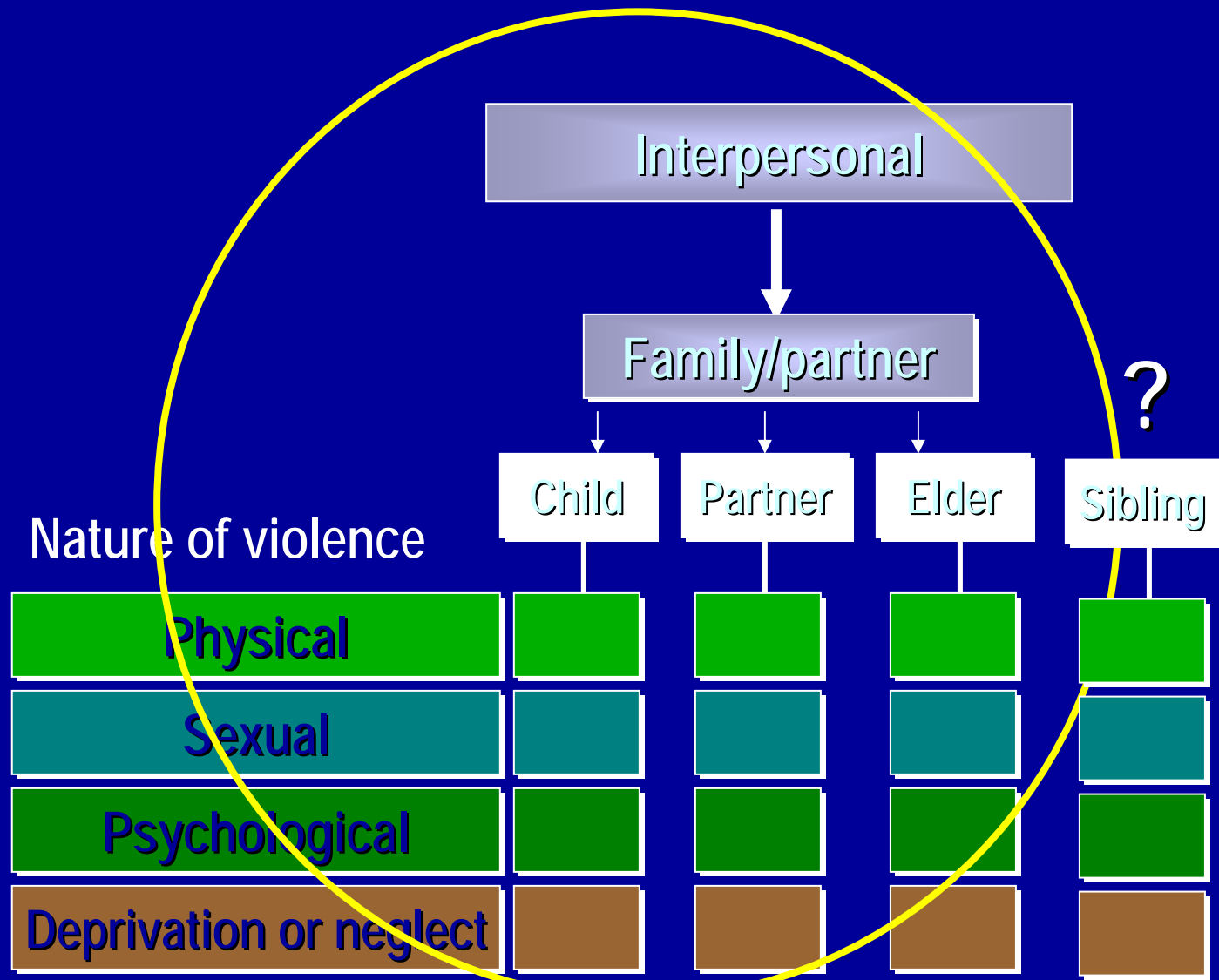
**World Health
Organization**

Alexander Butchart, Department of
Injuries and Violence Prevention
World Health Organization

Objectives

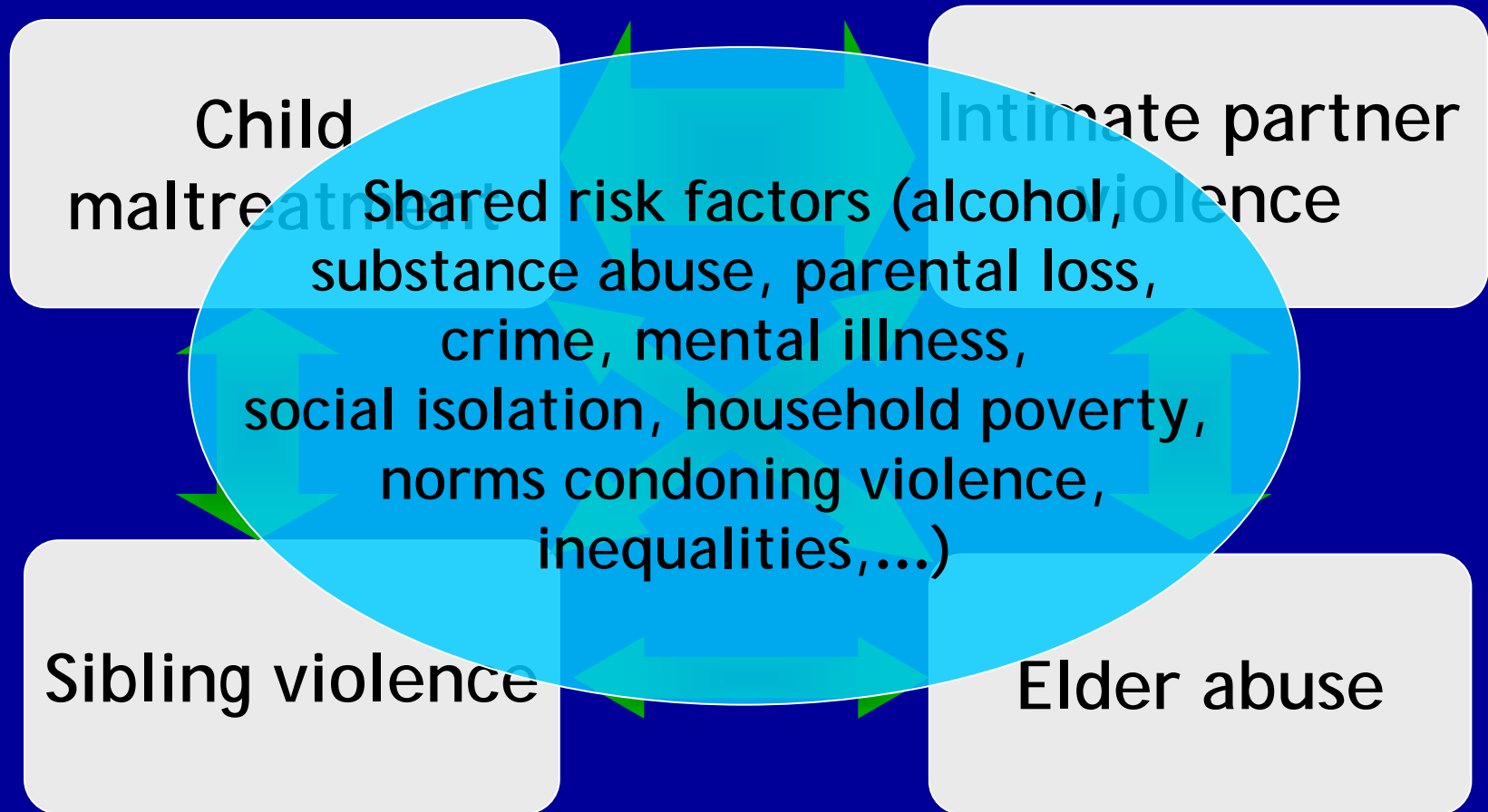
- **Define family violence**
- **Describe magnitude and impact of family violence**
- **Review status of prevention efforts**
- **Recommendations for way ahead**

Family violence typology



Definitions

Links between types of family violence



Definitions

Family violence

Child
maltreatment

Intimate partner
violence

Sibling violence

Elder abuse

Definitions

Global policy/advocacy emphasis by type of family violence

Child
maltreatment

Intimate partner
violence

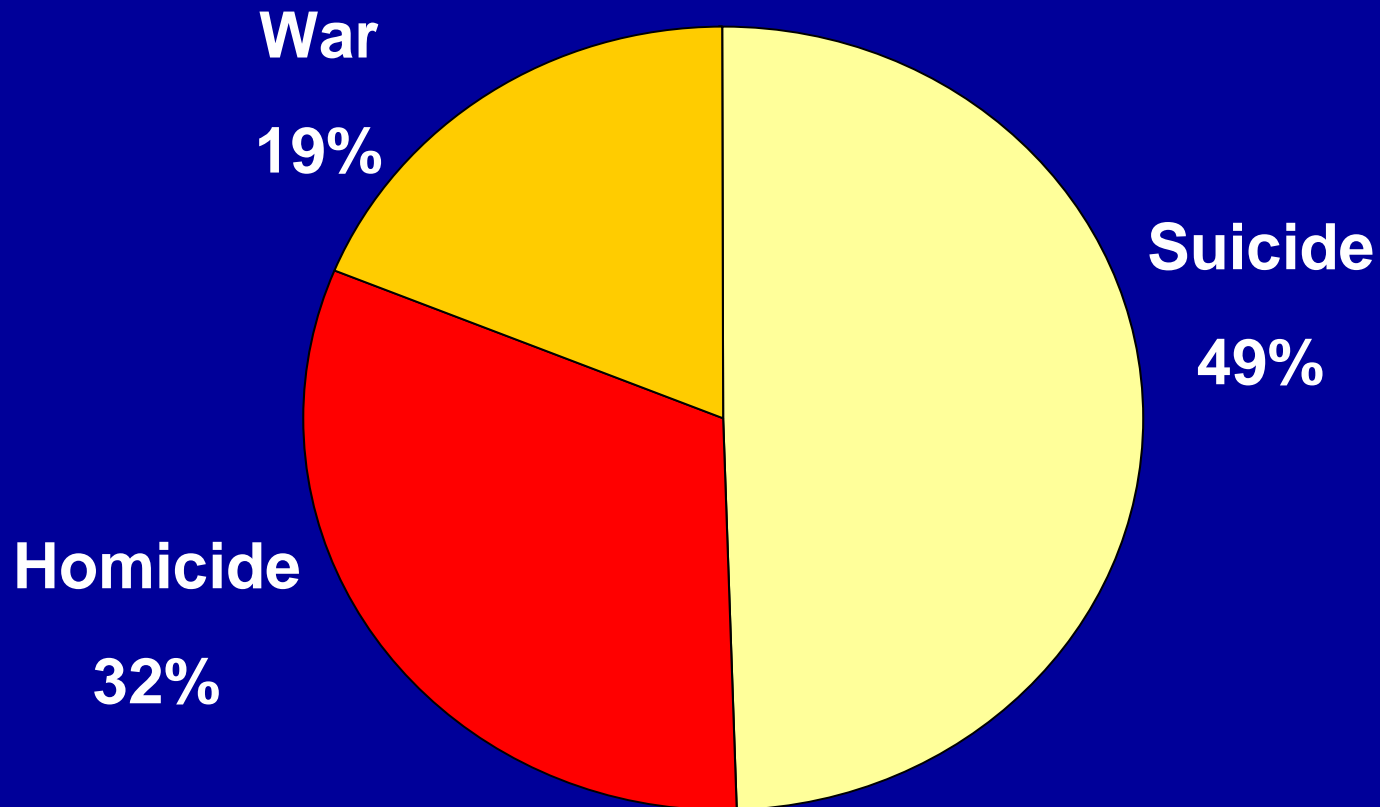
Elder abuse

Sibling violence

Global family violence numbers: Deaths

- Officially reported mortality data cover less than half of world population
- Few countries have victim-perpetrator relationship codes
- Burden of disease estimates for global and regional homicide and suicide deaths by age group and sex

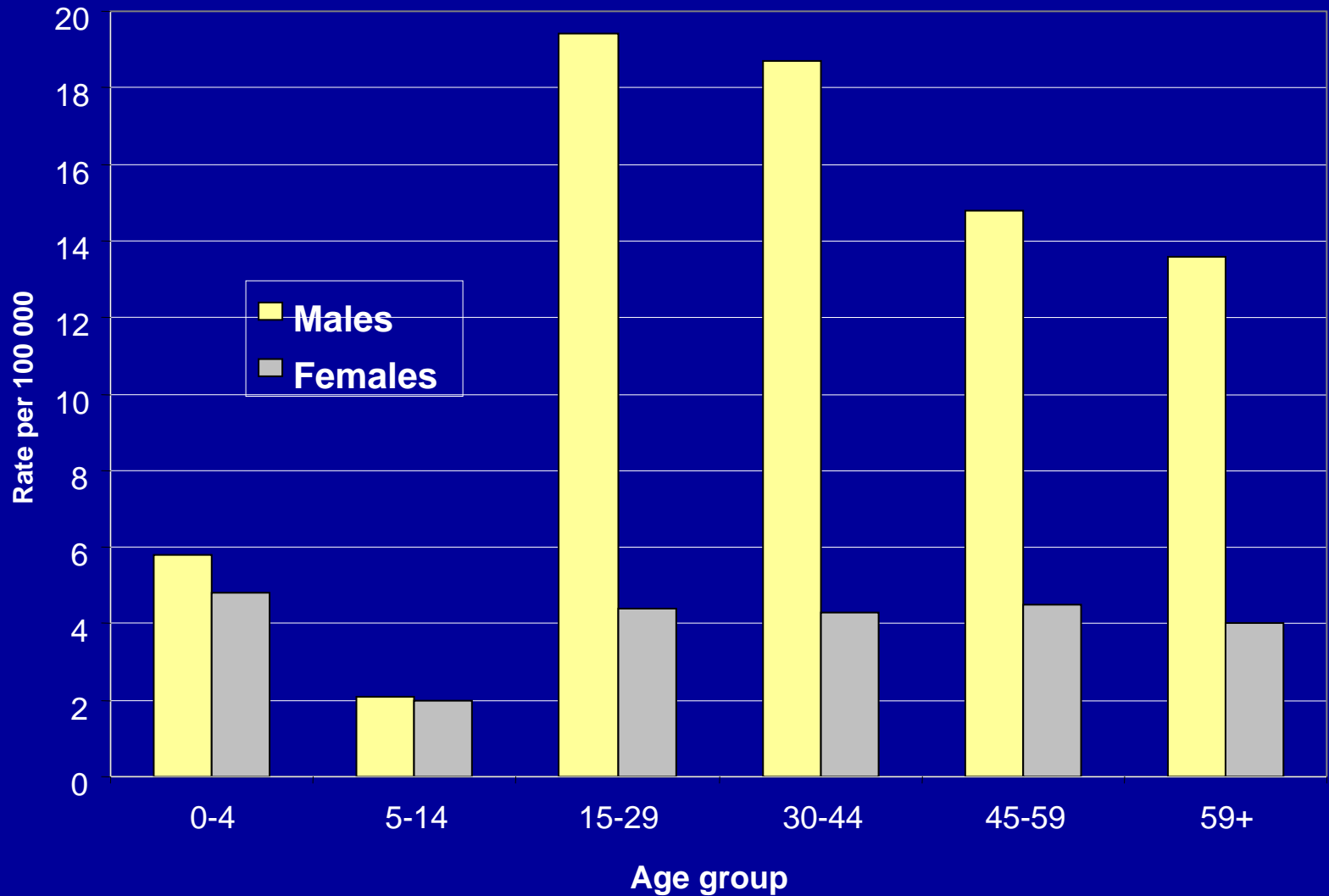
Violent deaths by type of violence, year 2000



N = 1.6 million

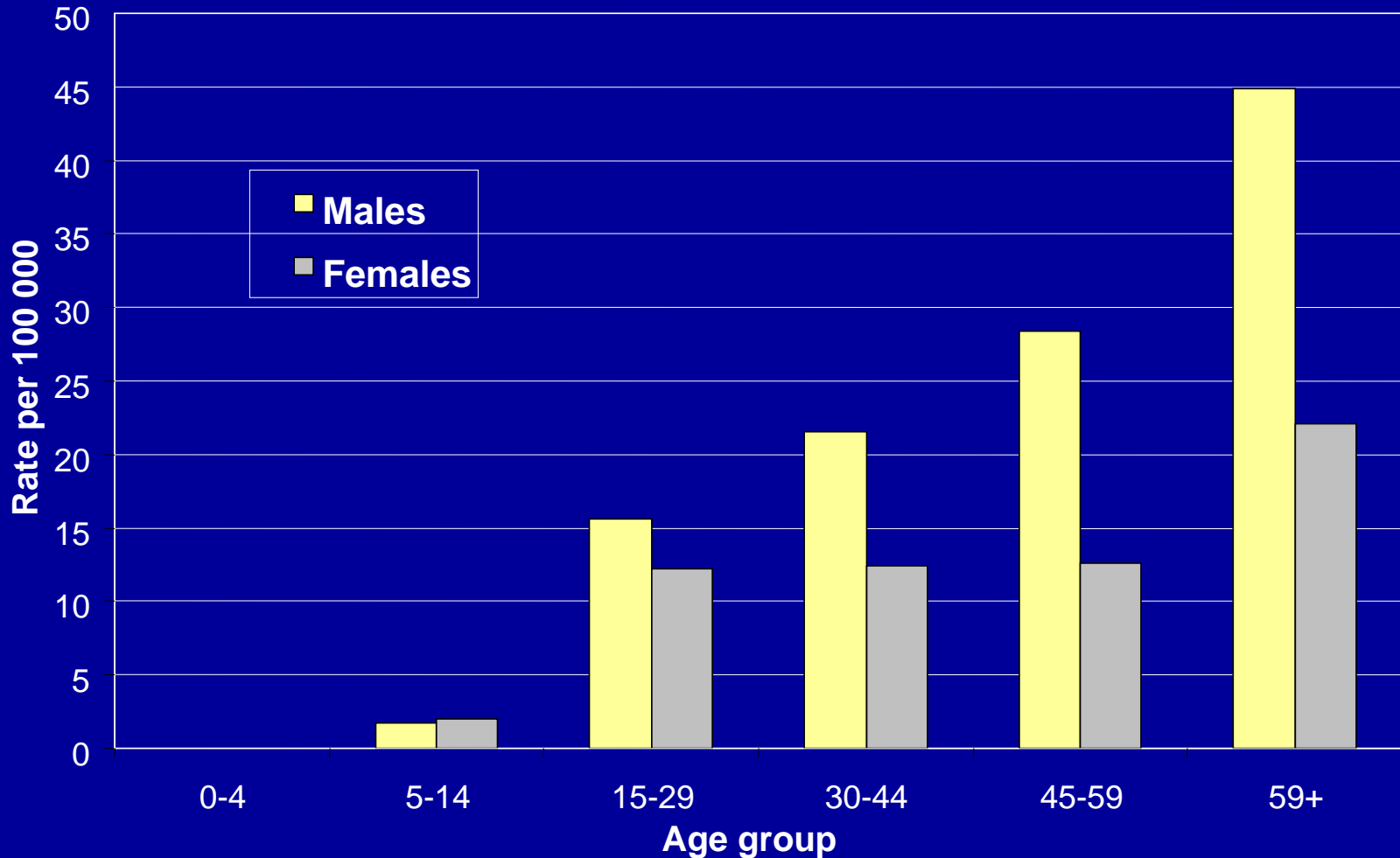
Numbers

Estimated global homicide rates by age group and sex, 2000



Numbers

Estimated global suicide rates by age group and sex, 2000



Global family violence numbers: Non-fatal violence

- Global and regional estimates of child sexual abuse and attributable disease burden
- No global estimates for other forms of family violence

Child sexual abuse: Global prevalence estimate

	Female	Male
Non-contact	6%	2%
Contact	11%	2%
Intercourse	4%	2%

Other forms of family violence

- Country and community studies only
- Lack of comparability
 - Case definition
 - Sampling
 - Interviewing
- Global and regional estimates impossible

Child maltreatment

- Severe physical punishment reported by mothers: 4-36%
- Risk of physical abuse highest in young children, risk of sexual abuse highest in pubescent and adolescent children

Intimate partner violence

- Women reporting physical assault by intimate partner, lifetime: 10-69%
- Women agreeing that physical abuse is justified if she refuses him sex: 5-81%

Abuse of the elderly

- Older people reporting abuse at home: 4-6%
- Numerous reports on abuse in institutions

Consequences of family violence

- Individual, close relationship, community and societal impacts on:
 - Health
 - Health risk behaviours
 - Crime
 - Economic development
 - Quality of life
- Measurement inadequate

Child sexual abuse: Attributable disease burden

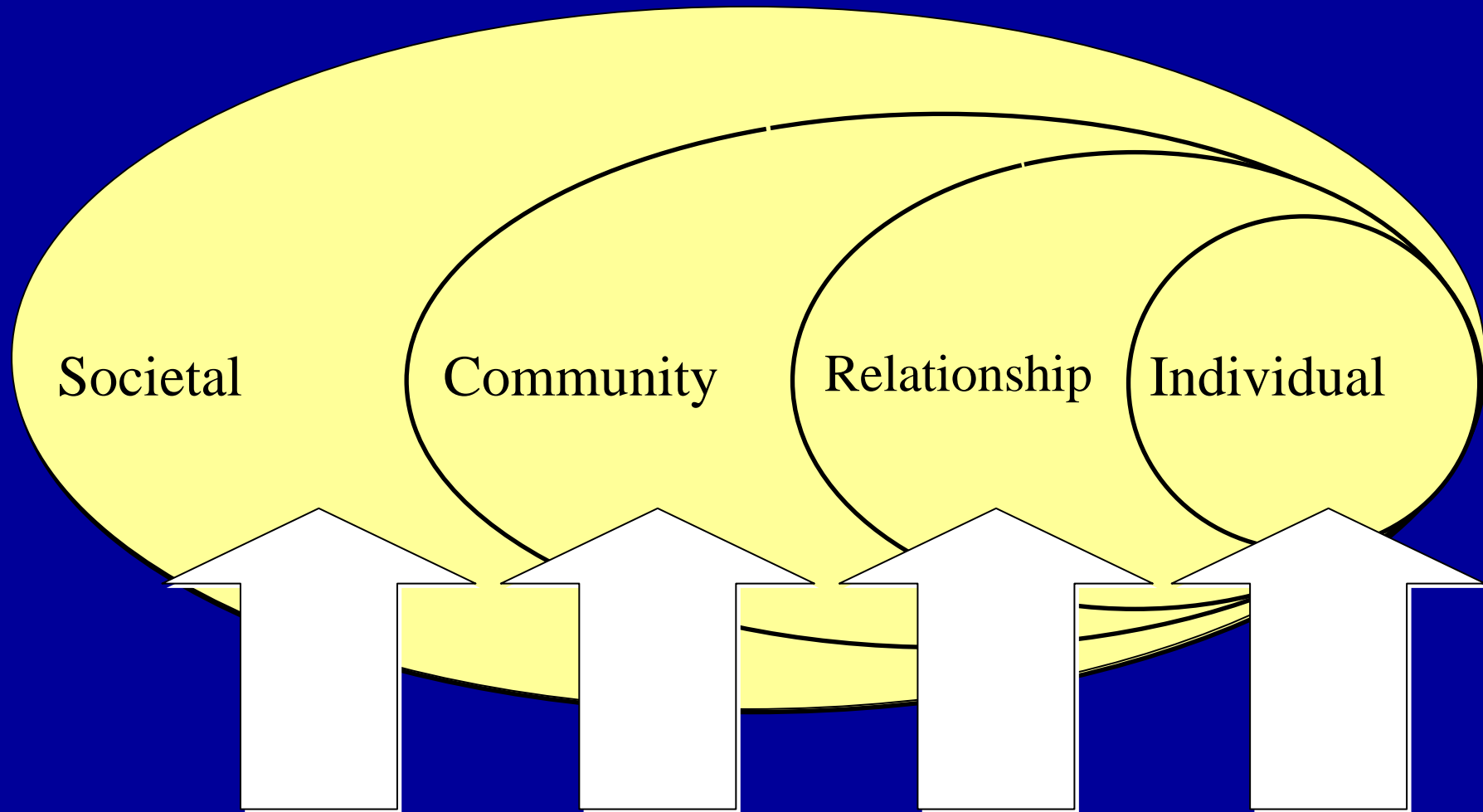
	Female	Male
Suicide	11%	6%
Depression	7%	4%
Alcohol abuse	7%	4%
Panic disorder	13%	7%
PTSD	33%	21%

Family Violence: Inevitable or Preventable?

Public Health Approach

- Population-based
- Emphasizes primary prevention
- Multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral in nature
- Based in science

Levels of prevention



Family violence prevention strategies

- Effective ✓ ✓
- Promising ✓
- Unclear ?

Individual-Level Interventions I

- Social development/life skills training ✓✓
- Counselling/therapeutic approaches ✓
- Programmes for men who abuse their partners ✓
- Treatment programmes for child witnesses of violence ✓
- School based violence prevention programmes ✓

Individual-Level Interventions II

- Preventing unintended pregnancies ?
- Pre- and post-natal care ?
- Incentives to pursue higher education ?
- Vocational training ?
- Training for police, health care providers, and employers to better recognize & respond to violence ?
- Services for adults abused as children ?

The Safe Dates Programme: preventing dating violence in adolescents aged 11-17

- 25% < in self-reported perpetration of psychological violence
- 60% < in self-reported physical & sexual violence perpetration
- 4 year follow up - significantly less physical & sexual dating violence victimization and perpetration

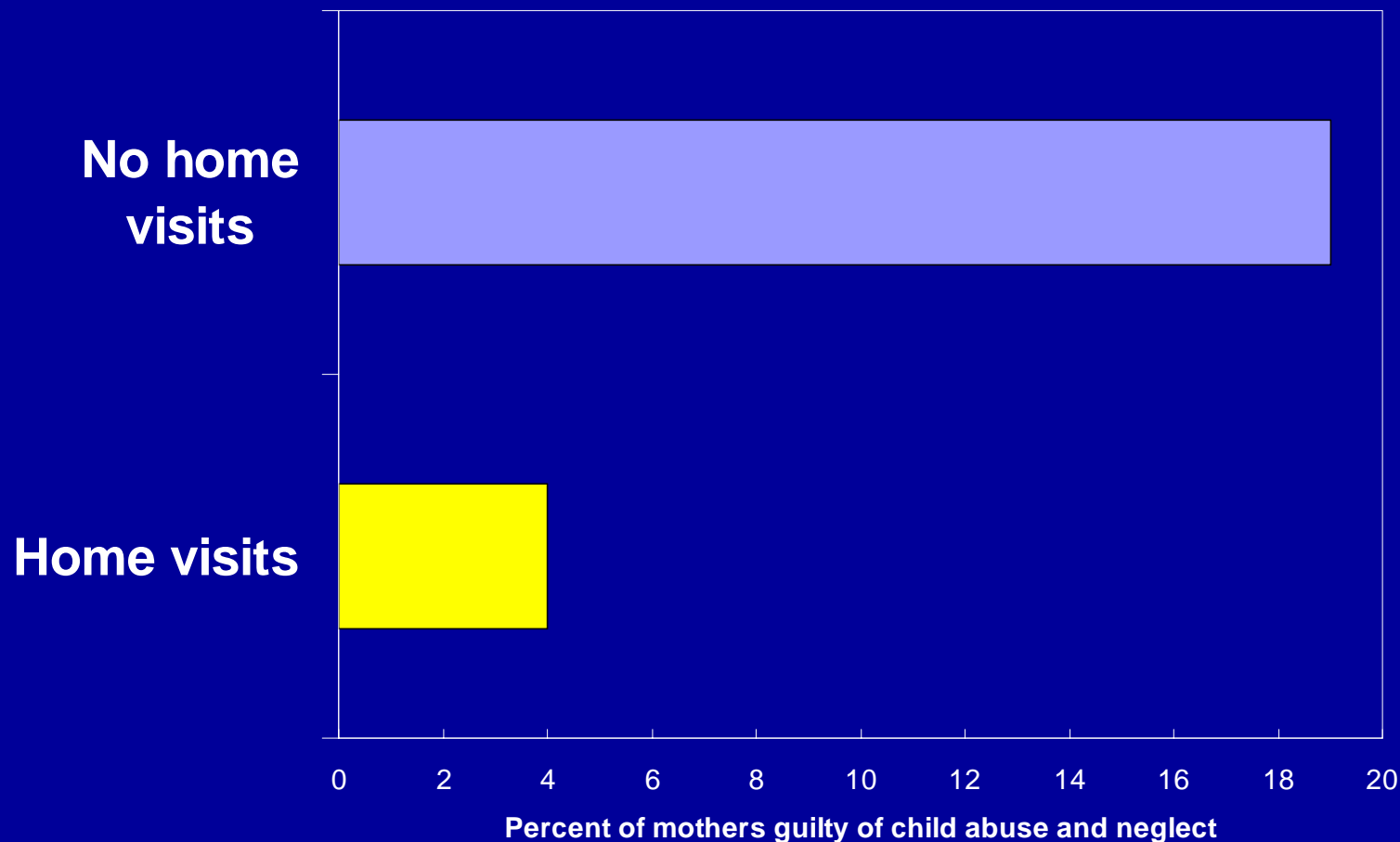
Relationship-Level Interventions

- Home visitation ✓✓
- Parent training ✓✓
- Family therapy ✓✓

- Screening by health care professionals ?
- Home-school programmes ?
- Temporary foster care ?
- Strengthening ties to job and family ?

Solutions

Preventing child abuse and neglect through nurse home visits during pregnancy and first 2 years of life



Community-Level Interventions

- Reducing alcohol availability ✓
- Improve emergency medical services ✓
- Residential mobility programmes ✓
- Outreach work ✓

- Monitoring lead levels, removing toxins ?
- Identifying and treating elder abuse ?
- Public information campaigns ?
- Protection orders ?
- Screening for sexual violence ?

Alcohol price increase and family violence reduction

- 1% > in pure alcohol price, 5% < in intimate partner violence
- 10% > in beer price, 2% reduction in child abuse

Societal-Level Interventions

- Human rights and legal reforms ?
- Reduce media violence ?
- Reform education systems ?
- Policy changes to reduce poverty and inequality ?
- Strengthen police/judicial systems ?
- Public information campaigns to promote pro-social norms ?

Soul City: social change for domestic violence prevention in South Africa

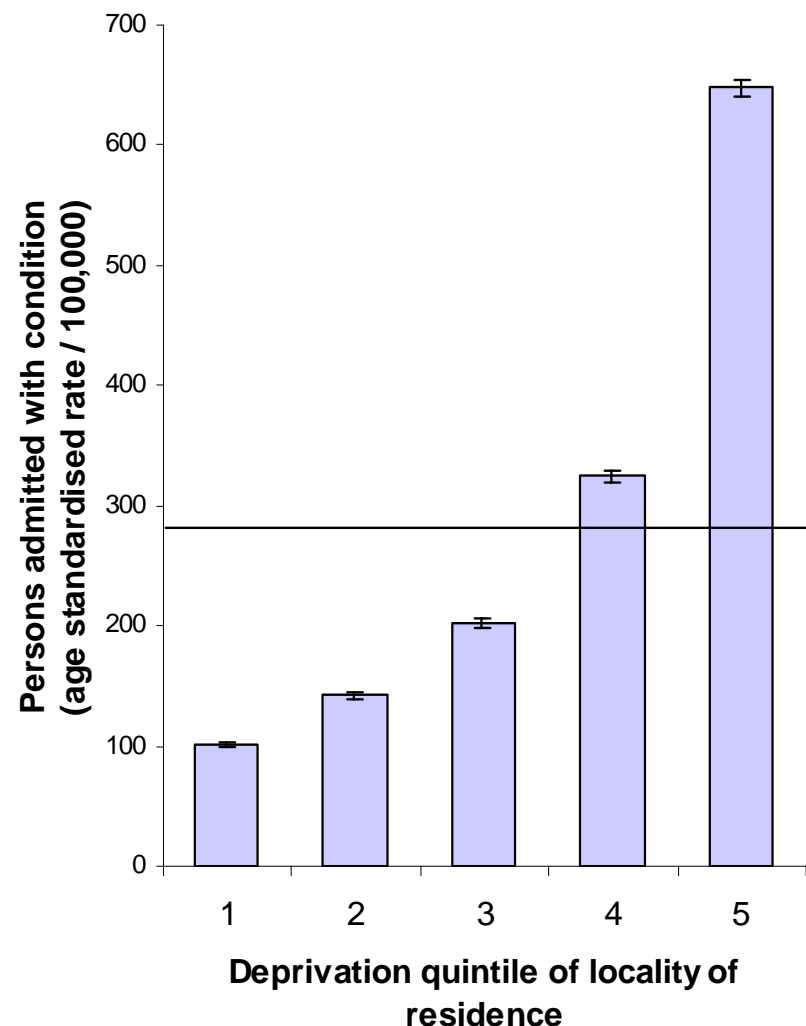
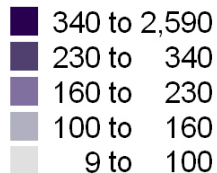
% of Respondents

Attitude & Knowledge Indicators	Pre	Post
My community disagrees that violence between a man and a woman is a private affair	37	59
I agree that no woman ever deserves to be beaten	77	88
Heard about the helpline	36	41
I disagree that in my culture it is acceptable for a man to beat his wife	85	84

Hospitalised Emergency Admissions for Violence Residents of the England 1998/9-2003/4

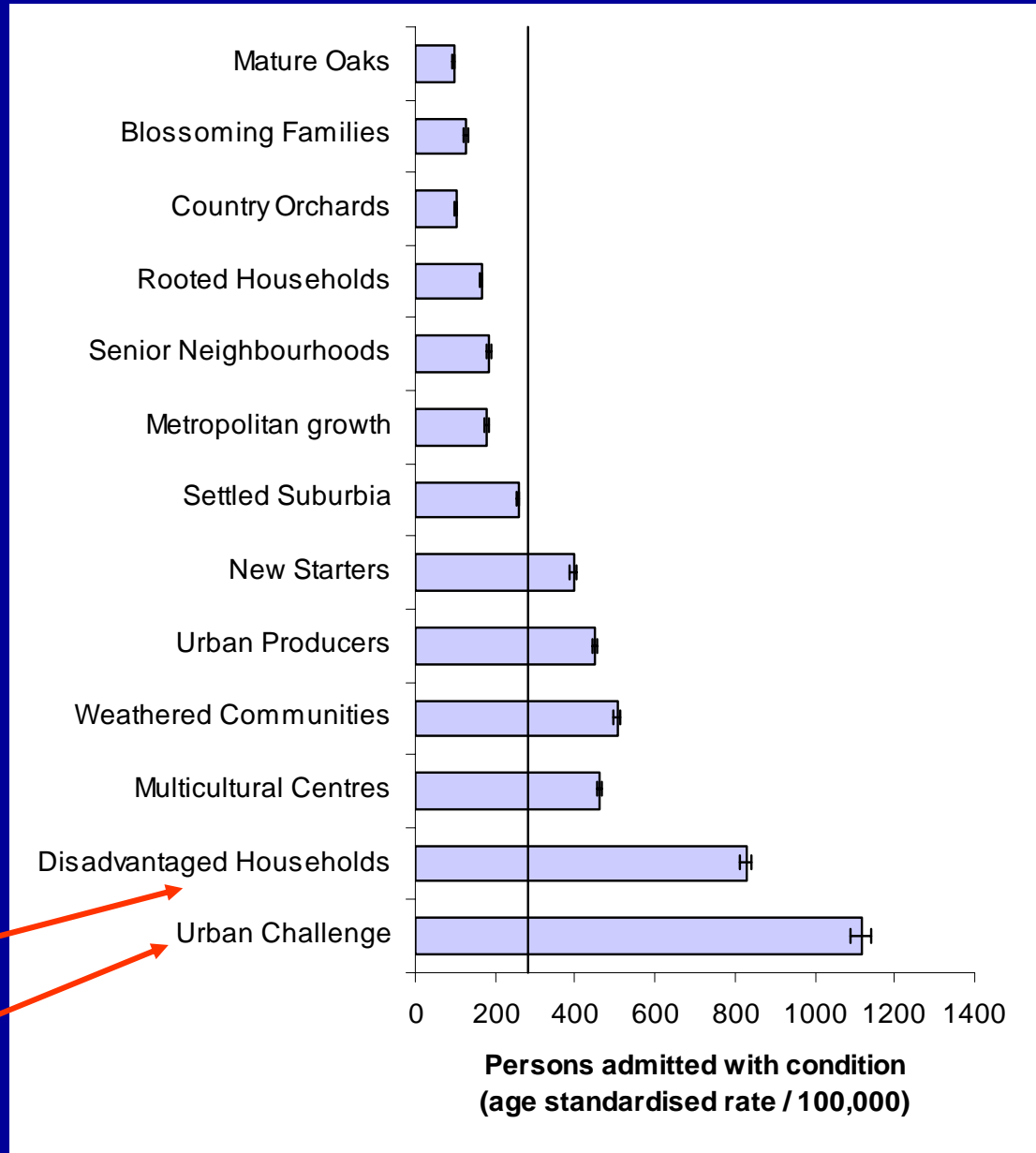
Hospitalised incidence - Violence

Age standardised rate



Hospitalised Emergency Admissions for Violence Residents of England 1998/9-2003/4

- **Mature Oak**
 - Older, Married, Detached Housing, Rural
- **Blossoming Families**
 - Parents, 25-34, married
- **Country Orchards**
 - Agricultural workers, managerial
- **Rooted Households**
 - Semi-Detached, 2plus cars
- **Senior Neighbourhoods**
 - Owner occupied, Pensioners
- **Metropolitan Growth**
 - Highly qualified, single
- **Settled Suburbia**
 - Semi detached, terrace, skilled manual
- **New Starters**
 - Students and Youth
- **Urban Producers**
 - Terraced without central heating
- **Weathered Communities**
 - Pensioners, single, council
- **Multicultural Centres**
 - Many bed sits, high ethnic
- **Disadvantaged Households**
 - Council, Lone Parents with children
- **Urban Challenge**
 - Old people, unemployed, single

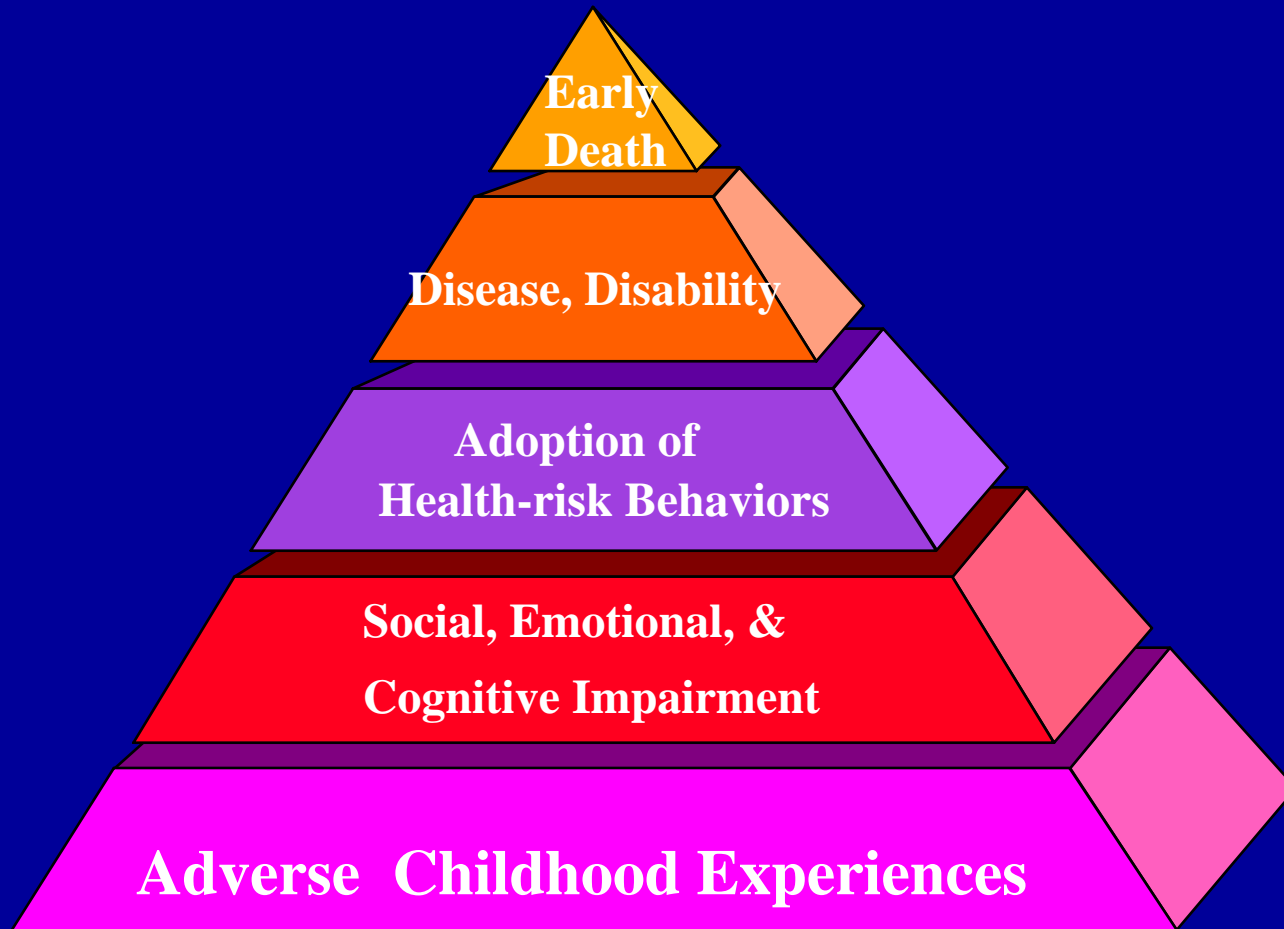
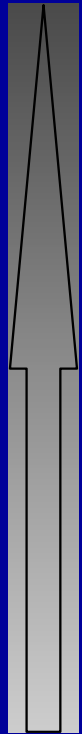


The way ahead: Descriptive data

- Population-based surveys
 - Exposure to family violence
 - Health risk behaviour
 - Health status
- Developing country emphasis

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study

Death



Birth

The way ahead: Research

- **Cross-problem research**
 - **Alcohol and substance misuse**
 - **Family-community violence links**
 - **Mental disorders**
- **Family dynamics and processes**
- **Economic and social costs**
- **Developing country emphasis**



The way ahead: Intervention

- Evidence-based, evidence-generating action
- Outcome evaluation studies
 - Primary prevention
 - Services
- Developing country emphasis

The way ahead: Policy

- Collaborative strategies
 - Between agencies and sectors
 - Between groups focussed on sub-types of family violence
 - Between government, NGO and civil-society groups
- Developing country emphasis

Change the face of violence prevention

"...become part of this worldwide movement... change the perception that violence is an unavoidable element of the human condition and recognize violence for what it is, a problem that can be prevented."

LEE Jong-wook
Director-General
WHO