



WHO Collaborating Centre for
International Child & Adolescent
Health Policy



University of
St Andrews

How violence influences young people:

three perspectives

Thursday 24 April 2014
Seminar Room 2
School of Medicine



Produced by Felicity Wild
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Table of contents

Welcome	5
Introduction to the WHO CC	6
Programme	8
Speaker biographies	9
Abstracts	12



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Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural seminar of the WHO Collaborating Centre for International Child & Adolescent Health Policy titled “How violence influences young people: three perspectives”. This session is part of our centre’s Colloquium series which aims to bring together experts to discuss important public health topics as experienced by young people. Today, we are fortunate to present an exciting line up of national and international speakers including Emily F. Rothman, Renee M. Johnson and Donald Henderson. They all share a passion for addressing and reducing the role that violence plays in our world.

This programme focuses on violence as the major cause of nonfatal injuries among young people. Some of the most common manifestations of youth violence include physical fighting, carrying weapons and school bullying. Yet, research has shown that as children age they engage in more emotional and verbal, rather than physical violence. Therefore, understanding and preventing violence during adolescence has important implications for the health of young people and the long-term health of our societies. I invite you to engage in this important discussion.

In closing, this event wouldn’t have been possible without the support of colleagues who have done much to make today possible: Felicity Wild, Joseph Hancock, Karen Hunter and Karen Ross. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amanda Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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Introduction to the WHO CC

The World Health Organization designated the University of St Andrews School of Medicine as its Collaborating Centre for International Child and Adolescent Health Policy (WHO CC) in October 2013. The centre has several strands of work related to social determinants of health, prevention of health inequalities, reduction of youth violence and prevention of risk behaviours such as drug use. From the outset, the WHO CC will seek to find ways of meaningfully involving young people in the policy and research process. The ultimate aim is to translate and communicate research findings to inform policy aimed at improving young people's health and well-being.

WHO CC directors

This prestigious appointment endorses the international research and policy-influencing work of the School of Medicine's leading researchers in the field of population and behavioural health sciences:



Professor Candace Currie is the founding Director of the School's Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (CAHRU) and for the last 20 years has been International Coordinator of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study. She is a researcher of international renown and considered a leading voice on issues of child health both in the UK and abroad.



Professor Peter Donnelly is the former Deputy Chief Medical Officer to the Scottish Government and is now Professor of Public Health. He is a significant international figure in the field of violence reduction and is currently leading on a major Oxford University Press text on violence reduction which will be published in 2014.



Professor Gerry Humphris is a seasoned professional with experience in the NHS (Honorary Consultant) as well as in academia. He has been an invited expert to assist in the drawing up of regulation for New Psychoactive Substances for the EU Parliament and Council in Brussels. He will head the Research committee for the European Association of Communication in Healthcare for the next two years.

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 Visit our website: <http://whoccstandrews.org/>

Programme

Welcome remarks:
Candace Currie (University of St Andrews)
14.00 **Comments on newly designated WHO CC:**
Vivian Barnekow (WHO)

First round introduction:
Peter Donnelly (University of St Andrews)
Speakers:
14.10 • Renee M. Johnson (Johns Hopkins University)
• Emily F. Rothman (Boston University)
Q&A session:
Peter Donnelly (University of St Andrews)

15.30 **Coffee break** (Cafe area)

Second round introduction:
Candace Currie (University of St Andrews)
16.00 **Speaker:**
• Donald Henderson (Scottish Government)
Q&A session:
Gerry Humphris (University of St Andrews)

17.00 **Wine reception** (Level 3 Meeting Room)

Speaker biographies

Emily F. Rothman



Emily F. Rothman is an Associate Professor at the BU School of Public Health and has a secondary appointment at the BU School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics. She is also affiliated with the Boston University Department of Emergency Medicine in order to further research on community violence prevention. She earned her doctorate in 2004 from the Harvard School of Public Health, and has been a faculty member at BU for ten years. She has several U.S. federally-funded research grant projects on the topics of dating violence, has published more than 40 peer-reviewed publications on violence-related topics, and has an emerging interest in sex trafficking research. This past fall, Emily taught a course called “Understanding Pornography” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and for the past two weeks has been presenting to medical and public health students on the topic of violence prevention in northern Italy. Dr. Rothman is a former rape crisis center hotline listener, domestic violence shelter advocate, and batterer intervention program counselor. Her research has been featured widely in the media.

Renee M. Johnson



Renee M. Johnson is an Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Visiting Scientist with the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center at Harvard School of Public Health. She also serves as Deputy Director of the Drug Dependence Epidemiology Training grant program, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She earned her MPH and PhD in the Department of Health Behavior & Health Education at the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health. From 2004-2006, she took part in the Alonzo Smythe Yerby Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program at Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Johnson has more than 40 peer-reviewed publications in adolescent health, including youth violence, suicide prevention, unintentional injury prevention, and substance use. Dr. Johnson taught a course on adolescents while at Boston University School of Public Health, and is developing a course of the health of emerging adults for doctoral students at Johns Hopkins. Her current research centers on substance use and violence among low-income, urban youth.

Donald Henderson



Donald Henderson is a career civil servant. He has worked in various areas of policy across the last 30 years, including International trade, Competition policy, European affairs, Constitutional affairs and Education. His home department has been in Scotland throughout this time, but he has also had various secondments to Whitehall Departments (FCO 1984-85, MAFF 1992-3 and Cabinet Office 1999-2002). In June 2011, he returned from his post heading the Scottish Government's office in Brussels to become head of Public Health.

Abstracts

Emily F. Rothman

Preventing Community Violence Using a Public Health Approach: The Boston Violence Intervention Advocacy Program

In the U.S., 1.5 million victims of community violence are treated for non-fatal gunshot, stabbings, and assaults in our emergency departments each year. The Boston Medical Center's VIAP Program, founded by Dr. Thea James, was one of the first hospital-based community violence tertiary prevention programs in the world. It is a member of the U.S. National Network of Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs, and provides intervention services to approximately 500 youth aged 13-25 years old each year. The intervention was designed to guide victims of community violence through recovery using a trauma-informed model of care. VIAP provides services to the families of its clients, providing free mental health care, assistance with job placement, education, housing, and other forms of support. This case advocacy appears to reduce retaliatory violence, lessen trauma, and contributes to the safety of neighborhoods overall. Rothman will present information about the seasonality of violence in Boston (and other risk factors), the history of VIAP, its successes and challenges, and future directions. Notably, the VIAP model has recently been adopted by a U.K.-based hospital, so the international dissemination of the model is a current interest.

For more information about VIAP, please see:

<http://www.bmc.org/violence-intervention-advocacy.htm>

Renee M. Johnson

Community Violence as a Public Health Problem: Similarities Between Scotland and the US

Interpersonal violence among emerging adults is a significant problem in low-income, urban areas in Scotland, and in the United States. Both areas are consistently have the highest homicide rates among industrialized places. Victims and perpetrators are predominantly young men. Many of the violent events in the US involve guns and are fatal or significantly disabling. By comparison, violence in Scotland involves sharp objects, blunt objects, and physical force - leading to injuries and emergency department visits. Reasons underlying the violence - in both locales - include: ties to the illicit drug markets, socializing boys to be aggressive, and lack of jobs in the mainstream economy. I will discuss the theory that Scots respond quickly and aggressively to provocations and that Americans inherited this culture. The role of race and class in popular-culture explanations for violence will also be discussed.



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