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.

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.

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).

Only one systematic review was based on studies conducted solely in the LAC region. There were very few studies on violence directed at family members or between intimates. Only one study examined violence prevention outcomes based on gender differences. Individual behavioral outcomes (e.g., recidivism, violence) were rarely measured. The majority of studies did not measure implementation quality or fidelity.

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