

# Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

## Global Violence

Violence is the threatened or actual use of force against oneself (self-directed), another person (interpersonal) or a group (collective) that is likely to result in injury, psychological harm or death. Research has shown that violence, like many diseases, is preventable.

*"If you think research is expensive, try disease."*  
— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

### Today:

- 1.6 million people worldwide die each year from violence. More than 51,000 are Americans.
- Suicide accounts for 54% of violent deaths globally, homicide for 35% and war and other armed conflict 11%.
- Violence is a leading cause of death among people aged 15-29.
- Most violence occurs among poor populations in the U.S. and abroad; 91% of deaths due to violence are in low- and middle-income countries.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION {WWW.WHO.INT}  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION {WWW.CDC.GOV}  
INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE. VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES. 2008.

### The Cost:

- The cost of violence in a single year tops \$70 billion in the U.S.; \$5.6 billion for medical care and \$64.7 billion due to lost productivity.\*
- Violence and war contribute to economic instability. As a result, U.S. companies are less likely to invest in countries with high levels of violence.\*\*

SOURCE: \*CORSO, P.S. ET AL. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. 2007;32(6):474-482.  
\*\* INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE. VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES. 2008.

SAVING LIVES  
SAVING MONEY

### HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- The U.S. Air Force Suicide Prevention Program has reduced suicide rates 28% among those on active duty in the service since the program was established in 1996.\*
- Efforts to prevent child abuse can cut the risk that those children might develop alcoholism, smoking and drug abuse habits as adults. Their risk for obesity, depression, or chronic disease may also be reduced.\*\*

SOURCE: \*U.S. AIR FORCE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM {AFSPP.AFMS.MIL}  
\*\* CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION {WWW.CDC.GOV/NCCDPHP/ACE/INDEX.HTM}

### HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Through research to understand violence and its causes, the U.S. encourages social and economic development globally. Preventing violence helps decrease poverty, lower costs from death and injury, and reduce cases of HIV/AIDS from rape and assault.\*
- The U.S. saved \$14.8 billion on health care, police response, lost productivity and death in the first five years of the Violence Against Women Act. The investment in the program to prevent violent crimes against women was \$1.6 billion over the same time period.\*\*

SOURCE: \*WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND REDUCING ITS IMPACT: HOW DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES CAN HELP. 2008.  
\*\*CLARK, K.A. ET AL. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. 2002; 8:417-428.

## survivor



NAME: FRAN HENRY  
AGE: 60  
CIRCUMSTANCES: ABUSE AND SUICIDE

Fran Henry lives and works in Cummington, Massachusetts. She is a survivor of interpersonal violence from her youth. Her mother hit her too hard and too often when she was a toddler. Her father sexually abused her for four years when she was a teenager. As an adult, she survives the loss of her husband to suicide.

"I know that research is urgently needed into what causes violence, what the risk factors are for being a victim or perpetrator and what protects people from violent acts. Such research was not available in this country when I was young, but if it had been, I think my parents could have gotten the help they needed. If we had better research into how to reach people at risk for suicide, we could save lives like my husband's.

Violence affects people across the globe, but we have not supported research into violence in these contexts and cultures. If we did, we could save lives and suffering."

# facts about: } Global Violence

## Hope for the Future:

- Research in the U.S. has shown that programs that teach conflict resolution and social skills can prevent youth violence. Such proven programs can be adapted to communities in the U.S. or abroad to reduce violence worldwide.\*
- The CDC and WHO are collaborating to help countries estimate the cost of violence to their societies. Nations will better understand the value of violence prevention programs and what they could save in terms of lives and health care, law enforcement, criminal justice and welfare costs.\*\*

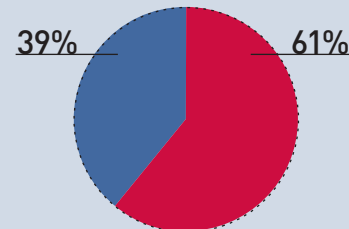
SOURCE: \*THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE, VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN LOW- AND MIDDLE- INCOME COUNTRIES, 140 (2008)

\*\*WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, MANUAL FOR ESTIMATING THE ECONOMIC COST OF INJURIES DUE TO INTERPERSONAL AND SELF-DIRECTED VIOLENCE, 2008.

## Americans Want the U.S. to Prevent Violence Globally

*Do you think the U.S. should work to prevent violence in the rest of the world?*

- Yes
- No



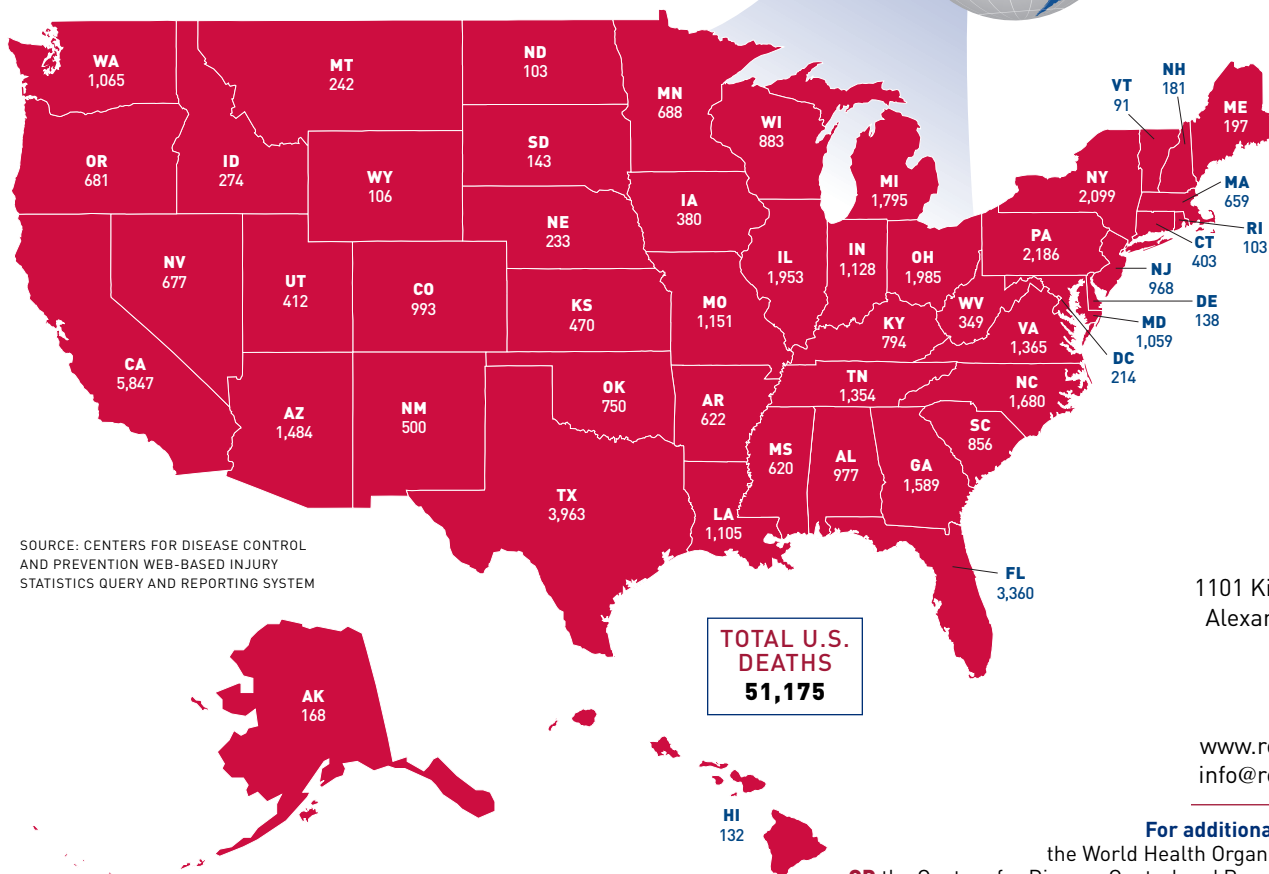
ATTITUDES: GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH CHARLTON RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA, 2008

## The Bottom Line:

*Violence is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. More research on preventing violence in the U.S. and abroad is needed now to improve health, national security and global economic stability.*

**1.6 million**  
deaths worldwide

## Deaths from Violence in 2005



SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION WEB-BASED INJURY STATISTICS QUERY AND REPORTING SYSTEM

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For additional information, contact the World Health Organization at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int) OR the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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