

# Session 5

## Understanding violence from a public health perspective



**PAHO**



A complex issue?

# Violence varies by context and has multiple social roots

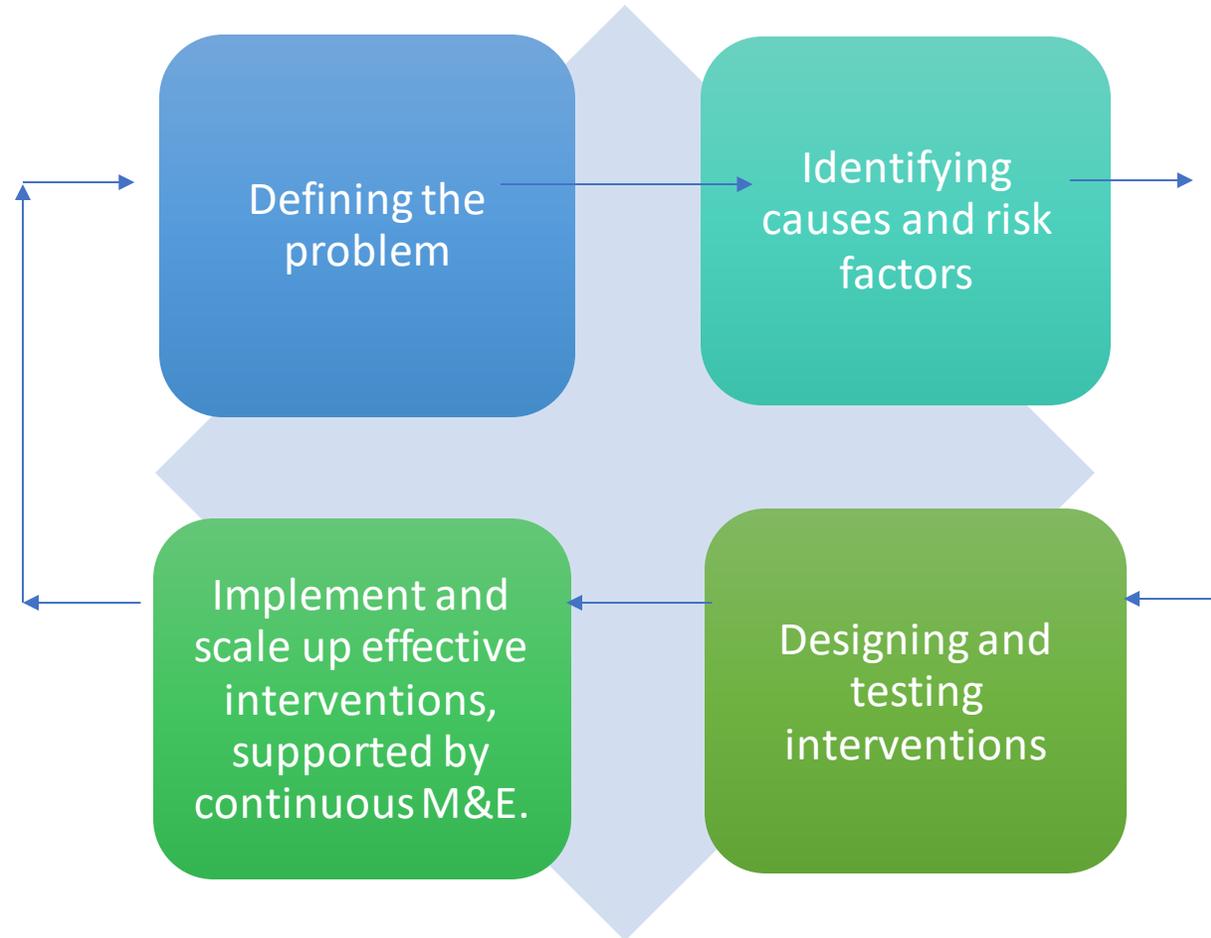
Violence intersects and changes across the life course and is different for women, men, boys and girls from different groups.

There are important country and sub-regional variations in the magnitude, types, risks and consequences of violence, for example:

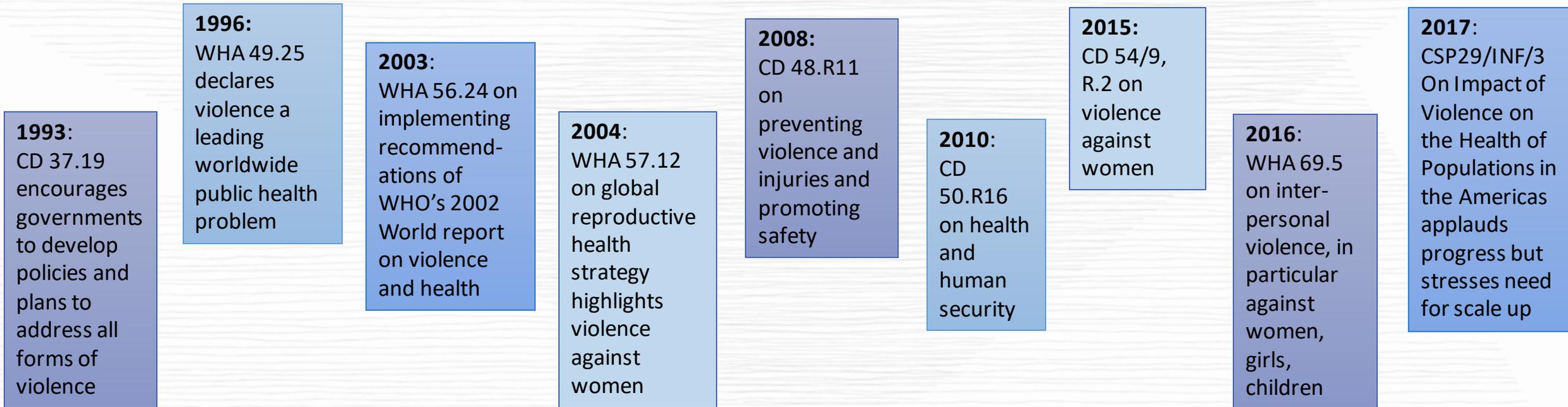
- Youth homicide – often intersecting with organized crime, narco-trafficking and gang activity
- Exposure to child maltreatment and peer violence, such as physical fighting and bullying in adolescence – a key risk for involvement or experience of violence in later life and opportunities to intervene early e.g. in schools
- Sexual violence against girls – rooted in gender inequality and especially underreported



# A four-step public health approach offers a useful framework for preventing violence



# Violence prevention is not new



Current PAHO mandates & achievements

If we don't  
advocate for  
change, who  
will?



...but advocacy for  
a public health  
approach  
continues to be  
needed

# KEY QUESTIONS

- ❑ What are **PRIORITY DIMENSIONS** of youth violence that must be understood and addressed in the Americas?
- ❑ What are **PRIORITY DETERMINANTS** that must be addressed by public health?
- ❑ What are **MESSAGES** and/or **STRATEGIES** for advocating for a public health approach to youth violence?

