

# Violence Prevention in all Policies:

## Creating Systemic Support for Violence Prevention Programmes

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# The Biggest Question of All

Assume you could spend \$ 1 per person in the world (i.e. \$ 8 Billion) per year on measures to achieve the SDG goals related to violence against children, human trafficking, violence against women, violence against men, violence against the elderly, etc. by 2030 .....

Where would your money go?

Where would you expect the biggest return?

Why?

# The Progress Made

## 1. Huge Growth in Available Data

- E.g. Violence Against Children Surveys, IPV meta-analyses, Homicide Monitor

## 2. More evaluation studies outside Europe and USA

E.g. Children and Violence Challenge Fund

## 3. Development of Global Information Systems

## 4. Diffusion of Public Health Approach

- What's the problem – What's the cause – What Works – How do you do it?

-> A growing toolbox of prevention programmes

# What do we have in our toolbox?

**Do  
We  
need  
Wider  
System  
Change?**



# Do we know what works?

## The Knowledge Gap

We know increasingly what kinds of programmes have desirable effects in trials

We are beginning to learn how to scale them up

We are beginning to have relevant evidence in LMIC countries

The SDGs expect us to achieve population-level sustainable declines in violence

We know close to nothing about how to achieve population level change

We know very little about the system changes that support macro-level declines in violence





# Some population level success stories in cities and countries

Cardiff and United Kingdom

Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Recife

Singapore and Hong Kong

Bogotá and Medellín

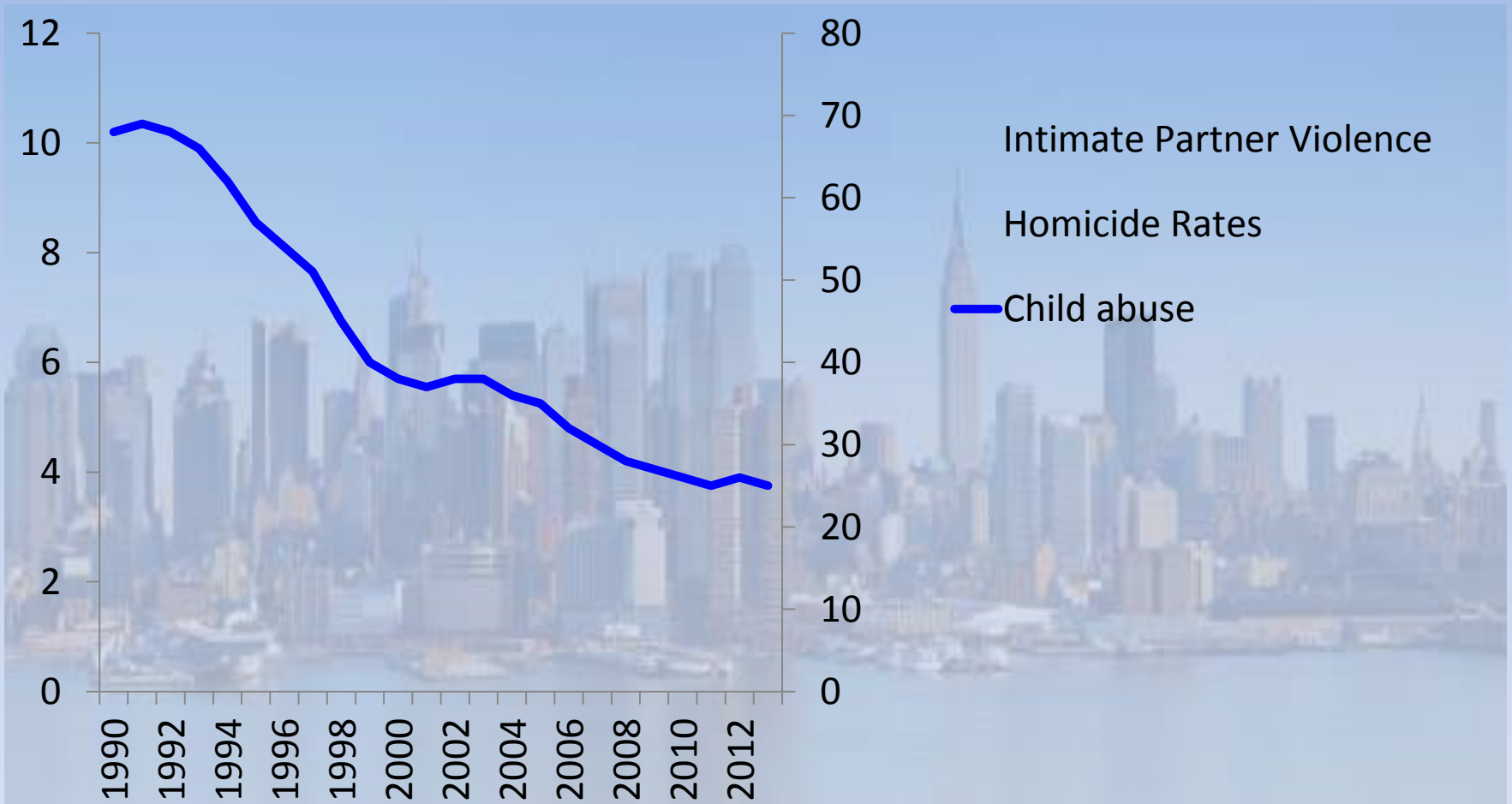
Southern Italy

Estonia

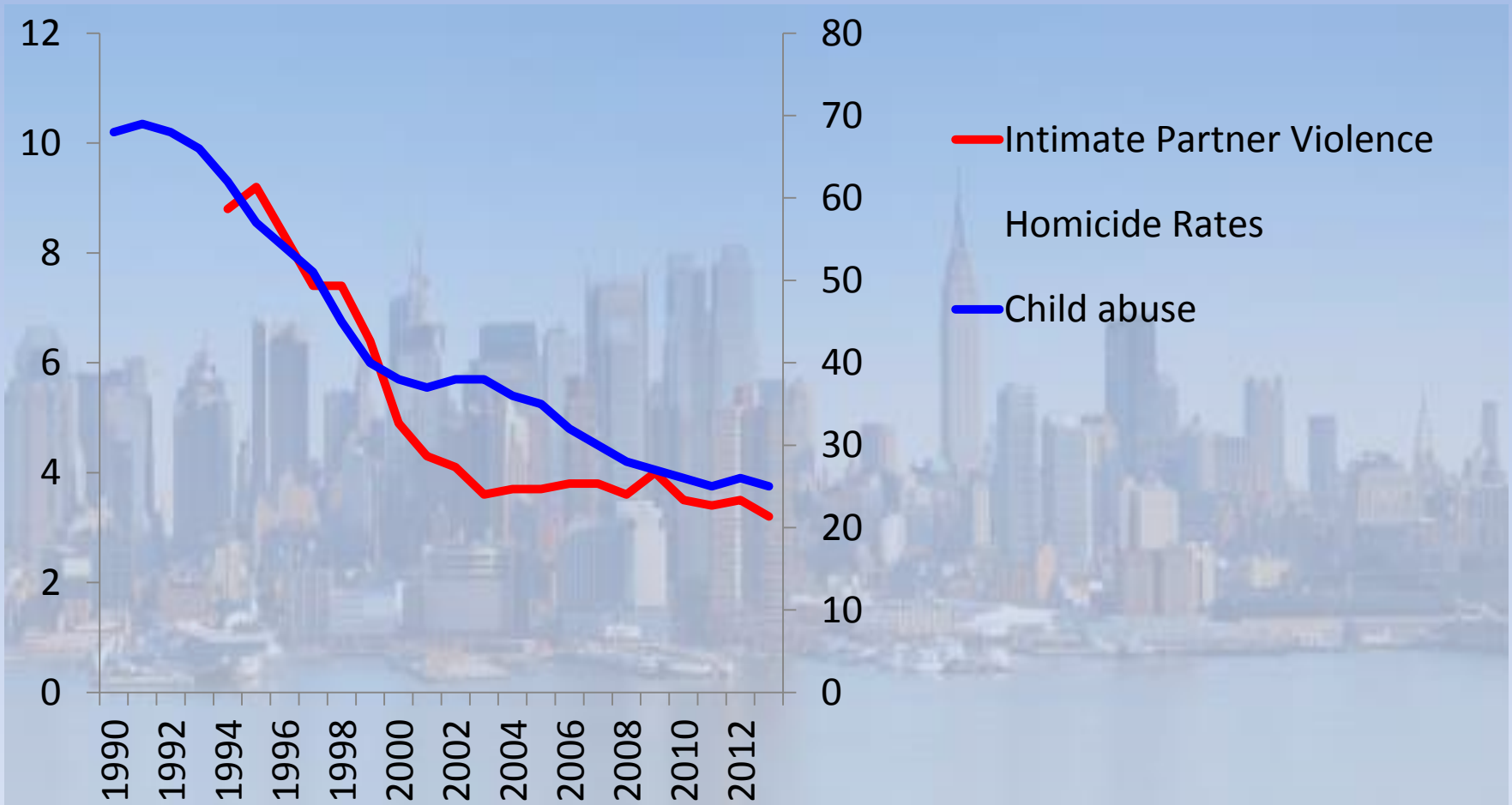
United States

## What Brings Levels of Violence Down?

# Example 1 Violence Trends in the United States

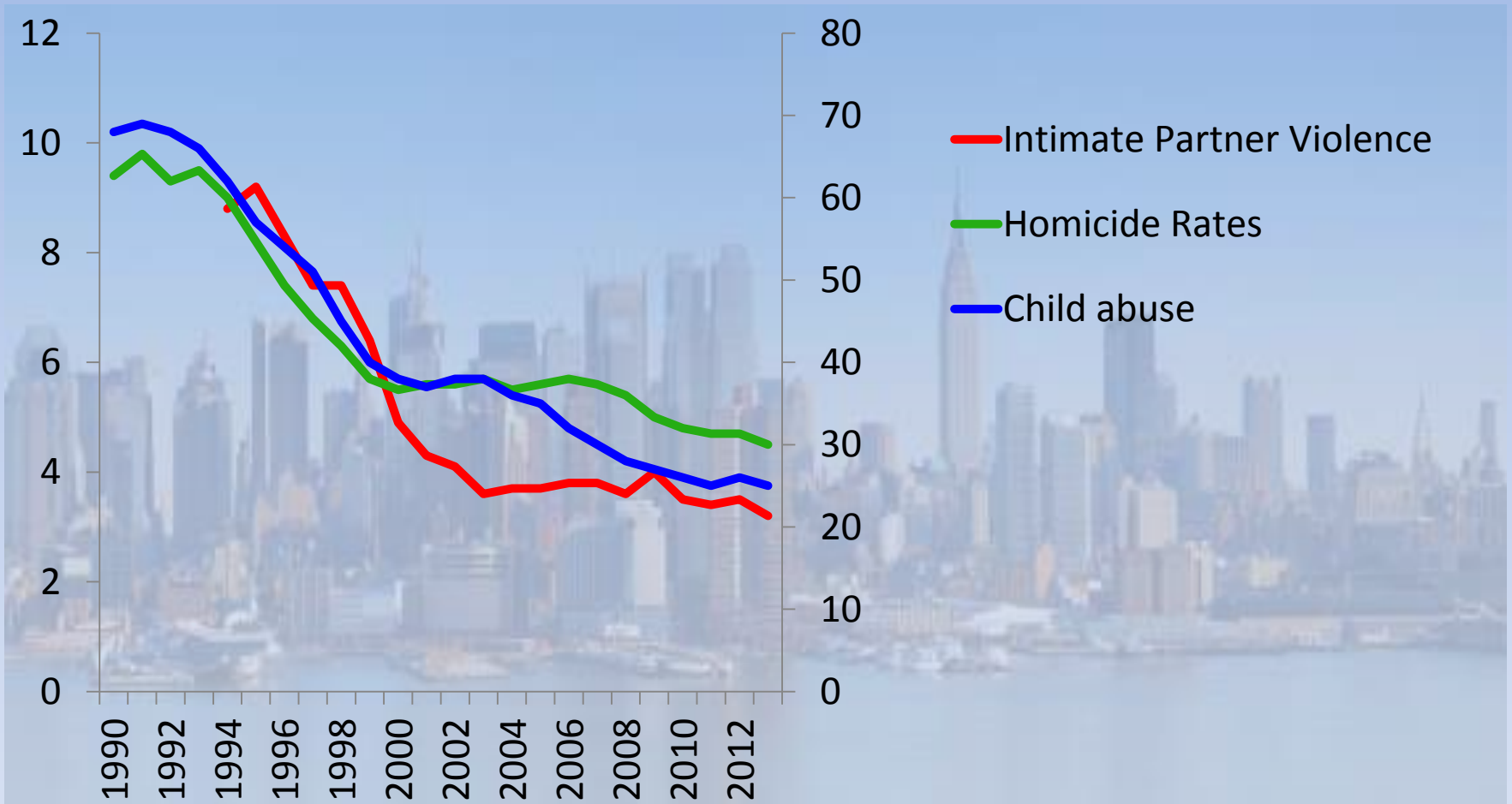


# Example 1 Violence Trends in the United States





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# Why

- Demographics
- Imprisonment and net widening
- More effective policing & more police officers
- Change in attitudes and norms to violence incl. feminization
- Medication for mental health problems
- Abortion and Lead
- End of Crack epidemic/ street drug markets

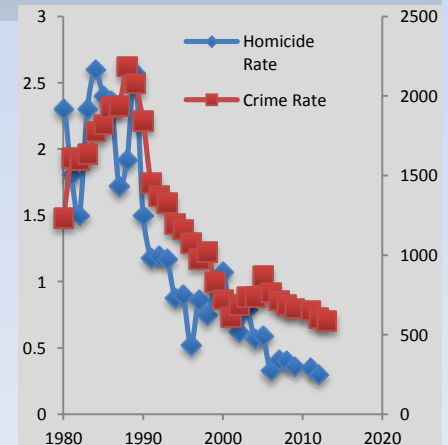
There is continued disagreement about the relative weight of each of these factors.

# Example 2      Singapore

Homicides      Singapore 12 cases  
Caracas      3500 cases ( approx. same pop.)

Robberies      Decline by 90% since 1990s  
50x lower than London

IPV      Lowest in IVAWS Survey (9% v. 52% in USA,  
UN Women, 2013)



# Why?

- High economic growth, poverty declined (but Inequality went up)
- Demographic change, fewer young people
- Harsh punishment and imprisonment (“Disneyland with the death Penalty” William Gibson)
- Improved policing based on Kobane system
- Meritocratic public administration based on rule of law.
- National Crime Prevention Council since 1981
- Housing Policy
- Effective public health system



# Population-Level Violence Declines

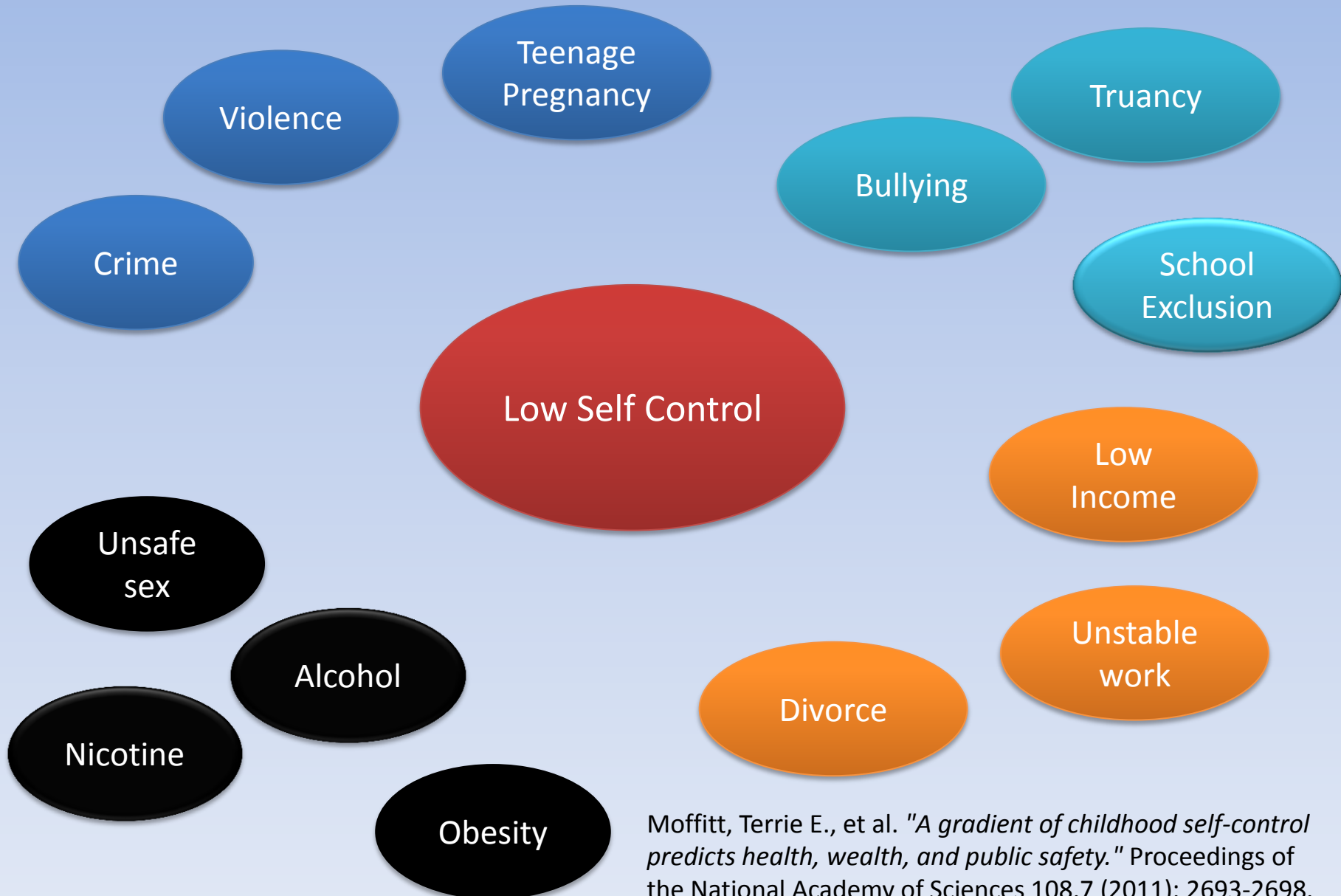
- There exist examples in all parts of the world of successful violence reductions.
- Understanding why they happen would be highly relevant for achieving the SDG goals, but our understanding is currently very limited.
- Individual programmes rarely seem to be involved.
- Genuine policy effects are likely, but usually systemic und multifaceted.
- Five proposals for strategies that can generate systemic support.



## Proposal 1

Address Cross-Cutting Mechanisms that Affect  
Multiple SDG Outcomes

# What mechanism affects all these outcomes?



# Self-control as a cross-cutting mechanism

- Self-control is a cross-cutting psychological mechanism that has positive effects on health, wealth, and crime.
- It is malleable and can be promoted across settings and systems in families, schools leisure time, work places etc.
- Focusing efforts on a small number of general mechanisms that affect many outcomes may be a promising systemic strategy.

## Proposal 2

# Bridge the Gap between Criminal Justice and Public Health Systems



# Why is the CJ system important for a public health approach?

## 1. It is often the first point of contact for victims.

In the US, law enforcement agencies are by far the most important source of substantiated child maltreatment cases (32%), NCANDS (2013).

## 2. Where the state fails to provide protection, others will step in.

In Honduras and El Salvador only 2-3% of all homicide cases result in a conviction. Eisner (2015) *How to reduce Homicide*, <http://homicide.igarape.org.br/>

## 3. The CJ system is the most likely access for interventions for serious and repeat offenders

Most serious violent adult offenders had contact with the CJ system as adolescents.

## 4. Violence prevention requires that people see a good reason to comply with the law.

Fair and effective enforcement of existing laws is the basis for any sustainable delivery of violence prevention.

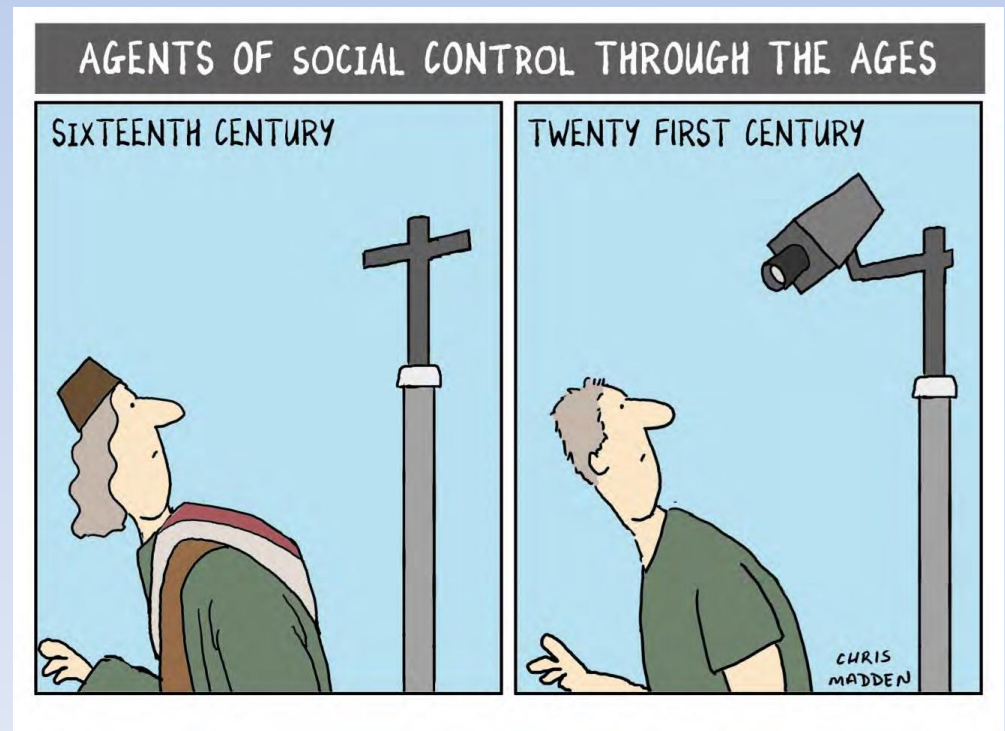


# Inter-systemic integration

- Across all systems, but CJ --- public health possibly most difficult and most important.
- CJ system support essential for effective prevention.
- Convincing national advocacy coalitions need a strong anchor in public health, education, and criminal justice.
- Capacity building (e.g. training of professionals) needs to promote mutual understanding and support.
- Interagency cooperation needs strengthening.

## Proposal 3

# Build Violence Prevention into Modern Technologies, Infrastructures, and Behavior Systems

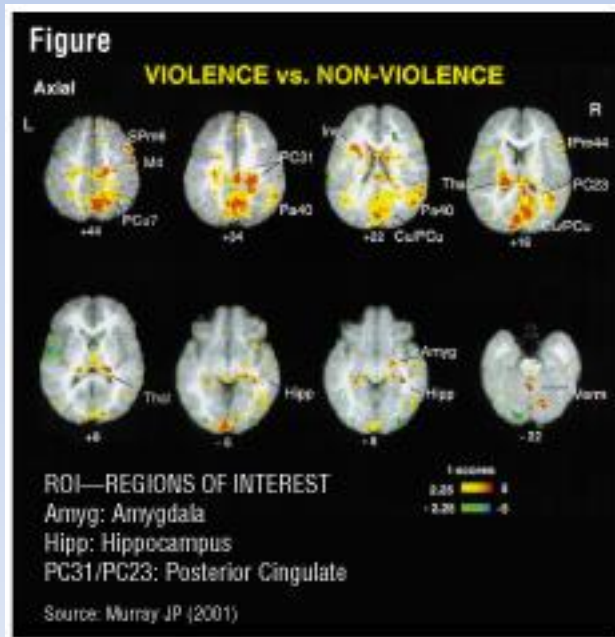


# Why?

- Changing people is often more difficult and more costly than changing situations.
- There is substantial evidence suggesting that change in daily routines affects crime and violence
- Simple design changes can have considerable effects
  - E.g. toughened glass, Jonathan Shepherd.
- Partnerships with private sector are important
- Build systemic violence prevention into nutrition (SDG 2), Health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SSG 5), Infrastructure (SDG 9), urban planning (SDG 11) etc.

# Proposal 4

Build cutting-edge research into national decision-making processes



# Why?

- Because while we have learnt a lot, we don't know the answers to some very fundamental questions relevant for achieving the SD-Goals related to violence.



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Here is one:

- If Caracas has 200 times more homicides than Singapore, in what period of human development do the causally relevant risk factors emerge? Infancy, childhood, adolescence?

# Conclusions

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- Invest into inserting violence-prevention into other systems
- Foster broad coalitions across systems
- Invest into general and well-researched mechanisms with multiple outcomes
- Use the opportunity for advancing cutting-edge basic research that can support the SD-Goals.