Global Health Faculty Candidate’s Seminar

Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, BHS 131

Christopher Mikton, PhD
Consultant
Department for Management of Non-Communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention
World Health Organization

Using Evidence to Prevent Violence and Associated Mental Health Conditions and Improve Lives Globally

Abstract

In this presentation I will describe three global research projects I have either led, co-led, or am currently involved in. Each has aimed to generate evidence to better prevent interpersonal violence and associated mental health problems. The description of the first two projects will also serve as an introduction to the neglected subject of global violence prevention.

(1) Violence Info is a global interactive knowledge translation platform hosted by WHO which synthesizes and presents in an accessible form evidence on the magnitude of, risk factors for, and interventions to prevent and respond to all forms of interpersonal violence (e.g. child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, youth violence, homicide).

(2) The Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014 was a global data collection and implementation research project, which assessed measures countries around the world were taking to address interpersonal violence, in terms, for instance, of laws, policies, and prevention programmes. It also included global and country-level homicide estimates.

In 2015, the international community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030. These include either ending or reducing different forms of interpersonal violence by 2030. Yet, as the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention demonstrates, there is currently an enormous gap between the SDGs’ ambitious violence-related goals and the knowledge and capacity of most countries globally to achieve them.

(3) The Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) aims to help narrow this gap. EBLS, led by Professor Eisner of the University of Cambridge, is still in its early stages. It is an integrated birth cohort, intervention research, and capacity-building project in eight low- and middle-countries. It will follow 12,000 children from before birth and examine their exposure to violence and other adverse experiences to generate knowledge, inform policies, and develop capacity to help prevent violence and associated mental health problems globally.