

Violence Prevention: A Public Health Approach

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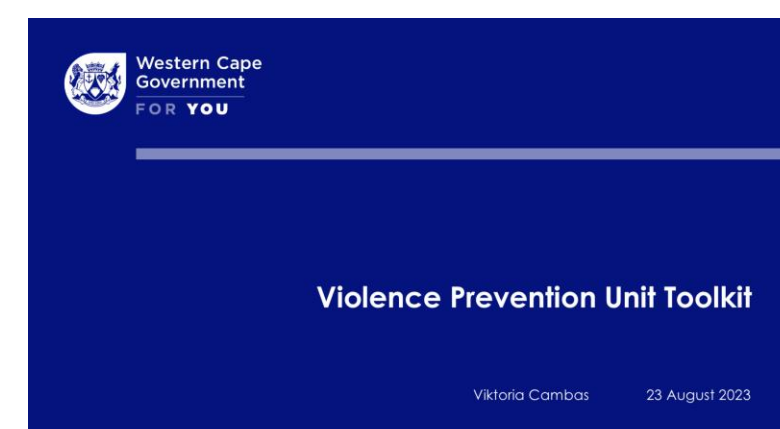
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Introduction

- Violence in the Western Cape (WC) is a daily experience
- Violence prevention (VP) is now under the Department of Health
- South Africa's history of violence must inform VP

Objective of Internship

I was tasked to create a toolkit to support the establishment of the new Violence Prevention Unit.



First page of the VPU Toolkit presentation at the 3-day VP Coordinators Workshop

Work profile

- Perform a literature review on VP interventions
- Gather data on rates of violence in the Western Cape
- Summarize government documents on VP
- Present the first draft of the VPU toolkit to the VP Coordinators

Reflection

- The VPU toolkit will serve as the beginning and learning stages of the VPU.
- The toolkit was informed by multiple VP studies set in South Africa as well as countries with similar history and demographic.

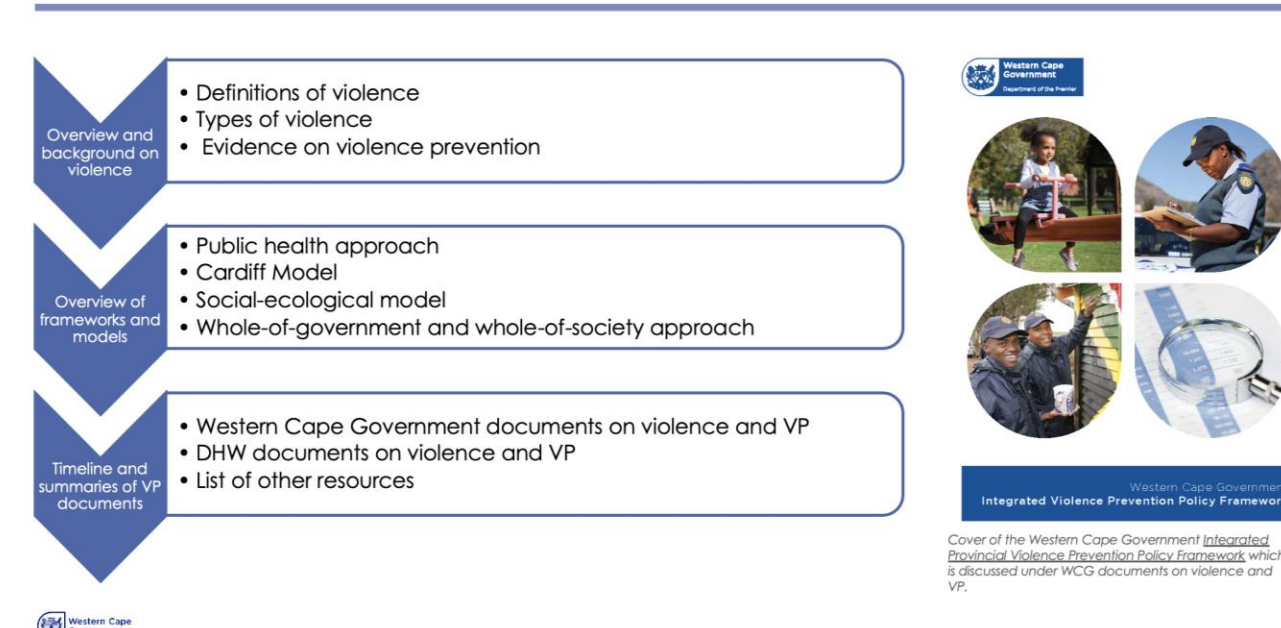


The first day of the 3-Day VP Coordinators Workshop at the Durbanville Conference Center, showing posters of the VPU approach. Taken by Dr Saadiq Kariem.



Still from the VPU Toolkit presentation led by me on the third and final day of the VP Coordinator Workshop at the DCC. Taken by Juanita Arendse.

Content of the Toolkit



Screenshot from the toolkit presentation on the toolkit's three main components and the specific content under those components.

- The recommendations put out by the toolkit value culturally and contextually appropriate interventions.
- The research I have done on the toolkit allowed me to learn more about the different frameworks of violence prevention.
- Focusing on social and economic development are **preventative measures** while policing methods are often more **reactive** than not.
- My supervisors and colleagues helped me learn more about South African history and its intrinsic ties to its current rates of violence beyond textbook knowledge.
- The work I have done will continue to grow beyond my presentation which I have embarked with diverse, passionate, and knowledgeable experts on violence prevention and the regions they serve. Overall, I am grateful to have come upon and participate in this opportunity.

Looking ahead

I will be working on a policy paper about violence against women in the Western Cape, highlighting and improving the methods of the Thuthuzela Care Centers.

Questions

- How can VP Coordinators make huge strides in areas that are resource-scarce? What resources can they coordinate in those areas?
- How can budget constraints impact the outcomes they want to create?

Conclusion

Working in public health issues like VP demands a willingness to learn to provide the best care for the community you serve.

Acknowledgements

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