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6.P. Workshop: Responding to violence and abuse across the life-course

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Organised by: EUPHA-PMH

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Much research on the mental health effects of violence focus on domestic violence as experienced in adulthood. The mental health impacts are often gauged using cross-sectional studies and focus on current associations between violence and health. This workshop presents a range of analyses - drawing on data from New Zealand, Germany and the UK - that address the ways in which violence and abuse manifest at different life stages, including in childhood, among working-age adults, and in later life. The presentations highlight differences across the life course, as well as commonalities. They provide evidence of the long-term, even life long, shadow that violence and abuse can cast over people's health, and provide evidence of the extensive costs for society. Health impacts are shown to be broad, not only anxiety and depression, but substance dependence, chronic physical health conditions, and related health risks such as obesity. This workshop comprises four presentations that each consider violence and abuse prevalent at a particular stage of life, and provide evidence to inform the sensitive tailoring of responses from and for families, schools, health and social services, workplace human resource employees, and care and residential homes. The format of the workshop comprises brief presentations, with a focus on extended audience discussions. We invite engagement from people from a range of disciplines interested in how different forms of violence and abuse present at different life stages, the impacts on health, and the ways in which society should respond. This workshop is submitted on behalf of the EUPHA Public Mental Health Section.

Key messages:

- Violence occurs across the life course. While its prevalence and form often vary between life stages, at every stage it has major, long-term, and diverse implications for health.
- Interventions need to be tailored to the life course and sensitive to changing context, including domestic, workplace, and care home environments.