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# Relationships Between Social Processes, Violence and Quality of Life

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**Minayo M C. Relaciones entre procesos sociales, violencia, calidad de vida. [Relationships Between Social Processes, Violence and Quality of Life]. Salud Colectiva (Buenos Aires, Argentina) 2005 January-April; 1(1): 69–78.**

**Objectives:** A reflection on violence and its impact on health and quality of life.

**Methodology:** Analytical and interpretative.

**Results:** The author highlights the difficulties inherent in including the issue of violence in the health sector. The diversity of definitions and stances on the causes of violence are also reviewed. Reductionist positions that consider violence as an ahistorical and asocial phenomenon are criticized. The author regards violence as a societal, multidimensional process. Violence interacts with the health care sector in different ways: it impacts the quality of life of individuals, groups, and collective organization, and it is one of the concerns which must be taken into account under a broad vision of health as expressed in the Ottawa Conference Declaration.

**Conclusions:** Violence is a complex social phenomenon; it is a social gauge and an indicator of quality of life. The health sector should interact with civil society and other institutions to develop strategies to help prevent and treat violence.