

PREVENTION FOUNDATIONS—REFRESHER

CAUSES

Socio-ecological model

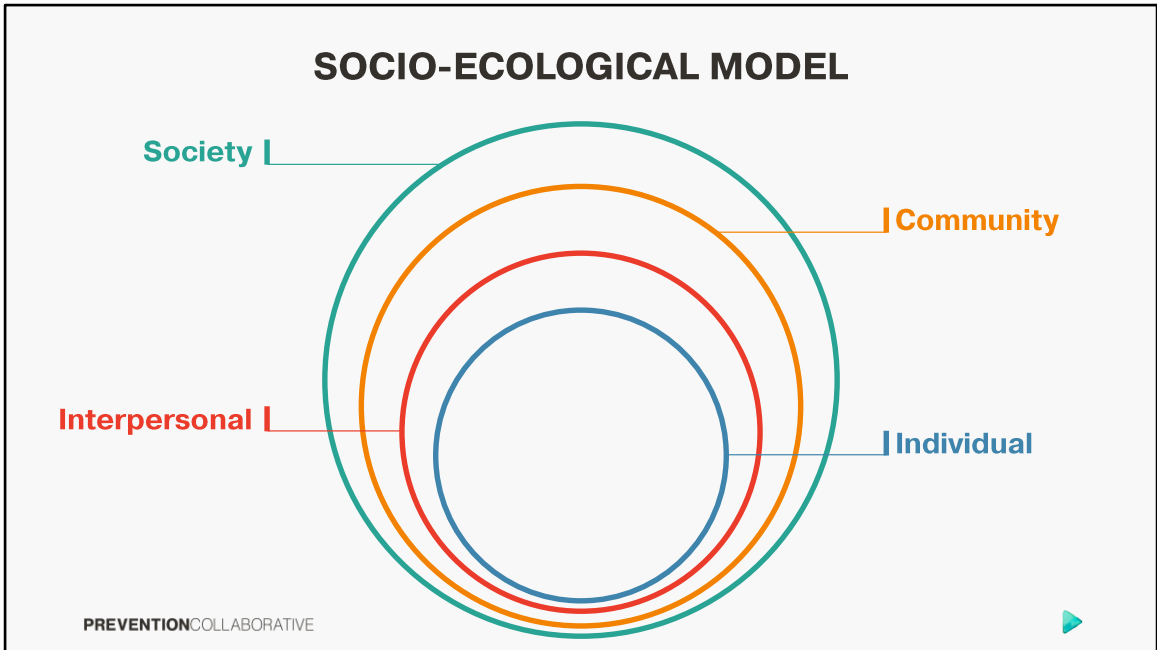


PREVENTIONCOLLABORATIVE



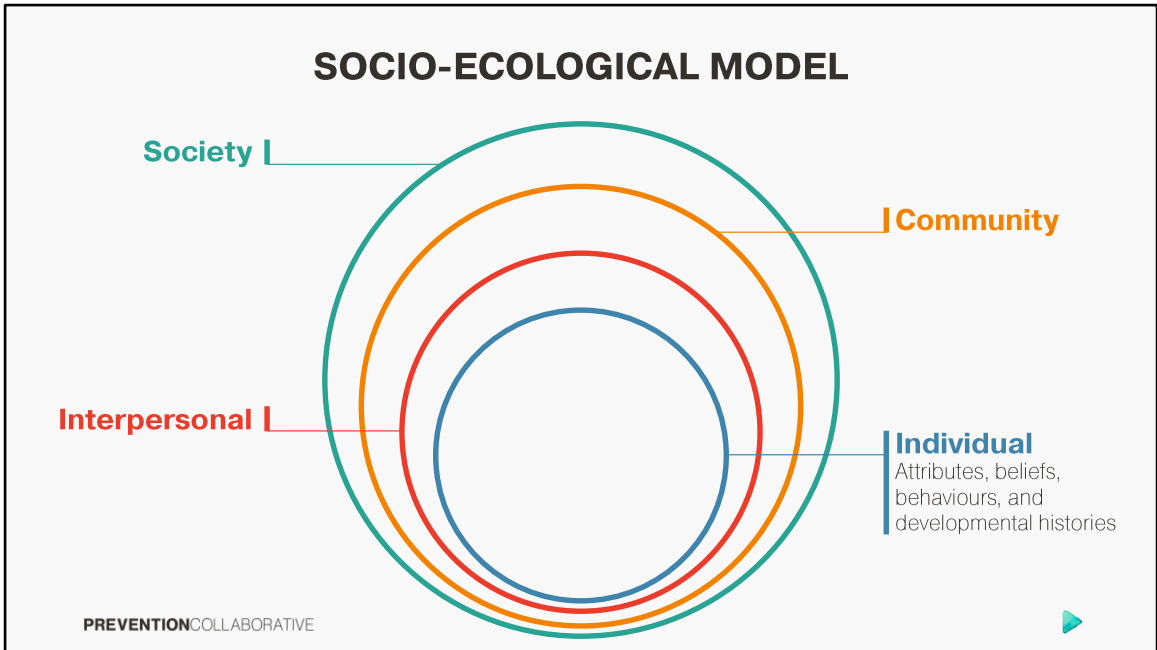
In this topic, we will introduce the socio-ecological model, including tips on how to use the model in violence prevention.

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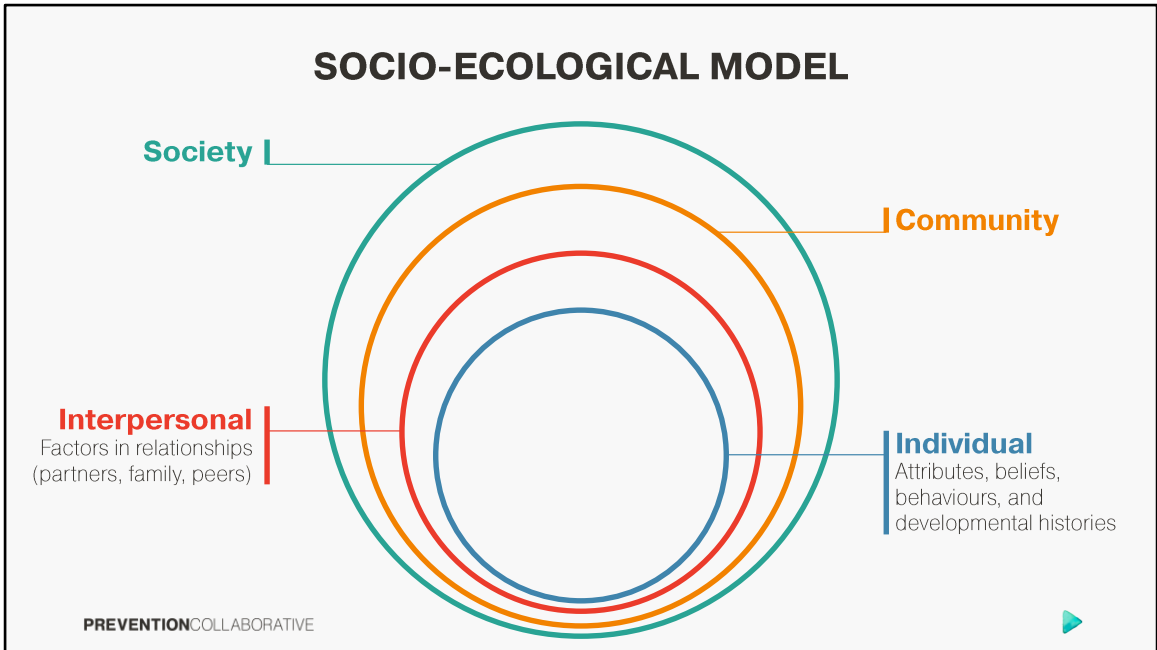
This is a picture of the socio-ecological model. At its heart is an individual. The different circles demonstrate that an individual's health, wellbeing, and even behaviour is affected by factors operating at an individual, interpersonal, community, and society level.

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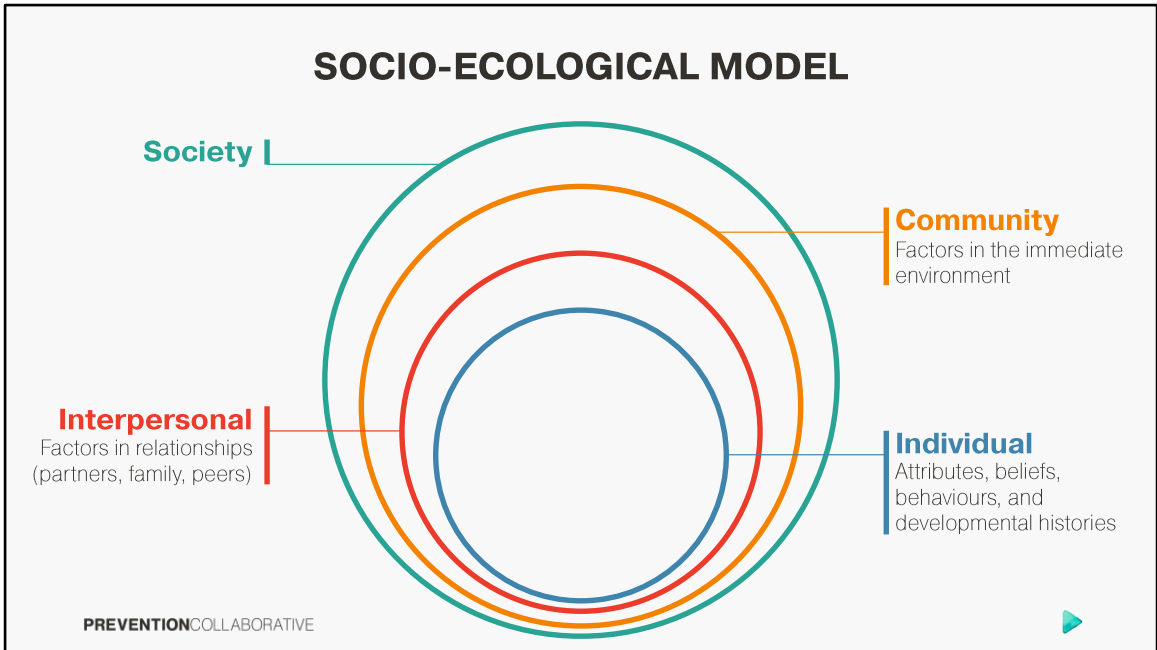
The **individual level** includes an individual's attributes, beliefs, and behaviours as well as their own developmental history, such as the family they grew up with and experiences they had or witnessed in childhood.

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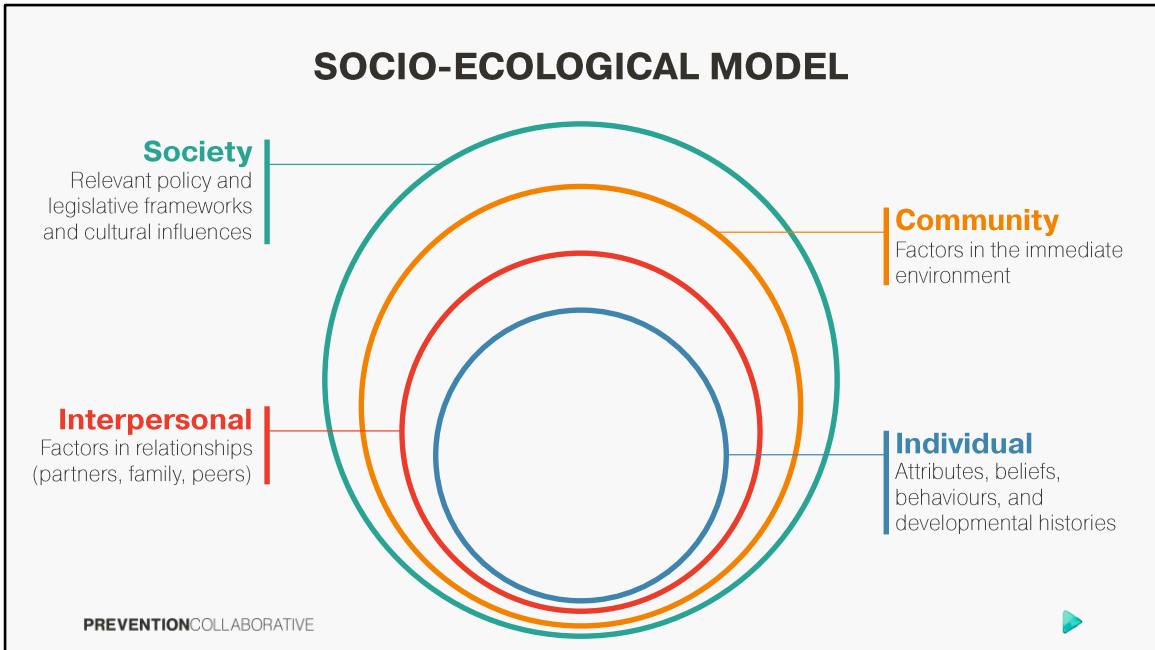
The **interpersonal level** comprises factors in relationships. Depending on the setting, this may include factors operating at the level of intimate partners, a family, or a peer or friendship network.

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The **community level** captures the factors in the individual's immediate environment. For example, where they live, work, or go to school.

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The wider **society** comprises the broader structural environment, including relevant policy and legislative frameworks and economic and cultural influences.

The model is a useful tool to explore the interaction between multiple factors operating across and within the different levels, which increase or decrease the likelihood of violence.

The model suggests that in order to prevent violence, it is necessary to act to address multiple factors across these levels. This approach is more likely to result in effective and sustained prevention over time than any single intervention.

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CONSIDERATIONS

1. Specific type of violence
2. Specific setting
3. Stage in life course
4. Perpetration v. victimisation

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When using the socio-ecological model to explore violence against women, it's important to think about a number of things.

- Firstly, the specific type of violence you are addressing. Although there are some common factors for different kinds of violence against women, there are also some factors that vary. For example, if you're looking at intimate partner violence and female genital cutting, you may find unique factors for each as well as some overlaps.
- Secondly, it is important to analyse factors in the specific setting where you are trying to prevent violence. Although many factors are common across contexts, evidence shows us that some are more important than others in specific settings.
- Thirdly, you should also take a life course perspective, which means considering the age and circumstances of the individual, as some factors that are relevant for young children are different from those that are relevant for adolescents and younger and older adults.
- Finally, factors that are important for perpetration may be different from those that are important for victimisation. Therefore, it is important to be clear about the focus of your analysis.

These considerations will enable you identify the most salient factors and strategies to address those factors.

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