Violence as an Urban Public Health Problem

This interactive and informal session will feature a discussion about violence as a global public health issue. Further, Dr. Cerdá will discuss current evidence on the impact that local policies and prevention programs can have on violence. Dr. Cerdá will use her research in Medellín, Colombia and in New York City as case studies of local violence prevention efforts.

About the Speaker

Magdalena Cerdá is the Vice Chancellor’s Chair in Violence Prevention, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Her research focuses on the ways the urban context shapes violence and substance use, and the emergence of new drivers and forms of substance use. Current funded research focuses on evaluating the impact that firearm disqualifications based on mental illness criteria could have on population-level rates of firearm-related mortality; identifying the impact that prescription drug monitoring program “best practices” have on prescription opioid and heroin overdose; and examining changes in substance use and motor vehicle fatalities following national legalization of marijuana use in Uruguay. Dr. Cerdá has been involved in international research efforts her whole career, starting with her work at the World Health Organization on national and regional violence prevention policies in Southern Africa, Europe, and Central America, to past and current research projects on violence and substance use in Colombia, Brazil, and Uruguay.