The call for papers on the theme of violence that was carried out by Saúde e Sociedade resulted in the present issue, which can be considered a sample of themes and situations that have been researched on violence in the field of public health. The issue is particularly rich due to several factors: complexity of the theme, variability of the sub-themes present in the different papers, distinct origins of the authors, among others.

We will not, in this editorial, comment on the multifaceted and complex problem of violence, since this was included in the special editorial.

We would just like to suggest, according to the papers, a list of the social agents that are objects of violent actions or practices.

Therefore, we have, in a list that is likely to be incomplete:

- youths
- women in labor, at home, etc.
- elderly people
- men, women and children submitted to sexual violence
- football fans subject to and object of violence
- hospitalized individuals
- children who are victims of their mothers
- women partners who are victims of their men partners

Violence, as suggested by the list above, is also a relationship between subjects, immersed in the social world and in diverse cultures. We put forward this evidence as a problem for the readers’ reflection.