Reducing Violence: The Cure Violence Health Approach

Violence spreads like a contagious disease. The good news is prevention is possible. Using the same health strategies used to fight infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera and AIDS, the Cure Violence Health Approach is reducing neighborhood violence.

How It Works
Cure Violence works with local partners to:

**Interrupt Violent Conflicts**
Trained staff from the community known as violence interrupters prevent shootings and killings by detecting and interrupting potentially lethal conflicts in the community and mediating them to a peaceful end.
- Prevent retaliations
- Mediate ongoing conflicts
- Follow up to maintain peace

**Change Behavior**
Outreach workers identify people at the highest risk for violence and work side by side with them to reach and maintain a non-violent path to conflict resolution.
- Challenge thinking on use of violence
- Provide support at critical times
- Connect with job opportunities and social services

**Change Norms**
Cure Violence’s local partners, violence interrupters, and outreach workers engage community leaders, residents, business owners, faith leaders, social service providers, and those at highest risk to reject the idea of violence as an acceptable behavior to resolve conflict in their neighborhood.
- Respond to every shooting
- Organize community activities
- Spread positive norms

The Importance of Hiring and Training Credible Workers
Public health outreach is most effective when community workers share the same neighborhood and background as those at high risk for violence. These trained community workers already have the trust of those at risk and are able to influence and change violent behavior.

“I knew some of the key individuals on both sides. I gave them my word that if they left them alone, then the other side would do the same... they needed someone they could trust.”
—violence interrupter

“He’s cool, he talk about his life, he’s helpful. I give him mad respect. He keeps a brother busy and out of trouble. He just understood everything I talked about. I could talk to him about anything. He’s there whenever I call and need him. He’s just a call away. He steers me in the right direction.”
—participant speaking about an outreach worker
**Cure Violence Health Approach**

**A GROWING MOVEMENT**

**Our Impact**

Through multiple independent evaluations, the Cure Violence solution has been proven to effectively reduce violence.

**Baltimore**
- As much as 44% fewer shootings and 56% fewer killings
- Changed norms: Reduced tolerance for violence

**New York**
- 20% fewer shootings
- Increase in community confidence and perception of safety

**Chicago**
- 41%–73% reduction in shooting & killings
- 100% reduction in retaliation killings in 5 of 8 communities

**International**
- Puerto Rico: 50% drop in killings
- South Africa: 53% drop in shootings and 31% drop in killings

“It is not one or two kids. I’m talking about a serious number of people whose lives have been impacted so enormously that I cannot give [Cure Violence] the billing it deserves.”

—Steven Salzman, M.D.
Trauma Surgeon, Advocate Christ

“I just shook my head in disbelief at what [the Cure Violence partners] could do, that the program staff were able to sit down and get people to work out their differences.”

—Daniel Webster
Director, Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence

“I’ve seen this work; I’m in the middle of watching this work. I firmly believe in it.”

—Charlie Beck
Chief of Police, Los Angeles Police Department

**Contact Us**

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