

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

