Cure Violence
Theory, Critical Elements, Results

Cleveland OH
April 25, 2014
The Cure Violence Model to Stop Shootings and Killings

- Identification and Detection
- Interruption, Intervention and Risk Reduction
- Change Behaviors and Norms

Data and Monitoring
Learned Behavior

- Smoking
- Littering
- Rudeness
- Intolerance
- Substance Abuse
- Road Rage
- Racism
- Animal Cruelty
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Profanity
- VIOLENCE
Purpose of Briefing

- Describe Cure Violence, the campaign to stop shootings and killings
- Answer your questions
Acts like an epidemic
Characteristics of Violence and Infectious Diseases

- One event leads to another
- Highest risk factor = prior event
- Geographically cluster
- Incubation periods
- Reduced by interrupting transmission and changing norms
Violence is learned from role models
Theories About the Causes of Violence

Violence is...

- Learned from role models
- Caused by social forces (e.g., lack of opportunity, racism, poverty, etc.)
- A cultural norm in subgroups with a higher rate of homicide
- A series of events and/or interactions between co-disputants that can escalate into homicide

Source: Rosenberg et al., 1987
Impact of Violence Epidemic

- Injuries, deaths
- Fear, stress
- School progress slowed
- Economic development hindered
- Health care costs increased
- Tax dollars wasted
Goal of Cure Violence

Stop shootings and killings by:

• Working with those most closely associated with the problem

• In those communities that are disproportionately effected

• Based on data and research
Multiple Messengers Change What is “Normal”

Interveners

- Outreach Workers/Interrupters
- Community
- Public Education Materials
- Faith Leaders
- Law Enforcement

The 3 Variables

- Social Norms
- Risk Factors
- Alternatives to Violence

Behavioral Outcome

No Shooting
Critical Elements of Cure Violence

The right…

• Community
• Participants
• Approach
  Workers with the right skills
  Partners
  Messages and messengers
• Measures of effectiveness and accountability
Right Community

Shootings in District 8 2002

Created 2/12/04
Data Source CPD
Right Participants:
Those likely to shoot or be shot
Approach

Five Core Components
- Outreach
- Law Enforcement Assistance
- Community Mobilization
- Public Education Messaging
- Faith Leader Involvement
Outreach/Violence Interrupters: Right Workers with the Right Skills
Identify/Detect, Interrupt, Re-direct
The Cure Violence Model to Stop Shootings and Killings

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Data and Monitoring
Outreach: Risk Reduction
Violence Interrupters
Anticipate, Prevent, Mediate
Role of Law Enforcement
Faith Leader Involvement: Change Norms
Community Mobilization: Change Norms
Public Education: Change Norms
Northwestern University
Evaluation Results
FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE
Impact Analysis

• Over-time trends revealed that violence was down by one measure or another in six of the seven areas that were examined statistically.

• The broadest measure of shootings (which included attempts) declined an additional 17 to 24 percent, due to the program.

• In four overlapping sites there were distinctive declines in the number of persons actually shot or killed ranging from 16 to 34 percent.
Program Participant Survey Highlights
(297 outreach clients surveyed anonymously)

• 99% reported Cure Violence had a positive impact on their lives

• Participants who sought help from their outreach workers for education, getting out of a gang or getting a job were much more likely to have received more education, gotten out of a gang or secured employment than other clients

• Outreach workers were mentioned second only to parents as the most important person in the participant’s life

Source: Northwestern University, 2007
Client Assistance

- Alcohol rehab
- STD testing
- Drug rehab
- Place to live
- Pregnancy/parenting help*
- Food assistance
- Deal with emotions
- Resolve family conflict
- Leave a gang
- Get an education
- Need a job

percent receiving assistance
total length is percent having a problem

76% reported the problem
87% received assistance

percent reporting a problem
*Clients with children only
Summary of Findings

• Decreased shootings and killings
• Broke down gang networks
• Decreased retaliatory homicides
• Made shooting hot spots cooler
• Made neighborhoods safer

Johns Hopkins School of Public
Health Evaluation Results

BALTIMORE - SAFE STREETS
Baltimore – *Safe Streets* Summary of Findings

- Safe Streets program associated with:
  - Less acceptance of gun use to settle grievances
  - Fewer homicide incidents
  - Fewer non-fatal shooting incidents

- Positive effects for bordering neighborhoods

- “80% of respondents reported that their lives were “better” since becoming a participant of *Safe Streets* program.”

Baltimore – *Safe Streets* Findings

- **Cherry Hill**
  - (-56%) Reduction in homicides
  - (-34%) Reduction in non-fatal shooting incidents

- **McElderry Park**
  - (-26%) Reduction in homicides

- **Elwood Park**
  - (-34%) Reduction in non-fatal shooting incidents

All people deserve to live, learn, work, play, raise families, and shop in safe places.
For more information visit:
www.cureviolence.org

Main Results / Data

- Cut in CeaseFire funding coincides with large increase in shootings (pdf)
- Reductions in shootings and killings in the four newest CeaseFire Zones, Jan-June, 2007 compared to 2006
- Reductions and changes in shootings in first six CeaseFire Zones
- How Chicago homicides have dropped compared to other U.S. Cities