

Cure Violence began (as CeaseFire Chicago) in 2000 with the goal of reducing shootings and homicides in Chicago. From 2000-2008, Cure Violence (then CeaseFire Chicago) focused its activities in the United States, starting in Chicago but quickly expanding to Baltimore, New York, New Orleans, Oakland, Puerto Rico, and other sites. In 2008, Cure Violence began its first international adaptation and, international programs have been added in Iraq, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Honduras and Colombia. The Cure Violence model employs street and hospital-level intervention techniques based on a public health approach with a belief that violence is a disease.

The neighborhoods southwest of downtown Atlanta, known as Neighborhood Planning Unit V (NPU-V) continue to experience a disproportionate burden of violence.

The direct effect of violence on investment, civic participation, and community development are vast. Many residents of these neighborhoods suffer from the impact of collective generational and historical traumas. A disturbing increase in gun violence, including homicides, have occurred in the following NPU-V neighborhoods: *Peoplestown, Summerhill, Mechanicsville, Pittsburgh, Adair Park, and Capitol Gateway.*

Cure Violence envisions a world without violence.

Gun violence in NPU-V remains among the highest in the entire city. To address this gun violence, the Cure Violence model was chosen as the evidenced-based intervention. The Annie E. Casey Foundation working in partnership with the community selected CHRIS 180 to implement the model and to help bring about change in the community.

The Cure Violence model is guided by the clear understanding that violence is a public health issue. We believe that individuals and communities can change for the better, that community engagement with strategic partnerships are keys to success and that rigorous, scientific, professional ways of working are essential for effectiveness. If more people become convinced to re-understand violence as a disease, then we can treat it accordingly and stop the epidemic, reverse it, and cure it. The mission of the Cure Violence model is to reduce violence globally using disease control and behavior change methods.

The Cure Violence model works by interrupting the transmission of retaliatory violence through mediation and conflict resolution techniques, facilitating behavior change by individuals identified as high-risk and organizing community members to change social norms towards a non-violent culture.

Cure Violence works through employing Credible messengers. Credible messengers are people who are influential with individuals in communities who are at the highest risk of committing shootings. Credible messengers are able to build trusting relationships with the drivers of violence in a community, due to their own past experiences on the street.



For more information about Cure Violence, email CureViolence@CHRIS180.org or call 404.895.1143.

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