

Cure Violence (previously The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention)

Cure Violence
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www.cureviolence.org

Cure Violence was founded in 1995 at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. Launched under the names “The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention” and “CeaseFire” it was designed to engage youth and mediate high-risk conflicts before they turn violent.

Cure Violence stops the spread of violence in communities by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals and changing community norms.

Ranked as one of the top 20 NGOs in the world by Global_Geneva in 2015, the Cure Violence model is now being replicated in more than 60 sites around the world. (www.cureviolence.org) Cities have turned to the Cure Violence Health Model to prevent teen violence – from sectarian violence in Iraq, to community violence in Honduras, to prison violence in England. Cities across the US have recognized the added value of the Cure Violence Model and are implementing the program to augment efforts of law enforcement, social service and other agencies.

Cure Violence had its genesis in the global health experience of Gary Slutkin, M.D., Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at UIC School of Public Health. As chief of interventions and prevention for the World Health Organization, Gary devoted years as a WHO leader and physician to responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases from tuberculosis in San Francisco and Somalia to HIV in Uganda.

Dr. Slutkin understands how disease spreads and the kinds of intervention necessary to stop it. He characterizes the clinical features of violence with the same medical terminology used to describe other contagious disease. Individuals are more likely to be susceptible if they live in an environment in which violence is a well-established norm – their exposure to violence increases the likelihood they will become violent themselves.

The Cure Violence Health Model has four independent evaluations – all showing large, statistically significant reductions in violence. For more information about the results of all of the independent evaluations, please see: www.cureviolence.org/results/scientific-evaluations.

VPA focal persons



Dr Gary Slutkin

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Dr. Gary Slutkin is a physician, epidemiologist, infectious disease control specialist and Founder/ Executive Director of Cure Violence. Recognized as an innovator in violence prevention, Dr. Slutkin sees the issue of violence as fundamentally misdiagnosed and has presented his solution-oriented understanding to the World Bank, the State Department, the World Health Organization, the Institute of Medicine, MIT SaxeLab, Harvard Law School and the National Intelligence Council.

Dr. Slutkin applied lessons learned from more than a decade fighting epidemics in Africa and Asia to the creation of a public health model to reduce violence through behaviour change and disease control methods. He is an Ashoka Fellow, a Professor of Epidemiology and International Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a senior advisor to the World Health Organization and the 2009 Winner of the Search for a Common Ground Award. Dr. Slutkin received his M.D. from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, and did his internship and residency at San Francisco General Hospital. He served as Medical Director for the Tuberculosis Program for the San Francisco Health Department (1981 – 1985), where he learned infectious disease control methods, and from 1987 to 1994 worked for the World Health Organization reversing epidemics, including being principally responsible for supporting Uganda’s AIDS program—the only country to have reversed its AIDS epidemic.

Currently, Cure Violence has been endorsed by a resolution from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, while the program’s underlying theory has been promoted by the Institute of Medicine. The public health method is being replicated in more than 50 sites in 15 U.S. cities and seven countries abroad. Dr. Slutkin’s work was featured in Studs Terkel’s *Will the Circle be Unbroken*, profiled in *Blocking the Transmission*, a New York Magazine cover story by bestselling author Alex Kotlowitz, and represented in the award-winning documentary *The Interrupters*.



Charlie Ransford, MPP

Director of Science and Policy

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Charlie Ransford is the Director of Science and Policy for Cure Violence. Mr. Ransford leads Cure Violence's campaign to make violence a health issue, oversees all research and development projects, and plays a central role in the development of the organizations strategic and operational plans. He previously served as Director of Communications for Cure Violence and was responsible for leading the overall communication strategy including responding to and generating media coverage, running social media channels, and leading a website redesign. Mr. Ransford has also served as a senior researcher at Cure Violence where he conducted research, wrote reports, and published papers on the program.

Mr. Ransford trained in Urban Policy at the Harris School for Public Policy at the University of Chicago where he was a McCormick Leadership Fellow and a Bowman Memorial Fellow.