

# Great Cities Commitment Programs at UIC

## *Violence Prevention*

### Center for Research in Law and Criminal Justice

**Description:** This center is the focal point of UIC's scholarly and applied research in the areas of violence, crime, law, and justice. It conducts research and evaluation projects, Delivers educational programs to organizations and local communities, proves administrative support to manage grants, and sponsors seminars and presentations by leading scholars and practitioners. Services include: Basic Research, Applied Research, Evaluation Research, Technical Assistance, and Education/Training programs for communities, government, and criminal justice agencies.

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention

**UIC Partners:** Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Director, Center for Research in Law and Criminal Justice

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**Partners:** Various

*Partners include dozens of agencies and organizations throughout Illinois*

### Chicago Project – SPEH Foundation Training Program

**Description:** The purpose of this request is to provide funding for violence prevention and intervention training for teachers, violence prevention coordinators, and others at approximately 6 schools and alternative schools in East Garfield Park. The goal is to provide training in two specific areas: (1) Bullying, a form of violence among youth common on school playgrounds, in school and, in neighborhoods. Bullying can effect the social environment of a school and neighborhood, creating a climate of fear among youth, inhibiting their ability to learn, and leading to other violent antisocial behavior. (2) Conflict resolution using a student based problem solving model for reducing crime in school.

**Dates active:** Nov 2004 – Oct 2005

**Category:** Violence prevention

**UIC Partners:** Public Health

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Dean, School of Public Health

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**Partners:** Agape Youth Development and Family Support Services

Speh Family Foundation

### Chicago Project for Violence Prevention/CeaseFire

**Description:** Partners with community-based organizations that take the lead in developing and implementing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violence. This includes youth violence, gang violence, family and partner violence, elder abuse, sexual assault and rape, and child abuse.

The project concentrates on rooting out crime's underlying causes and on methods of intervention, helping communities to strengthen themselves by providing outreach workers, guiding materials, and training materials. The project collaborates with law enforcement, clergy outreach, youth outreach, public education, and community mobilization to create CeaseFire Zones.

The Project is under increasing demand from communities throughout Chicago, the State, and the U.S.

**Dates active:** 1995 -- present

**Category:** Violence prevention  
Neighborhood revitalization

**UIC Partners:** Public Health  
Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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**Partners:** Alliance of Logan Square Organizations  
AT&T Inc.  
Baxter International, Inc.  
Bethel New Life, Inc.  
BP Foundation  
Chicago Community Trust  
Chicago Police Department  
Chicago Public Schools  
Chicago Transit Authority  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
Community Renewal Society  
Deloitte Consulting LLP  
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary  
Dominick's Finer Foods, LLC  
Draft, Inc.  
Edelman  
Equis Corporation  
Executives Club of Chicago Inc.  
Field Trip Factory  
Greater North Michigan Avenue Association  
Humboldt Park Ministerial Association  
Illinois Arts Council (IAC)  
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority  
John Buck Company  
K. Andre Consulting  
Kraft Foods Inc.  
Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital  
MidSouth Planning and Development Commission  
Nia Enterprises, LLC  
Northeastern Illinois University  
*Center for Inner City Studies*  
Northern Trust Corporation  
Office of the Governor (Illinois)  
*Bureau of Technology and Industrial Competitiveness*  
*Commerce and Community Affairs Office*  
Peoples Energy Corporation

Prairie Consulting Group, LLC  
Prologue, Inc.  
Southwest Organizing Project  
TARGET Area Development Corporation  
West Humboldt Park Development Council  
WGCI  
WGN-TV  
Wilhelm and Conlin, Public Strategies  
WLS-TV  
Working in the Schools

## Chicago Youth Development Study (CYDS)

**Description:** African American and Latino male adolescents living in the inner city and poor urban communities are at the highest risk for violent and delinquent behavior; they are also the most underrepresented in comprehensive studies.

This longitudinal study, begun in 1991, tracks the development of risk for school failure, antisocial behavior and violence among inner-city male adolescents. In addition, romantic partners of the at-risk youth are interviewed to assess the occurrence of domestic violence among this population.

**Dates active:** 1991 -- present

**Category:** Violence prevention  
Services for the disadvantaged

**UIC Partners:** Medicine

**Contacts:** **Flaherty, Joseph A.**

Dean, College of Medicine at Chicago

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**Partners:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
National Institute of Mental Health  
National Science Foundation  
William T. Grant Foundation

## Disabling Bullet Project

**Description:** The Disabling Bullet is a four-year model demonstration project that addresses the need to reintegrate into the community an increasing population of individuals disabled as a result of violence.

The main goals of the Disabling Bullet Project are to:

- 1) Develop a training manual for peer-mentors to assist African- American and Latino men with violently-acquired spinal cord injuries through the rehabilitation process;
- 2) Implement the peer-mentor program in three rehabilitation hospitals; and
- 3) Evaluate the effectiveness of this program.

**Dates active:** May 1, 1999 - April 30, 2003

**Category:** Violence prevention  
Rehabilitation and disability studies

**UIC Partners:** Applied Health Sciences

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Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences  
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**Partners:** United States Department of Education  
*Office of Special Education Programs*

### Illinois Violence Prevention Authority Web-site hosting

**Description:** Helps the IVPA to more effectively communicate its programs, resources, and activities by hosting and maintaining its Web site

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention

**UIC Partners:** University Library

**Contacts:** **Case, Mary**  
University Librarian

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**Partners:** Illinois Violence Prevention Authority

### Metropolitan Area Child Study (MACS)

**Description:** The Metropolitan Area Child Study (MACS) is a long-term multidisciplinary collaboration of researchers in psychiatry, psychology, and education from three departments within the university. The aim of MACS was to prevent the development of antisocial and violent behavior in children and to promote the development of academic achievement and social competence. MACS is a longitudinal research demonstration project that was conducted in selected schools in Chicago and Aurora, Illinois from the 1990-91 school year until the 1996-1997 school year.

Results from outcome studies have shown that a combined effort that emphasizes family intervention along with teacher training and classroom training can reduce aggression and improve academic functioning. These results seem to be stronger in schools not in the most economically deprived communities. In addition, other studies from these data have shown management which reduces child misbehavior in class, and that the social cognitive training reduces reliance on aggressive thinking. Data from MACS are still undergoing analysis. In its seven years of operation, over 4,000 children in 23 schools participated.

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention  
Education innovation

**UIC Partners:** Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Medicine

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Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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**Partners:** University of Michigan

### Neither Peace nor War: A Ten Nation Comparative Study of Children in Organized Armed Violence

**Description:** Interviews with children and youth engaged in armed conflict in ten nations, including US (Chicago). This study applies the UN category of "child soldiers" to children in countries not at war, but which have groups of armed youth.

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention  
International collaborations

**UIC Partners:** Urban Planning and Public Affairs

**Contacts:** **Perry, David**

Director, Great Cities Institute

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**Partners:** Center for Integrative and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines

Centre for Democracy and Development (Nigeria)

Christian Brothers Child Protection Program (Sierra Leone)

Coalición Contra la Vinculación de Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia

Corporacion Paz y Democracia (Columbia)

Ford Foundation

Institute for Conflict Research (Belfast, Ireland)

Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)

Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (El Salvador)

Quisqueya International Organization for Freedom and Development (Haiti)

Save the Children -- Sweden

Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Cañas (El Salvador)

University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

Viva Rio (Brazil)

## Urban Gang Research

**Description:** GCI fellow and criminal justice associate professor John Hagedorn researches urban violence, gangs, and the redivision of space in Chicago. Hagedorn also looks at institutionalized gangs in Chicago and how they are similar to gangs in Third World cities, like Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town. A major focus of his work is how gentrification influences violence and why rates of violence vary so widely between cities.

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention  
Neighborhood revitalization

**UIC Partners:** Liberal Arts and Sciences

Urban Planning and Public Affairs

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**Phone:** 312.413.7329

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**Partners:** N/A

## Urban Passage Mentorship Project

**Description:** The participants in this project are under the legal guardianship of DCFS and most reside within group home settings. The goal of the project is to support the reduction of at-risk behaviors (including truancy, tardiness, fighting/violence, involvement with gangs, trouble with the law and use of drugs) by providing participants with mentors. Additionally, youths will learn skills to set goals, develop action plans, and recruit their own mentors. A group of mentors will be provided for participating youths to choose from and develop a mentoring relationship with. This mentoring relationship will be supported within the school and the group home and will serve as a medium for providing both social and academic support. Program effectiveness will be evaluated based on the outcomes achieved by the students as well as the reduction of at-risk behaviors.

**Dates active:** 2000 -- 2002

**Category:** Violence prevention

**UIC Partners:** Applied Health Sciences

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**Partners:** Chicago Public Schools

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

## Youth in Armed Conflict

**Description:** Comparative research venture aimed at developing a theory of gangs and armed young men in the world today

**Dates active:**

**Category:** Violence prevention  
International collaborations

**UIC Partners:** Urban Planning and Public Affairs

**Contacts:** **Perry, David**

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**Partners:**

Columbia University

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation

Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)

Johns Hopkins University

Lagos State University (Nigeria)

New York University

Social Science Research Council

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

University of California--San Diego

University of California--San Francisco

University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)

University of Sierra Leone

University of Tasmania (Australia)

University of the Western Cape (South Africa)

Viva Rio (Brazil)