



Violence Prevention

CeaseFire's violence prevention strategy combines community mobilization, outreach, faith leader involvement and police participation to reduce violence in the same way that other serious health threats -- such as AIDS and tuberculosis -- have been addressed. The program relies on community leaders, with strong ties to high-risk individuals, who work together to interrupt conflicts and to change behavioral norms in the community.

Photo by: Roberta Dupuis-Devlin

"We see violence as group behavior and preventable. The reality is that none of these people were born bad. The behavior was learned, and the best way to change it is with peer pressure. Peer pressure is stronger than law enforcement for changing norms."

—Gary Slutkin, MD, Executive Director of *CeaseFire*

Center for Research in Law and Criminal Justice

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; offers 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.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences

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The Chicago Internet Project

Funded by the National Institute of Justice (2004-2007), a team of researchers developed an online data system that "measures what matters" to the public and is consistent with current theories of community and problem oriented policing. This project provided a feasibility test for a comprehensive web-based community survey methodology. A randomized trial was conducted in fifty-one Chicago neighborhoods to determine whether this approach can enhance the problem solving process, educate the public on public safety issues, stimulate community engagement, strengthen police-community relations, and improve police accountability to local community priorities.

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(see also *Education Innovation*)

Chicago Project for Violence Prevention/CeaseFire

CeaseFire is a strategic community-based effort to stop shootings and killings through street-level outreach, public education, and community mobilization. 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 supported by private foundation grants and with local, state, and federal funds. The project is housed at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Partners:

UIC Public Health	Edelman
UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Equis Corporation
Alliance of Logan Square Organizations	Executives Club of Chicago Inc.
AT&T Inc.	Field Trip Factory
Baxter International, Inc.	Greater North Michigan Avenue Association
Bethel New Life, Inc.	Humboldt Park Ministerial Association
BP Foundation	Illinois Arts Council (IAC)
Chicago Community Trust	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Chicago Police Department	Illinois Department of Corrections
Chicago Public Schools	Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
Chicago Transit Authority	John Buck Company
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce	K. Andre Consulting
Community Renewal Society	Kraft Foods Inc.
Deloitte Consulting LLP	Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary	MidSouth Planning and Development Commission
Dominick's Finer Foods, LLC	Nia Enterprises, LLC
Draft, Inc.	

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Dates Active:

1995—present

(see also *Neighborhood Revitalization*)

Northeastern Illinois University,
Center for Inner City Studies
Northern Trust Corporation
Office of the Governor (Illinois),
Bureau of Technology and
Industrial Competitiveness
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)

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.

Partners:

UIC Medicine
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

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Dates Active:

1991—present

(see also *Services for the Disadvantaged*)

Compassion Capital Fund Communities Empowering Youth Program

Operating through the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention/CeaseFire, this program proposes a capacity-building initiative that uses training and technical assistance to build on strengths and address weaknesses of partners in the Auburn-Gresham, Grand Boulevard and Logan Square neighborhoods of Chicago. In particular, the training focuses on two or more of the following areas: leadership development, organizational development, program development and community engagement. Specific needs will be identified through a self-assessment, the results of which will be incorporated into an individualized capacity-building plan for specific partners.

CeaseFire is a multifaceted approach to stopping shooting and killings by changing the thinking and behavior of those at greatest risk of shooting someone else or being shot themselves. To do so, CeaseFire's parent organization, the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention, collaborates with community and faith based organizations to mobilize their communities and identify and engage those individuals—most of whom are gang involved—that are likely to be involved in a shooting and redirect them to positive pursuits.

Partners:

UIC Public Health
United States Department of Health
and Human Services, Administration
for Children and Families

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Dates Active:

September 2006–September 2007

Disabling Bullet Project

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.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences
United States Department of Education,
Office of Special Education Programs

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Dates Active:

May 1999–April 2003

(see also *Rehabilitation and
Disability Studies*)

An Evaluation of Gang Hot Spots Policing in Chicago

The project, funded by the National Institute of Justice (2006-2008), seeks to evaluate the latest innovation in urban policing, namely, hot spots policing. Using advanced information technology and street-level intelligence, resources are deployed to “hot” geographic areas where unusual levels of violent crime are evident or predicted. Qualitative field work by UIC researchers is documenting the “theory of action,” implementation processes, and program context within the Chicago Police Department. Advanced quantitative methods are being used to estimate the impact of hot spots policing on levels of homicide, violence crime, drug markets, and gang activity. Claims that hot spots policing practices are responsible for recent large decreases in public violence will be tested.

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Formative, Process and Impact Evaluation of CLEARPath

Funded by the MacArthur Foundation (2006-2007), this multi-method research project will assess efforts to develop a futuristic information system, CLEARpath. This initiative is being designed jointly by the Chicago Police Department and community groups to be: (1) a gateway for community involvement in diverse aspects of public safety in Chicago, (2) a citywide problem analysis and tracking system to facilitate community-level problem solving, (3) a mechanism for the police to share more crime-related information with community members, and (4) a mechanism to enhance communication among the police and various elements of the community. CLEARpath has the potential to increase police accountability and to serve as a mechanism for building community capacities, such as social capital, collective efficacy, and trust, which are considered important for improving neighborhood safety and reducing violence.

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(see also *Education Innovation*)

Illinois Violence Prevention Authority Web site Hosting

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

Partners:

UIC University Library

Illinois Violence Prevention Authority

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The Impact of Welfare Reform on Domestic Violence

This program focuses on the impact of welfare reform on domestic violence. Welfare reform requires recipients to work in order to get benefits. At the time welfare reform was passed, advocates of abused women were concerned that work requirements might exacerbate violence against women. Abusive men might resent women's increased independence obtained by working and might interfere with women's employment. Researchers have been examining this issue with a 4-year longitudinal data set of current and former welfare recipients in Illinois.

Partners:

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State of Illinois

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Dates Active:

2001–present

Interdisciplinary Center for Violence Research

With competitive seed funding from the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Research (2006-2007), a team of UIC researchers from four colleges, in collaboration with community partners, created the Interdisciplinary Center for Violence Research. This center will formalize and expand relationships, allowing scholars and practitioners to more easily share, synthesize, and increase resources devoted to violence research and prevention. The center is promoting cross-fertilization of ideas through interdisciplinary seminars, meetings, list-serves, data sharing, new coursework, graduate/postdoctoral training programs, research on obstacles to interdisciplinary research, and development of interdisciplinary grant applications.

Partners:

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Metropolitan Area Child Study (MACS)

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 1990-1991 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 twenty-three schools participated.

Partners:

UIC Liberal Arts and Sciences
UIC Medicine
University of Michigan

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(see also *Education Innovation*)

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

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.

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Institute for Conflict Research (Belfast, Ireland)
Center for Integrative and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines	Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
Centre for Democracy and Development (Nigeria)	Instituto Universitario de Opinión Pública (El Salvador)
Christian Brothers Child Protection Program (Sierra Leone)	Quisqueya International Organization for Freedom and Development (Haiti)
Coalición Contra la Vinculación de Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes al Conflicto Armado en Colombia	Save the Children—Sweden
Corporacion Paz y Democracia (Columbia)	Universidad Centroamericana “José Simeón Cañas (El Salvador)
Ford Foundation	University of the West Indies, Mona Campus
	Viva Rio (Brazil)

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Urban Gang Research

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.

Partners:

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(see also *Violence Prevention*)

Urban Passage Mentorship Project

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.

Partners:

UIC Applied Health Sciences
Chicago Public Schools
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

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Dates Active:

2000–2002

(see also *Services for the Disadvantaged*)

Violence Prevention for Vulnerable Youth

Works with school districts in Illinois to reduce lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender violence and victimization through comprehensive staff development, networking with community organizations, and advocacy. Evaluates both the process and outcomes of the work.

Partners:

UIC Education
Coalition for Education on Sexual Orientation (CESO)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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Dates active:

2003–2005

(see also *Education Innovation, Health and Wellness*)

Youth in Armed Conflict

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

Partners:

UIC Urban Planning and Public Affairs	Universidad Nacional de Colombia University
Columbia University	of California—San Diego
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation	University of California—San Francisco
Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)	University of Colombo (Sri Lanka)
Johns Hopkins University	University of Sierra Leone
Lagos State University (Nigeria)	University of Tasmania (Australia)
New York University	University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
Social Science Research Council	Viva Rio (Brazil)

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