

Research Evidence on the *Cure Violence* Model for Preventing Serious Violence

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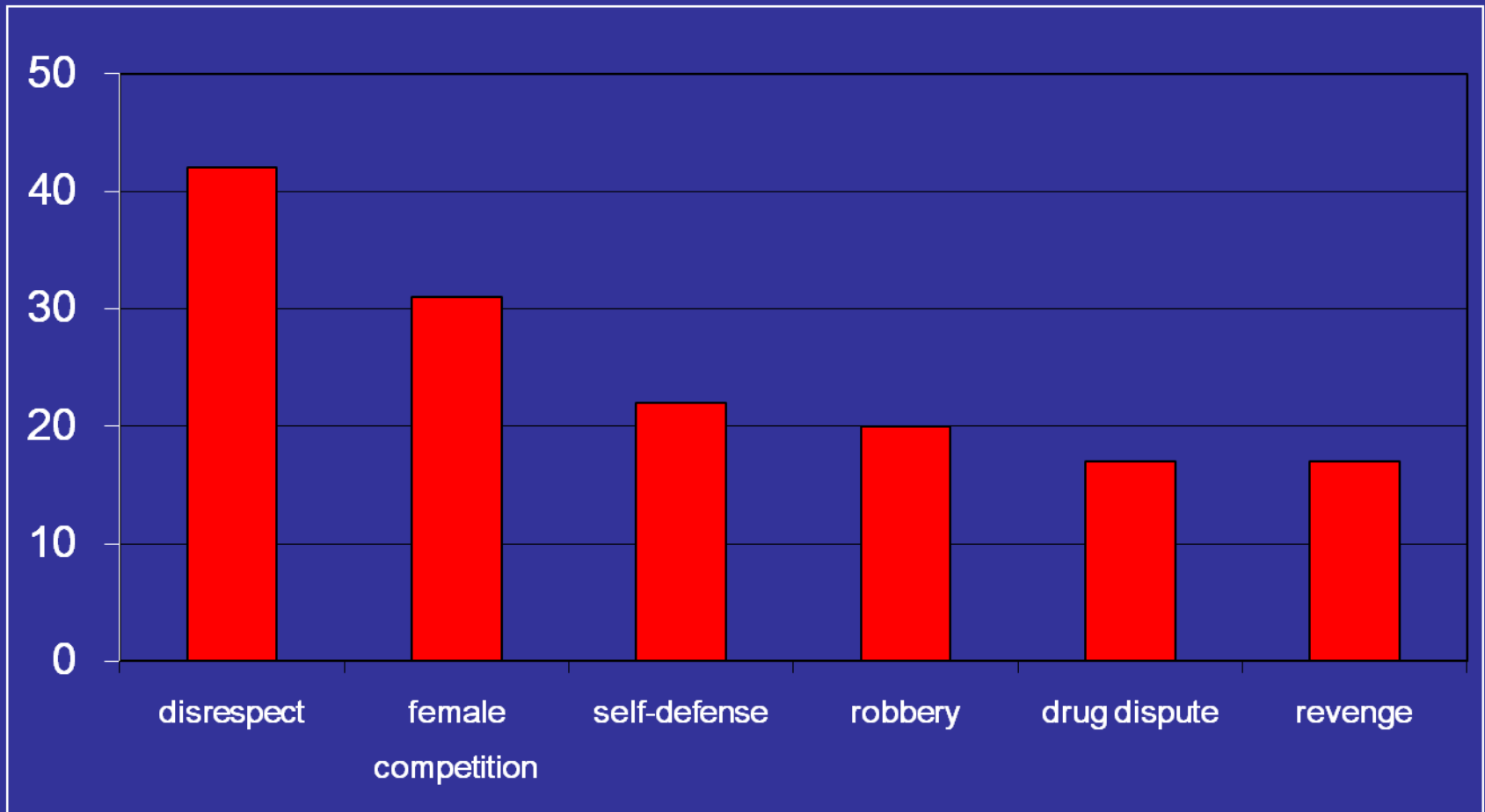
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The Problem: Urban Gun Violence (Mostly) Affecting Youth

- Youth gun violence in U.S. has declined dramatically since peak in 1993. Most of decline occurred 1994-1999.
- In most cities, pockets of concentrated violence persist over decades.
- Some hot spot policing approaches, esp. illegal gun carrying suppression units, reduce shootings, but are vulnerable to abuses.

“Sparks” for violent events involving 125 high-risk urban young males (Wilkinson, 2003)



Does the *Cure Violence* Model Work?

Sometimes

Butts, Roman, Bustwick, & Porter. “Cure Violence: A Public Health Model to Reduce Gun Violence.” *Ann. Rev. Public Health* 2015

Summary of *CeaseFire* evaluation findings (Skogan et al., 2008)

- 7 intervention sites with 33-59 months following program initiation.
- Significant reductions in shootings in 6 sites, reductions significantly greater than in comparison site in 4 sites (-16% to -34%).
- Social network analysis showed mixed results relevant to gang, retaliatory homicides – some very successful, some not.

Other relevant findings from Chicago

- Survey of program participants indicate program reaching very high-risk group
- Participants experience and value CF help with mediating conflicts to avoid violence
- Implementation challenges:
 - Inconsistent funding
 - hiring, managing outreach and VI staff
 - Few CBOs and leaders can run program
 - Neighborhood challenges, disorganization daunting

Street Smart Redefined



Ex-offenders rewrite the code of the streets.

Estimating program effects on homicides and shootings

- Police data Jan. 2003 – May 2012 for homicides and nonfatal shootings. Monthly panel data by police post for top 25% of posts in shootings per month for 2003-2006.
- Negative binomial regression with robust SE to account for clustering of data by post. Controlled for law enforcement activities, initiatives, neighborhood redevelopment.
- No spatial autocorrelation in model errors.

Estimates for intervention effects on homicides through May 2012

	% change	z	P> z
VCIS deployment	-23	-2.02	.043
Northwest Dist. Exile offender call-in	-13	-0.49	.624
Western Dist. Exile offender call-in	+4	0.24	.811
Eastern Dist. Exile offender call-in	-4	-0.17	.866
Safe Sts – McElderry Park	-21	-2.24	.025
Safe Streets – Elwood Park	+13	1.27	.204
Safe Sts – Madison-East End (18 months)	+203	5.41	<.001
Safe Sts – Cherry Hill	-34	-4.26	<.001

Model estimates for effects on nonfatal shooting incidents through May 2012

	% change	z	P> z
VCIS deployment	-15	-1.61	.108
Northwest Dist. offender call-in	-40	-3.23	.001
Western Dist. offender call-in	-14	-0.93	.353
Eastern Dist. offender call-in	-4	-0.18	.859
Safe Streets – McElderry Park	+5	0.85	.398
Safe Sts – Elwood Park	-34	-6.15	<.001
Safe Sts – Madison-East End	-41	-4.52	<.001
Safe Streets – Cherry Hill	-9	-1.20	.231

Connecting dots between program implementation and violence reduction

- Overall program-related reductions in gun violence.
- Positive spill-over effects in adjacent posts
- Safe Sts staff effects similar to detectives in violence unit (later disbanded due to abuse).
- Homicide reductions connected to conflict mediations.

Baltimore Updates

- Cherry Hill and McElderry Park just VIs
- Cherry Hill reductions sustained, not MP
- Preliminary findings not showing reductions in GV in 2 new sites.

Baltimore Implementation Issues

- Of 3 East sites, only McElderry Park had office. 1 director, outreach supervisor, VP coordinator for 3 sites. Model says 1 of each per site.
- Initially, East expansion did not assign staff to specific posts but deployed where violence was greatest.
- Little community involvement in Elwood Park or Madison Eastend.
- Union Square never able to implement w/ fidelity. Staff later arrested for involvement in drugs, gangs.

Conflict Mediations Prevent Violence

Whitehill, Webster, Vernick 2013; Whitehill et al. 2013

- Places and times with large homicide reductions linked to gang mediations.
- Places with no homicide reduction encountered more retaliatory violence, more guns.
- Immediate response – separate those involved, encourage nonviolent resolution by highlighting negative consequences of violence, return stolen property, resolve misunderstanding.
- Successful mediations built on trust, respect

Effects on Attitudes Supporting Use of Guns to Settle Disputes

- Planned pre-/post-test with comparison communities, but IRB and hiring hurdles prevented baseline data collection.
- On-street anonymous self-administered surveys with hypothetical scenarios to test if using a gun to threaten or shoot was justified.

Responses to questions on support for shooting to settle disputes, waves 1 and 2 combined.

<i>Do you think it's okay to shoot someone if ...</i>	% No	
	MP	comp.
Guy dancing with girlfriend.	68	53
Guy beat up my brother last week.	65	49
Guy robbed me of \$50 and boots.	50	42
Guy hasn't paid \$100 he owes me.	61	42
Guy disrespects me in front of my friends. I think he is carrying a gun.	42	44

Estimates from multinomial logistic regression on strong support for using guns to resolve conflicts in survey wave 1.

	aOR	Signif.
Age	1.23	.107
Ever arrested	0.49	.239
Ever shot or shot at	2.96.	.079
Sibling ever shot or shot at	1.33	.625
Friends' support for gun violence	1.46	<.001
McElderry Park / Safe Streets	0.14	<.001

Estimates from multinomial logistic regression on strong support for using guns to resolve conflicts in survey wave 2.

	aOR	Signif.
Age	0.98	.469
Ever arrested	2.49	.209
Ever shot or shot at	2.62	.146
Sibling ever shot or shot at	2.59	.625
Friends' support for gun violence	1.28	<.001
McElderry Park / Safe Streets	0.13	.008

Survey of Baltimore Safe Streets participants

- Participants received help finding a job (88%), preparing for interviews (75%), training (63%), GED training (95%).
- 52% reported help peacefully resolving potentially violent conflict, all reported help resolving conflicts with family members.

Save our Streets – Crown Heights, Brooklyn

Picard-Fritsche & Cerniglia, Center for Court Innovation

- Shootings: -6% in Crown Hts. vs. +20% in 3 comparison areas in Brooklyn. If comparisons estimate counterfactual, program linked with -20% in GV. Only 18 months pre-program data analyzed.
- Participants surveyed got help from staff mediating conflicts.
- Citizens were aware of the program, but no program effects on perceived safety.

TRUCE (Phoenix, AZ)

Fox et al., *Justice Quarterly* 2014

- Evaluated effect of Cure Violence replication in Hermoso Park from June 2010 to Dec. 2011.
- Quasi-experiment with neighborhoods matched by crime, but no good match on race/ethnicity.
- Program associated with +3.2 shootings/shots fired incidents per month.

Conclusions and Thoughts

- Cure Violence model has contributed to significant reductions in gun violence sometimes.
- Research should examine correlates of program success (workers, community characteristics, mgmt. structure)
- Approach to changing behavior and social norms more explicit, with aids for promoting best practices.
- More attention to workers. Not just screening, but oversight and support for highly stressful job and life.