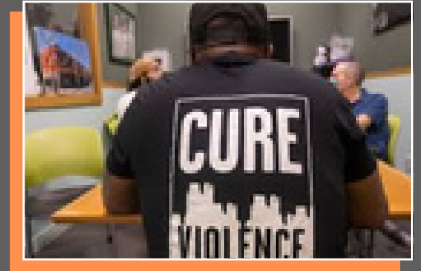




Violence Interruption

EASTPORT



What is Violence Interruption?

Violence interruption involves working with people at risk of committing or being the target of violence to prevent violence. It is an urgent response to violence.

Violence interrupters from the community work in the community to find alternatives to looming violent situations.



Framework

Street Outreach

- A team of street outreach workers are present in target neighborhoods, offering:
- Youth mentorship
 - Conflict mediation
 - Resource navigation

Programs and Skills

- Offer targeted community services to support:
- Employment
 - Education
 - Life Skills
- Host local events to change community norms.

Coordination

- Collaborate with system partners to track:
- Goals and performance measures
 - Progress updates
 - Impact reports

Background

In the summer of 2022, through a partnership between the Department of Health's Gun Violence Intervention Team and the Annapolis Mayor's Office, Cure Violence Global came to Annapolis for a week-long assessment to address and decrease gun violence through violence interruption.

Members of the Cure Violence team met with a wide range of stakeholders, including city and county leaders, agencies and community organizations, some of whom are in the streets working with at-risk individuals and others who provide a range of preventive and social services. They met with the Annapolis Police who are on board and know that any violence interruption program would run parallel with their work. They also met with city agencies like the Housing Authority.

Next steps

Hiring

We are here



- Post positions
- Pre-screening candidates
- Panel interviews
- Offer letters

Training and Onboarding



- Training for:
- Program Manager
 - Violence Interrupter
 - Outreach Worker
 - Database

Implementation



- Violence Interruption work begins
- Weekly performance reports and check-ins
- Quarterly impact reports
- Community and partner presentations



For more information, scan the QR code above or visit
AAHealth.org/cure-violence-global

Why Eastport?

In 2023, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health held listening sessions in Annapolis communities identified through the Cure Violence Global assessment as locations where a violence interruption program could be implemented.

The purpose of these listening sessions were to identify which area would be the best fit for a Violence Interruption Program.

Through these listening sessions, Eastport residents expressed interest in having a violence interruption program in their community.



Number of homicides or gun injuries (excluding suicide) from 2018 through November 2023:

174 within a 2-mile radius
of Eastport Terrace and Harbor House

About Kingdom Kare

Kingdom Kare, Inc. is the Community-Based Organization chosen to implement the Violence Interruption Program. Kingdom Kare will partner with Troy Stansbury, President and CEO of *A Glimpse of Paradise*, another nonprofit organization that does community work in Annapolis.

They are experienced in gun violence interruption, intervention and prevention through their MAN UP ANNE ARUNDEL program in West County. Kingdom Kare works with and trains culturally sensitive, credible messengers to interrupt the cycles of violence and change community norms.



Some of their work includes:

- Working with individuals preparing to be released from incarceration
- Community outreach in areas identified as hotspots
- Community Violence Intervention Training
- Connecting residents to mental health resources
- Victim assistance
- Weekly Attendance with the Caucus of African American Leaders
- After school youth programs
- Community Surveys
- Gun lock distribution
- Workshops and classes
- Community canvassing
- Weekly food distribution

“By having known community leaders be a part of our program we’ve created an environment of Awareness and Accountability. Residents are seeing the value in having a safe community.”

-Bishop Antonio Palmer



What is Violence Interruption?

Violence interruption...

involves working with people at risk of committing or being the target of violence to prevent violence. The work is done by trained violence interrupters, who work in the streets and are from the communities they are working in. They have to have credibility in those communities.

What's the difference between violence interruption and violence prevention?

Violence prevention...

is a broader strategy that works with communities to decrease the overall level of violence. While these approaches go hand in hand, violence interruption is an intense and specialized set of work.

How it works

Violence Interruption hires members of the community who have had similar life experiences to those at the highest risk of committing acts of violence.

Staff are trained and receive extensive education and coaching in evidence-based methods of mediation, persuasion, behavior change and norm change — all of which are essential for limiting the spread of outbreaks of violence.

The work includes:

- Detecting and interrupting potentially violent situations
- Identifying and changing the thinking and behavior of the highest risk transmitters (those most likely to engage in violence)
- Changing group norms that support and perpetuate the use of violence

The work of violence interrupters takes a public health approach that recognizes that violence spreads much like infectious diseases do.

Cure Violence Global is a national organization that has been working for more than two decades to interrupt cycles of violence in communities. They explicitly take a public health approach, one that recognizes that violence spreads much like infectious diseases do.