

Cure Violence Annapolis

**January 2025 - March 2025
Report**



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Violence Interruption Program

The Violence Interruption Program (VIP) is a public health approach to violence prevention that works with high-risk individuals aged 15-35. Cure Violence Annapolis (CVA) is a program based on the Cure Violence Global (CVG) model, which views violence as a learned behavior grounded in social determinants of health. The program's focus is to detect and interrupt potentially violent situations, changing the behavior of those most at risk, and changing group norms that support violence. This report focuses on the VIP effort in the Eastport area of Annapolis.

Progress Update

Staff track their work through daily logs in the Cure Violence database, with hours for Violence Interrupters (VIs) and Outreach Workers (OWs) noted as working towards interruption, norm change or behavioral change. Interruption includes both VI and OW staff intervening in crisis, mediating disputes between individuals, and interceding in group disputes to prevent acts of violence. Norm and behavioral change include both VI and OW staff working to change the thinking on violence at both the individual and community levels. Supervisor hours are used for staff facilitation, community monitoring, mediation, and community education and activities.

VI and OW Daily Log Hours	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Behavioral Change	62 hours	58 hours	107 hours
Norm Change	86 hours	71.5 hours	117 hours
Interruption	558 hours	506 hours	566 hours
Total Hours	706 hours	635.5 hours	790 hours

Behavioral Change: Meet those at highest risk where they are by talking to them about the costs of using violence and helping them to obtain the social services they need, such as job training and drug treatment.

Norm Change: Coordinating with new, existing, and establishing block clubs, tenant councils, and neighborhood associations within the catchment area to assist in preventing violence. Distributes materials and hosts events within the catchment area to convey the message that violence is not acceptable. Whenever a shooting occurs within the Cure Violence catchment area, workers organize a response where dozens of community members voice their objections to the shooting.

Interruption: Trained VIs and OWs prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the catchment area, and following up to ensure that the conflict does not reignite.

Supervisor Role: Meet with VIs and OWs daily to discuss the day's plan and address any concerns about target areas. Tasks include:

- Engage with the community
- Develop outreach plans for target areas
- Guide VIs and OWs about potential shootings
- Conduct end-of-day debriefings
- Approve new participants
- Review documentation
- Assist staff with program needs
- Address staffing issues

Supervisor Daily Log Hours	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Briefings or Debriefings	60	48	47
Community Activities	5	4	0
Mediations/Follow-ups	5	5	10
Monitoring Communities	37	22	29
Public Education	4	2	5
Referrals	1	2	2
Staff Meetings	7	6	6
Staff Supervisions	10	6	15

As staff canvass the community, they are able to provide referrals to community members and program participants. This chart shows the cumulative number and a breakdown of referrals for participants and nonparticipants each month. Referral numbers in specific service areas can fluctuate because staff often provide necessary connections to participants in previous months, fulfilling those immediate needs.

Participants			
Referrals	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Education	2	0	0
Finance	9	1	0
Hospital	0	0	0
Housing	0	0	0
Legal	0	0	0
Psych	0	2	2
Social	1	1	0
Work	19	2	3
Other	0	0	0
Non-Participants			
Referrals	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Education	8	14	17
Finance	1	3	0
Hospital	0	0	0
Housing	1	5	1
Legal	2	1	0
Psych	1	1	0
Social	1	1	0
Work	14	23	36
Other	5	6	11
Total	64	60	70

Violence Interruptions

On March 22, 2025, VIs responded to an incident involving two men fighting (presumed to be over a female) where one individual discharged a firearm into the air. The team successfully de-escalated the situation through direct engagement with the shooter, preventing further violence or retaliation.

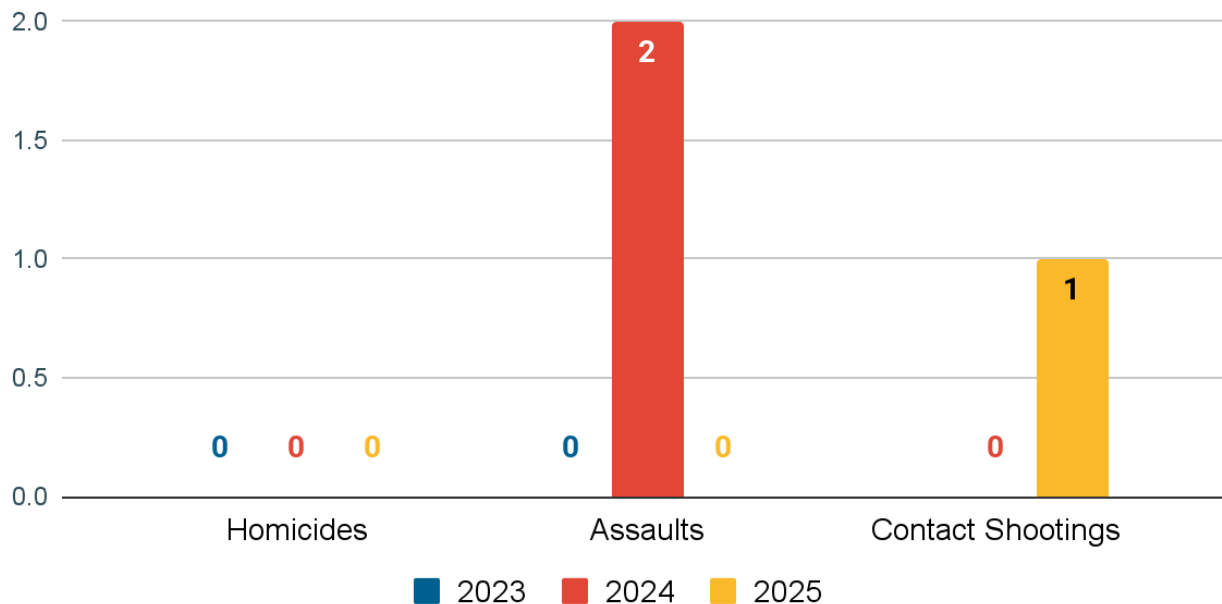
Program Participants

OWs are actively canvassing the area to identify and engage the highest-risk participants, maintaining a current caseload of 16 individuals. These participants receive comprehensive support, including job readiness workshops, dedicated wellness days for both men and women, and educational field trips. Crucially, workers provide ongoing case management to address any emergent needs and facilitate referrals to essential services such as legal aid, financial assistance, hospital care, housing support and employment opportunities. Furthermore, trained outreach staff work intensively with participants, engaging weekly to foster behavioral change, specifically discussing the profound costs associated with violence to encourage safer behavioral norms.

Community Violence

According to the Annapolis Police Department, gun-related homicides saw no change from January 2023 to March 2025. Non-contact decreased during this same timeframe. However, gun-related contact shootings are slightly higher in this timeframe. Perception from City of Annapolis officials supports the data indicating a reduction in violence in certain offenses in Eastport from 2024 to date.

Gun-Related Homicides, Assaults and Contact Shootings Occurring in ZIP Code 21403, January 2023 - March 2025



Community Partnerships

Kingdom Care Inc.'s (KKI) extensive network has been instrumental in addressing the needs and concerns of the Eastport community. The Ongoing partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) has allowed them to secure office space and access to the Eastport Community Center for programming. Their rapport with community partners and government officials significantly bolstered the CVA initiative's presence. The CVA team partnered with the Community Action Agency, Anne Arundel Workforce Development, and Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program to host the job fair in October.

The team will continue to maintain its current partnerships with county public libraries, Agape Way, Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, the American Heart Association, and several other organizations.

Community Events

The CVA Program Manager and the team have successfully created events within the community to engage families and recruit high-risk individuals.

CVA Events Hosted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 31 - Partnered with MBK (My Brother's Keeper) and participated in an ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) session with their current cohort of men. • February 28 - Hosted a Black History Month program featuring guest speakers who discussed various historical subjects and highlighted Black historical figures. • March 20 - Hosted an ACEs class. • March 25 - Conducted community-wide follow-up meeting with updates.
CVA Events Attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 25 - Three participants attended the Total Man Empowerment Conference, which focused on mental, physical, financial and family health for men. • February 26 - Attended the Eastport Resident Meeting hosted by the HACA and Mrs. Toni Strong Pratt.

Program Challenges and Barriers

Although developing an initial presence and relationships within the community started slowly, CVA's presence has become well-known and trusted, which may have contributed to the documented reduction in violence. The team is still working on using the CVG database with fidelity so their efforts can be appropriately documented. CVA will also continue to use the training they received to recruit high-risk participants continuously and create events to support the community.

After further conversations with CVG and the AACDOH, CVA has identified other ways to recruit high-risk participants and maintain the model's fidelity.

Activities include:

- Being more intentional about targeting participants based on the seven indicators within the model that determine high-risk status, at least four of which have to be met:
 - Between the ages of 15 and 35 years old
 - Involvement in street activity associated with violence
 - Legal history of involvement in violent activity
 - Personal injury due to recent violence
 - Proximity to a friend, family or group member injured by violence recently
 - Membership in a group that is involved in street activity
 - Easy access to a weapon
- Using CVA programs to target and recruit participants.
- Reminding staff that they are credible messengers and one of the reasons they were hired was based on the rapport they have with families and individuals who can benefit from this program within the Eastport area.
- Planning and creating other programming that is tailored to the specific needs of participants and other members of the target population.

Next Steps

CVA's primary focus is to continue recruiting high-risk individuals for the program and to expand on the programming they have created. The VIs and OWs will continue to work in known hot spots to detect and interrupt potentially violent conflicts. The program will also continue to engage families and youth by addressing the community's needs and providing access to, as well as advocating for, services that may need to be more readily available. To do so, they will host and create numerous programs and events. Community feedback will be obtained to determine whether the available services are impactful or if anything different needs to be done.

Below are some programs and events that they plan to host in the upcoming months:

- Job Readiness Workshop
- Wellness Day for Mothers
- Wellness Day for Fathers
- Gun Violence Awareness Event

The AACDOH will continue to provide oversight and monitor the program's progress and outcomes by reviewing the database entries, meeting with staff, performing site visits, and reviewing monthly program reports. Our CVG partners will continue to provide ongoing technical assistance as needed to ensure that the program work matches the model's fidelity. Support will include in-person visits from CVG partners, continued virtual meetings and ongoing training, as needed.

In partnership with CVG and the AACDOH, CVA will review and discuss whether there is a need to expand the CVA targeted area based on the need within the targeted and surrounding areas. This review will only be conducted to expand the model if there continues to be an uptick in violence within the surrounding areas, and not specifically in the targeted Eastport area.