PO Box 73466
Washington DC 20056-3466
202-827-5967
inbox@peacethroughaction.org
peacethroughaction.org
@peaceactusa #PeaceBeginsWithWe

CHOOSE COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

What is community violence intervention and prevention?

Community violence intervention and prevention is a community-based approach to reducing violence by building relationships with people who are most likely to be affected by violence.[1] These efforts often involve trusted community members, outreach workers, violence interrupters, hospital responders, faith leaders, and service providers who work together to prevent violence before it occurs.[2]

Community violence intervention programs focus on addressing immediate conflicts, reducing retaliation after violent incidents, and connecting individuals and families with support that can improve safety and well-being.[3]

How do people learn community violence intervention and prevention?

People typically learn community violence intervention and prevention through specialized training programs, mentorship, field experience, and professional development offered by community organizations.[4] Training often includes conflict mediation, trauma-informed care, relationship building, safety planning, case management, and violence interruption practices.[5]

Many practitioners learn by working alongside experienced outreach workers and community leaders who have established trust and credibility within their communities.[4]

How do people implement community violence intervention and prevention?

Community violence intervention and prevention is implemented through direct engagement with individuals, families, and groups facing elevated risks of violence.[1] Practitioners identify conflicts before they escalate, mediate disputes, support victims and survivors, respond after violent incidents, and connect participants with resources such as education, employment, counseling, housing assistance, and mentoring.[2]

Many communities also use hospital-based violence intervention programs that engage victims of violence shortly after injury and provide longer-term support to reduce reinjury and retaliation.[6]

For what types of circumstances is community violence intervention and prevention suited?

Secondary: Community violence intervention and prevention is well suited for situations

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in which social distress, interpersonal conflict, retaliation, or community tensions create a heightened risk of violence.

Tertiary: Community violence intervention and prevention is well suited for helping individuals, families, and communities recover from the effects of violence and work toward healing, restoration, and long-term safety.

Does community violence intervention and prevention work for preventing or controlling social distress?

Research suggests that community violence intervention programs can reduce shootings and killings when they are implemented consistently and focused on people at greatest risk.[7] A systematic review of the Cure Violence approach found that most evaluated sites experienced reductions in shootings or killings following implementation.[7]

Research has also found that hospital-based violence intervention programs can reduce violent reinjury and improve long-term outcomes for participants.[6] Federal agencies have increasingly recognized community violence intervention as a promising evidence-informed approach to reducing violence and strengthening community safety.[13]

Where else might I go to learn more about community violence intervention and prevention?

National Institute of Justice
https://nij.ojp.gov/

Urban Institute Community Violence Intervention Research and Evaluation Support Center
https://www.urban.org/projects/community-violence-intervention-research-and-evaluation-support

Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI)
https://www.thehavi.org

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions
https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions

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Author: Olivia Levinton

If you have suggested additions to this information, send to inbox@peacethroughaction.org.

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