

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

Programs and Skills

Coordination

A team of street outreach workers are present in target neighborhoods, offering:

- Youth mentorship
- Conflict mediation
- Resource navigation

Offer targeted community services to support:

- Employment
- Education
- Life Skills

Host local events to change community norms.

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 the city and county leaders, agencies, community organizations, some of whom are in the streets working with at-risk individuals, others of whom 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 in parallel with their work. They also met with city agencies like the Housing Authority.

Next steps Implementation

Hiring



We are here

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

Training & Onboarding



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

Reporting



- Weekly performance reports
- Quarterly impact reports
- Community and partner presentations

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.



From 2018 through August 2023

There were 74 homicides or gun injuries (excluding suicides) within a 1 mile radius of Eastport Terrace.

There were 141 homicides or gun injuries (excluding suicides).

From January - August 2023 there were 5 homicides and 5 contact shootings within a mile radius of Eastport Terrace

About Kingdom Kare

Kingdom Kare, Inc. (KKI) is the Community Based Organization chosen to implement the Violence Interruption Program. 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

“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



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Some of their work includes:

- Identifying hotspots
- Working with individuals & family members preparing to be released from incarceration
- Community outreach in areas identified as hotspots
- Community Violence Intervention Training
- Workshops and classes
- Community surveys
- Gun safety lock distribution
- Assisting shooting survivors with food supplies, BGE and rental assistance
- Connecting residents to mental health resources
- Weekly Attendance with the Caucus of African American Leaders (CAAL)
- Partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club
- After school youth activities



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-Bishop Antonio Palmer



Dr. Antonio Palmer pastored in Annapolis for 10 years alongside his wife Dr. Barbara Palmer. Through the years, Dr. Antonio Palmer has and continues to lead many efforts outreach efforts, such as Peace Walks, Stop the Violence Community Days, and MAN UP.

Kingdom Kare will be partnering with “A Glimpse of Paradise” another nonprofit organization who does community work in Annapolis.

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

Cure Violence 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.

