Cure Violence approaches violence with the understanding that violence is an epidemic process that can be stopped using the same health strategies employed to fight epidemics. This theory of change utilizes carefully selected and trained workers — trusted members of the communities we serve — to interrupt the contagion using a three-prong approach:

1. Detect and interrupt the transmission of violence. Anticipate where violence may occur and intervene before it erupts.

2. Change the behavior of the highest potential transmitters. Identify those at highest risk for violence and work to change their behavior.

3. Change community norms. Influence social norms to discourage the use of violence.

The Cure Violence method was developed using strategies derived from the World Health Organization, and has won multiple awards. It has been promoted by the Institute of Medicine, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and others. Its work was featured in the 2014 New York Times best-seller “A Path Appears” and in the 2011 award winning documentary The Interrupters. The health approach is currently being implemented by local partners with great success throughout the world.

Cure Violence provides a low-cost, high-impact way to reduce violence in the most violent communities, paving the way for increased investment and prosperity. Our highly adaptable approach works with local partners to take into consideration the very particular political and other considerations at play in the community.
A Proven Theory of Change:
An understanding of violence as an epidemic process; one that:
- Spreads across types of violence
- Interferes with development
- Has dramatic effects on children
- Responds to epidemic control

Independent Evaluations
1. CHICAGO (Northwestern Univ./USDOJ) 41–73% drop in shootings 100% reduction in retaliations
2. BALTIMORE (Johns Hopkins Univ./CDC) 34–56% drop in shootings & killings Evidence of norm change
3. NEW YORK CITY (Center for Court Innovation/USDOJ) 20% lower rate of shooting
4. CHICAGO (University of Chicago/UIC) 31% drop in killings 19% drop in shootings
5. NEW YORK CITY (John Jay/Robert Wood Johnson) 37-50% drop in gun injuries Norm change - less violent
6. PHILADELPHIA (Temple Univ./USDOJ) 30% drop in shootings
7. TRINIDAD (Arizona State Univ./IDB) 45% drop in violent crime 38% drop in gun shot wounds

Characteristics of Cure Violence
- Data driven, evidence-based
- Highly adaptable to different cultures, contexts and types of violence
- Hyper-local approach, working with local partners
- Credible workers with access and ability to change those committing violence

How Cure Violence Can Help
- A proven theory of change - across types of violence
- Training in implementing health approach
- Community assessment and capacity building
- Interruption and outreach training
- Cure Violence Model replication
- Immediate and sustained reductions in violence