Addressing violence as a public health issue

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Board of Health
October 10, 2019
Bull City United is part of the Health Education & Community Transformation Division within Durham County Public Health, focused on violence prevention and intervention.
Violence is contagious – like an epidemic disease

- Exposure to violence has been shown to increase a person’s risk of adopting violent behaviors themselves.
- Public health methods have been extremely successful in reducing violence in communities around the world.
Cure Violence Model

 Detect and interrupt potentially violent conflicts
  • Prevent retaliations
  • Mediate ongoing conflicts
  • Keep conflicts ‘cool’

 Identify and treat highest risk
  • Access highest risk individuals
  • Change behaviors
  • Help obtain needed social services

 Mobilize the community to change norms
  • Respond to every shooting
  • Spread positive norms
Bull City United
Durham’s Implementation of the Cure Violence Model
Team structure

Team lead: David Johnson

Violence Interrupters:
  Dwight Bagley
  Carlos McClendon
  Matthew Harrington

Outreach Workers:
  Keshia Gray
  Convellus Parker
Targeted Census Tracts

TA1: 1400 (McDougald Terrace)
TA2: 1301 (Southside)
Targeting our focus

Examining the data in 2015:

- **Census tract 1400**
  0.0191 violent crimes per person
  (highest in the city of Durham)

- **Census tract 1301**
  0.0177 violent crimes per person
  (2\textsuperscript{nd} highest in the city of Durham)
Violence is contagious

- A single conflict can extend across many communities
  - We saw this across Durham this summer

- Public health approaches work
Participants

• 60 individuals included as case load, January – June 2019
• Multiple risk factors, making high potential for involvement in violence
  • Gang involvement
  • Prior Criminal History
  • Involved in street activity highly associated with violence
  • Carries a firearm
  • Someone close to participant (family member or gang/group/clique/crew/etc. member) was a recent victim of a shooting
  • Individual was shot within last 90 days
  • Recently released from prison; underlying offense was a violent crime
Impact on Participants

- 91% connected to employment
- 57% of participants employed
- 100% received services to change behaviors
- 79% showed gun related behavior change
• **136 conflict mediations**, involving **581 individuals**
  • 45% due to personal altercations
  • 19% gang disputes
  • 9% conflicts over theft/robbery
  • 10% conflicts over narcotics
  • 7% domestic violence
  • 9% other

• **61%** of the mediations involved conflicts that were *likely or very likely to result in a shooting*.

• **80%** of the mediations *successfully resolved* the conflict at least temporarily or as long as certain conditions were met.
Responding to violence in Durham

Jan-Aug 2019 Mediations & Shootings in BCU target areas

- Mediations
- Shootings

Persons shot in BCU areas, by year

January - Aug, Persons Shot

Future opportunity: Hospital response

• Partner with local trauma centers
• Provide comprehensive response to gunshot, stabbing or blunt trauma victims who arrive at the hospital
• Intervene during the critical window after a violent incident to prevent retaliation
• Interrupt the cycle of violence
Questions?