



Save Our Streets

*A Process and Impact Evaluation of the Cure
Violence Replication in Crown Heights, Brooklyn*



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November 5, 2013
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Youth Gun Violence Epidemic

- Late 1980s saw a spike in gun violence among youth which peaked in 1993/1994
 - In 1993, there were approximately 6,000 gun homicides of people under age 20
 - Explanations for the epidemic include cohort and time-period theories
- Youth gun violence has declined precipitously since the mid-90s, but remains a major problem, particularly for Black and Hispanic youth in urban centers

Responses to the Problem of Youth Violence

The epidemic in gun violence spurred a variety of innovative law enforcement and public health initiatives

- ❑ Community policing and soft enforcement
- ❑ Hot-spot policing
- ❑ Public education on gun safety procedures
- ❑ Gun buy-backs
- ❑ Comprehensive community and law enforcement initiatives

Comprehensive Community Approaches

Boston Gun Project (Kennedy, 1996)

- ❑ Police/Community Partnership; Legal coercion
- ❑ Positive evaluation: A 63-percent decrease in the monthly number of youth homicides in Boston (pre to post)

Project Safe Neighborhoods (Meares, 2004)

- ❑ Similar to Kennedy model except more focus on legal legitimacy and services as well as traffickers
- ❑ Positive evaluation: 37% monthly homicide rate reduction

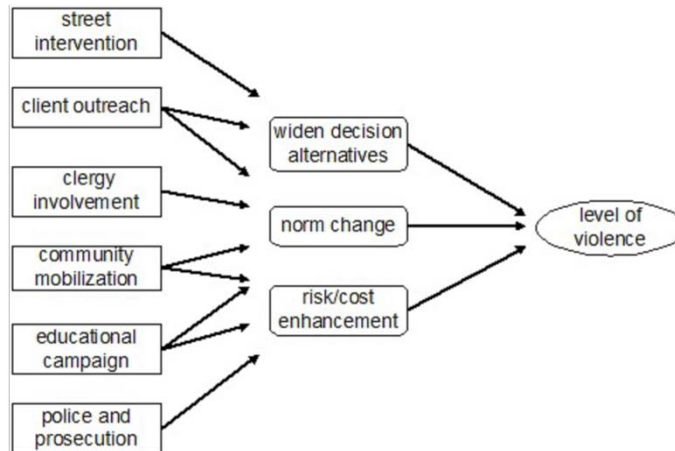
Cure Violence (formerly Chicago Ceasefire) (Slutkin and CPVP, 1999)

- ❑ Positive evaluation: Shooting density reduced by 17-24%
- ❑ Theory-based public health model

Cure Violence Program Model

A public health model for gun violence prevention

- An epidemiological approach that treats neighborhood violence as a disease



SOS Crown Heights: Background

- Founded in late 2009 with the support of the Recovery Grant from the Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program (BJA)
- Replication of the Cure Violence Model
 - Worked closely with Chicago Project for Violence Prevention (CPVP) /high fidelity model
- One of multiple programs in NYC and elsewhere utilizing the Cure Violence model (East New York-"Man Up!", Baltimore, Kansas City, New Orleans)



SOS Project Components Overview

- Cure Violence fidelity
- Outreach with High Risk Individuals
 - Service Referrals
- Violence Interruption/Conflict Mediation
- Community Mobilization Campaign
 - Public Education
 - Community Events
 - Shooting Responses



SOS OUTREACH AND CONFLICT MEDIATION

SOS Outreach and Conflict Mediation

Goals

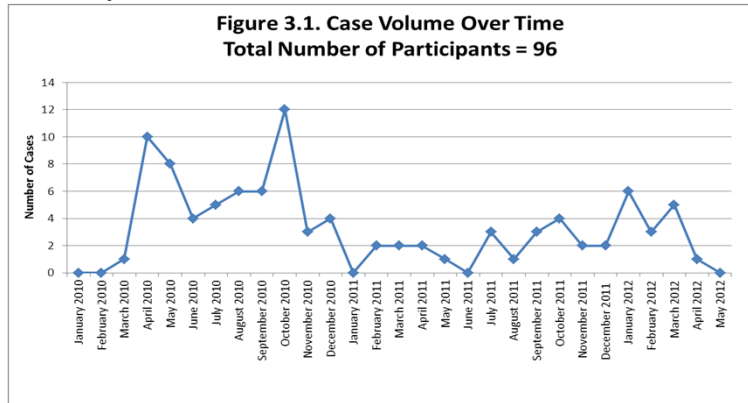
- Recruit and conduct outreach and with high-risk group
 - Provide service referrals
- Conduct Conflict mediation (violence interruption)
- Maintain high fidelity to Cure Violence model
- Detailed data tracked using original Cure Violence database

SOS Outreach and Conflict Mediation

- What is high risk?(4 or more of the following)
 - 16-25 years old
 - Recently released from prison
 - Recent victim of shooting
 - Major player in street organization
 - Active in violent street organization
 - History or violence/crime against people
 - Weapons carrier

Outreach Results

- Outreach workers took an average of 3.3 cases per month



Outreach Results, cont.

- Majority of the participants were African American and Male, total of 96 participants

Table 3.1. Demographics

	January - December 2010	January - December 2011	January - May 2012	Total
Race				
Black/African American	58	21	15	94
Hispanic/Latino	1	1	0	2
Sex				
Male	58	22	15	95
Female	1	0	0	1

Outreach Results, cont.

- Majority of participants are high risk, 16-25, gang involved, and unemployed

Table 3.2. Risk Characteristics

	January - December 2010	January - December 2011	January - May 2012	Total
Total Participants	59	22	15	96
High Risk	64.4%	63.6%	86.7%	67.7%
Medium Risk	20.3%	13.6%	13.3%	17.7%
Low Risk	15.3%	22.7%	0.0%	14.6%
Gang Involved	91.5%	86.4%	100.0%	91.7%
Between Age 16 to 25	88.1%	86.4%	100.0%	89.6%
Recently Released from Prison	30.5%	9.1%	13.3%	22.9%
On Probation	16.9%	4.5%	0.0%	11.4%
On Parole	8.5%	0.0%	13.3%	7.3%
Completed High school/GED	33.9%	22.7%	26.7%	30.2%
Unemployed	88.1%	86.4%	100.0%	89.6%

Outreach Results, cont.

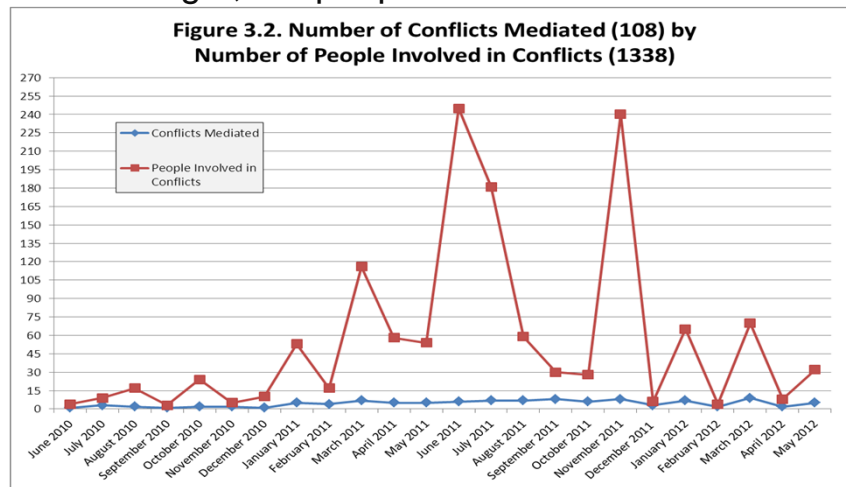
- Outreach workers made 246 referrals, mostly to employment and education
- Participants were retained on average for one year and for those retained for 6 months or longer, outreach workers spent on average 21 one-on-one hours with each participant

Table 4. Top Services Given

	January - December 2010	January - December 2011	January - May 2012	Total
Total Participants Referred	78	120	48	246
Hours Spent with Participants	1099	1309	471	2879
Average Hours Per Participant	14.1	10.9	9.8	11.7
Referrals to Employment	33.3%	55.8%	56.3%	48.8%
Referrals to Education	12.8%	13.3%	12.5%	13.0%
Referrals to Substance Abuse	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Other Referrals	5.1%	22.5%	6.3%	13.8%

Conflict Mediation Results

- Violence interrupters mediated 108 conflicts, involving 1,338 people



Conflict Mediation Results, cont.

Of the 108 conflicts mediated:

- Case managers initially labeled 51% of the conflicts to be very likely leading to a shooting
- Outcomes of mediation:
 - 63% conflict resolved
 - 27% conflict resolved temporarily
 - 7% conflict ongoing
 - 3% unknown

Summary: Outreach and Conflict Mediation Results

- Cure Violence programs are still emerging
 - No standard figures to compare to
- Numbers speak for themselves
 - Many people became participants and received focused attention from outreach workers
- Service referrals were made
 - Majority need education and employment services
- High number of conflicts mediated
 - Conflicts could have ended in gun violence

SOS IMPACT ON GUN VIOLENCE IN CROWN HEIGHTS

Impact Analysis

- Test impact of SOS program on gun violence rates in Crown Heights
- Quasi-experimental design
 - Compared Crown Heights to Bedford-Stuyvesant, East Flatbush, and Brownsville
 - based on most similar demographics and violent crime trends in 2009, the year prior to implementation
 - No other initiatives were taking place in these areas
 - Compared to Brooklyn as whole to contextualize findings and assess for displacement effects

Table 4.1. Demographics in the SOS Target Area (Crown Heights) and the Three Comparison Neighborhoods¹

	Crown Heights (77th Precinct)	East Flatbush (67th Precinct)	Brownsville (73rd Precinct)	Bedford-Stuyvesant (81st Precinct)	Brooklyn Total
Population	96,309	155,252	86,468	62,722	2,504,695
Race					
White	19.5%	2.5%	6.0%	7.3%	42.8%
Black	69.3%	91.5%	81.7%	80.2%	34.3%
American Indian	0.4%	0.3%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%
Asian	2.8%	1.1%	0.7%	1.7%	10.5%
Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	4.3%	2.2%	7.7%	7.0%	8.8%
2 or More Races	3.5%	2.2%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%
Ethnicity					
Hispanic	11.9%	6.8%	20.1%	16.7%	19.8%
Median Age					
Male	27.1	30.4	22.8	27.8	33.1
Female	32.5	35.4	30.2	32.5	34.8
Median Family Income	\$31,398	\$43,169	\$24,659	\$29,883	\$43,166

¹Note: Precinct specific demographic data is a combination of NYPD precinct information and 2010 US Census data, combined and made public by John Keefe at <http://johnkeefe.net/nyc-police-precinct-and-census-data>.

Methods - Impact Analysis

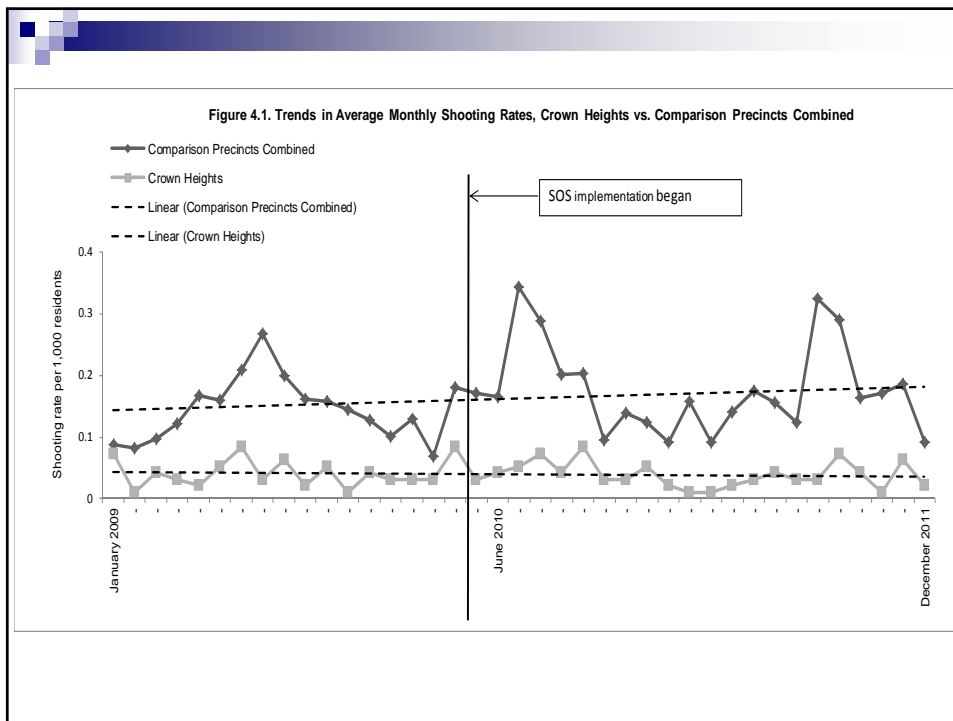
- Interrupted time series method using shooting incident rates per 1,000 people
 - Pre-program – 18 months, Post-program – 21 months
- Monthly Trend Charts
 - illustrate trends before and after implementation
- OLS Regression
 - Test for significant trend in pre-intervention data to obtain predicted rates in all precincts and Brooklyn

Methods - Impact Analysis

- Independent Samples T-Test
 - Compare pre- and post- time periods to see if significant change
 - Ran for all precincts and Brooklyn
- Difference - in - Differences (DiD)
 - Detect differences in pre- to post-program trends between Crown Heights and the comparison precincts

Findings - Impact Analysis

- Monthly Violence Trends
 - Trends affected by seasonality
 - Small post-program decrease in Crown Heights, increase in comparison precincts
- There were no significant trends in pre-program data from OLS regression
 - Could be influenced by seasonality issues
 - Analyze T-tests and DiD instead



Findings - Impact Analysis

■ Independent Samples T-Tests

- The changes in mean monthly shooting rates were not found to be statistically significant; Crown Heights did decrease 5.8%, while all other areas increased

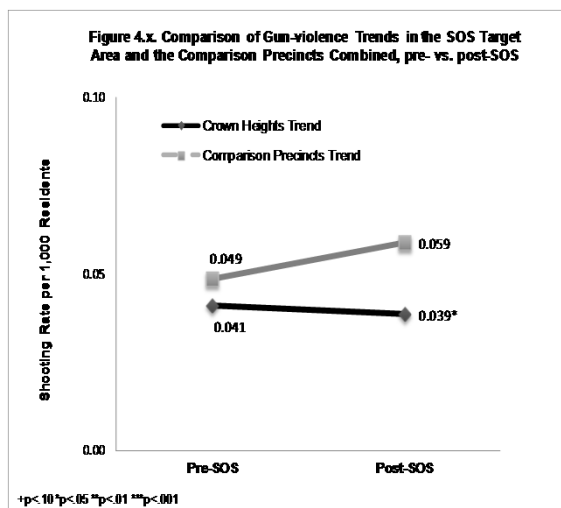
Table 5.3. Percent Change in Monthly Shooting Incidence Pre- to Post-SOS program

	Pre- SOS average monthly rate per 1,000 residents	Post- SOS average monthly rate per 1,000 residents	Percent change in monthly shooting incidence
Crown Heights (77th Precinct)	0.04096	0.03857	-5.8%
East Flatbush (67th Precinct)	0.03256	0.04171	28.1%
Brownsville (73rd Precinct)	0.06232	0.07380	18.4%
Bedford Stuyvesant (81st Precinct)	0.05137	0.06150	19.7%
All Brooklyn	0.01781	0.02108	18.4%

Findings - Impact Analysis

■ DiD

- The difference in post-program reduction in Crown Heights (-.002) compared to the comparison precincts (.01) was statistically significant ($p < .05$)



Findings - Impact Analysis

- Factors affecting analysis
 - Small amount of pre-program data obtained (18 months) for time series analysis
 - Do not account for fluctuations in enforcement patterns
 - Did look at arrest trends and did not find any spikes in arrests that could potentially decrease crime in the following months
 - Do not account for seasonality
 - Could influence the OLS regressions

Summary: Impact Analysis Findings

- Strongly suggest SOS has demonstrable effect on gun violence in Crown Heights
 - Downward trend in violence in Crown Heights, while increase in comparison precincts
 - Significant difference in the violence trend (downward) in Crown Heights vs. the violence trend (upward) in the comparison areas between groups
 - Displacement is weakened
 - Gun violence in Brooklyn as a whole was increasing
 - Less likely to displace crime because of prevention, not enforcement model, not motivated to 'move' crime



SOS COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN



SOS Community Mobilization Campaign

Components of the campaign

Public Education


Community Events

Shooting Responses

Goals of the Campaign

Increase confidence for community mobilization to reduce violence

Shift norms regarding gun violence



Findings: Program Outcomes of the Community Mobilization Campaign

- More than 5,000 public education materials distributed
- 43 community events (e.g., marches, basketball games, barbecues) attended by 5,000 residents
- 50 shooting responses (vigils held at the site of a shooting) attended by more than 1,000 residents



Methods: Measuring the Impact of the Community Mobilization Campaign

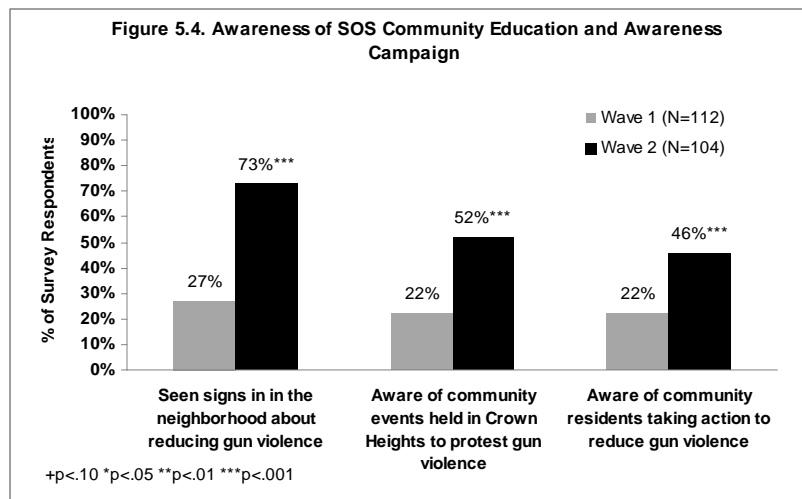
- Pre/post program survey (July 2010 and November 2011—16 month gap)
 - Survey asks about demographics, experiences with gun violence, norms regarding gun violence, and perceptions of neighborhood safety and perceptions of the power of community mobilization
 - Convenience sample (park, train station, shopping district)
 - Wave 1 N=112
 - Wave 2 N=104

Demographics of Community Survey Sample

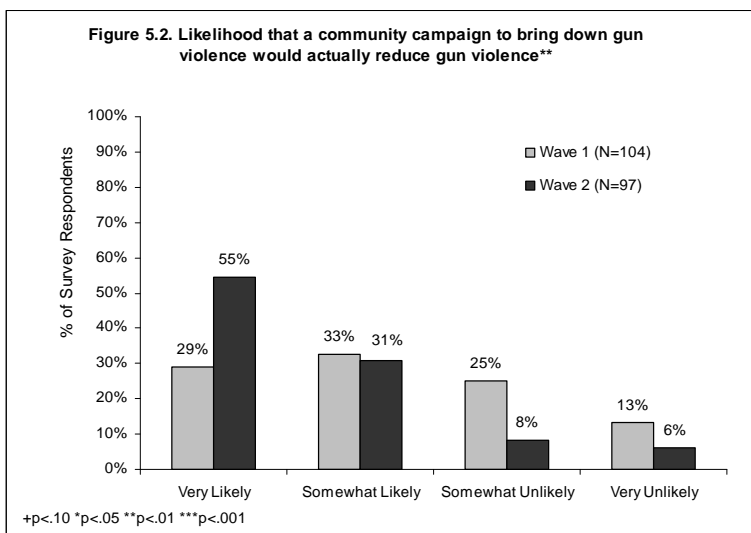
Table 5.1. Save Our Streets Community Survey Respondent Demographics

	Wave 1 2010 (July, N=112	Wave 2 2011 (November, N=104	Total N=216
Total Number of Respondents=216			
Sex			
Male	55%	55%	55%
Female	45%	45%	45%
Mean Age	37	41	39
Mean Number of Years living in Crown Heights	20	20	20
Race			
Black/African-American	55%	42%	49%
Caribbean /West-Indian	25%	22%	23%
Latino/Hispanic	5%	9%	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%	2%	1%
White/Caucasian	1%	8%	4%
Other	6%	9%	7%
Multi-racial	7%	9%	8%
Lifetime Experiences with Gun Violence			
Ever seen someone shot with a gun in the neighborhood	40%	29%	34%
Ever seen someone threatened with a gun in this neighborhood?	49%	29%	39%
Perception of Violence in Crown Heights			
Crown Heights is more violent than other Brooklyn Neighborhoods	34%	38%	36%
Crown Heights is less violent than other Brooklyn neighborhoods	19%	20%	19%
Crown Heights has about the same amount of violence as other Brooklyn neighborhoods	57%	43%	50%

Findings: Exposure to the Community Mobilization Campaign among Residents



Findings: Post-program shift in perceptions of the potential for community mobilization



Summary: Community Mobilization Campaign Findings

- High Exposure to Campaign among residents
- Significant impact on perceptions of the potential for change through community mobilization
- No significant impact on gun violence norms
- Gun violence norms significantly related to history of witnessing violence
- Policy implications – trauma treatment for witnesses of gun violence

Conclusions and Future Research

- This research adds to a growing body of evidence in support of the Cure Violence Model
 - Following Chicago and Baltimore findings
- Model fidelity is important
 - A study of a program that did not replicate the full model (only the outreach component), showed negative results
- Future research
 - Research that further explores the life course of participants in the outreach program
 - Further research into violence and trauma among residents in high crime areas and possible targeted interventions