Life Expectancy: Where You Live Matters

Where we live dramatically affects our health—for better or for worse. Community attributes—including the availability of safe and healthy housing, access to nutritious food and safe places to exercise—can have a direct impact on our opportunity to lead long and healthy lives.
Across America, Differences in How Long and How Well We Live
More Education, Longer Life

For both men and women, more education often means longer life.* College graduates can expect to live at least five years longer than individuals who have not finished high school.

*This chart describes the number of years that adults in different education groups can expect to live beyond age 25. For example, a 25-year-old man with 12 years of schooling can expect to live 50.6 more years and reach an age of 75.6 years.


Prepared for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation by the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco; and Norman Johnson, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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QuickTime™ and a H.264 decompressor are needed to see this picture.
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IS URBAN VIOLENCE A VIRUS?

Gang killing persists like a terrible infectious disease in our cities. Maybe it should be treated like a disease. BY ALEX KOTLOWITZ
QuickTime™ and a
H.264 decompressor
are needed to view this image.
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE

Nearly ONE MILLION HOMICIDES have occurred since 1950.
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE

HOMICIDE is the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 15–34.
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE

FEAR
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE

FEAR

STRESS
AN EPIDEMIC OF STREET VIOLENCE

FEAR

STRESS

STRANDED
REDEFINING
THE PROBLEM
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

SCIENTIFIC
UNDERSTANDING
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

EPIDEMIC CURVES
Cholera in Gannet, Somalia

[Graph showing the number of cases and deaths over time with peaks in March and April, likely due to a registration event and rainfall.]
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

EPIDEMIC CURVES

Killings in Kibuye, Rwanda
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

EPIDEMIC CURVES

Killings in U.S.

Killings in Colombia

Killings in Rwanda

Killings in Brazil
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

VIOLENCE & DISEASE

Transmission characteristics
Dormancy

Time courses
Variable susceptibilities

Incubation periods
Misdiagnosis

Latency
Mistreatment
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

HOW ARE EPIDEMICS REVERSED?
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

WE KNOW HOW TO STOP EPIDEMICS.
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

WE KNOW HOW TO STOP EPIDEMICS.

1. Interrupt transmission
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

WE KNOW HOW TO STOP EPIDEMICS.

1. Interrupt transmission
2. Identify highest potential transmitters
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

WE KNOW HOW TO STOP EPIDEMICS.

1. Interrupt transmission
2. Identify highest potential transmitters
3. Change group norms
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

INTERRUPT
TRANSMISSION
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

INTERRUPT

CEASEFIRE
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

INTERRUPT
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

INTERRUPT

CEASEFIRE
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

IDENTIFY HIGHEST POTENTIAL TRANSMITTERS
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

IDENTIFY
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

CHANGE

GROUP NORMS
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM

CHANGE
REDEFINING THE PROBLEM
PROOF AND VALIDATION
PROOF AND VALIDATION

TIMELINE RESULTS

Logan Square
TIMELINE RESULTS
Rogers Park

PROOF AND VALIDATION
PROOF AND VALIDATION

TIMELINE RESULTS

Southwest
PROOF AND VALIDATION

RESULTS: FIRST 6 CEASEFIRE COMMUNITIES, 2000–2004

*These results are all statistically significant with p<0.01

W. Garfield, W. Humboldt, Logan Square, SW Chicago, Auburn Gresham, Rogers Park
PROOF AND VALIDATION

RESULTS: 8 NEW COMMUNITIES, 2005–2006

- 8 CEASEFIRE ZONES*
- COMPARISON**
- NEIGHBORING**
- CHICAGO*

* Results are significant with p<.01
** Results are significant with p<.05
Communities = Englewood, Brighton Park, E. Garfield, Albany Park, Little Village, Austin, Grand Boulevard, Woodlawn
PROOF AND VALIDATION

RESULTS: 4 NEWEST COMMUNITIES, 2006–2007

- NEIGHBORING*
- 4 CEASEFIRE ZONES
- CHICAGO**

* Results are significant compared to neighboring (p<.01)  ** Results are significant compared to the city (p<.05)
PROOF AND VALIDATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Independent, third party
- Three year evaluation
- Four Institutions
RESULTS

• Decreases shootings and killings
• Decreases retaliatory murders
• Makes shooting hot spots cooler
• Effectively helps highest risk youth
• Makes neighborhoods safer

SKOGAN, EVALUATION OF CEASEFIRE, NORTHWESTERN, 2008
PROOF AND VALIDATION

Auburn Gresham neighborhood

BEFORE
PROOF AND VALIDATION

Auburn Gresham neighborhood

BEFORE

AFTER
PROOF AND VALIDATION

Rogers Park neighborhood

BEFORE
PROOF AND VALIDATION

Rogers Park neighborhood

BEFORE

AFTER
PROOF AND VALIDATION

West Garfield neighborhood

BEFORE
PROOF AND VALIDATION

West Garfield neighborhood

BEFORE

AFTER
PROOF AND VALIDATION

CHICAGO’S NATIONAL HOMICIDE RANKING
CHICAGO'S NATIONAL HOMICIDE RANKING

PROOF AND VALIDATION

CEASEFIRE
PROOF AND VALIDATION

CHICAGO’S NATIONAL HOMICIDE RANKING

CEASEFIRE BEGINS, 2001
REPLICATING THE MODEL
REPLICATING THE MODEL

WHAT NOW?

• Partnerships
• Refinements
• Replications
REPLICATING THE MODEL

WHAT IF?