



The Peace Alliance

## Invest in Peacebuilding *We Can't Afford Not To*

Issue	Estimated Annual Cost	Percentage Reduction Required for Peacebuilding to Pay for Itself
Homicide and Violence-related Medically Treated Injuries <sup>1</sup>	\$37 billion	27%
Suicide and Attempted Suicide <sup>1</sup>	\$33 billion	30%
Child Abuse <sup>2</sup>	\$94 billion	11%
Intimate Partner Violence <sup>2</sup>	\$12.6 billion	79%
Gun violence <sup>3</sup>	\$155 billion	6%
Corrections (prisons, jails, etc.) <sup>4</sup>	\$69 billion	14%
Overall Violence, in total (estimate) <sup>5</sup>	\$300 billion	3%

Researchers at John's Hopkins University found:

"...evidence that 56 percent to 80 percent of the direct medical costs caused by gun and stabbing injuries are either directly paid by public financing or are not paid at all, with government and the health care system absorbing the cost.

"Past studies have shown that preventive programs are much less expensive than the cost of treating the injuries. ...The researchers also noted that juvenile offender interventions have resulted in economic benefits that are more than 30 times greater than the corresponding costs."

Research indicates there are programs that have been successful in reducing suicide rates by 33%, gun violence rates by 50 percent and prison recidivism rates from 3 percent to 60 percent, depending on types of offense and population served.<sup>6</sup>

Note that the above costs reflect only costs of violence within the United States. The cost of just the war in Iraq is estimated to exceed \$650 billion by the end of 2009. This figure includes only the amount allocated by Congress for costs directly related to the Iraq war. It does not include regular military costs (such as base pay for servicemen and women) or potential future costs, such as veterans services.

<sup>1</sup> Includes only lost productivity and medical treatment costs; Corso PS, Mercy JA, Simon TR, Finkelstein EA, & Miller TR. Medical Costs and Productivity Losses Due to Interpersonal Violence and Self- Directed Violence. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 2007: 32(6): 474-482.

<sup>2</sup> Waters, Hugh, Adnan Hyder, Yogesh Rajkotia, Suprotik Basu, Alex Butchart (2005). *The Costs of Interpersonal Violence – An International Review*. Health Policy, Vol. 73, pp. 303-315

<sup>3</sup> Ibid; includes suicide

<sup>4</sup> Includes only government costs; Direct Expenditures by Criminal Justice Function, 1982-2006, Bureau of Justice Statistics

<sup>5</sup> *The Economic Dimensions of Interpersonal Violence*, World Health Organization, 2004

<sup>6</sup> Global Violence Prevention Fact Sheet: Suicide Prevention in the U.S. Air Force; National Institute of Justice website, "Gun Violence Programs: Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI)"; various studies