



The Peace Alliance

Key Statistics on Effectiveness of Peacebuilding

Research has indicated that investing early to prevent conflicts from escalating into violent crises is, on average, **60 times more cost effective** than intervening after violence erupts. [Based on research found in the Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflict's *The Cost of Conflict: Prevention and Cure in the Global Arena* (Ed. Michael E. Brown and Richard N. Rosecrance, 1999)]

Kenya's leading business association assessed economic losses from post-election violence in 2008 as US \$ 3.6 billion. In contrast, the 2010 constitutional referendum, plagued by similar inter-ethnic tensions, did not see any violence. **A violence prevention effort identified and pre-empted nearly 150 incidents of violence. This effort cost only \$ 5 million in comparison.** [Infrastructure for Peace: A way forward to peaceful elections by Kai Frithjof Brand-Jacobsen and Paul van Tongeren; The Life & Peace Institute; 2012]

When crises are mediated, agreements occur in 62% of the cases, compared to 27% of un-mediated cases. [Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Kathleen Young, David Quinn, Victor Asal. "Mediating International Crisis" University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics, Routledge, London (2005)]

A major study by the non-partisan Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that for every dollar spent on county juvenile detention systems, \$1.98 of "benefits" was achieved in terms of reduced crime and costs of crime to taxpayers. By contrast, diversion and mentoring programs produced **\$3.36 of benefits** for every dollar spent, aggression replacement training produced **\$10 of benefits** for every dollar spent, and multi-systemic therapy produced **\$13 of benefits** for every dollar spent. [*The Juvenile Justice System in Washington State: Recommendations to Improve Cost-Effectiveness*, 2002]

After the **Longmont Community Justice Partnership** (in Longmont Colorado) implemented its Community Restorative Justice Program, **recidivism rates dropped to less than 8%** in its first three years. [National Research Center's Analysis of the Longmont Community Justice Partnership 2007-2009 http://www.lcjp.org/images/stories/pdf/LCJP_2007-2009_Report_Final.pdf]

A study by the University of Chicago's Crime Lab reported that 800 disadvantaged boys from seventh through tenth grade who were placed in **Becoming a Man (BAM)** programs in 2009-2010 school year, experienced a **44 percent drop in arrests for violent crime and an up to 23 percent increase in graduation rates.** [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-07-13/news/chi-good-marks-for-mentoring-program-aimed-at-reducing-violence-20120713_1_mentoring-program-graduation-rates-bass-elementary]

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A CDC/Johns Hopkins evaluation of a Baltimore Cure Violence/Ceasefire programs showed statistically significant reductions in all four program sites with **reductions in killings of up to 56% and in shootings of up to 44%**, as well as strong evidence of norm change – rejecting the use of violence – in the program community.
[<http://cureviolence.org/results/scientific-evaluations/>]

Starting in 1994, Ohio implemented **RECLAIM Ohio**, a performance-based funding partnership between the state and local governments that expanded counties' use of effective, cost-efficient community based options for lower-risk juvenile offenders. The program has helped cut recidivism rates and saved the state millions of dollars, while annual **admissions to Department of Youth Services (DYS) facilities fell more than 80 percent** between fiscal 1992 and 2012, from more than 3,700 to 633.2.

Studies have shown that **Triple P Positive Parenting approach had 25-35% reductions in rates of child maltreatment, hospital visits for maltreatment injuries, and foster-care placements**, two years after random assignment. [*Triple P System – Near Top Tier*, Coalition for Evidence Based Policy]

According to a recent report on the economic benefit of evidence-based prevention programs, the Botvin LifeSkills Training (LST) program produced a **\$50 benefit for every \$1 invested in terms of reduced corrections costs, welfare and social services burden, drug and mental health treatment; and increased employment and tax revenue.** [Return on investment: Evidence-based options to improve statewide outcomes. October 2013 (Printed on 3-20-14). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.]

In West Philadelphia High School, within two years of implementing a **Restorative Discipline program, incidents of assault and disorderly conduct dropped more than 65%**. [*“Improving School Climate; Findings from Schools Implementing Restorative Practices” a report from the International Institute for Restorative Practices, 2009.*]

Restorative Justice programs in a West Oakland Middle School pilot project eliminated violent fights and expulsions, and **reduced suspension rates by more than 75%**.
[Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth <http://rjoyoakland.org/programs/>]

High schools in Ohio with **conflict management programs** (Conflict Resolution Education Curriculum) reported that **physical violence decreased as much as 43%**. The annual cost per student to administer the school conflict management grant training program is approximately \$12.00. When compared to the per student cost of suspending a child (\$231.00) or expelling a student (\$431.00), the program has been cost effective.

Meditation practices in schools have noticeable benefits. In a San Francisco School implementing transcendental mediation practices called “Quiet Time” saw **suspensions decrease by 79 percent** and attendance increase by over 98% as well as academic performance noticeably increased. [NBC Nightly News, January 2015].