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]


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]

Over for more --->
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].