



WEBINAR GUEST BIOS

Positioning public health to respond to gun violence

November 14, 2023



Rana Epps
Hospital responder supervisor
King of Kings Foundation

Rana Epps is a hospital responder supervisor at the King of Kings Foundation, a crisis management site located in New York City. Rana has 30 years of experience in healthcare and a lifetime of service in the community. Creating a union of the two, she has committed to being a change agent by assisting high-risk and at-risk youth with violence reduction and violence-related trauma. Specializing in hospital responses, Rana used that experience to foster partnerships with hospitals who would aid in the intervention of violence. Her continued dedication to creating safe, culturally enriched environments has led to her facilitating in schools as a credible messenger encouraging youth and educators to not allow the work to be done in silos but to take a more cohesive approach in helping to prevent violence. Stressing an “all hands-on deck” approach, Rana has not stopped at the hospitals, community and schools. Through the King of Kings OG YG Workshop and Rock to Reclaim Inc., she has also engaged previously and currently incarcerated women to raise awareness of the need to break the cycle of recidivism.



Monique Williams
Executive director
Cure Violence Global

Dr. Monique Williams is an accomplished public health professional, researcher and practitioner with extensive experience in violence prevention. She is the executive director of Cure Violence Global, leading the organization through significant growth and international expansion. Prior to this role, Dr. Williams was the director of the Louisville Mayor’s Office for Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods, where she oversaw the development and execution of the city’s strategic plan for reducing violence, including its implementation of the Cure Violence approach.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

Dr. Williams spent many years in academia as a community-based participatory researcher at both Texas A & M University and the University of Louisville. Her research has focused primarily on improving health outcomes within marginalized populations through the utilization of community health development, equity and violence prevention strategies. Dr. Williams oversaw the engagement of academic and community expertise in the integration of practice, research and teaching to advance racial justice and health equity, and to build capacity for youth violence prevention in partnering communities. Much of this was accomplished during her time as director of the University of Louisville's National Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention, which was one of five centers designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to advance the science and practice of youth violence prevention. As a passionate advocate for building the capacity of communities to address all forms of violence, Dr. Williams uses her voice and platform to promote participatory practices and collective mobilization for violence prevention and community transformation.