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**Ph.D. Candidate**



I am a Ph.D. candidate in my last year at Northern Illinois University, focusing on community violence driven health outcomes. My research interest primarily revolves around community violence and health disparities, with a focus on the health outcomes of African American men in underserved communities.

As a Chicago Gun Violence Research Fellow, I was able to learn more about the neighborhood-based work being conducted in the Austin, North Lawndale, Garfield Park, and Englewood communities. I was thrilled to learn about organizations like the Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, which takes an intergenerational approach to support North Lawndale residents and provides support for grandparents raising their grandchildren who struggle to communicate with their grandchildren around critical issues. Participating in the neighborhood-based practice search solidified my understanding that in order to adequately address gun violence, interdisciplinary interventions are essential. As so many approaches to violence focus on prevention, it was reassuring to discover so many faith-based and community interventions focused on recidivism, employment, educational opportunities, and family support. The CVGRC fellowship has provided me with a more thorough picture of the community-based solutions and programming being conducted around Chicago. Moving forward from this fellowship, I hope to continue my research around community violence and support the work of neighborhood-based practices.