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> Cognitive behavior therapy reduces crime and violence over 10 years: Experimental evidence\*

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## Abstract

Seweral small, abort-term, or non-experimental studies show that ouguit two behavioral-informed trainings reduce antisocial behaviors for 1–2 years. But there is no large-scale, long-term research on pensistence. We follow 999 high-risk men in Liberia 10 years after randomization into: 8 weeks of low-cost therapy, \$200 cash, both, or a contral group. A decade later, men receiving therapy or therapy with each were about half as they as the control group to engage in various antisocial behaviors, including robbery, drugsselling, and street fights—far exceeding expert predictions. Impacts are concentrated in the highest-risk men, and most robust from therapy with cash.

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Keywords: Cognitive behavioral therapy, cash transfers, crime, violence, mental health, Africa, field experiments

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## Cognitive Behavior Therapy Reduces Crime and Violence over 10 Years: Experimental Evidence

Several small, short-term, or non-experimental studies show that cognitive behavioral-informed trainings reduce antisocial behaviors for 1–2 years. But there is no large-scale, long-term research on persistence. We follow 999 high-risk men in Liberia 10 years after randomization into 8 weeks of low-cost therapy, \$200 cash, both, or a control group. A

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