

*Conflict and
Public Health: A
Framework for
Conceptualizing
Their
Interconnections*

*United States Institute of Peace
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health
Conflict and Public Health Task Force*

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What is USIP?

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by Congress to:

- Prevent and resolve violent international conflicts
- Promote post-conflict stability and development
- Increase conflict management capacity, tools and intellectual capital worldwide



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Goals of the Task Force

- Bring the social sciences and health sciences together to compare approaches and share expertise
- Extract lessons learned into a usable menu of competencies for application in the public health curriculum
- Further the possibility of cross-campus cooperation and collaboration

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Task Force Activities to Date

- Inter-campus meeting to discuss skill sets for public health graduates (April 2006)
- Symposium Series on conflict and public health (November 2006, February, March 2007)
- Workshop at JH-SPH on conflict resolution skills for public health professionals (January 2007)
- Public event at USIP: *Armed Conflict as a Public Health Problem* (April 2007)

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Task Force Meeting: Skill Sets

- Group A - Students will be able to
 - ❖ Describe the political determinants/processes of health outcomes
 - ❖ Use a comparative historical approach to describe a political event that had health outcomes
 - ❖ Explain why the best public health interventions at times have nothing to do with health
 - ❖ Provide a working definition of conflict

- Group B - Students will be able to
 - ❖ Understand inequality and vulnerability
 - ❖ Understand risky behavior
 - ❖ Understand the political context and competing political agendas of areas where they work
 - ❖ See how health can stem conflict
 - ❖ Engage in health care reconstruction
 - ❖ Inform policy makers (advocacy)

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Conflict and Public Health Symposium Series Case Studies

- *North Korea*
- *Afghanistan*
- *Iraq*

*Format: half day with three sessions,
including panels on political and
social analysis, voices from the
region, and public health research
and issues.*

*USIP published peace briefings on each
symposium*

http://www.usip.org/events/2006/1116_jhu_usip.html

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Workshop on Conflict Resolution Skills for Public Health Professionals

- Conflict Analysis
- Conflict Styles
- Negotiation Skills
- Humanitarian Aid Simulation



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USIP Public Event: *Armed Conflict as a Public Health Problem Current Realities and Future Directions*

- Dr. Christopher Murray
- Dr. Scott Barrett



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Next Steps

- Engage with members of the international health community
- Involve practitioners, educators and international institutions in laying the groundwork for building a curriculum
- Integrate interdisciplinary perspectives on conflict and conflict resolution among schools of public health and international affairs



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