

2014

# Aim4Peace Annual Evaluation Report

SUBMITTED BY THE WORK GROUP FOR COMMUNITY  
HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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## Content of this Report

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aim4Peace 2014 Evaluation Report .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Evaluation Questions .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Aim4Peace Participant Demographics, Risk Levels, and Supports.....</b>	<b>5</b>
A4P 2014 New Participant Demographics .....	5
Risk Levels of Aim4Peace 2014 Participants .....	6
<b>Aim4Peace Direct Service Activities and Contacts with Participants .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Risk Reduction Treatment Plans.....	8
<b>Results from the Participant Survey .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Violence Prevention and Community Mobilization Efforts .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Improvements in Targeted Outcomes .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Report Recommendations for Program Implementation and Evaluation .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## Executive Summary

### Overview and Background

The annual evaluation report examines the implementation of activities implemented by the Aim4Peace (A4P) Violence Prevention Program over the past year to better understand the effects of the program in contributing to potential improvements in violence prevention and reduction outcomes. The report is intended to be used by the Aim4Peace program, the Health Department, and collaborative partners including the Neighborhood Action Teams to inform program decisions, as well as recognize programmatic improvements and successes.

- In 2014, there were three community groups that partnered with Aim4Peace as Neighborhood Action Teams including Vineyard Neighborhood Association, Gentlemen of the Roundtable, and Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association.
- In 2014, the A4P target area encompassed eight police beats in the East Patrol Division including Beats 323, 324, 331, 332, 333, 334, 341 and 343.

Based on the Cure Violence model, the three main components of the A4P program is to detect, interrupt, and improve conditions and outcomes through efforts supported at the individual and community levels to prevent and reduce violence. Data were analyzed at both the individual participant and community levels to examine the impact of the program. Between 2013 and 2014, the program engaged residents as program participants in the street outreach component of the program, through conflict mediations, and in community activities that supported violence prevention efforts. The activities supported by A4P are contributing to improvements to prevent and reduce shootings and killings in the A4P priority area, which is also having a broader impact in addressing violence in the community.

### Individual-Level Activities with Participants with Risk for Violence

Based on the Cure Violence (formerly Cease Fire) model, a core component of the program is outreach to individuals in the target area with high-risk for violence to provide support for non-violent decisions and positive lifestyle choices.

- Since 2008, 357 individuals have participated in the outreach component of the program, with 90 new participants enrolled in 2014. In 2014, 93% of the new participants enrolled in the program were considered high-risk. Approximately, 39% of the participants were youth or young adults ages 15-24.
- In 2014, Aim4Peace provided direct mentoring supports to 310 individuals, including 133 participants and 177 prospective participants through 7,077 contacts over nearly 4,564 hours.
- Goal areas most commonly addressed through individual participant contacts were employment needs (25%), followed by education (17%) and substance abuse (17%) related issues. Through the program A4P workers assist participants in addressing determinants of health or underlying factors such as employment, as broader conditions that often influence and may increase or decrease the likelihood that an individual may engage in violence.

In June 2015, participant surveys were conducted with 21 participants involved in the street outreach component of the program over the past year.

- Based on survey responses, the most pervasive needs of participants when starting the program for which they sought program support were in the areas of employment (52% of respondents) and housing (38%).
- A4P also supported high levels of goal attainment in assisting participants in resolving family conflict, meeting emotional needs, assisting individuals in leaving street organizations for the surveyed participants who self-identified a need for assistance in these areas, 100% of them indicated their goals and needs for support had been met through the program. On average,

67% of study participants' indicated that their needs identified through the program overall were met through program-facilitated services (range=25% to 100%).

- In addition to individual case management activities, 43% of the survey participants, indicated having participated in Aim4Peace activities supporting violence prevention and community mobilization activities several times in the past year. Nearly, 88% of survey participants (n=17) involved in the A4P program indicated not being involved in any other community-based programs.
- The majority of the survey participants (85%) reported having received conflict mediation training from Aim4Peace, of which 71% of the respondents reported being either somewhat or very satisfied with their ability to mediate a conflict without resorting to violence.
- All of survey participants indicated that they felt the program had positively impacted their lives. All the program participants agreed that A4P can change people's minds about shooting, with nearly 76% of the respondents strongly agreeing.

### Community-Level Violence Prevention Efforts Supported by Aim4Peace

- Since 2008, Aim4Peace and partnering Neighborhood Action Teams have implemented 347 community-level activities, of which 65% were delivered in the Aim4Peace priority area.
- Since the program began in 2008, A4P has contributed to facilitating 223 documented community changes—new program, policy, and practice changes- including 26 community/system changes implemented by the program in 2014 through partnerships involving nine different community sectors (e.g., law enforcement, business, health agencies).
- In 2014, there were a total of 82 shooting response activities supported by A4P street intervention workers either in the neighborhood (i.e., on the street) or in the hospital setting, which resulted in interactions with 813 individuals in hospital and/or neighborhood settings.
- Since 2008, Aim4Peace has mediated 402 conflicts that may have potentially led to violence, with 166 mediations documented in 2014. Nearly, 77% of the conflicts were identified by street intervention workers to have likely led to a shooting if a mediation had not occurred.

### Improvements in Targeted Outcomes—Homicides and Aggravated Assaults

Based on the findings presented in this annual report, Aim4Peace has contributed to preventing and reducing homicides and aggravated assaults in the priority area in 2014. Although it is recognized that there are other violence prevention and reduction activities occurring in the community that may also be contributing to improvements in outcomes. In 2014, there less shootings (i.e., firearm aggravated assaults) and killings (homicides) in the Aim4Peace priority area as compared to the previous year.

- Between 2013 and 2014, there was an aggregate decrease of 16 combined homicides and aggravated assaults overall for the beats encompassing the A4P priority area, which was nearly an 8 percent change decrease in total violent incidences. From 2008 to 2014, there has been a 16 percent change decrease with 37 less violent incidences reported as measured by police reported data of homicides and firearm aggravated assaults.
- Between 2013 and 2014, there was a decrease of eight homicides in the A4P priority area, which was a 42.1 percent change decrease. Since 2012, there has been a steady decline in homicides occurring in the A4P priority area. For the beats in the A4P priority area, the average change in homicide rates from 2013 to 2014 was a decrease of 3.03. The average change in homicide rate for the comparison beats was a decrease by 2.86 (SD= 4.70), but there was not a significant difference.
- From 2013 to 2014, there was a reduction by eight firearm aggravated assaults in the A4P priority area, which was a 4% change decrease in incidences over time. The decrease in the average change in the firearm aggravated assault rates in the A4P priority beats (-2.71) was significantly different than for the comparison beats, which experienced an average increase (4.27) in the firearm aggravated assault rate during this period

## Aim4Peace 2014 Evaluation Report

### Overview and Background

Since 2008, the Aim4Peace program has been working to prevent and reduce homicides (i.e., killings) and non-fatal firearm-related incidences (i.e., shootings) in specific areas within the East Patrol Division.

Historically, the East Patrol Division has disproportionately accounted for violence in the community. In 2014, the geographical focus area for Aim4Peace encompassed eight of the 18 beats within the East Patrol including Beats 331, 332, 333, and 334 (i.e., Sector 330), as well as Beats 323, 324, 341 and 343.<sup>1,2</sup>

Aim4Peace, a program of the Kansas City, MO Health Department addresses violence as a public health problem. Aim4Peace (A4P) is based on two evidence-based violence prevention strategies including Cure Violence (formerly Cease Fire- Chicago) and Caught in the Crossfire. Aim4Peace also partners with several groups including the Vineyard Neighborhood Association, Gentlemen of the Roundtable, and Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association to support community mobilization efforts.

The three main components of the Cure Violence model are to detect, interrupt, and improve community conditions and outcomes to prevent and reduce violence. The core activities of Aim4Peace include:

- Street and hospital outreach to identify individuals with high risk for violence and provide alternatives for more positive lifestyle choices;
- Identification and interruption of conflicts that may escalate to violence; and,
- Community mobilization to reduce tolerance towards violence.

### Evaluation Approach

The annual report examines implementation of the program between January and December 2014. The report is guided by four key evaluation questions related to the core components of the A4P approach. The KU Work Group for Community Health and Development serves as the evaluators for the program. Data included in the report are based on information recorded daily by program staff in the KU Work Group's Community Check Box system, a data recording tool that supports the systematic collection and analysis of program data. KU Work Group staff systematically review and analyze the data. The KU Work Group also conducted participant interviews with a random sample of participants served by the program to obtain participant feedback.

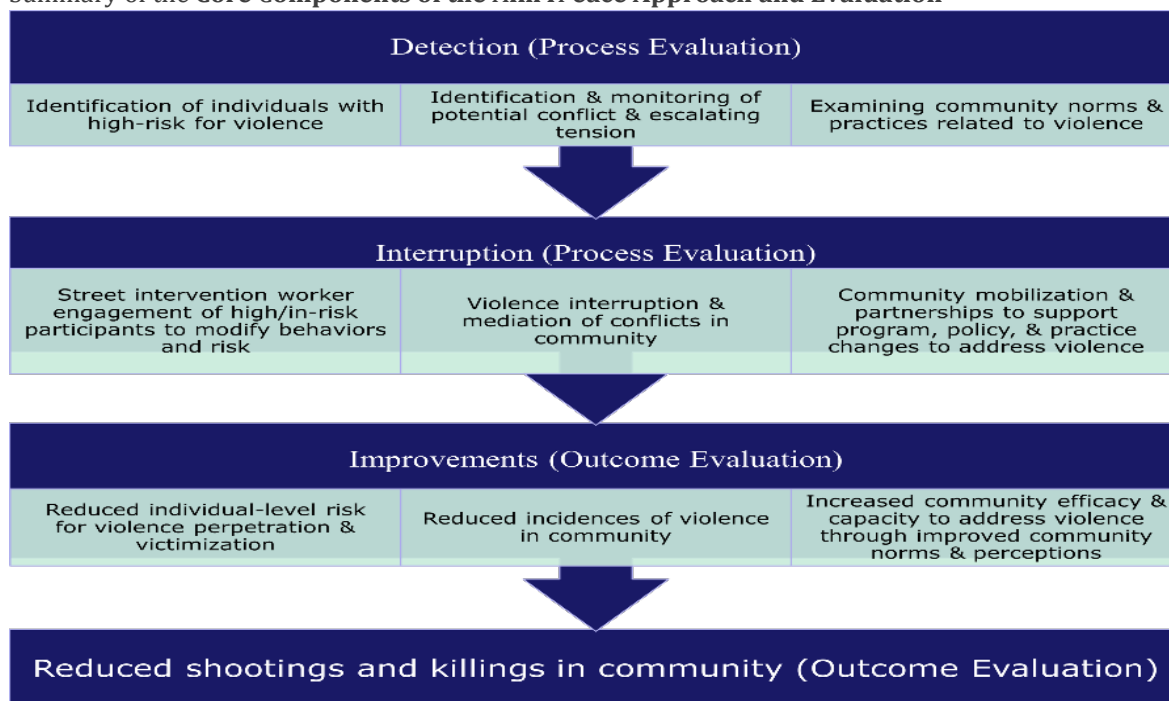
<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for a beat map of the East Patrol Division.

<sup>2</sup> Kansas City Police Department divides the geographical areas within patrols into sectors, which are comprised of beats. In the East Patrol, there are four sectors (i.e., 310, 320, 330, 340), which each have four to five beats. In 2008-2010, the A4P geographical area was East Patrol; 2011-2012 focus area was Beats 332, 333, 334, & 324; 2012-2014 focus areas were Sector 330 and Beat 324; 2014-2015 focus area was Sector 330 (includes Beats 331-334) and Beats 323, 324, 341 and 343.

### Evaluation Questions

- Has Aim4Peace supported violence prevention efforts in the target area?
- How has Aim4Peace contributed to detecting and responding to conflicts among residents?
- Does Aim4Peace identify and support improvements for individuals from the target area with high risk for violence?
- Have there been improvements in rates of homicides (killings) and firearm aggravated assaults (shootings) in the target area?

### Summary of the Core Components of the Aim4Peace Approach and Evaluation



### Aim4Peace Participant Demographics, Risk Levels, and Supports

Based on the Cure Violence model, a core component of the program is outreach to individuals in the target area with high-risk for violence perpetration or victimization. The A4P workers develop rapport with individuals at risk for violence to support them in making non-violent decisions and positive lifestyle choices. In addition to referrals and connections to resources, street intervention workers provide mentorship and conflict mediation training to program participants, with the aim of modifying participants' perception, attitudes and behaviors towards engaging in violence. In 2014, there were eighteen street intervention workers employed through the program during the year who maintained participant caseloads.

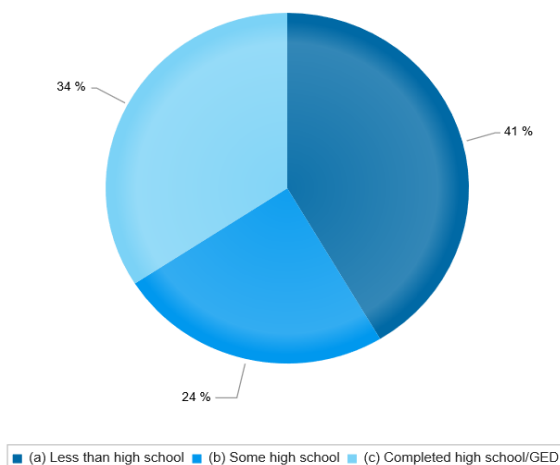
### A4P 2014 New Participant Demographics

Since 2008, 357 individuals have participated in the outreach component of the program, with 90 new participants enrolled in 2014. The following characteristics are for new participants involved in the A4P program in 2014.

- Nearly, all of the of new participants enrolled in 2014 were African-American males (98%).
- The majority of the participants were unemployed at the time of the intake assessment (84%).
- Approximately, 39% of the new participants were youth ages 15 to 24.
- Slightly more than one-third of the participants (34%) had completed high school.
- The majority (69%) of new participants in 2014 resided in the A4P priority area in East Patrol, with 64% of participants living in the 330 sector.
- Approximately, 63% of the participants have been formerly incarcerated, with 54% of participants having served time for 12 months or less. Over half (59%) of the new participants were presently or had formerly been on probation or parole at time of the intake assessment.

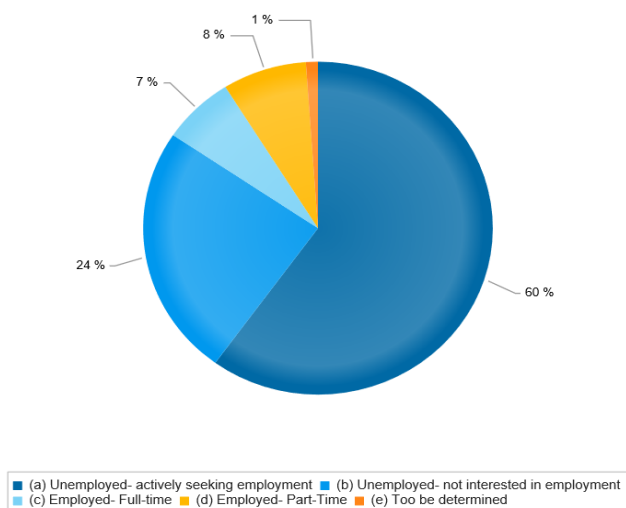
**Participant Educational Level**

1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
N = 82

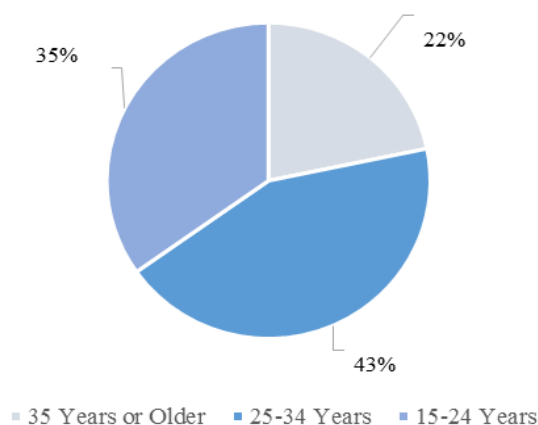


**Employment Status**

1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
This graph represents 98% of the total entries for this time period.

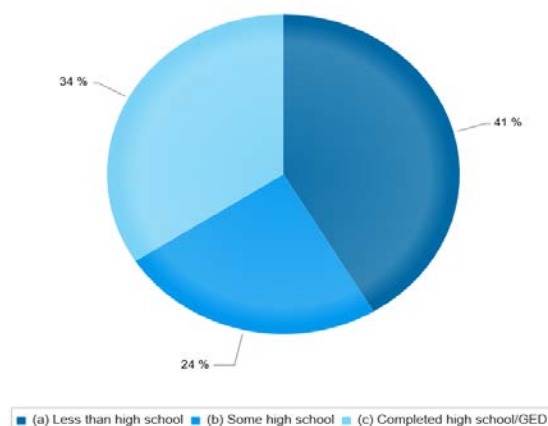


**Participant Age**



**Participant Educational Level**

1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
N = 82



### ***Risk Levels of Aim4Peace 2014 Participants***

Based on the Cure Violence model, Aim4Peace assesses participants' risk levels for violence perpetration or victimization based on the presence of seven risk factors.<sup>3</sup> In 2014, 93% of the new program participants were identified to be high risk, based on meeting at least four or more of the risk criteria for the program (e.g., recent victim of violence). The risk level overall for program participants receiving services through the program was 90% high risk, which would also include participants enrolled in the program prior to 2014, but still receiving services.

<sup>3</sup> The seven risk factors included: gang involvement, gang position or key role, prior criminal history, involvement in high-risk street activity (e.g., drug trafficking), recent shooting victim, recently released from prison, and between 16 and 44 years. Participant was considered high risk if have four or more factors; medium risk if have three factors; and low risk if two or less factors.



- As shown in the table below, the most commonly documented risk factors for new 2014 participants included high-risk street activity (e.g., drug trafficking), gang involvement, prior criminal history of violence, and being between the ages of 16 and 40.
- Overall, for all participants served in 2014, the most common risk factors were high risk street activity, prior criminal history, gang involvement, and between the ages of 16 and 40.

#### Overall Risk Levels of New Participants in 2014

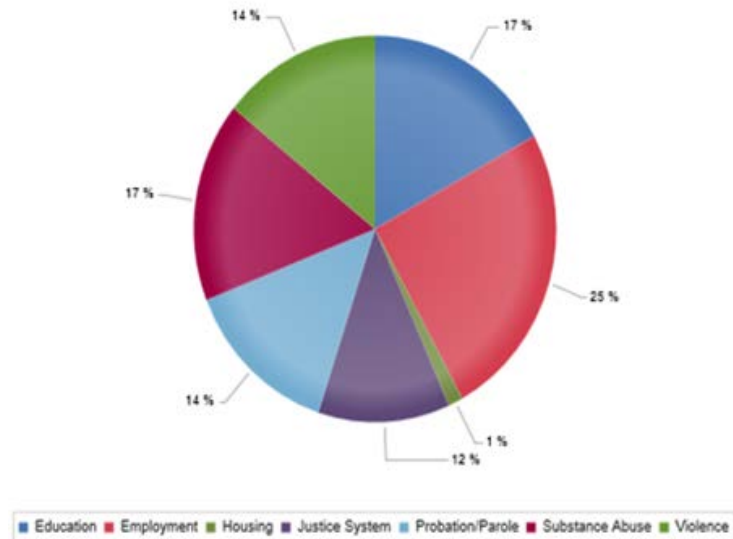
Year(s)	Participant Risk Factors at Intake						
	Gang Involvement	Key Role in Gang	Prior Criminal History	High-Risk Street Activity	Recent shooting victim	Recently Released from Prison	Between 16-40 Years of age <sup>4</sup>
<b>2014 New Participants (n=90)</b>	74%	39%	81%	100%	32%	16%	85%

#### Aim4Peace Direct Service Activities and Contacts with Participants

In 2014, Aim4Peace provided direct mentoring supports to 310 individuals, including 133 participants and 177 prospective participants through 7,077 contacts over nearly 4,564 hours. Approximately, 56% of the contacts were with active participants of the program and the other 44% were with prospective participants.

- On average, A4P participants received 30 contact supports from A4P outreach workers.
- The majority of contacts with participants were supported through phone communication (52%), home visits (31%), or street visits (14%).
- In 2014, there were 18 A4P street intervention workers who supported on average 243 completed contacts with participants.
- As part of the outreach component of the program, street intervention workers provided participants with case management supports to help address risk factors and socioeconomic determinants.
  - As shown in the graph, goal areas most commonly addressed through individual participant contacts were employment needs (25%), followed by education (17%) and substance abuse (17%) related issues.

**2014 Goal Areas Supported in Participant Contacts**  
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
This graph represents 20% of the total entries for this time period.



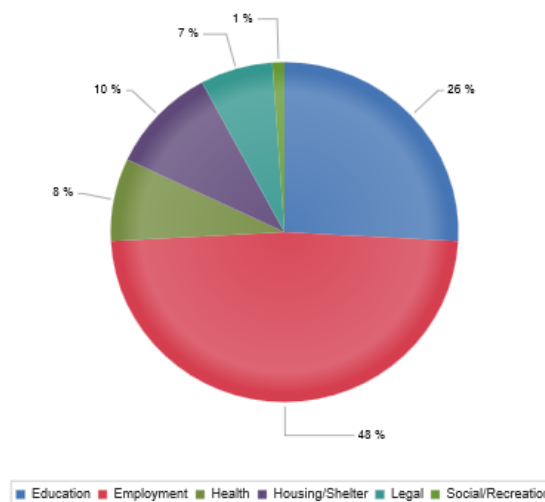
<sup>4</sup> Aim4Peace age for risk is 16-40, which is broader than the Cure Violence age of risk (16-24).



### Risk Reduction Treatment Plans

Through the individualized participant supports, outreach workers develop risk reduction treatment plans with each program participant. The plans assess and address risk factors related to violence, including socio-economic factors. The primary goal area identified in the plan to be addressed through the program was employment for 48% of the 90 new participants who enrolled in the program in 2014. Other goal areas identified in the plans by participants to address through the program included education (26% of plans) and housing (10% of plans) related goals. The primary goals areas identified in the participant plans are displayed.

Primary Goal Area Identified in the Risk Reduction Plans  
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014  
N = 89



### Results from the Participant Survey

Participant surveys were conducted with 21 individuals who participated in the program within the past three years, with an oversampling of individuals who were program participants in 2014.

- The majority of study participants were male (80%) and African-American (98%), which is representative of participants of the overall program.
- The ages of study participants ranged from 17 to 38 years, with a median age of 26.
- Only 19% of the participants involved in the survey were high school graduates.
- In 2014, 88% of survey participants (n=17) involved in the A4P program were not involved in any other community-based programs.
- All of the survey respondents reported seeing their A4P street intervention more than once each month, with 71% of surveyed participants indicating communicating or meeting with their street intervention worker at least weekly. Nearly, 48% of participants indicated that when they meet with their A4P worker they generally spend more than two hours with them.

The results from the participant survey were consistent with other evaluation findings. The table below provides a summary of the self-identified needs reported by survey participants and the proportion of those needs indicated by the participant to have been satisfactorily met through the Aim4Peace program.

- Fifty-two percent of the study participants (n=11) reported the need to find employment during their participation with the Aim4Peace program.<sup>5</sup>
- Nearly, one-third of the survey participants identified a need for assistance with getting into school or a GED program, with 100% of the participants indicating A4P assisted in meeting the need.
- A4P also supported high levels of goal attainment in assisting participants in resolving family conflict, meeting emotional needs, assisting individuals in leaving street organizations, with 100% of the participants who identified needing assistance in these areas indicating their goals had been met through the program. The program met the needs of the majority of surveyed participants in areas related to finding a place to live and food assistance.

<sup>5</sup> Data were not included in the survey this year to assesses level of need met, but will be included again in future survey administration.

- Overall, 67% of primary goal areas were identified to have been met by the program. Goal areas the program can enhance brokering support in program and self-identified goal areas are in the areas of family/parenting assistance and drug and alcohol rehab programs.

*Survey Findings of Participant-Identified Goals and Attainment*

Participant Needs	Participants Indicating Area of Need/ Goals % (N=21)	% of Participants with Identified Need Met by Aim4Peace Program
Find a job	52%	Question not asked
Get into school or GED program	29%	100%
Find a place to live	38%	88%
Food assistance or WIC	19%	75%
Family assistance	19%	25%
Assistance leaving street organization	19%	100%
Drug rehab program	10%	50%
Alcohol rehab program	10%	50%
Emotional management program	33%	100%
Resolve family conflict	33%	100%
STD tests	10%	50%
Pregnancy/parenting assistance	5%	0%

Approximately, 90% of participants completing the survey were satisfied with A4P's ability to refer them to appropriate service. The street intervention workers offer a range of supports to the participants to assist them in attaining their goals and supporting positive lifestyle behavior changes. Nearly, 62% of the survey participants indicated their street intervention worker had accompanied them to court or to meet with a lawyer.

Activities to engage high-risk individuals in mobilization efforts are important to ensure participant buy-in to the program and commitment to non-violence. In addition to individual case management activities, 43% of the survey participants, indicated having participated in Aim4Peace activities supporting violence prevention and community mobilization efforts at least several times throughout the year. Community activities most commonly attended by participants were Life Skills program sessions (33%), job fairs (33%), back-to-school rallies (33%), and job readiness program activities (29%).

An important aspect of the role of the street intervention worker is to be able to detect and interrupt violence in the community, thus street knowledge and credibility is critical for workers. Nearly, 86% of survey participants indicated that A4P workers are very connected to the street in ways that permit knowing what is going on in the priority area.

- Nearly, 62% of survey respondents (n=13) indicated that Aim4Peace has stepped in to mediate a conflict they were involved. Of the 13 respondents who have been involved in

## Survey Participant Quotes

### Best Thing about Program Participation

- “Found a new way to cope and deal with people in society.”
- “Good to know someone who cares. They want you to change.”
- “Helped me know about my anger and the right way to use it.”
- Keeping one on right path. Getting me a job so I could get my life back together.”
- “Being able to mingle with the community to keep myself preoccupied to stay out of trouble.”
- “Taught me to not go off my first thought...to think about the whole situation and consider the consequences.”
- “Taught me to think before I act and consider the consequences.”

### Participant Actions to Mediate Conflicts

- Talked to them, calmed them down, and got them away from each other.
- Talked to them and told them they don’t want to be in jail and would rather be with family.
- Tried to get both sides to understand.
- Talked the situation out to get to the bottom of it.

### Messages Communicated to Others to Discourage Using Guns

- “That’s your cousin, you don’t want to kill him, you will be the main one hurt.”
- “It’s not that serious.”
- “Guns are bad...talk it out and hear what everyone has to say and [then] drop it.”
- “Would you rather lose your life by spending the rest of your life in prison or would you rather keep your freedom.”

### Areas Program can Change or Improve

- “Having more get together and getting kids and teenagers involved.”
- “[Supporting] more people as participants throughout the city, not just the inner city, violence is everywhere.”

### Participant Summary Comment

- “Good program, very happy it started.”
- “They need to go to Kansas.”
- “Thankful to have people that still care.”

conflicts Aim4Peace has mediated, approximately 85% of the participants were very satisfied with the ability of A4P to mediate conflicts. The majority of survey participants (71%) indicated they were very satisfied with their ability to mediate a conflict without resorting to violence. Overall, 57% of the survey participants indicated attempts to mediate conflicts since involvement in A4P.

The majority of the survey participants (85%) reported that they had received conflict mediation training from Aim4Peace street intervention workers.

- More than 76% of respondents indicated having talked to someone about not using a gun.”
- Slightly less than half (48%) who received mediation training have attempted to mediate a conflict since involvement with A4P.
- Of the 10 survey participants trained in conflict mediation, only three reported still feeling the need to carry a gun.
- Perceptions of study participants regarding the efficacy and impact of A4P were positive.
- All survey participants indicated the A4P workers are “very connected” to the streets and knows what is occurring.
- All of the survey participants indicated that they felt the program had positively impacted their lives.
- Approximately, 52% of the survey participants indicated that their street intervention worker served as a trusted adult in their life.
- All participants agreed that A4P can change people’s minds about shooting, with nearly 76% of respondents strongly agreeing.
- Areas that program participants identified could further enhance the program included: More community activities to bring people together, fundraisers and getting kids involved; more participants and include those who live in places outside of the inner city; more people, police and victims engaged; and more assistance with getting jobs. Several participants stated that they think that Aim4Peace is doing the best they can.

Some limitations to the survey process include:

- Survey had a small sample size and was based on self-reported data.
- Although baseline assessment data were available for some of the survey items, the majority of baseline assessments conducted during the intake process were incomplete.
- Participants who agreed to participate in the present study were more accessible to program staff which may suggest these participants are more stable than those not interviewed.

## Violence Prevention and Community Mobilization Efforts

Aim4Peace provides services to help mobilize the community through violence prevention activities to assist in changing the community norms, attitudes, and behaviors of residents.<sup>6</sup> In 2014, there were 347 community-level service activities provided to neighborhood residents by Aim4Peace and Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) partners.<sup>7,8</sup> Nearly 65% of the community—level services provided by the A4P program were delivered in the A4P priority area, with the majority of activities (57%) occurring in Sector 330.

- One key type of services provided by A4P were conflict mediations to assist in resolving disputes between residents and groups in the community, which may have potentially escalated to violence. Nearly, 50% (166) of the service activities provided in the community were conflict mediations.
- The other type of services (n=167) supported by A4P and NATs were violence prevention activities, events and resources provided by Aim4Peace or partnering Neighborhood Action Teams to residents and groups in the community. Community activities and events included skill-building activities (e.g., conflict mediation training), informational presentations to community audiences, neighborhood events to provide positive alternative activities, and social service referrals and supports delivered to residents.

The table summarizes key activities supported in the community by the A4P program in 2014.

- Nearly, 55% of community-level service provided by A4P involved identification, mediation, or follow-up to violent incidents.
- Approximately, 11% of the services were provided to community residents through programs (e.g., conflict mediation curriculum in the schools) and events (e.g., job fairs).
- Additional activities included neighborhood canvassing<sup>9</sup> and participation in community meetings and events to develop partnerships or provide broader community supports.
- In 2014, there were 26 program, policy, or practice changes implemented in the community by the A4P program. Aim4Peace and community partners supported community changes that were distributed across nine community sectors. Approximately, 26% of the 26 community changes were in collaboration with community-based, neighborhood, or civic organizations, and 15% were with government-based agencies. Since the program began in 2008, A4P has contributed to facilitating 223 documented community changes.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Services provided are defined as the delivery of information, training, or other valued goods or activities to individuals in the target group by the initiative.

<sup>7</sup> The services provided are activities available to the community and does not include activities provided directly to program participants.

<sup>8</sup> Neighborhood Action Teams in 2014 were Vineyard Neighborhood Association, Gentlemen of the Roundtable, and Seven Oaks Neighborhood Association.

<sup>9</sup> Street intervention workers canvass the neighborhood to maintain a constant presence in the area, mediate observed conflicts, and initiate contact with high-risk individuals.

<sup>10</sup> Based on the community change theory,<sup>10</sup> community changes are more likely to relate to improvements in community outcomes (e.g., homicides) when there is a sufficient dose of program, policy and practice changes related to an issue.

## Shooting and Hospital Responses

The Aim4Peace program monitors and responds to shooting that occurs in the priority area. A4P staff are notified of shootings from a variety of sources, including by hospital trauma workers and neighborhood residents often through the Peace Line teleconference hotline supported by the program. In 2014, there were a total of 82 shooting response activities supported by A4P street intervention workers either in the neighborhood/on the street or in the hospital setting. A4P interacted with 813 individuals through hospital and/or shooting response activities. The shooting response activities supported by A4P may vary based on the specific incident, but often includes: (a) internal debriefing and gathering of information to assess each shooting, the likelihood of retaliation, and to identify the appropriate type of response; and, (b) deployment of street intervention workers to canvass the area in which the shooting occurred in order to assess the neighborhood climate, provide a presence in the area of the shooting; and to offer supports and inform neighborhood residents, businesses, and organizations of services available through A4P. In 2014, A4P provided 42 shooting response activities in the neighborhood

The A4P program has also developed a collaborative relationship with area hospitals, particularly Truman Medical Center. Hospital workers notify A4P workers of patients admitted due to intentional injury, often by calling the Peace Line. The A4P workers will meet with the patient and/or the family of the patient to gather more information about the incident, likelihood of retaliation by families or friends, and to offer the patient or family A4P services and supports. In 2014, A4P provided 40 documented activities supporting hospital responses to patients and/or families of victims.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY AIM4PEACE BY TYPE AND FREQUENCY

Type of Activity	Number of Activities Supported	Estimated Number of People Involved or Impacted (may be duplicated count)	Examples
Identifying and responding to escalating tensions and conflicts in the community	190	841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified argument when canvassing the neighborhood. Stopped argument and supported mediation with residents publicly disputing in their yards.</li> <li>Mediated conflicts at the school between youth and parents who are neighbors as the conflict has resulted in tensions for the youth at the school.</li> <li>A4P workers canvassed the neighborhood after being informed of street fight.</li> </ul>
Direct supports and meetings provided to shooting victims and/or families as a follow-up to shootings in the area	23	331	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with recent shooting victim and family at the hospital to dissuade retaliation and offer services and support.</li> </ul>
Neighborhood canvassing and community dissemination of violence prevention information	177	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed of Aim4Peace information to residents while street intervention workers canvass neighborhood to maintain presence and identify concerns of residents.</li> </ul>
Community service activities A4P facilitated or co-supported with Community Partners	38	1,666	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Skills or Conflict Resolution Skills Training classes conducted with students and staff through physical education classes in schools.</li> <li>Aim4Peace Peace Ride (motorcycle club parade) held to promote non-violence.</li> </ul>
Community events A4P invited to provide direct supports (e.g., informational booth) or resources (e.g., donations) to community partners	77	5,371	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A4P participated in block party event held by a neighborhood faith-based partner.</li> <li>Provided informational table for inmates at a prison resource fair to inform them of supports provided by A4P that inmates can receive post-release.</li> </ul>
Implementation of new programs, policies, or practices by A4P to support program goals	26	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A4P in partnership with local hospital presented to 65 clergy who provide supports in hospital settings about the role of clergy in supporting violence prevention.</li> <li>Summer internship program expanded to support area youth in working with Neighborhood Action Teams to help beautify and improve houses of neighborhood residents through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.</li> </ul>



## Conflicts Mediated

A4P workers support a number of activities to assist in detecting and interrupting conflicts between individuals and groups in the community. Through mediations workers diffuse the situation with minimally one or more of the individuals involved in the conflict, as well as with others who may have influence over those involved (e.g., parents, peers). In 2014, Aim4Peace mediated 166 conflicts in the community that potentially may have escalated to violence.<sup>11,12</sup> Almost 13% of the mediated conflicts involved participants or pre-participants of the program. Nearly, 82% of the conflicts were in the A4P priority area.<sup>13</sup> Personal altercations were the primary reason for conflicts mediated (51%), followed by homicides (11%). The most common risk factors for those involved in conflicts were history of violence, high-risk street activity, retaliation to a shooting that occurred within 90 days, and being between the ages of 16 and 40 years. The majority (57%) of conflicts mediated were identified by street intervention workers who were either onsite at the time of the conflict, canvassing the neighborhood and observed a situation, monitoring disputes on social media (e.g., Facebook), or contacted either directly by an individual involved or by family or friends of those involved in the conflict. Nearly, 28% of conflicts were reported to A4P staff, most often by residents, participants/pre-participants, or family members. Approximately 5% of the conflicts were reported to A4P by school staff.

The most common settings for the conflicts that A4P detected and/or interrupted were either on the street/corner (66%) or in people homes (22%). Often, street intervention workers identified confrontational situations when canvassing the area. Each day, teams of A4P workers canvass the neighborhood to develop rapport with residents, including high risk individuals, establish a peaceful presence in the neighborhood, “gain the pulse” of the neighborhood or assess the climate regarding violence (e.g., retaliation, perspectives on recent shootings), and to notify residents of community events and programs supported by the program.

- The long-term resolution of the conflicts were mixed with 26% identified by intervention workers to be resolved and 48% indicated to be temporarily resolved (not definite or certain conditions will be maintained).
- Nearly, 77% of the conflicts were identified by street intervention workers to have either been likely (15.4%) or very likely (61.1%) to have led to a shooting if a mediation had not occurred.<sup>14</sup>

### Examples of Conflicts Mediated

*Five guys were talking about two other younger guys who were walking across the street. The two group of guys had a verbal exchange and the younger guys went and got their three older brothers who decided they were gonna come around the corner and fight. The older brothers threatened to shoot the other guys if they lost the fist fight*

*A guy and his girlfriend were arguing. The son pulls up while they were fighting. He pulls out his gun and tells the boyfriend to leave. The boyfriend keeps trying to explain and the son fires a warning shot.*

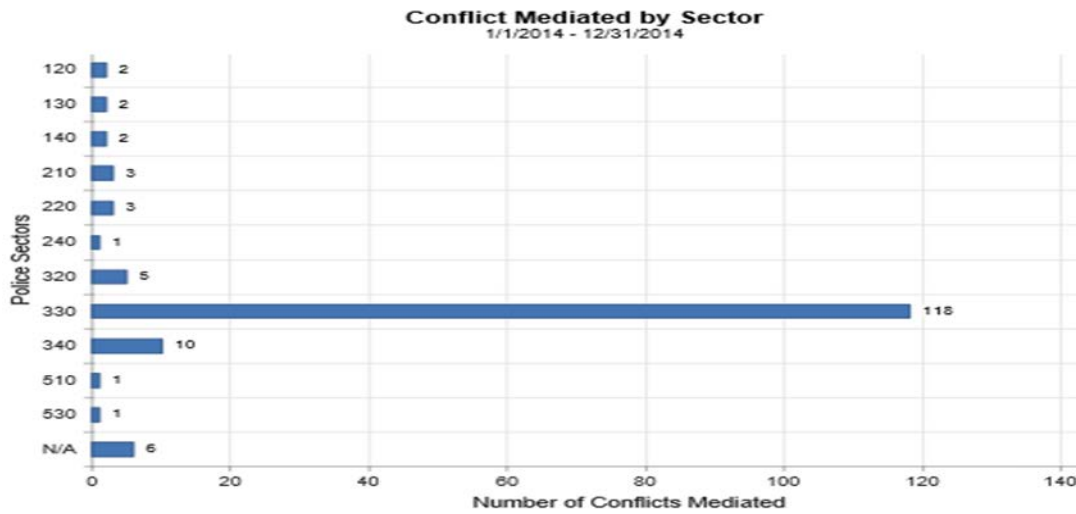
*Friend of an A4P program participant was murdered. A friend of the shooter came by the participant's house and an altercation broke out. Guns were drawn by the parties. A neutral friend and the A4P worker were present and quickly defused the situation until the guns were put back up.*

<sup>11</sup> It is difficult to estimate intervention effects to the extent of assessing how many homicides and shootings would have occurred in the target area if these conflicts and disputes had not been resolved. However, the number of conflicts mediated serves as an indicator of potential incidences of violence that may have been prevented by program efforts.

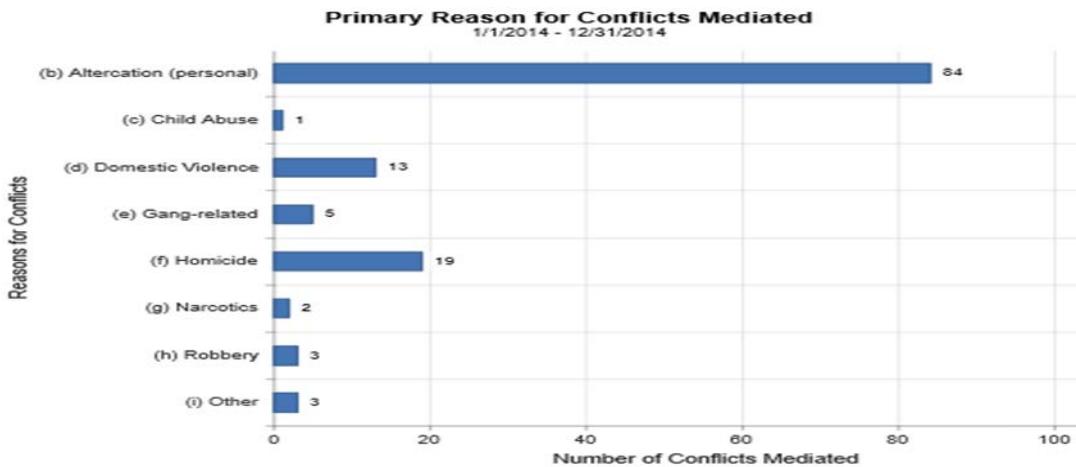
<sup>12</sup> The definition and scoring criteria for conflict mediated was expanded in 2015 to include incidences in which a mediation occurred with one or two of the individuals involved in the conflict. The conflict mediation count is based on review by the KUWG secondary reviewer.

<sup>13</sup> The 2014 A4P priority area includes Sector 330 and Beats 323, 324, 341, and 343.

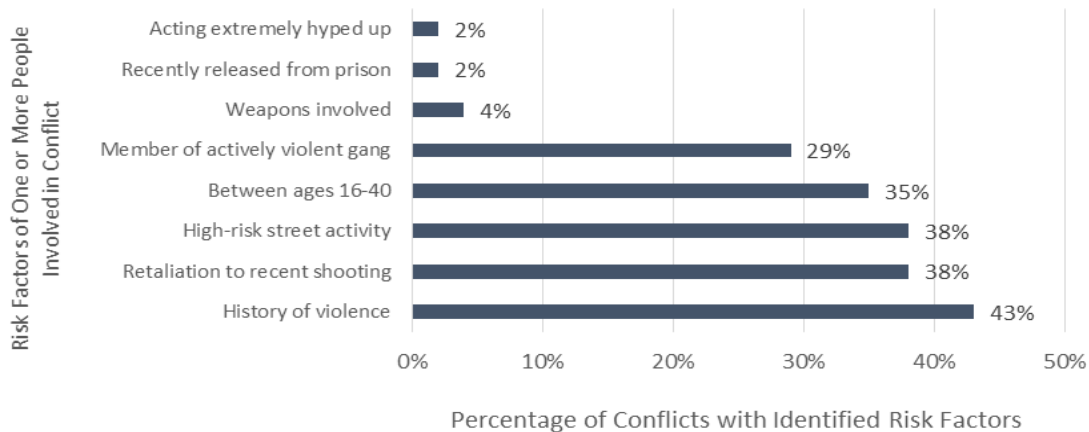
<sup>14</sup> These data were available for 149 of the 166 conflicts mediated activities documented by A4P.



Note: Data reported in this graph were available for 93% of conflicts mediated.



Note: Data reporting in this graph represents 78% (130) of conflicts mediated.





## Improvements in Targeted Outcomes

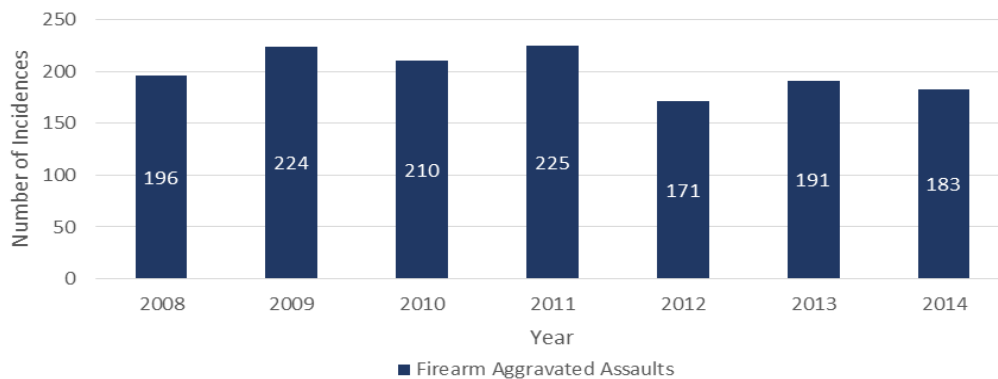
Key outcomes of interest for Aim4Peace are reductions in shootings (i.e., firearm aggravated assaults) and killings (i.e., homicides). It is recognized that Aim4Peace may be one of other violence prevention initiatives supporting violence prevention and reduction activities in the priority area. The outcome data for the priority area within East Patrol and other comparison beats will be reviewed as clustered groups, which will be referred to as Aim4Peace priority area or comparison beats. In 2014, the A4P priority area included eight police beats within the East Patrol Division (Beats 323, 324, 331, 332, 333, 334, 341, and 343). A4P began to concentrate efforts in Sector 330 (Beats 331-334) in 2012, and now has expanded to also include contiguous beats in East Patrol. Eight comparison beats<sup>15</sup> that are outside of the A4P priority area were also selected based on similar demographic characteristics and levels of violence (i.e., homicides, assaults).

The primary focus of this report is to understand the contributions of Aim4Peace in supporting change and improvements in the area within a one-year period. Although it is helpful to examine annual changes in the data, the interpretation of yearly changes in the frequency or rates of incidences is cautioned, without also examining longer term patterns and trends in the data. The annual changes in outcomes will also be analyzed within the context of longer-term trends (three to five years) as yearly fluctuations in the data are common.<sup>16</sup> This report examines both the frequency and rates to ensure changes in the outcome data are not due to population shifts.

### Shootings

From 2013 to 2014, there was a reduction by eight firearm aggravated assault in the A4P priority area, which was a 4% change decrease in incidences over time.<sup>17</sup> There have been some fluctuation in the incidences of firearm aggravated assaults over the past several years in the A4P priority areas. The figure shows the annual frequency of homicides between 2006 and 2014 in the A4P area.

*Firearm Aggravated Assaults in Aim4Peace Priority Area*



<sup>15</sup>The eight comparison police beats included: Beats 121, 142, 222, 223, 315, 322, 342, & 344.

<sup>16</sup>The A4P program started in 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Since 2012, A4P has concentrated efforts within the East Patrol and has focused efforts in Sector 330 (includes Beats 331, 332, 333, 334) and Beat 324. In 2014, Aim4Peace expanded the focus area to include three additional beats (Beats 323, 341, and 343). The 2014-2015 Aim4Peace Priority area includes the following eight police beats in the East Patrol Division: Beats 323, 324, 331, 332, 333, 334, 341, and 343.

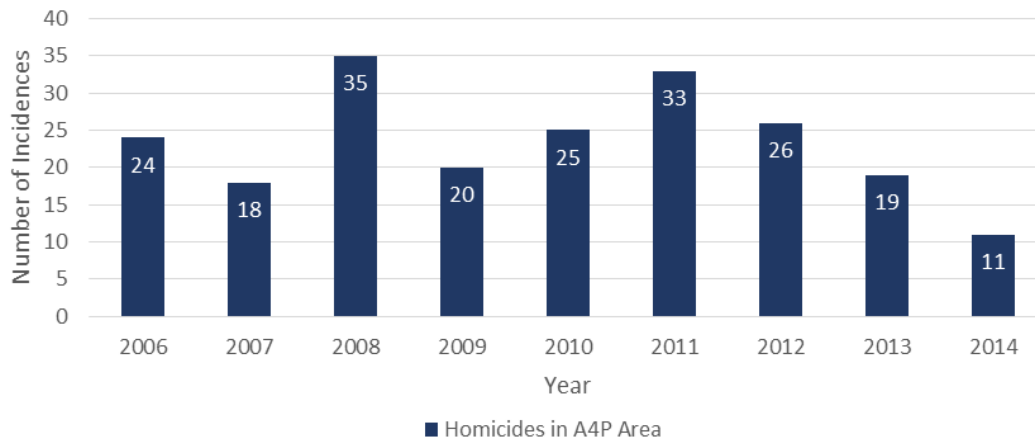
The decrease in the average change in the firearm aggravated assault rates in the A4P priority beats (-2.71) was significantly different than for the comparison beats, which experienced an average increase (4.27) in the firearm aggravated assault rate during this period.<sup>18</sup>

- The firearm aggravated assault rate for Kansas City (excluding East Patrol) also increased by 4.30 from a rate of 14.5 in 2013 to 18.8 in 2014. Although the overall rate of firearm aggravated assaults remains much higher in the A4P priority area (2014 rate was 62.03), the average change and improvement in the A4P priority area is much more substantial as compared to the comparison beats and the City (excluding East Patrol), which both experienced an increase in incidences in 2014.

### ***Killings—Homicides***

Between 2013 and 2014, there was a decrease of eight homicides in the A4P priority area, which was a 42.1 percent change decrease. The figure shows the annual number of homicides that occurred between 2006 and 2014. Since 2012, there has been a steady decline in the incidences of homicides occurring in the A4P priority area.

*Annual Distribution of Homicides in the Aim4Peace Priority Area*



- For the beats in the A4P priority area, the average change in homicide rates from 2013 to 2014 was a decrease of 3.03. The average change in homicide rate for the comparison beats was a decrease by 2.86 (SD= 4.70), but there was not a significant difference between the change experienced in the A4P and comparison areas.
- Aim4Peace has concentrated efforts in Sector 330 since 2012, therefore, A4P has a long history working in the 330 sector as compared to the other beats in the A4P area that was expanded in 2014. In 2006, there were 13 homicides recorded for Sector 330 with on average 13 homicides occurring annually between 2006 and 2012 (range 9 to 16). Since 2012, there has been a steady decline with 16 homicides in 2012, seven in 2013, and five homicides reported in 2014. Similarly, the change in homicide rates for Sector 330 from 2006 (prior to Aim4Peace program) to 2014 was a decrease of 4.74, which was a significant difference as compared to the average change in rates across the other eight sectors that encompass the Central and Metro Patrols, which only experienced an average decrease of .60.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The comparison average change in rate was significantly different [t(14)=1.23m p=.24, d=.64].

<sup>19</sup> The average change in rate for Sector 330 The difference between Sector 330 and eight comparison sectors was significant [t(7)=4.62, [p=.002, d=1.64; SD=2.53)].

- Between 2013 and 2014, the change in homicide rate for Sector 330 was a decrease of 1.41, which was significantly different<sup>20</sup> than changes in the other eight sectors in the Central and Metro Patrols.
- Overall, the homicide rate for the City, excluding East Patrol, decreased by .29 from 2013 to 2014, with nine less homicides occurring in in 2014 (n=53).

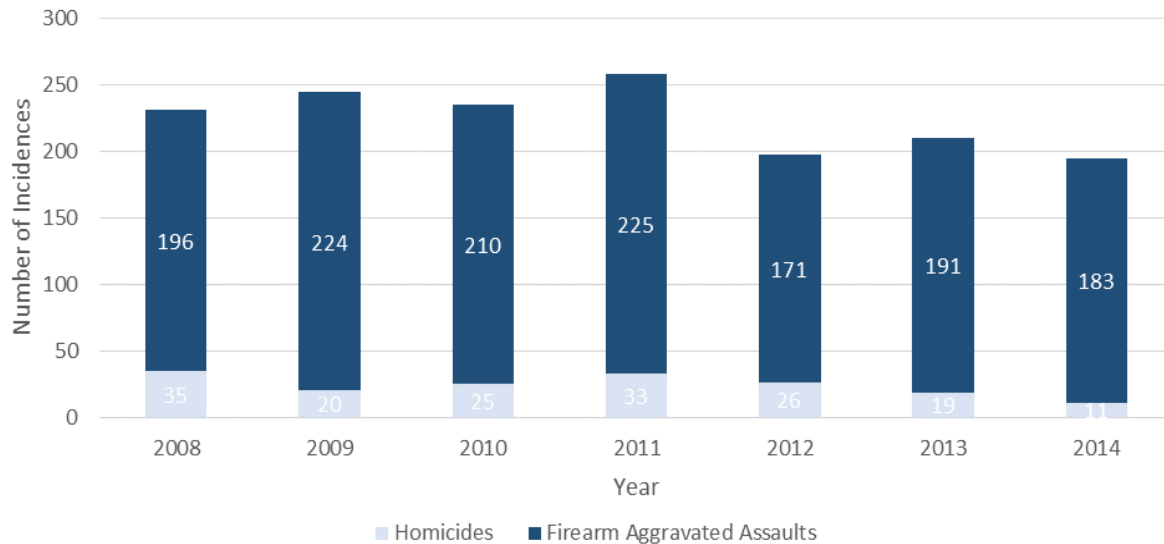
### ***Total Incidences of Shootings and Killings in Priority Area***

From 2013 to 2014, there were improvements in both measures including shooting (i.e., firearm aggravated assaults) and killings (i.e., homicides). It will be important to continue to examine the trend over the next several years, as well as for Aim4Peace to maintain a consistent priority area. It also should be noted that number of incidences of homicides decreased, but increased for firearm aggravated assaults overall for the City.

The figure shows the total number of combined incidences of homicides and aggravated assaults in the A4P priority area. Since 2012, the overall number of violent incidences in the A4P priority area seems to be stabilizing and decreasing, particularly for homicides. There is still some variability in the aggravated assault rates over time.

- Between 2013 and 2014, there was a decrease of 16 total incidents involving shootings and killings in the A4P priority area. From 2013 to 2014, there was nearly an 8 percent change decrease in total violent incidences. The figure below displays the annual count of total homicides and firearms aggravated assaults.
- Between 2008 and 2014, there has been a 16 percent change decrease with 37 less violent incidents reported in the A4P priority area as measured by police recorded homicides and firearm aggravated assaults.

### ***Total Homicides and Firearm Aggravated Assaults***



<sup>20</sup> The 2013-2014 difference between Sector 330 and eight comparison sectors was significant [ $t(7)=1.12$ ,  $p=.30$ ,  $d=.40$ ;  $SD=2.27$ ].

## Report Recommendations for Program Implementation and Evaluation

Key recommendations to enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the program are offered.

1. Continue to maintain a consistent presence in Sector 330, which permits a deeper examination of the program over time since A4P has had a steady presence in the Sector since 2012. Maintain the expanded eight beat Aim4Peace priority area for several years without expanding into additional areas until the data are stabilized for firearm aggravated assaults in the priority area, as evidenced by at least a three year trend. Additionally, the more the program expands into additional beats the fewer beats available within Kansas City that are appropriate comparison beats.
2. Continue to ensure appropriate levels of street outreach staff that is comparable to supports needed based on the size of the Aim4Peace priority area in order to sustain improved outcomes and supports for individual high-risk participants and community-level activities.
3. Continue to implement strategies being supported through program staff reorganization to enhance goal-setting and progress documentation practices for participants to permit a deeper analysis of participant goal attainment.
4. Develop a process for collecting baseline measures for critical questions on the participant surveys. Either consider consistently incorporating the questions in the participant intake process, or work with other program staff or the evaluators to conduct baseline surveys as new participants are enrolled in the program.
5. Determine an approach to support conflict mediation follow-up assessments that may be facilitated by either the street intervention workers or the evaluators. The majority of conflict mediations are indicated to be temporarily resolved, thus it is important to determine the longer-term status of the mediation activities.
6. Ensure a closeout assessment is conducted by the street outreach worker for each participant.
7. Enhance access to social service resources and/or referrals to further support participants in addressing self-identified needs (e.g., family assistance, substance abuse treatment, sexual planning and health).
8. Consider how to enhance the evaluation of the community-level program activities (e.g., curriculum trainings) to understand the impact on knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors of community participants, particularly youth.
9. Develop an annual plan that supports the implementation, prioritization, and regular review of progress in implementing identified community changes (i.e., programs, policies, practices) in the A4P priority area. Identify appropriate community changes to be supported in beats within the A4P priority area to help mobilize the Neighborhood Action Teams as agents of change in their respective neighborhoods, as well as identify potential needs for violence prevention and reduction activities that may be different for various neighborhoods in the 44P priority area.

## APPENDIX A. BEAT MAP OF THE EAST PATROL DIVISION

