

Illinois' Peacekeepers Program Fiscal Year 2026 (FY'26) Violence Trends Report

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

September 2026

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State Providers

- Acclivus, Inc.
- Metropolitan Peace Initiatives

Implementing Partners

- Acclivus, Inc.*
 - Acclivus, Inc., Black Men United, G.O.D., House of James, I&F, Le Penseur, Restorative Project, Second Chance, Seeds of Roseland, Target Area, and Unstacked
- Metropolitan Peace Initiatives
 - ALSO, Breakthrough, Chicago CRED, Claretian Associates, INVC, New Life Centers, Project H.O.O.D., Public Equity, Target Area, Think Outside Da Box, and UCAN

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*Le Penseur and Seeds of Roseland were de-contracted at the end of 2024; Acclivus is now implementing partner in Riverdale/Altgeld Gardens and G.O.D. is taking on South Deering.

*This report focuses exclusively on violence trends. A separate FY'26 programmatic report will be issued in Fall 2026.

Introduction

The Peacekeepers Program (the Program) originally launched in Chicago as the Flat Lining Violence Inspires Peace (FLIP) Strategy in 2018. By the summer of 2022, FLIP was operating in 16 Chicago Community Areas (CCAs). The Program expanded significantly in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY'24) with public support from the **State of Illinois** and integration into the **Reimagine Public Safety Act** (RPSA) portfolio, which allowed for year-round operations. The Peacekeepers Program model remains grounded in its original underlying assumption: reducing gun violence in small geographic areas with disproportionately high rates of shootings can lead to sustained periods of peace in surrounding areas and, over time, this localized impact will contribute to a broader, citywide decline in gun violence victimizations. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY'26), the Program continued operating in a total of 41 CCAs and Cook County suburbs.

Via state providers, Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI) and Acclivus, the Program leverages the expertise of street outreach workers at community-based organizations experienced with implementing Community Violence Intervention (CVI). The implementing partners' street outreach teams, with input from law enforcement and the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS), locate small geographic areas with disproportionately high rates of shootings, or "hot spots," within their community area. Once hot spots are identified, outreach workers recruit individuals closest to gun violence or those most at risk of gun violence involvement to engage in programming. These recruited individuals, known as **Peacekeepers**, receive training to mediate potential conflicts in the designated hot spots.

The Peacekeepers Program is committed to achieving two core objectives: (1) reducing gun violence in identified hot spots and, ultimately, across entire communities; and (2) supporting the integration of Peacekeepers into the CVI workforce pipeline.

This report summarizes violence trends during FY'26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) across Peacekeepers Program community areas. It also includes a descriptive analysis of shooting victimization trends in 25 Chicago community areas that operated the Program throughout the fiscal year, with particular attention to designated hot spots. The analyses presented below are descriptive and are intended to document patterns of violence; they do not assess causation or estimate the Program's impact on observed violence trends.



Source: Breakthrough Urban Ministries

Violence Trends Highlights

Hot spots are small geographic areas with disproportionately high rates of shootings within their community area. In FY'26, between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026, **40%** (n=65) of hot spots¹ witnessed a **decrease** in shooting victimizations, approximately **21%** (n=34) saw an **increase** in shooting victimizations, and **39%** (n=63) experienced **no change** in shooting victimizations relative to FY'25.²

- Peacekeepers Program hot spots in Chicago experienced an overall **33% decrease** in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25.
- Peacekeepers Program community areas experienced an overall **18% decrease** in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25.
- Chicago experienced an overall **15% decrease** in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25.
- **Since FY'21, there has been a consistent decline in shooting victimizations across Peacekeepers Program community areas, with FY'26 experiencing the lowest cumulative number of shooting victimizations during this period.**

¹ This data point reflects hot spots located in Chicago only, as CORNERS currently does not have Suburban Cook County shooting data.

² Although hot spots in Near North Side, Near West Side, and West Town were operating between Spring and Autumn 2025, these hot spots have been excluded from the violence trends analysis, as they did not operate for the entirety of FY'26 and are no longer operating.



Source: Institute for Nonviolence Chicago

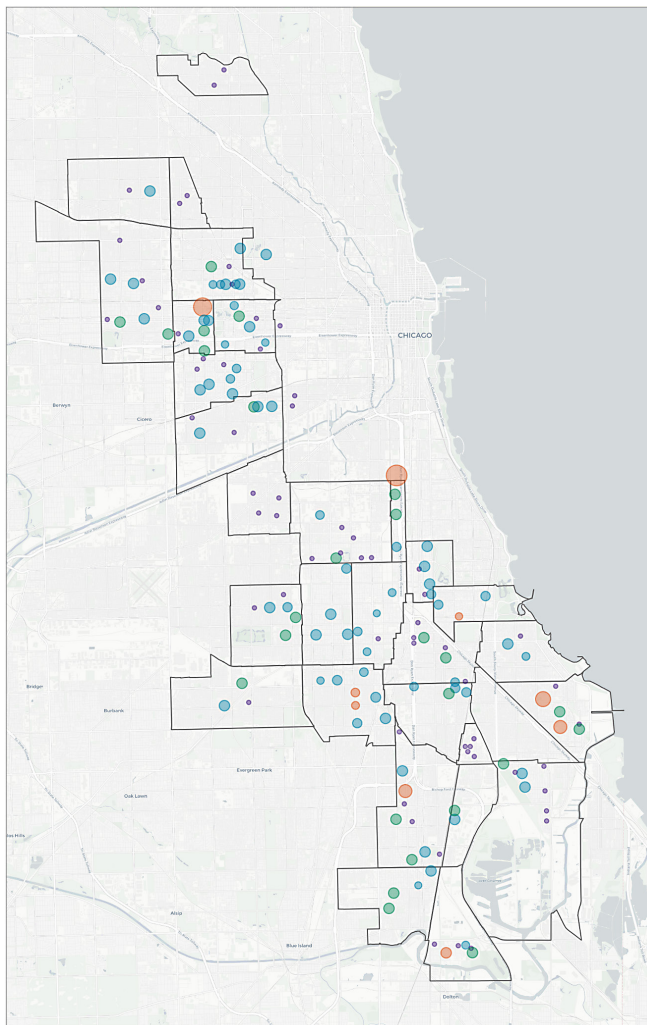
Fiscal Year 2026 Year-over-Year Trends

The implementation of the Peacekeepers Program relies on monitoring violence at two key geographies: **hot spots**, small geographic areas with disproportionately high rates of shootings, and **community areas**. The figures below examine violence trends for 162 hot spots in 28 CCAs across multiple fiscal years, with most comparing FY'26 (July 2025 through June 2026) to FY'25 (July 2024 through June 2025). Shooting victimization data comes from the Violence Reduction Dataset from Chicago Data Portal, with domestic incidents filtered out using crime data shared by the Chicago Police Department. Hot spot data is shared directly with CORNERS from implementing partner organizations and/or State Providers.

Peacekeepers Program Hot Spots

Overall, Peacekeepers Program hot spots in Chicago experienced a **33% decrease** in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25. In addition, **40%** (n=65) of program hot spots in FY'26 showed a **decrease** in shooting victimizations; **21%** (n=34) experienced an **increase**; and **39%** (n=63) experienced **no change** relative to FY'25. The magnitude and direction of percent changes of victimizations in hot spots between FY'25 and FY'26 are shown in Figure 1 below.

Year over Year % Change in Victimization in Hot Spots
Between FY'25 and FY'26



Direction

- Decrease
- Increase
- N/A*
- No Change

% Change

- 0%
- 200%
- 400%
- 600%

40%

of hot spots in Chicago showed a decrease in shooting victimizations

21%

of hot spots saw an increase in victimizations

39%

of hotspots experienced no change

33%

overall decrease in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25

Figure 1

15% (n=25) of Peacekeepers Program hot spots in Chicago that had no shooting victimizations in FY'25 experienced shootings during FY'26. Of those 25 program hot spots:

- 17 experienced 1 shooting victimization in FY'26
- Two experienced 2 shooting victimizations in FY'26
- Three experienced 3 shooting victimizations in FY'26
- Three experienced 4 shooting victimizations in FY'26

Note: A year-over-year percent change cannot be calculated in these instances due to the previous year having zero incidents. These hot spots are represented as "N/A" in the figure above.*

Rolling Averages

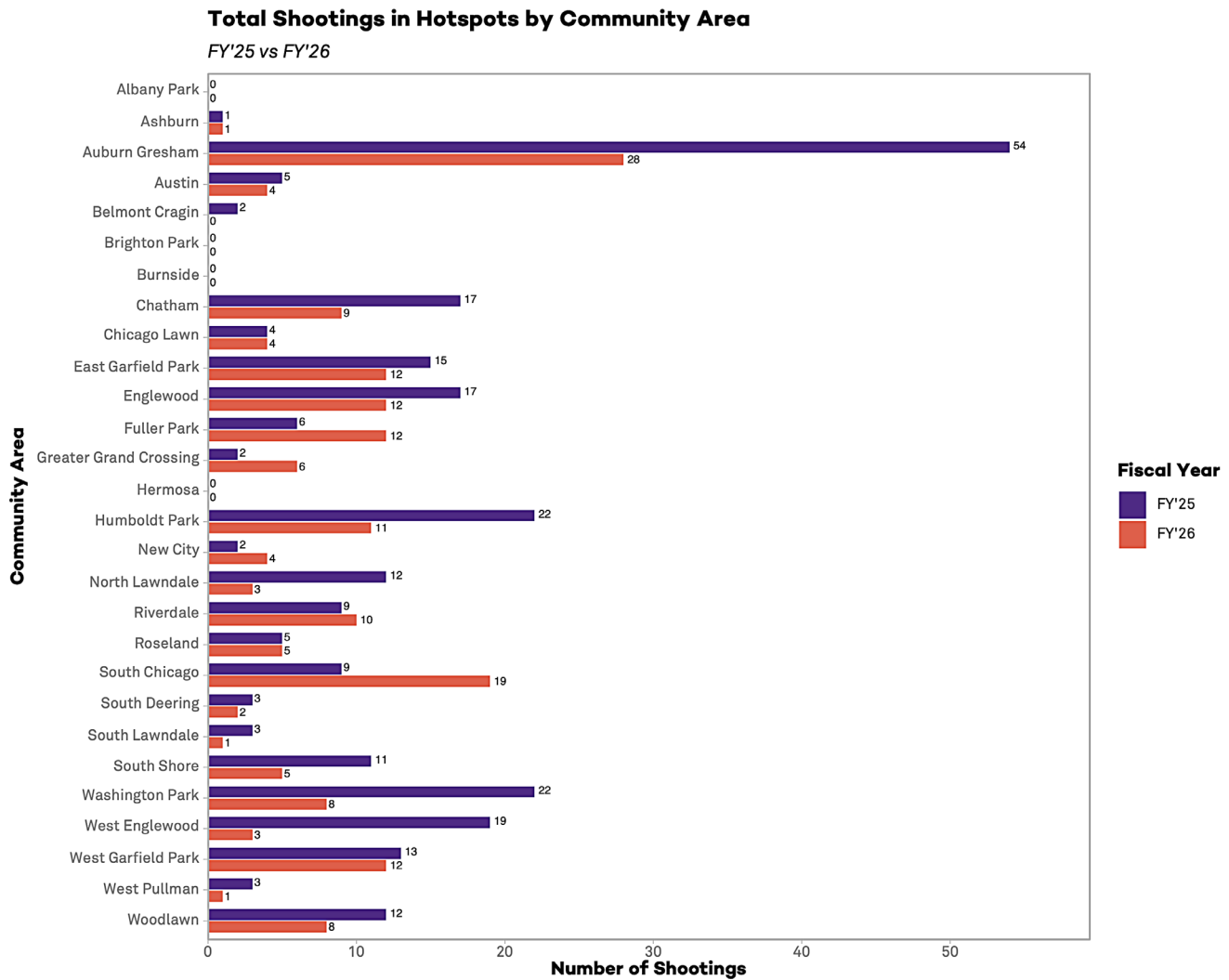


Figure 2

The rolling averages presented in Figure 2 above provide context to the typical seasonal pattern of gun violence in Peacekeepers Program hot spots, with victimizations typically rising in the spring, peaking in the summer, declining in the fall, and reaching their lowest point in the winter. The shaded portion of the graph above displays the rolling averages of shooting victimizations for FY'24 and FY'25, while the non-shaded area represents the rolling average for FY'26.

Unlike past recent fiscal years, the FY'26 rolling average shows a distinct shift, with the expected summer surge in gun violence trending toward lower levels than prior summers, suggesting a more peaceful Summer 2026 in program hot spots. FY'26 also marked the lowest post-pandemic levels of shooting victimization, with both the peak and trough of the rolling average reaching their lowest points since the pandemic (see Figure 2).

Peace Intervals

The Peacekeepers Program builds on the original FLIP program model theory that “flatlining” violence within program hot spots will drive broader peace throughout community areas and the city. As periods of non-shooting are prolonged in program hot spots, the hope is that these stretches of calm will have a ripple effect—reducing the frequency of shooting incidents at the community level over time. Through the implementation of mediations and management of Non- Aggression Agreements, the Program aims to extend the duration of time between shooting events in hot spots.

The following analysis captures and quantifies such periods of calm, referred to henceforth as “peace intervals,” within established program hot spots. **A peace interval is defined as a period of one or more days where no shooting incidents occur within a given area.** As seen in Figure 3 below, an *increased* peace interval (green bars) indicates longer periods of time without a shooting, while a *decreased* peace interval (orange bars) indicates less time without a shooting in a program hot spot within a community area relative to the previous year.

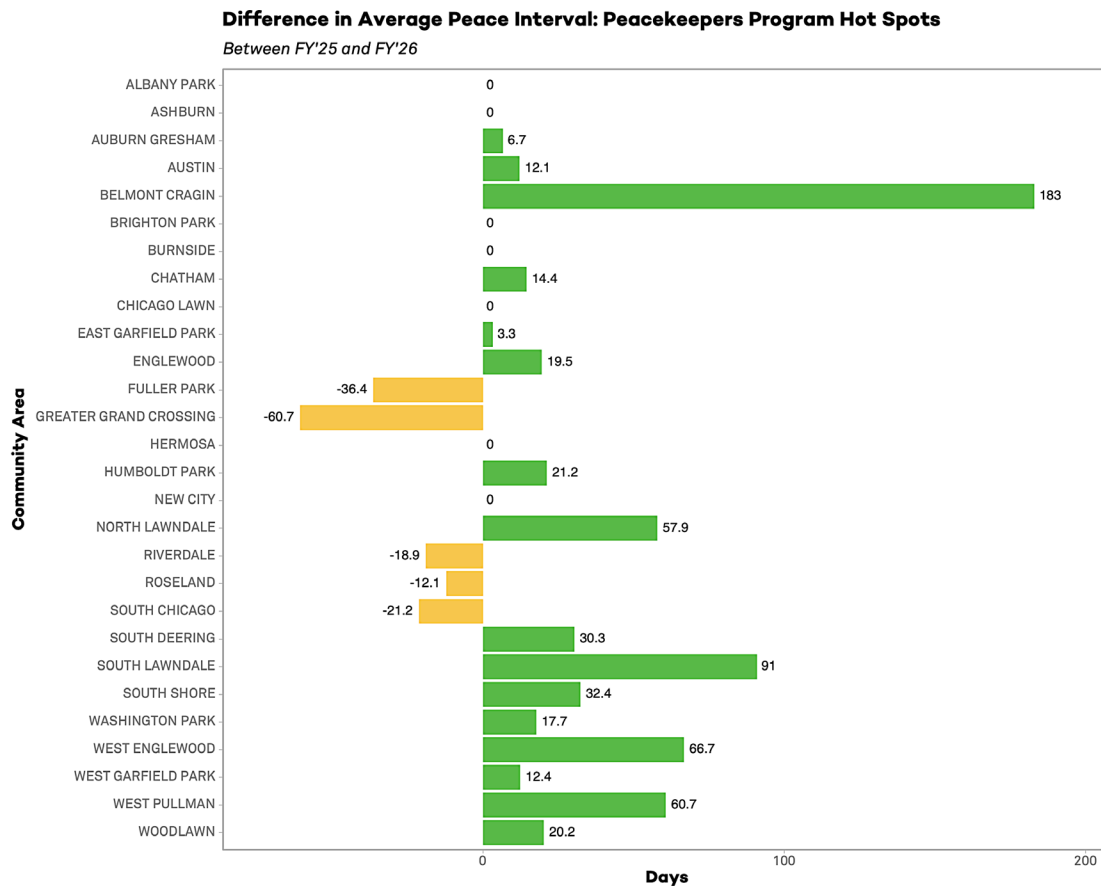


Figure 3

The changes in the average length of peace intervals in Peacekeepers Program hot spots in FY'26 relative to FY'25 varied greatly, ranging from a decrease of about two months, as seen in Greater Grand Crossing, to an increase of about six months, as seen in Belmont Cragin (Figure 3).

On average, during FY'26, Peacekeepers Program hot spots experienced **18 more days without shooting incidents** compared to FY'25. Of the 28 Peacekeeper Program community areas, five experienced shorter

peace intervals in their hot spots, and eight showed no change in their hot spots, reflecting consistently low or absent shooting incidents across both fiscal years. Overall, the average window of peace intervals in Peacekeepers Program hot spots are widening, allowing additional time for communities to experience respite from gun violence.

Peacekeepers Program Community Area Trends

Because the Peacekeepers Program model posits that reducing shootings in hot spots will drive down overall community gun violence, it is important to assess whether shifts in violence as conveyed by the rolling average and peace intervals extend beyond program hot spots and align with broader community-wide and city-level trends. The following figures highlight patterns of shooting victimizations in Peacekeepers Program community areas cumulatively and year-over-year.

Cumulative Shooting Victimizations in Peacekeepers Program Community Areas

FY'26 compared with FY'21 to FY'25

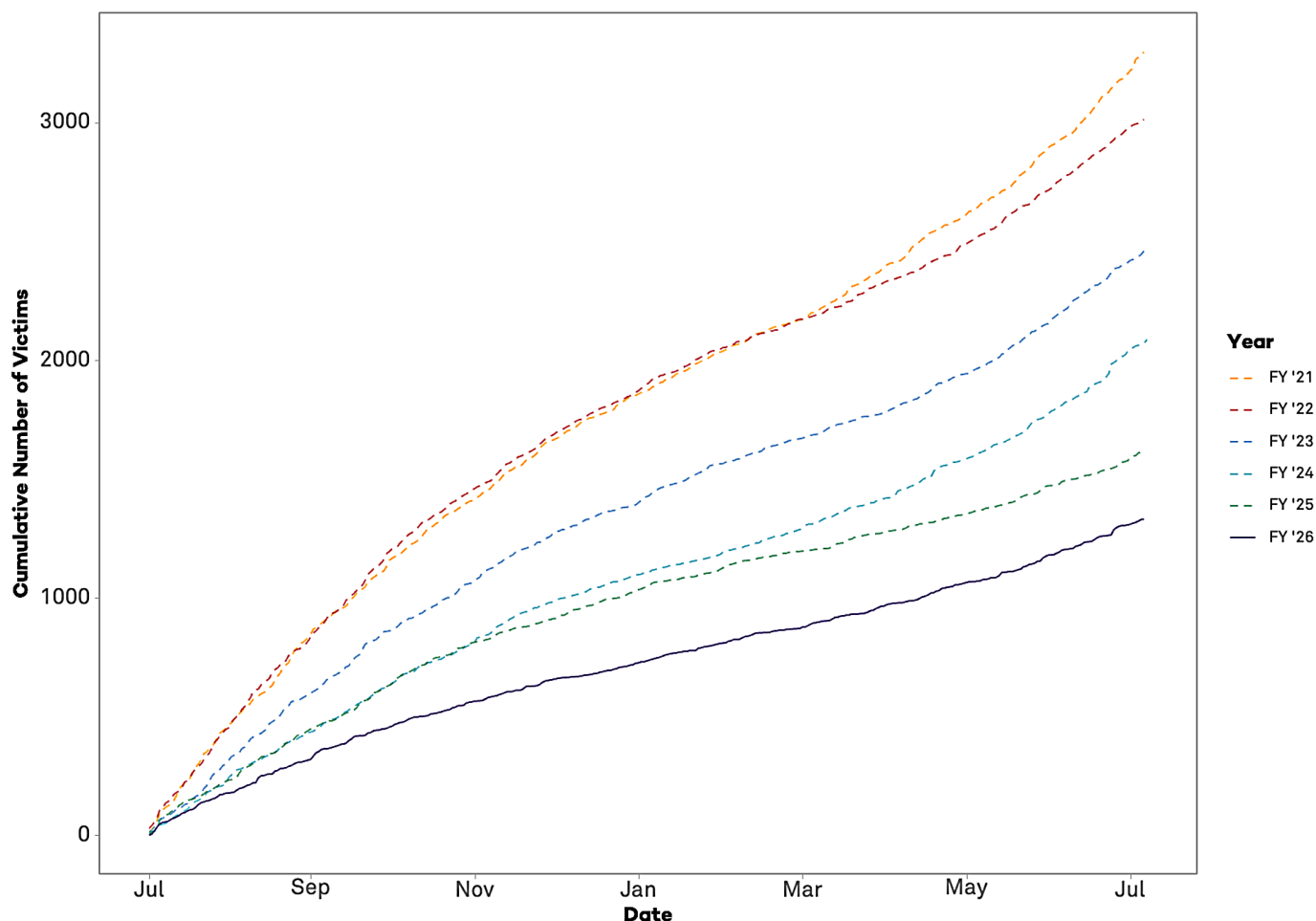


Figure 4

Figure 4 presents cumulative shooting victimizations in Peacekeepers Program community areas across six fiscal years: FY'21 through FY'26. The data show a **consistent decline in victimizations since FY'21, with FY'26 experiencing the lowest cumulative number of shooting victimizations during this time period.**

Shooting Victimization by Community Area with Percent Change

FY'25 vs. FY'26

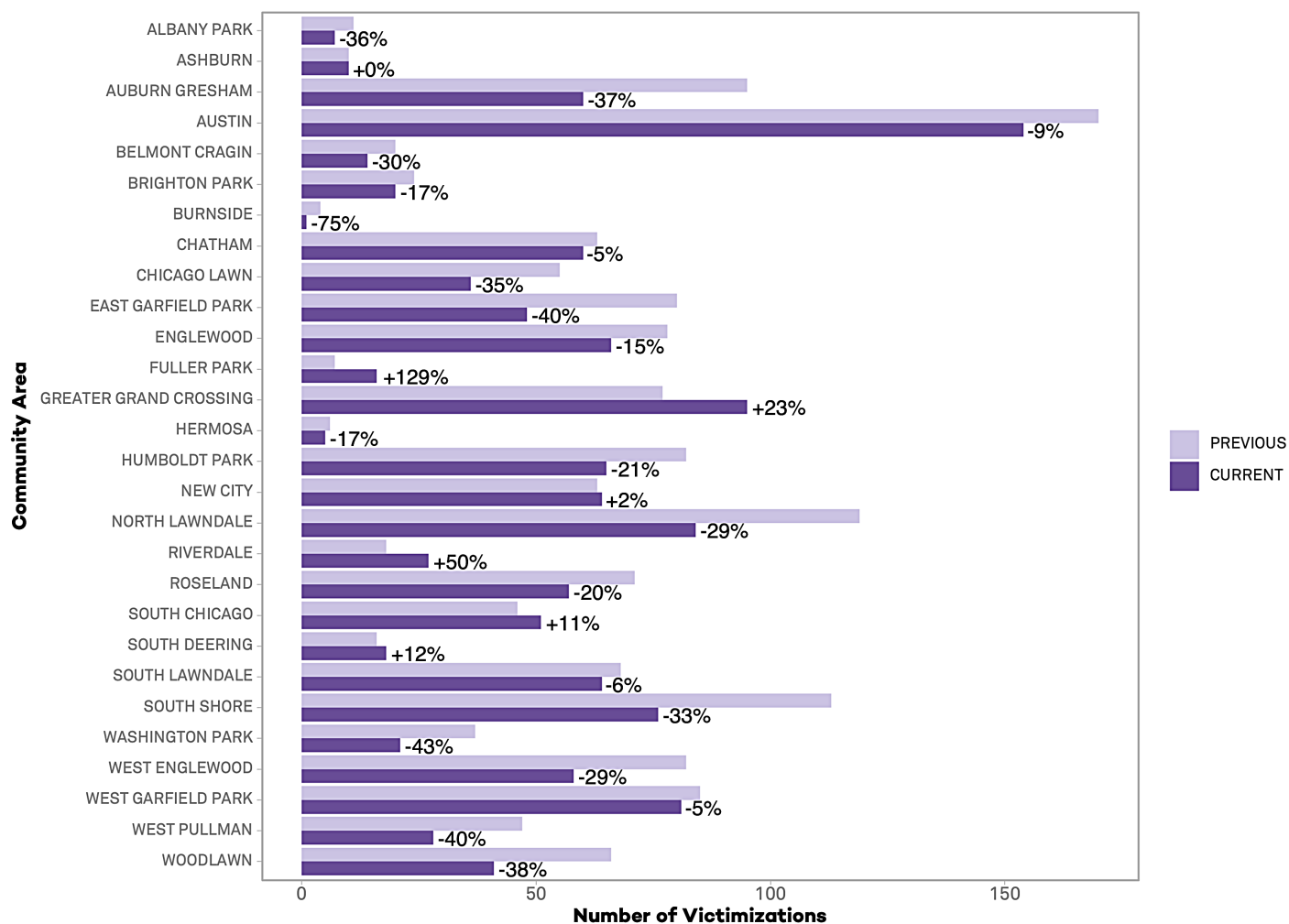


Figure 5

Figure 5 illustrates the change in the number of shooting victimizations in Peacekeepers Program community areas between FY'25 and FY'26. Among the 28 Peacekeepers Program community areas depicted, 21 experienced a decrease, six experienced an increase, and one experienced no change.

Peacekeepers Program Community Area and Hot Spots Hourly Trends

The following figures provide both temporal and geographic patterns of when and where violence occurred in Peacekeepers Program community areas and hot spots during FY'26.

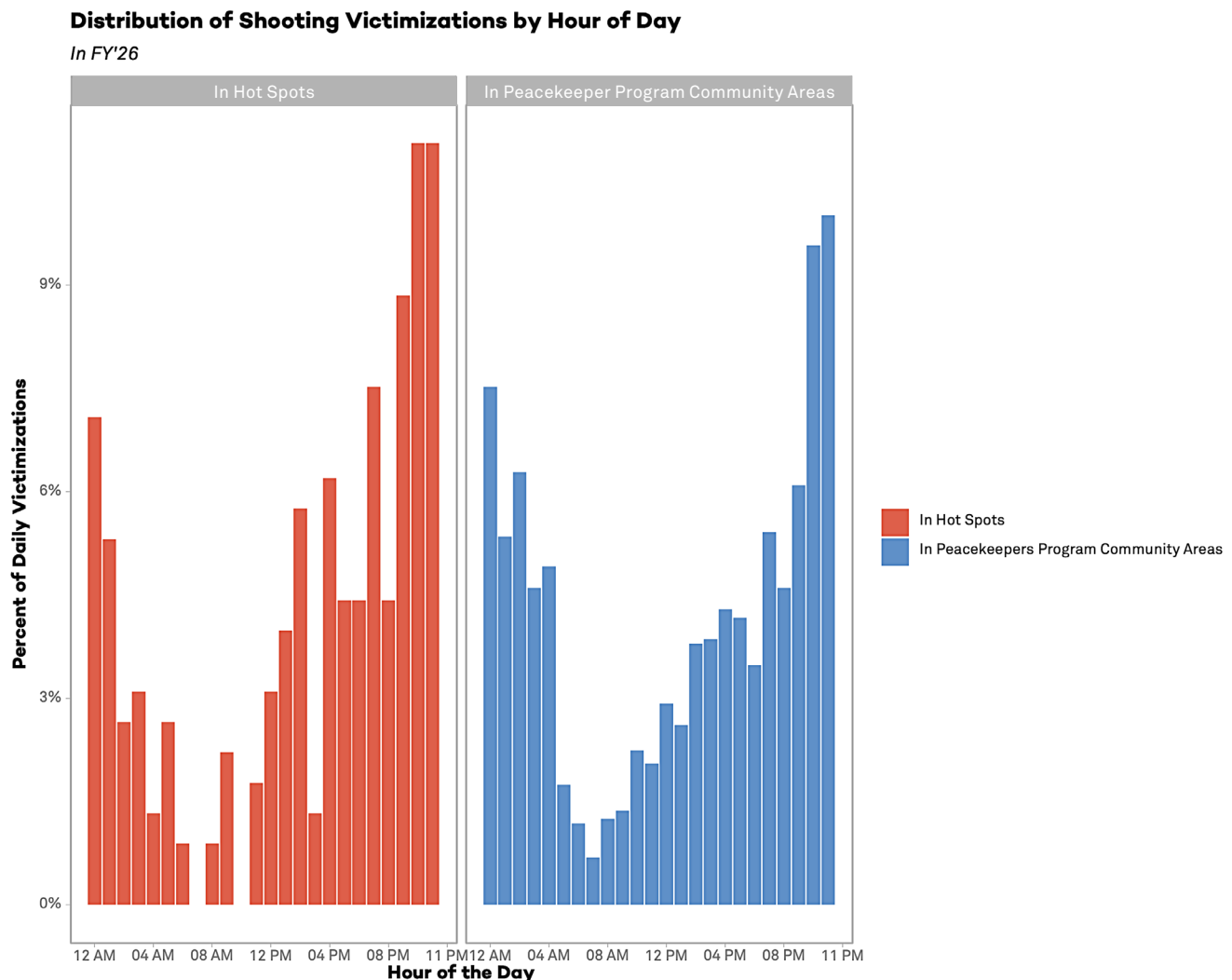


Figure 6

Figure 6³ shows the hourly distribution of shooting victimizations inside Peacekeepers Program hot spots and community areas throughout FY'26. About one third (31%) of victimizations at the hot spot level occurred between 4 pm and midnight while 27% at the community area level occurred within those same hours.

³ While Figure 6 includes shootings for every day of the week, Peacekeepers are primarily on shift Wednesday - Saturday. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Peacekeepers are typically on shift from 4 pm until no later than midnight. On Fridays and Saturdays, Peacekeepers typically begin at 2 pm and end no later than midnight.

Citywide Trends

Cumulative Shooting Victimization in Chicago

FY'26 compared with FY'21 to FY'25

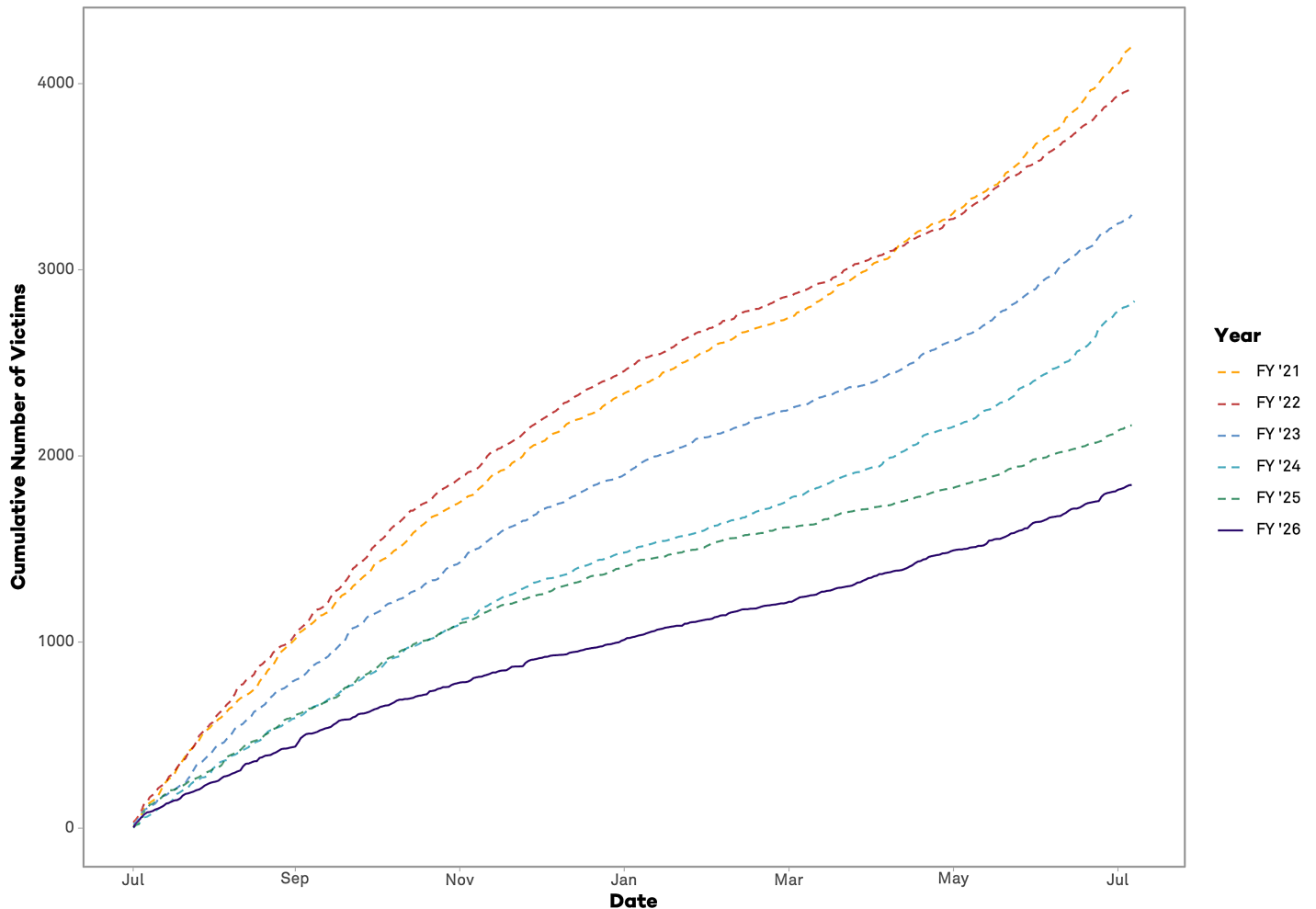


Figure 7

In FY'26, Chicago experienced the lowest number of shooting victimizations compared to the previous four fiscal years. The data in Figure 7 above shows a **consistent decline in total shooting victimizations between FY'21 and FY'26**.

Conclusion

FY'26 saw an ongoing downward trend in shooting victimizations across Peacekeepers Program hot spots, community areas, and the city of Chicago. Shooting victimizations decreased by 33% in Peacekeepers Program hot spots, 18% in Peacekeepers Program community areas, and 15% citywide. Additionally, the average peace interval across Peacekeepers Program community areas increased by 18 days.

While violence remains unevenly distributed across geographies and some areas experienced increases or no change, overall FY'26 was characterized by longer periods without shootings, fewer victimizations, and historically low levels of gun violence.



Source: Government Alliance for Safe Communities

Appendix

Total Shootings in Hotspots by Community Area

FY'25 vs FY'26

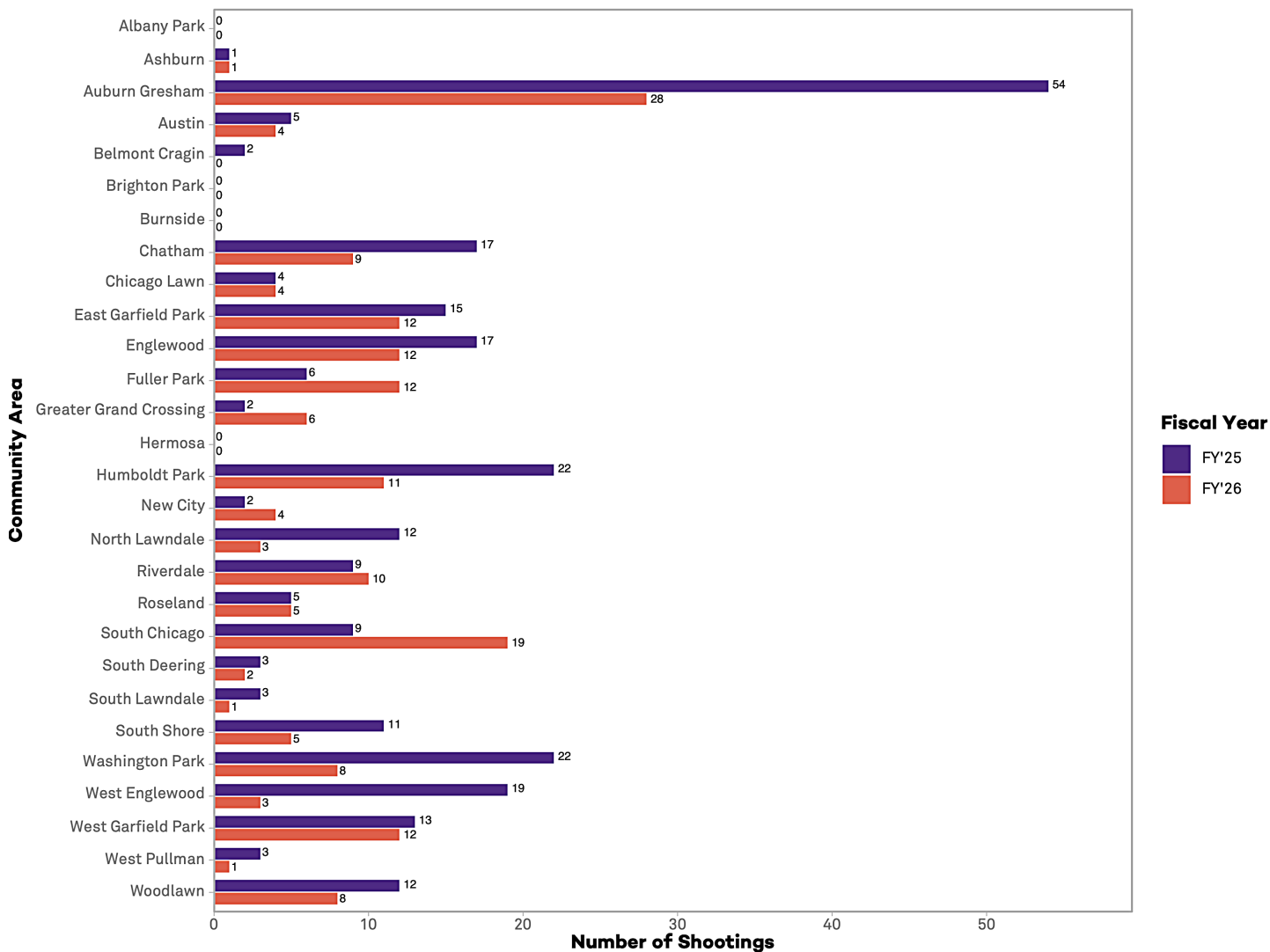


Figure A1

Peacekeepers Program Hot Spots

Year-over-Year Change in Shooting Victimizations

Community Area	Total Victimizations FY'25	Total Victimizations FY'26	YoY % Change in Victimizations
Albany Park	0	0	+0%
Ashburn	1	1	+0%
Auburn Gresham	54	28	-48.15%
Austin	5	4	-20%
Belmont Cragin	2	0	-100%
Brighton Park	0	0	+0%
Burnside	0	0	+0%
Chatham	17	9	-47.06%
Chicago Lawn	4	4	+0%
East Garfield Park	15	12	-20%
Englewood	17	12	-29.41%
Fuller Park	6	12	+100%
Greater Grand Crossing	2	6	+200%
Hermosa	0	0	+0%
Humboldt Park	22	11	-50%
New City	2	4	+100%
North Lawndale	12	3	-75%
Riverdale	9	10	+11.11%
Roseland	5	5	+0%
South Chicago	9	19	+111.11%
South Deering	3	2	-33.33%
South Lawndale	3	1	-66.67%
South Shore	11	5	-54.55%
Washington Park	22	8	-63.64%
West Englewood	19	3	-84.21%
West Garfield Park	13	12	-7.69%
West Pullman	3	1	-66.67%
All Peacekeepers Program Hot Spots in Chicago	268	180	-32.84%

Table A1

Hot spots in Peacekeepers Program community areas collectively experienced a 33% year-over-year decline in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25. Most community areas experienced declines in hot spot victimizations, with five out of 28 experiencing increases in hot spot shooting victimizations.

Peacekeepers Program Community Areas

Year-over-Year Change in Shooting Victimizations in Peacekeepers Program Community Areas

Community Area	Total Victimizations FY'25	Total Victimizations FY'26	YOY % Change in Victimizations
Albany Park	11	7	-36.36%
Ashburn	10	10	+0%
Auburn Gresham	95	60	-36.84%
Austin	170	154	-9.41%
Belmont Cragin	20	14	-30%
Brighton Park	24	20	-16.67%
Burnside	4	1	-75%
Chatham	63	60	-4.76%
Chicago Lawn	55	36	-34.55%
East Garfield Park	80	48	-40%
Englewood	78	66	-15.38%
Fuller Park	7	16	+128.57%
Greater Grand Crossing	77	95	+23.38%
Hermosa	6	5	-16.67%
Humboldt Park	82	65	-20.73%
New City	63	64	+1.59%
North Lawndale	119	84	-29.41%
Riverdale	18	27	+50%
Roseland	71	57	-19.72%
South Chicago	46	51	+10.87%
South Deering	16	18	+12.50%
South Lawndale	68	64	-5.88%
South Shore	113	76	-32.74%
Washington Park	37	21	-43.24%
West Englewood	82	58	-29.27%
West Garfield Park	85	81	-4.71%
West Pullman	47	28	-40.43%
All Peacekeepers Program Community Areas	1613	1327	-17.73%
Non-Peacekeepers Program Community Areas	552	516	-6.52%
Citywide	2165	1843	-14.87%

Table A2

Peacekeepers Program **community areas** collectively experienced an 18% year-over-year decline in shooting victimizations in FY'26 compared to FY'25. Most community areas experienced declines in victimizations, with six out of 28 experiencing increases in shooting victimizations.

The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS), housed at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research, leverages the transformative power of networks to help community and civic partners build safer, healthier, more equitable neighborhoods.

For more information about this report or CORNERS, please contact Andrew Papachristos at avp@northwestern.edu.

