



Advance Peace
LANSING/INGHAM



Advance Peace

An Overview of Shootings after 18 Months

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Advance Peace Lansing: An Overview of Shootings after 18 Months

The number of fatal and non-fatal shootings in Lansing, Michigan, rose dramatically between 2018 and 2020. The carnage alarmed community members and leaders alike. Lansing and Ingham County leaders agreed that gun violence was in fact a public health epidemic, and that new approaches were necessary to prevent shootings throughout the city. Law enforcement and members of the community recognized that a substantial amount of the violence was *cyclical and retaliatory*. Too often, one young person shot another, and there was a likelihood of a response. Some were afraid to consider taking a job, because of the dangers of being at a certain place at a known time. Often shootings occurred between rival groups, elevating the chances of retaliation and escalation.

Advance Peace Lansing is a response to the public health crisis of gun violence. It is modeled after the nationally recognized Advance Peace program. Advance Peace was created by a native of Lansing in Richmond California. It has expanded to at least 10 cities and has had promising results. Advance Peace Lansing is under the direction of the Michigan Public Health Initiative.

Peacemaker Fellows: Advance Peace seeks to reduce gun violence by identifying, supporting and ultimately transforming the lives of young people who are at the center of gun violence in Lansing. Many have been perpetrators or victims of violence, witnessed homicides or have family members who have died from gun violence. Advance Peace Lansing recruits them to participate in an 18-month Advance Peace, Peacemaker Fellowship program. There were 15 Fellows in the first cohort, which ended in March 2024. They receive a wide range of intensive, high-touch services and support, such as life coaching, cognitive behavioral therapy and job readiness. These are all tailored to their individual needs to help the fellows find a better, safer life path.

Street outreach. Advance Peace has hired neighborhood change agents, who have had their own previous experience with gun violence and now play critical roles in mentoring and supporting the Peacemaker Fellows. They reach out and build relationships in the streets and neighborhood and gain valuable information about hotspots for potential violence. They often mediate and interrupt conflicts to prevent gun violence.

Partnering with law enforcement. Advance Peace operates independently from law enforcement, but they maintain open lines of communications. They meet monthly to share data and review recent shootings. They also share information about hotspots that present particular risks of future gun violence.

Building out: Advance Peace Lansing began in the southwest part of Lansing, because it has historically had the largest amount of gun violence. Building on its initial success, Advance Peace is expanding to cover the rest of the city and create a presence around city high schools. Expansion to East Lansing is also in the works.

Funding: Advance Peace has received financial support from the city of Lansing, Ingham County, the state of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Collaboration and evaluation: Researchers from the University of California at Berkeley and Michigan State University are evaluating Advance Peace Lansing to better understand its effectiveness and inform changes.

The goals: Advance Peace strives to reduce cyclical and retaliatory violence by 40% by 2025. The goal is to have 60 Peacekeeper Fellows in 2024.

The Results:

The Advance Peace Lansing Program aims to reduce gun violence and promote community healing. This is accomplished by engaging with the people most impacted by cyclical and retaliatory gun violence. Advance Peace Lansing launched in October 2022 and completed its work with the first cohort of Advance Peace fellows in March 2024. This brief summarizes shooting victimizations in Lansing, MI. Data for the current report were provided by the Lansing Police Department and reflect fatal and non-fatal shootings from January 1, 2021, through March 31, 2024. Please note that the base frequencies for shootings, particularly fatal shootings, are relatively low and percentage change should be interpreted with caution.

Section 1

This first section of this brief provides an overview of shooting victimization in Lansing, MI. This includes frequencies and percentage change by year, quarter, and sector.

Table 1. Frequency and Percent Change of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victimizations, 2021 – 2023

	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Total	% Change
2021	23	83	106	--
2022	13	58	71	-33.0%
2023	13	66	79	+11.3%

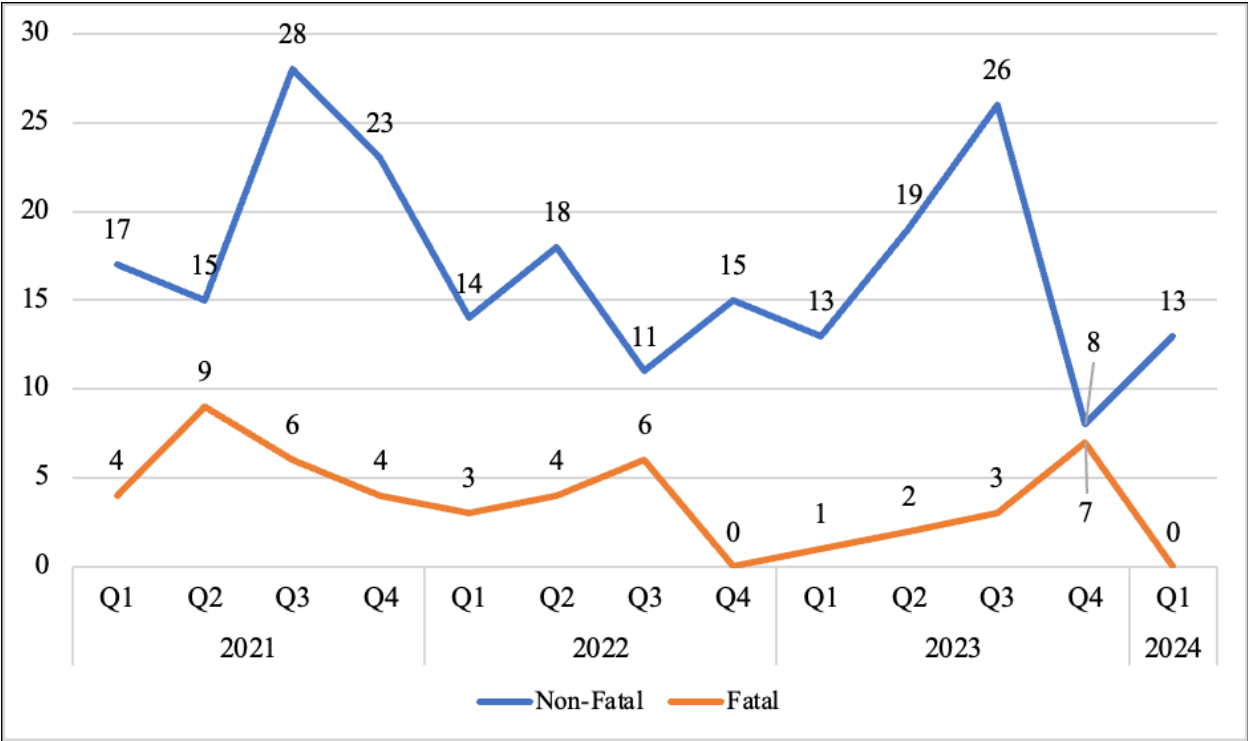
Overall, Lansing experienced a total of 106 shooting victimizations in 2021 (Table 1). From 2021 to 2022, there was a 33% decrease in shooting victimizations. From 2022 to 2023, there was an 11% increase in shooting victimizations.

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage Change in Shootings Victimizations by Quarter

	2021	2022	% Change	2023	% Change	2024	% Change
Quarter 1	21	17	-19.0%	14	-17.6%	13	-7.1%
Quarter 2	24	22	-8.3%	21	-4.5%	--	
Quarter 3	34	17	-50.0%	29	+70.6%	--	
Quarter 4	27	15	-44.4%	15	--	--	
Total:	106	71	-33.0%	79	+11.3%	--	--

As seen in Table 2, there were decreases in shooting victimizations across all four quarters from 2021 to 2022 with the largest decrease (50%) occurring during the third quarter of the year. From 2022 to 2023, an 18% decrease was observed in quarter 1, a 5% decrease in quarter 2, a 71% increase in quarter 3, and no change in quarter 4. From 2023 to 2024, there was a 7% decrease in quarter 1. Figure 1 illustrates the trends in fatal and non-fatal shooting victimizations by quarter.

Figure 1. Trends in Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Victimizations by Quarter



The city of Lansing is divided into four sectors or wards: Northwest (sector 1), Northeast (sector 2), Southwest (sector 3), and Southeast (sector 4). Table 3 illustrates the frequency and percentage change in shooting victimization across the four sectors. From 2021 to 2022, all four sectors experienced a decrease in shooting victimizations ranging from 21%-40%. From 2022 to 2023, the northwest saw no change in the frequency of shooting victimizations. There was a 26% decrease in the northeast, a 5% decrease in the southwest, and a 35% increase in the southeast.

Table 3. Frequency and Percentage Change in Shootings Victimizations by Sector

	2021	2022	% Change	2023	% Change
Northwest	20	12	-40.0%	12	--
Northeast	24	19	-20.8%	14	-26.3%
Southwest	33	21	-36.4%	20	-4.7%
Southeast	29	19	-34.5%	33	+34.5%
Total:	106	71	-33.0%	79	+11.3%

Section 2

The Advance Peace initiative was launched in October 2022. This second section of the report focuses on providing an overview of shooting victimizations prior to the implementation of Advance Peace and during the implementation of Advance Peace.

Table 4. Frequency and Percentage Change in Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings Prior to and During Advance Peace

	April 2021 – September 2022	October 2022 – March 2024	% Change
Fatal	32	13	-59.4%
Non-Fatal	109	94	-13.8%
Total:	141	107	-24.1%

From April 2021-September 2022 (18 months prior to Advance Peace) there were a total of 31 fatal shootings and 109 non-fatal shootings. During the 18 months of Advance Peace (October 2022 – March 2024), there were a total of 13 fatal shootings and 94 non-fatal shootings. This equates to a 59% reduction in fatal shootings and a 14% reduction in non-fatal shootings. Overall, there was a 24% reduction in total shooting victimizations.

Advance Peace Lansing operates in the Southwest sector of the city. Therefore, Table 5 provides estimates of shooting victimizations by sector 18 months prior to program implementation and during implementation.

Table 5. Frequency and Percentage Change in Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings Prior to and During Advance Peace by Sector

	April 2021 – September 2022		October 2022 – March 2024		% Change	% Change
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Northwest	4	20	2	17	-50.0%	-15.0%
Northeast	9	26	2	16	-77.8%	-38.5%
Southwest	5	35	4	26	-20.0%	-25.7%
Southeast	14	28	5	35	-64.3%	+25.0%
Total:	32	109	13	94	-59.4%	-13.8%

There were reductions in fatal shooting victimizations across all four sectors of the city during Advance Peace operations relative to the 18-month period prior to implementation. Reductions ranged from 20-78% with a 20% reduction in the southwest sector. The northwest, northeast, and southwest sectors all experienced reductions in non-fatal shootings, while the southeast experienced an increase. The southwest experienced a 26% reduction in non-fatal shootings. In contrast, the southeast experienced a 25% increase.

Looking back, looking forward

Gun violence has fallen in southwest Lansing, and city wide. While researchers say it is not possible to prove establish causality at this point in time, these are clearly the outcomes Advance Peace Lansing was created to support. It is especially important to note that all the Peacekeeper Fellows are still alive, and a large majority have neither been victims or perpetrators of gun violence. The majority of the Fellows stayed with the program for the 18-month duration. There is, at a minimum, hope that many lives are being transformed.

We are grateful that leaders in the city of Lansing, Ingham County, the state of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Justice have embraced the early success of Advance Peace Lansing. They are now investing additional funds to bring the program up to scale and make further advancements in reducing gun violence.