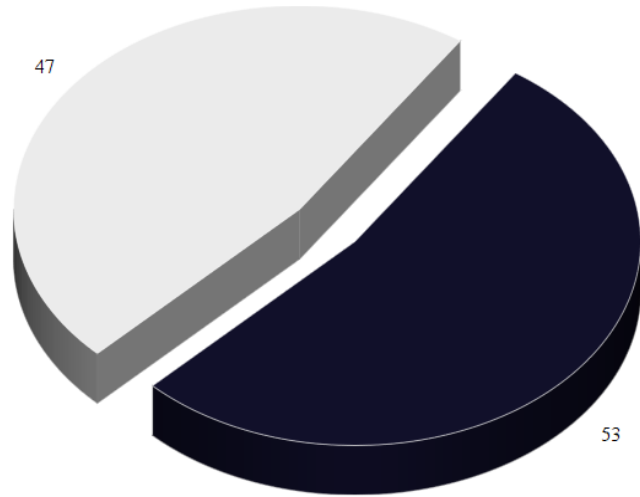
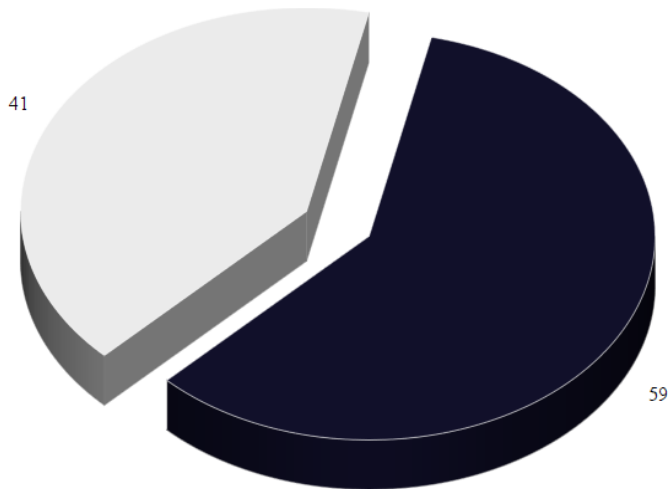


**JACKSON COUNTY MISSOURI PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE:**  
 Innovative Prosecution Solutions Initiative



**Chart 1: 2015 East Patrol homicides**

53% of Kansas City homicides occurred in the East Patrol Division



**Chart 2: 2016 East Patrol homicides**

59% of Kansas City homicides occurred in the East Patrol Division

**The Problem:**

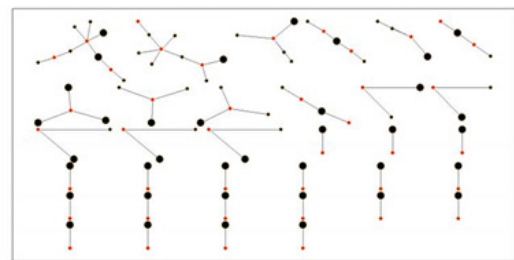
Like many similarly-sized American cities, Kansas City is tackling violent crime. To address its gun violence, the site’s Initiative focuses on five hotspot areas within the “East Patrol Division,” an area with homicide rates more than double that of other Kansas City police districts. The city’s population is slightly under 500,000 residents, and the East Patrol Division is home to 85,000 of them. In addition, 60% of victims living in the East Patrol Division are unwilling to cooperate with law enforcement.

**The Science:**

**Using Data and Intelligence to Fight Crime**

The Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (JCPAO), Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) and researchers at California State-Fresno have identified five randomized hotspots as a treatment group for vertical and geographic prosecution. For comparison of this treatment group, researchers are also studying two control groups without geographic and vertical prosecution—one group using geographic/hotspot policing and the second using normal policing.

Social network analysis of incidents and defendants connected to violent hot spots.



JCPAO data from 2015 and 2016 shows, through social network analysis, that 66 referred cases were connected to 44 defendants. In the chart above, black dots represent cases, while red dots represent defendants.

## Key Features: Comprehensive Strategy for Violence Reduction

### Vertical Prosecution

Two prosecutors work exclusively on prosecuting cases — from indictment to disposition — arising out of the five hotspots.

### Strengthening Relationships Between Prosecutors and Law Enforcement

Prosecutors keep office hours at the East Patrol Campus to strengthen relationships with East Patrol police officers.

### Cleaning up Urban Blight

JCPAO's "Abandoned Housing Initiative" focuses community clean-up on a single block within a hotspot. This block contains abandoned properties known for drug-usage. JCPAO is working with Legal Aid and private attorneys to clear title so the houses can be rehabilitated and used for families, while also ameliorating urban blight in an effort to lower crime rates on the block.

### Diverting Non-Violent Property Crimes

JCPAO is using Restorative Justice for pre-charging diversion of property crimes occurring within the hotspots. JCPAO plans Neighborhood Accountability Boards to divert 5-10 cases per year through restorative justice, a process to facilitate communication between all stakeholders (the victim, offender, and the community), in a safe setting where the focus is on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior.

### Staffing a Victim Advocate

For this Initiative, JCPAO hired a Victim Advocate to work exclusively with victims of crimes in the five hotspots. The Victim Advocate contacts victims shortly after the crime, regardless of whether the case is investigated or charged.

### Focusing on Community Engagement:

The community engagement coordinator meets with neighborhood associations to hear concerns and share progress. The coordinator manages a social media campaign that highlights positive JCPAO events.

## Methodology

As the initiative progresses, the researchers will conduct data analysis, comparing the treatment group with the two control groups. Metrics will include: different prosecution outcomes and conviction rates, length of time to prosecute the case up to disposition, effective alternatives to traditional prosecution, and whether witnesses and victims are more likely to participate in the prosecutorial process.

The site's geographic, vertical prosecution model using social network-based intervention "helps with efficiency of problem areas and problem people," says researcher Dr. Andrew Fox.

The initiative is projecting a larger victim services presence in the community, which researcher Dr. Chadley James explains will help empower victims and witnesses, and build more trust between the community, prosecutors, and law enforcement.

“Despite divides that still exist between communities and law enforcement, there are engaged citizens living in violent-ridden areas who are willing to work with us if we uphold our end of the bargain. Part of the reason we are excited about our Innovative Prosecution Solutions grant is because it gives us the resources to partner with these communities that are deserving of our support.”

**Kate Brubacher,**  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

“Through the IPS grant, JCPAO focuses on better deploying resources to address the sources of crimes and improve neighborhoods for the families who make their homes there.”

**Kate Brubacher,**  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney