

# Crime Observatory Newsletter

Violence Prevention  
Alliance (Jamaica)

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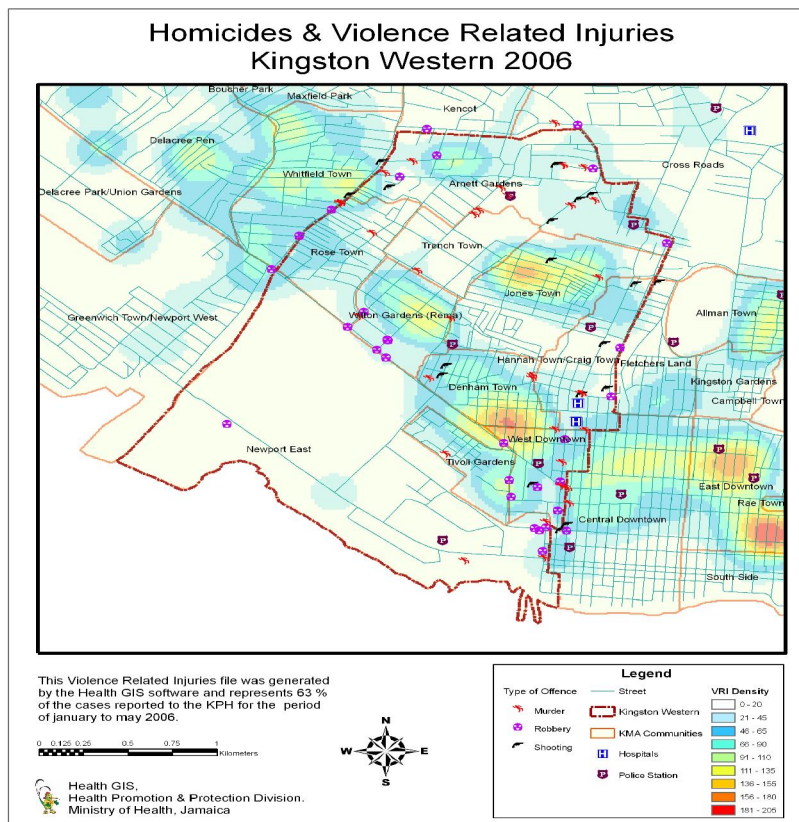
## What is a Crime Observatory?

The Crime Observatory constitutes a group of individuals from various organizations who uses scientific driven data to prevent and manage crime and violence in Jamaica. This concept has been effectively used in countries such as Colombia and Wales to reduce the impact of violence.

The Observatory, which is under the auspices of the Violence Prevention Alliance, has thus far been sanctioned by the Commissioner of Police and by extension the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the UWI Peace and Justice Centre.

The Crime Observatory will focus on two police divisions; Kingston Western and Kingston Central. The Observatory's objectives are 1) identify "hot spots" using Geo-

graphic Information System (GIS) technology 2) standardize the way crime data is analyzed and interpreted 3) overlay data from other agencies with crime data 4) monitor and evaluate the impact of specific interventions on violence and 5) provide an inter-sectorial team to assist in the coordination and implementation of crime prevention strategies. In order to achieve these objectives, the Crime Observatory will need the cooperation and assistance of all its stakeholders.



Map of Kingston Western highlighting the "hot spots" and the types of crimes committed in the region. It also shows the social infrastructure in these communities (hospitals and police stations).

## Crime Observatory Meeting

Subsequent to a conference that was recently held, the Crime Observatory Group hosted its first official meeting on November 1, 2006 at the Police Officer's Club. Persons in attendance represented various sectors of the society including the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Ministries of Health, Na-

tional Security and Education, Youth and Culture, the Church, School, Hospital, Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Parks and Market, community representatives, Kingston and St. Andrew Action Forum, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Superintendent Delroy Hewitt from the Kingston Western Division of the JCF delivered his presentation on homicide and violence related injuries data for his division. He highlighted that for the communities in his division, 23 murders were committed in Denham Town, 6 in Hannah Town, 14 in Trench Town and 17 in

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*"most murders (24) were committed during the hours of 8-12 pm"*

*"most crimes occurred on Fridays and Saturdays"*

## Crime Observatory Meeting Cont'd

Admiral Town during the period of January to October of this year. In terms of gender, 42 of the victims were males and the remaining 23 were females.

In terms of the time of day, most murders (24) were committed during the hours of 8-12:00 pm which Supt. Hewitt dubbed as the "critical period." Additionally, it was reported that most crime occurred on Fridays (16) and Saturdays

(10), days in which there is little or no structured community activities.

With regards to an action plan, four points were decided upon; the observatory will initiate activities to target parent month, which is November (large parenting poster), MPM will increase their garbage disposal activities for households and schools within the division, PMI, Kingston and St. Andrew Action Forum and a

Trench Town community based organization will liaise to implement structured sporting activities during the "critical period" and finally, influential women will be used as a medium to assist in desisting community women from participating in and propagating crime.

### Upcoming Events

- Parenting month in November
- Monthly Crime Observatory meeting on December 6, 2006 at Police Officer's Club commencing at 9:30 am

## Community Safety and Skills Training/Education Scholarship

This scholarship, which is offered by the Ministry of National Security (MNS), is open to youths from communities in which the MNS and its partner groups and agencies operate. It will provide at risk youths in communities affected by crime and violence the opportunity to receive skills training that are relevant to the job market. Scholar-

ships will be awarded based on the following:

- 1) at risk youth aged 15 to 25 years
- 2) demonstrable financial need
- 3) Involvement in community organizations and services
- 4) must be recommended by one of Ministry's partner organizations
- 5) willingness to assist community's effort to maintain peace. Persons who are full time employees

or are in receipt/will be in receipt of other loans/ grants/ scholarships etc. are not eligible to receive benefits.

Registration closes in December. For further information, please contact Mr. Allan Campbell at [allan.campbell@mns.gov.jm](mailto:allan.campbell@mns.gov.jm).

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## About the Violence Prevention Alliance (Jamaica)

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) Jamaica is a network of government, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and private, international and intergovernmental agencies working together to prevent violence. The Alliance shares a public health approach that targets the root cause of violence, and recognizes the need for improved services to mitigate the harmful effects of violence.

We're on the Web!  
[www.moh.gov.jm/vpa/index.htm](http://www.moh.gov.jm/vpa/index.htm)