Louisville is the hometown of the world’s most famous boxer, Muhammad Ali; the city is known for the Kentucky Derby, baseball bats, fried chicken, and bourbon. Unfortunately, the city has recently also become known as the place where the Breonna Taylor tragedy occurred, and like many other cities across the country, has suffered from a spike in gun violence since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Louisville is a large city with more than 600,000 residents and nearly 400 square miles; the population is 66% White, 24% Black, 6% Latino, and 3% Asian. As with the national trend, violence in the city disproportionately affects the Black community, with 76% of all homicide victims this year being Black as of July 11, 2021. The city reached a grave milestone of having the most homicides in its history in 2020, with 1733, and as of July 11, 2021, there has been a 63% increase in homicides since the same time last year.

While most shootings and homicides involve young Black men, the age is older than many assume. Through the first half of 2021, 63% of all homicide suspects were between the age of 25-44 and only four suspects were juveniles.

Louisville also benefits from a number of gun violence reduction programs and strategies that have received national recognition. The city was among the first cities in the country to create a local government agency dedicated to violence prevention with the launch of the Office of Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods (OSHN) in 2013. OSHN works to address violence from its roots to its fruit by working collaboratively with and within priority communities to develop and deploy strategies for violence prevention and intervention that are comprehensive, socially just, evidence-based, and grounded in the public health approach. In late 2020, the city also launched a new Group Violence Intervention program, using a mix of law enforcement and social services known as Focused Deterrence to reduce gang violence.

When someone is shot in Louisville, as in jurisdictions throughout the country, there is an immediate, multifaceted, and very expensive response from an array of government agencies. The Louisville Fire Department dispatches EMTs, government contracted ambulances respond, the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) and sometimes additional policing agencies descend on the scene, investigators from the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney often arrive, and, if the victim/s are declared dead on the scene, the coroner is called. All of this stems from just the shooting scene itself. In non-fatal shootings and many homicides, immediately following is a hospitalization often paid for by tax dollars, and in the case of serious injury, rehabilitation. Victim compensation is often provided. There is protracted investigation by LMPD and the Commonwealth’s Attorney, who are sometimes joined by the US Attorney’s Office.

Most often there is a trial and a long incarceration period. When there are multiple victims and/or multiple suspects, these efforts multiply for even a single shooting incident. These are just some of the costs of each injury shooting and homicide in Louisville. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted a detailed analysis of the Cost of Gun Violence in Louisville. NICJR tracked the direct costs of each shooting and has deliberately used low end range estimates for each expense. Additionally, not included in this assessment are productivity losses relating to victim(s) or suspect(s) who were working at the time of the shooting.

1 U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Louisville/Jefferson County (balance), Kentucky
2 2021 Homicide Weekly Report 7-11-21.xlsxm (louisville-police.org)
3 Louisville violence: 173 homicides and few answers in record year (courier-journal.com)
4 2021 Homicide Weekly Report 7-11-21.xlsxm (louisville-police.org)
Nationally, those costs have been estimated at an additional $1 million - $2 million for each shooting incident. Therefore, the calculated per homicide shooting cost of $934k in Louisville is a conservative estimate; the real cost is likely even higher.

Each shooting homicide in Louisville costs taxpayers $934k

In the past five years, Louisville has had an approximate average of 116 homicides which result in an annual expense to taxpayers of more than $108.3 million.

If Louisville could further reduce its gun violence rate by just 20%, that would result in a combined government savings of $86.6 million every year.

Officials in Louisville and Jefferson County should consider even greater upfront investments in gun violence reduction efforts. Additional investments in effective intervention strategies would yield significant reductions in shootings, save lives and produce massive savings.

**LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY COST BREAKDOWN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME SCENE RESPONSE</th>
<th>HOSPITAL &amp; REHABILITATION</th>
<th>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The response to a severe injury shooting or homicide scene usually includes a heavy police presence, Fire/EMT response, along with medical transport. According to officials with the Louisville Metro Police Department, up to 15 officers, including Patrol, Homicide Unit, and other supervisory level officers, respond to a typical homicide shooting.</td>
<td>Once a victim has been transported to the hospital, the cost of the Trauma Unit, surgery, and rehabilitation, are exorbitant. Costs can range from $88k to $144k per incident. With more than 2/3 of gunshot victims either uninsured or on Kentucky Medicaid, the Cost of Violence includes a tremendous strain on the County’s hospital network.</td>
<td>Police investigation, a trial or court process that includes prosecution and defense costs, and court staff, make up the many costs of the court process in injury shooting and homicide cases. Due to the consequences of a homicide conviction, these cases often go to trial. Sometimes these cases involve multiple suspects with multiple court dates and separate trials. From the time of arrest, court proceedings in an injury shooting or homicide case can take two years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCARCERATION**

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. A stay in the Louisville Department of Corrections Jail system costs on average $63 per day. Suspects can remain in the County system for two years until trial, sentencing, and placement into the State prison system. The Kentucky State prison system costs $80 per day per day; incarceration costs of individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide range from $297k to over $517k.

**VICTIM SUPPORT**

The majority of these costs are covered by Kentucky’s Victim Compensation program. Costs can range from $34k to $45k per victim, and include burial expenses, lost wages for a year, medical expenses, and counseling. Other costs in this category include County services, including social services and autopsy costs, and the longterm cost of families losing a financial contributor.

**LOST TAX REVENUE**

Kentucky has a State Income Tax of 5% along with a Sales Use tax of 6%. When an injury shooting or homicide occurs, the State and counties lose the ability to collect taxes (both income and sales tax) from the incarcerated individuals and homicide victims. Each incident can represent lost tax revenue of a minimum of two individuals, from 10 to 20 years.
The Cost Per Shooting
The true governmental cost of gun violence to the city, County and State.

**Homicide Cost**
- **Crime Scene**: $9,300
- **Hospital**: $88,525
- **Criminal Justice**: $134,800
- **Incarceration**: $573,190
- **Lost Revenue**: $82,600
- **Total Cost**: $934,115

**Injury Shooting Cost**
- **Crime Scene**: $8,900
- **Hospital**: $144,617
- **Criminal Justice**: $18,140
- **Incarceration**: $280,290
- **Lost Revenue**: $22,700
- **Total Cost**: $508,897

- **total cost based on two suspects**
  - **$1.8M**
  - **per homicide shooting**
  - **Per Homicide Shooting**
  - **$934,115**
  - **Per Injuy Shooting**
  - **$508,897**

- **total cost based on two suspects**
  - **$1M**
  - **per injury shooting**

**LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY**

**Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods**

- **$3,000** Police Response
- **$2,500** Scene Cleanup
- **$3,800** Fire/EMT
- **$1,428** EMR/Trauma Center
- **$87,097** Gunshot Surgery
- **$10,800** Police Investigation
- **$117,200** DA & Public Defender
- **$6,800** Court Process
- **$45,990** Pre-Trial Incarceration
- **$527,200** Prison Placement
- **$2,200** Coroner’s Office
- **$25,000** Victim of Crimes
- **$18,500** Receiving Social Service Benefits (one year support for two families)
- **$82,600** Sales Tax Revenue (both suspect & murder victim)
- **$2,600** Police Response
- **$2,500** Scene Cleanup
- **$3,800** Fire/EMT
- **$1,428** EMR/Trauma Center
- **$87,097** Gunshot Surgery
- **$540** Police Investigation
- **$16,700** DA & Public Defender
- **$900** Court Process
- **$45,990** Pre-Trial Incarceration
- **$234,300** Prison Placement
- **$25,000** Victim of Crimes
- **$9,250** Receiving Social Service Benefits (one year support for one family)
- **$22,700** Sales Tax Revenue
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRIME SCENE</th>
<th>INCARCERATION</th>
<th>HOSPITAL</th>
<th>VICTIM SUPPORT</th>
<th>LOST REVENUE</th>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Subject:</strong> Police Response</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Louisville Metro Department of Corrections GF</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> USDA SNAP eligibility award = $262 for family</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = $2,500</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> If victim doesn’t work for one year, then an additional $2,065 of lost revenue is added. Total Lost Sales Revenue = $22,715</td>
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<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 6 Patrol, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and 6 Detectives. They remain on-scene between 2-6 hours.</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Louisville Fire Department</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> USDA SNAP eligibility award = $262 for family</td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> 2020 Income and Sales Tax</td>
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<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Fire &amp; EMT Budget = $159.6 Million Total Responses = 42,000 Average cost per response = $3,800</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Louisville Emergency Medical Services</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and released the same day = $1,428 (ER base cost) Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = $2,065 (surgery cost) + $56,092 (hospital stay &amp; rehabilitation center) Average cost of gun-shot victims who required surgery, a hospital stay, and were released to rehabilitation centers = $144,667 (ER cost, surgery &amp; rehabilitation cost) Formula for this study: (Base cost + surgery cost - 1/5 (20%) of surgery cost) =$70,820 per shooting victim requiring surgery and rehabilitation.</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and released the same day = $1,428 (ER base cost)</td>
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<td><strong>Subject:</strong> Fire/EMT Transport</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Archangels BioRecovery Inc</td>
<td><strong>Notes:</strong> Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and released the same day = $1,428 (ER base cost)</td>
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<td><strong>Subject:</strong> Scene Clean Up</td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> AfterDeath Cleaning</td>
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<td><strong>Source:</strong> 2020 National Trends and Cost Burden of Surgically Treated Gunshot Wounds in the US [Link]</td>
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