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.\(^1\) 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.\(^2\) The city reached a grave milestone of having the most homicides in its history in 2020, with 173, 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.\(^4\)

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.
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

### CRIME SCENE RESPONSE

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.

### HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION

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.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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.

### 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 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.

### Table: Cost Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime Scene Response</td>
<td>$37,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital &amp; Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$157,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>$234,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarceration</td>
<td>$22,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim Support</td>
<td>$6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Tax Revenue</td>
<td>$18,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$577,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The true governmental cost of gun violence to the City, County and State.

**Homicide Cost**

- **Crime Scene**: $9,300
- **Hospital**: $88,525
- **Incarceration**: $573,190
- **Lost Revenue**: $82,600
- **Victim Support**: $45,700
- **Criminal Justice**: $134,800
- **Police Response**: $3,000
- **Scene Cleanup**: $2,500
- **Fire/EMT**: $3,800
- **EMR/Trauma Center**: $1,428
- **Gunshot Surgery**: $87,097
- **Police Investigation**: $10,800
- **DA & Public Defender**: $117,200
- **Court Process**: $6,800
- **Pre-Trial Incarceration**: $45,990
- **Prison Placement**: $527,200
- **Coroner’s Office**: $2,200
- **Victim of Crimes**: $25,000
- **Receiving Social Service Benefits**: $18,500
- **One year support for two families**
- **Sales Tax Revenue**: $2,200

**Total Cost**: $934,115

- **Per Homicide Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**

**Injury Cost**

- **Crime Scene**: $8,900
- **Hospital**: $144,617
- **Incarceration**: $280,290
- **Lost Revenue**: $22,700
- **Victim Support**: $34,250
- **Criminal Justice**: $18,140
- **Police Response**: $2,600
- **Scene Cleanup**: $2,500
- **Fire/EMT**: $3,800
- **EMR/Trauma Center**: $1,428
- **Gunshot Surgery**: $87,097
- **Police Investigation**: $540
- **DA & Public Defender**: $16,700
- **Court Process**: $900
- **Pre-Trial Incarceration**: $45,990
- **Prison Placement**: $234,300
- **Victim of Crimes**: $9,250
- **Receiving Social Service Benefits**: $25,000
- **One year support for one family**
- **Sales Tax Revenue**: $1,428
- **Rehabilitation**: $56,092

**Total Cost**: $508,897

- **Per Injury Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**

**Total Cost Based on Two Suspects**

- **$1.8M**
- **Per Homicide Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**

- **$1M**
- **Per Injury Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**
## Crime Scene

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Police Response</th>
<th>Fire/EMT Transport</th>
<th>Scene Clean Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>• Response from LMPD Homicide Unit&lt;br&gt;• City of Louisville Employee Salaries</td>
<td>• Louisville Fire Department&lt;br&gt;• Louisville Emergency Medical Services</td>
<td>• Archangels BioRecovery Inc.&lt;br&gt;• AfterDeath Cleaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>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. Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 6 Patrol, 1 Sergeant, and 2 Detectives. They remain on-scene between 2-6 hours.</td>
<td>Fire &amp; EMT Budget = $159.6 Million&lt;br&gt;Total Responses = 42,000&lt;br&gt;Average cost per response = $3,800</td>
<td>Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = $2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>ER/ Surgery for Gun-Shot Victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and released the same day = $1,428 (ER base cost)&lt;br&gt;Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = $87,097 (surgery cost) + $56,092 (hospital stay &amp; rehabilitation center)&lt;br&gt;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)&lt;br&gt;Formula for this study: (Base cost + surgery cost - 1/5 (20%) of surgery cost) = $70,820 per shooting victim requiring surgery and rehabilitation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Criminal Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Police Investigation</th>
<th>DA &amp; Public Defender</th>
<th>Court Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>• Comparative interviews with police departments across the nation&lt;br&gt;• Jefferson County Employee Salary Schedule</td>
<td>• Estimates of Time Spent in Capital and Non-Capital Murder Cases&lt;br&gt;• Jefferson County District Attorney&lt;br&gt;• State of Kentucky Public Defender</td>
<td>• Review of Kentucky Judicial branch salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Investigations typically can extend over a two year period. An average of 20 hours is spent on attempted murder cases and 400 hours for homicides cases.&lt;br&gt;$27/hr (2 Detectives) x 10 hours = $540&lt;br&gt;$27/hr (2 Detectives) x 200 hours = $5,400</td>
<td>1087 hours to defend &amp; prosecute a murder case x $77 (DA $46/hr + PD $31/hr) = $83,699 + 40% overhead = $117,178</td>
<td>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Research Attorney, Court Reporter, Clerk = $154 per hour.&lt;br&gt;$154 x 44 hours (murder case) = $6,776&lt;br&gt;$154 x 6 hours (a felony) = $924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Incarceration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Pre-Trial Incarceration</th>
<th>State Prison (Attempted Murder)</th>
<th>State Prison (Murder Case)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>• Louisville Metro Department of Corrections GF Budget&lt;br&gt;• Louisville Metro Department of Corrections Fact Sheet</td>
<td>• Kentucky Department of Corrections</td>
<td>• Kentucky Department of Corrections&lt;br&gt;• Kentucky Legislative Research Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Louisville Metro Department of Corrections Budget $55.6 million&lt;br&gt;Average Daily Population = 2,407&lt;br&gt;Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: $63/day&lt;br&gt;Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison $63/day x 2 years = $45,990</td>
<td>Kentucky Department of Corrections annual cost to house an adult is $29,287&lt;br&gt;Convictions involving injury shootings serve an average of 10 years in state prison, subtracting pretrial “time-served” in the County jail. ($29,287 x 10 years) - 2 years = $234,396</td>
<td>Annual cost of $29,287 to incarcerate an adult in the Kentucky state prison system.&lt;br&gt;Average inmate serves 20 years for murder, minus time served. ($29,287 x 20 years) - 2 years = $527,166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Victim Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Victim of Crimes</th>
<th>Social Service Assistance</th>
<th>Medical Examiner’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>• Kentucky Crime Victims Reparation Commission</td>
<td>• USDA SNAP eligibility award = $262 for family of 3&lt;br&gt;• Kentucky TANF award = $509 for family of 3</td>
<td>• Jefferson County Coroner’s Office&lt;br&gt;• Jefferson County Coroner’s Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Maximum Award Amount = $25,000&lt;br&gt;Homicide Victim: $5,000 for burial expenses&lt;br&gt;$150/wk x 1 year = $7,800 for victim lost wages $4,500 for family grief counseling&lt;br&gt;Total = $17,300&lt;br&gt; Injury Shooting Victim: $150/wk loss wages (1 year) = $7,800&lt;br&gt;$4,500 mental health&lt;br&gt;Total = $12,300</td>
<td>When a victim is shot, many can’t return to work immediately. Since the victim and perpetrator may be a major financial contributor to the household, many families may need to apply for social services support. The estimate for this study is for 1 year of Social Service assistance. ($771/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = $18,504</td>
<td>Jefferson County FY 20 Coroner’s Budget was $2.6 million. The Jefferson County Coroner conducted 484 autopsies in FY20. The cost per autopsy was $5,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Lost Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Lost Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)</th>
<th>Lost Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>• 2020 Income and Sales Tax</td>
<td>• 2020 Income and Sales Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>State income tax = 5%&lt;br&gt;Sales &amp; Use tax = 6%. If person earns $30k/year, then total income tax = $1,500. If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $565. Total combined tax = $2,065. If person has to serve a 10 years sentence for attempted murder, then ($2,065 x 10 years) = $20,650 of missed combined tax revenue. If shooting victim doesn’t work for one year, then an additional $2,065 of lost revenue is added. Total Lost Sales Tax Revenue = $22,715</td>
<td>State income tax = 5%&lt;br&gt;State/Local Sales tax = 6%. If person earns $30k/year, then total income tax = $1,500. If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $565. Total combined tax = $2,065. Average murder sentence is 20 years; combined revenue loss for victim and perpetrator is at least $82,600 ($2,065 x 20 years x 2 people)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>