

Addressing Violence in Lexington (Part 1)

Prevention and Intervention

April 26, 2022



LEXINGTON

What is Government's Role in Violence Reduction?

- Primary mission of government is safety and health of the public
- Carry out mission inside government and enhance capacity of our many partners
- Lexington's growth requires our public safety strategies and approach to change with it
- Work with community partners, experts across the country and other government agencies at all levels to build evidence-based efforts to reduce violence



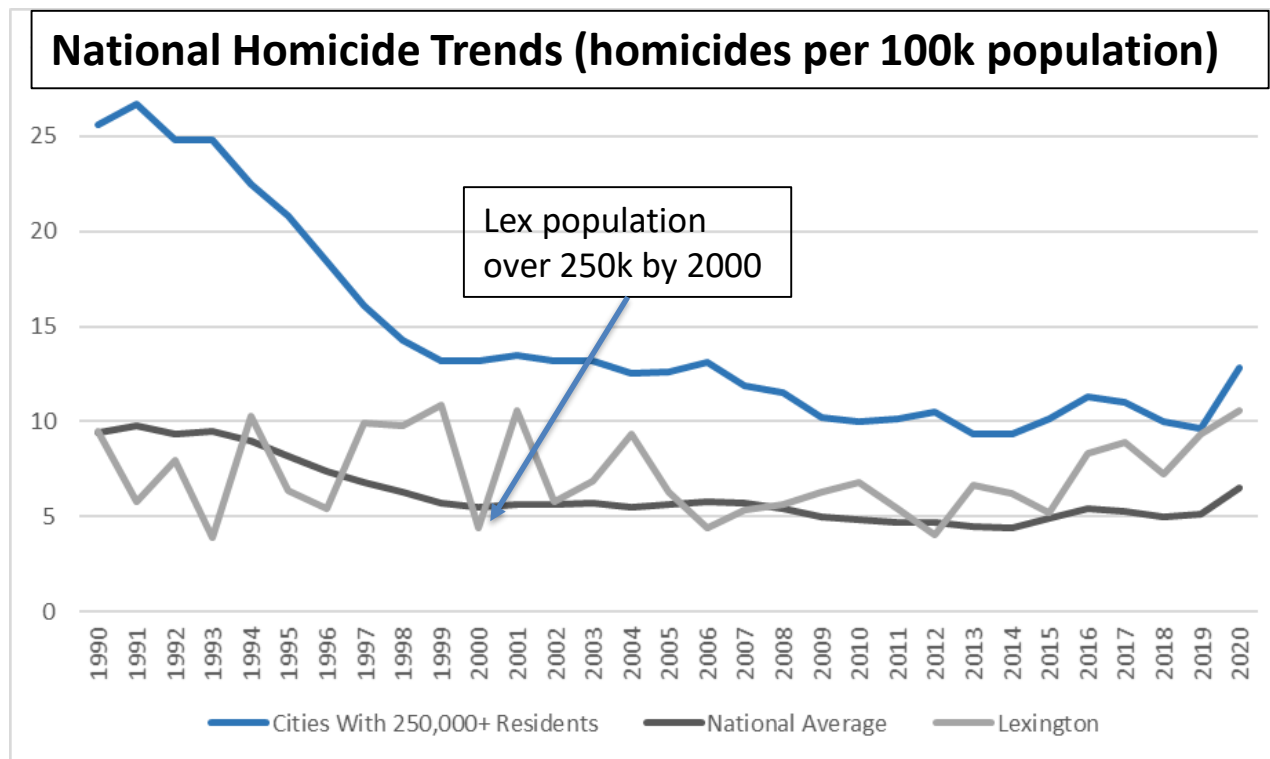
Recent Challenges Related to Violence Reduction

- National trends impacted by:
 - Pandemic stalled operational efforts on many fronts and caused dramatic increase in mental health issues, homelessness, and substance use disorder, especially in youth
 - Impact of pandemic and societal factors, as well as wage growth in other sectors, contributed to exodus of public safety officers, social workers and other professionals in relevant fields
 - Access to firearms
 - While not a recent trend, domestic violence continues to have a significant impact



National Homicide Rates

- Comparison of average number of homicides per 100,000 population for US (national average includes all urban and rural areas), cities with 250k+ residents, and Lexington.
- All rates have increased in at least the last two years but remain well below spike in 1990s and mid 2000s.
- Lexington rate remains lower than comparable cities nationwide.



Comparing Lexington to Regional Urban Areas

- Lexington saw increase in homicides over last 4 year period (4.18/100k) but increase was less than half of next lowest city (Indianapolis, 8.92/100k) and significantly lower than other comparisons.
- Every comparable city in our region saw at least 2x the level of increase Lexington experienced.

4 Year Comparison of homicide increases per capita (per 100,000 population)

	2018	2021	Change
Lexington, KY	7.22	11.40	4.18
Louisville, KY	13.26	30.52	17.27
Cincinnati, OH	20.18	29.94	9.76
Knoxville, TN	10.79	20.68	9.89
Indianapolis, IN	18.54	27.46	8.92



Lexington's Crime Rate Versus Comparable Urban Areas and National Average -- 2020

- By comparison to other nearby regional urban areas, violent crime rates in Lexington are lower than its peers.

Violent Crime Categories				
Regional Urban Areas	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault
Lexington NIBRS 2020 Totals	34	158	344	782
Lexington (per 100k)	10.5	49.0	106.6	242.4
Louisville (per 100k)	24.3	25.0	185.2	706.1
Cincinnati (per 100k)	30.1	70.4	248.0	555.3
Knoxville (per 100k)	19.6	64.1	125.1	589.8
Indianapolis (per 100k)	24.2	64.3	244.3	544.9
National Avg (per 100k)	6.4	39.4	75.9	282.9

Source: NIBRS data, 2020 is most recent available



What is the PIER Model?

- P – Prevention
- I – Intervention
- E – Enforcement
- R – Re-entry





Violence Prevention

- *Requires varied acts by the whole of society to intentionally support and grow an ethic of mutual care, respect and inclusion. This includes strengthening core life skills, building healthy relationships, reducing systemic sources of harm and inequality, and healing woundedness.*

--From Violence Prevention Forum



Who's Involved in Prevention and Intervention in LFUCG?

- ONE Lexington
- Global Lex
- Division of Police
- Department of Housing Advocacy and Community Development
 - Division of Grants & Special Programs
 - Office of Homelessness Prevention & Intervention
 - Division of Community & Resident Services
- Department of Social Services
 - Division of Family Services
 - Division of Youth Services
 - Partners for Youth
- Division of Parks and Recreation

Prevention – ONE Lexington

- **Strategic Planning** – Working with partners at Cities United on forming a long-term plan that focuses on dismantling policies that create barriers in underserved communities. Cities United has committed to LFUCG they will not use a “one size fits all” model and will tailor its approach to Lexington.





Prevention – ONE Lexington

- **Mentoring** – It Takes A Village: Weekly youth summer and school year program designed to provide educational and workforce preparation opportunities coupled with recreational activities, for youth ages 12-17. Providing positive programming acts as a preventative measure addressing youth violence.
- **Engagement** – NEW: Our neighborhood engagement walks involve a group of male mentors engaging neighborhoods throughout Lexington and connects them with community resources.



Prevention – ONE Lexington

- **Community Forums** – Host and participate in forums focusing on community violence with organizations such as the Lexington Forum, Cardinal Valley Community Forum on Crime, the University of Kentucky Lewis Honors College, Downtown Business Safety Group, and various neighborhood associations.
- **Newsletters** – Biweekly email updates keep residents and community partners informed.
- **Broadcast Media** – Public service announcements running on WKYT, LEX-18, WTVQ, and 107.9 The Beat
- **Social Media** – Spread information and resources via social media. Over 3,000 followers on various platforms.



Prevention – ONE Lexington

Other Programs

- Youth Voices of Lexington
- Be the Change College Scholarship Competition
- We Are One Poetry Program





Prevention – Global Lex

- Translate safety plans for victims of domestic violence
- Programming with guest speakers to educate and emphasize importance of avoiding pathways leading to violence
- Organize and host educational meetings on domestic violence and local resources



Prevention – Division of Police

- Police Activity League (PAL)
- Operation Making A Change (OMAC)
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
- Mentoring, Tutoring, Financial Literacy, and Reading Program for Youth
- Safety City
- Police Explorers Program
- Crime Prevention Education
- Safety Watch Programs
- Citizen and Junior Citizen's Police Academy Program



Prevention – Division of Police

- Directed and Focused Patrols 24/7
- Community Law Enforcement Area Response (CLEAR)
- Downtown District Patrol
- Neighborhood Resource Officers
- Special Victims Unit and Crime Victim's Advocates
- Investigation Unit



Prevention – Department of Housing Advocacy & Community Development

- Intensive Street Outreach Grant
- Mountain Comprehensive Care Center Grant
- Funds to Support Stable Housing
- Funds Dispersed to Various non-profits for housing assistance, food insecurity, healthcare, and more.
- Youth School Plus Mentoring funds to Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- Youth Educational Services funds to the Explorium, Repairers of the Breach, and Carnegie Center
- Youth programming funds to Police Activities League
- Job outreach funds to Jubilee Jobs



Prevention – Division of Family Services

- Early Child Care Program
- Social Workers/Home Visits
- Love Notes Program
- Nurturing Parenting Program
- HANDS Program



Prevention – Division of Youth Services

- Audrey Grevious Center
- Family Involvement
- Assessments
- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- PAGE (Parent and Guardian Empowerment)
- Day Treatment Center

Prevention – Partners for Youth

- Neighborhood Youth Councils
- Grassroots Grants
- Partners for Youth Toyota Scholarship
- Metro C.A.T.S.
- “I DO” initiative



Prevention – Extended Social Resource Program (ESR)

- Violence prevention is always a focal point for this program.
- \$891,000 in ESR funds allocated to violence prevention initiatives in current Fiscal Year Budget.

Prevention – Parks & Recreation

- Youth Sports
- Extended School Program
- Community Centers
- Parks
- Wide variety of programming for youth



Violence Intervention

- *Violence intervention programs provide evidence and community-informed, comprehensive support to individuals who are at greatest risk of victimization.*

--From Everytown for Gun Safety



Intervention – ONE Lexington

- Victim Advocacy & Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HIVIP)
- Street Outreach (Cure Violence Method)
- Youth Mediation Collective
- Violence Intervention Work Group
- Black Men of Lexington United
- Safety Net (transitioning to LRM)



Intervention – Global Lex

- Make referrals to relevant agencies and provide multilingual resources to families.
- Occasionally house women and children for safety until a shelter is found.
- Transport to shelters and transition language assistance.
- Meet with family members and couples when necessary to explain legal and shelter processes.
- Provide language assistance and connection to victims of labor or sex trafficking.
- Work with parents in immigrant communities who ask for guidance when young people get in trouble.



Intervention – Division of Police

Community Partnerships and Services

- Violence Intervention Team (Internal and External Collaboration)
- Fayette County Public Schools
- New Vista
- Office of Substance Use Disorder
- Community Chaplaincy Program
- Crime Stoppers
- Natalie's Sisters
- Victim's Advocates
- Office of Homelessness, Prevention and Intervention
- United Way of the Bluegrass



Intervention – Division of Police

- 24/7 Patrol
- Community Law Enforcement Area Response (CLEAR)
- Downtown District Patrol
- Neighborhood Resource Officers
- Intelligence Unit
- Gang Resource Unit
- Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Public Nuisance Program
- Victim Advocates
- Environmental Crime Prevention Techniques
- Paramedicine Team



Intervention – Division of Family Services

- Violence screening in homes during visits
- Intervention with students who make threats
- Family Care Center – Designated Safe Space



Intervention – Division of Youth Services

- Mental Health Services
- Family Counseling
- Intensive Support Program (ISP)
- Community Service Assignments
- Gainesway Community Center



Intervention – Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition

- Coordinated Community Response Model
- Utility Payment Assistance
- Housing Stability
- Survivor's Handbook
- Safe Measures



Continuing to Invest in ONE Lexington -New and Expanded Programs in MPB

- **It Takes A Village Summer Program** – Eight-week summer mentoring program for youth 12-17
- **N.E.W. Neighborhood Engagement Walks** – Group of male mentors walk through neighborhoods and provide a positive presence and community service
- **Violence Prevention/Intervention Grant Program** – Funds grants for community partners' efforts to prevent youth violence
- **Youth Mediation and Street Outreach Workers** – Funds 10-12 mediators who can mediate upon request and 2-3 outreach workers

Continuing to Invest in ONE Lexington -New and Expanded Programs in MPB

- **Community Support and Sponsorship Programs** – Funds housing assistance, mental health services, family resource centers, and scholarships
- **It Takes A Village In-School Mentoring** – Mentoring programs designed to reduce negative student outcomes
- **Marketing and Promotion** – Funds marketing to spread the message of ONE Lexington through various mediums



Other Community Partners in Prevention and Intervention

- Fayette County Public Schools
- Fayette County Sheriff's Office
- Lexington-Fayette County Health Department
- University of Kentucky
- Lexington Public Library
- Cities United
- UK Trauma Center
- Transylvania University
- Lexington Leadership Foundation
- Urban Impact
- M.A.D.E.
- O.M.A.C.
- S.W.A.G.
- Project Body Bag
- The Voyage Movement
- Stop the Bleed
- FoodChain
- Black Soil
- LM Communications (107.9 The Beat)
- RadioLex
- Lexington Art League
- Oneness Boutique
- SoulNRoses
- Central Bank
- Galls LLC
- Awesome Inc.
- Lyric Theater
- Sky Zone of Lexington
- Police Activities League (PAL)
- United Way
- Urban League
- Black Achievers (YMCA of Central Kentucky)
- Lexington Rescue Mission



LEXINGTON

Questions?