

One Lexington Bi-Weekly

Report

August 12th, 2024



ONE Lexington is a city initiative that leverages government resources and community partnerships to address gun violence impacting youth and young adults (ages 10-29). Below are some of the latest gun violence statistics in Lexington, KY.

Total Shootings Statistics (through July 15th, 2024)

Youth & Young Adult Shootings Statistics

Lexington Homicide By Gun & Shooting Statistics

Lexington Homicide By Gun & Shooting Statistics (Victims ages 10-29)

2024 (to date)	8 homicides by gun (9 total homicides)
2023 (at this point last year)	12 homicides (14 total homicides)
2022 (at this point in the year)	22 homicides (28 total homicides)

2024 (to date)	3 homicides
2023 (at this point last year)	6 homicides
2022 (at this point in the year)	6 homicides

-4 (less gun-related homicides than the previous year)

-3 (fewer gun-related homicides than the previous year)

Lexington Shooting Statistics (Reported Residents Shot)

Lexington Shooting Statistics (Reported Residents Shot) (Victims ages 10-29)

2024 (to date)	40 shootings
2023 (at this point last year)	53 shootings
2022 (at this point in the year)	75 shootings

2024 (to date)	18 shootings
2023 (at this point last year)	38 shootings
2022 (at this point in the year)	55 shootings

-13 (fewer shootings than the previous year)

-20 (fewer shootings than the previous year)



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One Lexington Story On How Community Partnerships Save Lives

Last week I was contacted by the executive director of the Lexington Housing Authority Austin Sims about some issues involving juveniles at a few of his properties. Young boys and girls between the ages of 8-13 have been engaging in physical altercations, vandalizing local businesses, and trespassing on neighboring properties. Mr. Sims had heard about the work of One Lexington and wanted to find ways to collaborate on engaging these young people and supporting families. Many of these families are already in financial and even emotional deficit, and with so many moving parts to these incidents, accountability, and resolution can be tough to secure. This leaves the Housing Authority and property managers with only one course of action which is eviction. If evicted, residents can not obtain public housing for 3 years. Many of these families may already be struggling, and an eviction will make things more difficult. So our team met with them to figure out ways that we could help.

What we found in our work of addressing youth & young adult gun violence in Lexington, is that most of the conflicts are interpersonal and start prior to a gun entering the equation. Arguments on social media, music beefs, bullying on the bus, or even physical fights at school are often the origins of deadly conflicts. Our commitment to the "prevention" part of our "P.I.E.R." model encourages us to mediate conflicts or intervene in problematic behaviors in the early stages so that it doesn't lead to gun violence. With that in mind, One Lexington offered to provide a "diversion" type of program for families facing eviction due to juvenile activity. Families would be required to work with One Lexington for a period of time in which they could work their way back in good standing. One Lexington and its crisis response coordinators would also do regular engagement walks at properties having the most issues and engaging youth directly to not only deter bad behavior but to build relationships and connections.

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One Lexington Story On How Community Partnerships Save Lives

After leaving the meeting, I went to one of the properties where a majority of the incidents involving juveniles have taken place and I encountered a group of boys hanging out. I got out of my car, walked up to them, and introduced myself. Asked them where they went to school and I told them that I may be in the building this year facilitating a mentoring program. I shook their hands, told them to be safe, and that I hoped to see them later on in the upcoming school year. Later that evening, I got a message on FB from a woman telling me to reach out to her friend who is a single mother of 2 teenage boys and is struggling to control them. I reached out to the mother directly and scheduled a home visit the following morning. When Kenneth and I arrived we noticed that she lived in the same property Mr. Sims acknowledged as a place where many of the incidents involving youth have occurred. As we began talking to the mother and devising a plan for her and her 2 boys, 1 of her sons walked into the room. He looks at me and says, "I know you!" Indeed he did, as this was one of the boys I came across the day before when riding through the neighborhood. Instantly, his guard dropped and a connection was made.

This all happened over the course of a 24-hour period. To the uninformed, all of this may seem like a lucky coincidence, but for those of us fully committed to this work, we know better. These types of organic and connected opportunities to serve happen almost every day in our work. Our violence prevention ecosystem stays open to the 3 C's: Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration. This cross-sector, all hearts on deck approach closes the gaps that our most vulnerable neighbors fall between and creates opportunities for us to serve. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to lose one. We all have a part to play in this fight to address gun violence in our community. His is one of the many stories we look to share in our bi-weekly reports moving forward.

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It Takes a Village Summer Youth Program Concludes:

This summer One Lexington engaged 50 or more Lexington teenagers, many who have been directly impacted by gun violence, as a part of our weekly It Takes a Village Summer Youth Program. This summer our participants have learned about conflict resolution, mindfulness, navigating personal trauma, mental health awareness, financial literacy, effects of substance use, the history of hip hop, and much more! We also partnered with Andrews Brothers Counseling each Tuesday morning for group trauma informed-care sessions. Many of our youth have been directly impacted by gun violence and several families have requested additional counseling services for their children with the Andrews Brothers. 100 percent of are participants were on free or reduced lunch and over 65 percent of our participants lived in single-parent homes. Through our summer program this year, our staff and community partners were able to mediate conflicts, provide wrap-around services for immediate family members, relocate families, connect youth to extended mental health support, and more!



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Help Wanted for It Takes a Village In-School Mentoring Program:

One Lexington is currently building its roster of community partners for our **It Takes a Village In-School Mentoring Collective**. Some of you have worked with us in the past and some of you have shown interest in working with us in the future. As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year, I'd like to share a little bit about this collective. The collective is made up of different individuals and organizations who facilitate weekly, in-school mentoring programs in middle or high school in FCPS. We work directly with the schools who identify 10-20 students who are dealing with challenges that may leave them more susceptible to the cycle of gun violence; **poverty, parental incarceration, inconsistent family structure, food insecurity, trauma, behavior challenges in previous school year, or have been directly affected by gun violence.**

Our model is to provide this group of students with in-school support each week, focusing on topics and discussions that teachers may not have the bandwidth to cover in the classroom. Group topics could consist of things such as conflict resolution, financial literacy, breaking generational curses, career readiness, entrepreneurship, mental health, mindfulness, dating violence, diversity & inclusion, gun violence, and more.



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Transitioning Into Adulthood:

TRANSITIONING INTO ADULTHOOD

WHEN

August 14 – September 21, 2024
(Wednesdays only)
5:15 pm – 6:45 pm

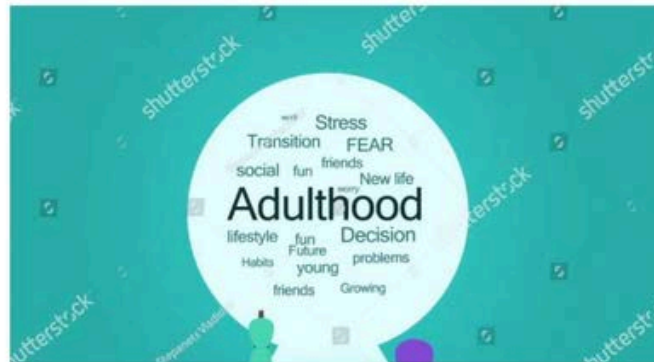
WHERE

Marksbury Family Branch Library
197 Versailles Road Lexington, KY 40504

Are you between the ages of 16 and 26? Do you know how to get and keep a job, get an apartment, cook a meal, budget your finances, apply for documents, handle conflict, deal with roommates...etc.?

Come join us for educational but fun hands-on activities. Transitioning into adulthood is a process that brings childhood to an end and turns you into a young adult. Increase your social skills, knowledge and your support system.

Register online: www.exhilaratinginc.org
Cost: Free



Powered By the One Lexington Violence Prevention Grant, Exhilarating Inc will be facilitating its transitioning Into Adulthood Program. "Are you between the ages of 16 and 26? Do you know how to get and keep a job, get an apartment, cook a meal, budget your finances, apply for documents, handle conflict, deal with roommates...etc.? Come join us for educational but fun hands-on activities. Transitioning into adulthood is a process that brings childhood to an end and turns you into a young adult. Increase your social skills, knowledge and your support system." - **Mattie Morton**

SPONSOR

EXHILARATING INC.
140 Dewese Street
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 523-2186
(Landline phone)



Exhilarating
INC. OFFICE

Let Your Life Engage and be Unleashed
www.exhilaratinginc.org

Benefits

Luggage
Birth certificate
Bus pass
Household items
Resources
Mental health
coaching
Employment
Much more...

CONTACT

Mattie Morton
Exhilarating Inc.
Mattie444@gmail.com
859-523-2186
Leave a message

Funded by One
Lexington Gun
Violence Prevention
Grant



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CVI Conference Recap:

One Lexington director, Devine Carama, had the opportunity to present at the world's largest CVI conference back in June. Below is a brief recap from Giffords and please make sure you follow the link for a full recap! [24.8.2-CVI-Conference-Recap.pdf \(giffords.org\)](#)

"The 2024 CVI Conference brought together a diverse array of professionals from across the field. Attendees included community advocates, frontline interventionists, researchers, technical assistance providers, philanthropists, government officials, and policy experts. This mix of perspectives created a rich environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration. The conference attracted both newcomers and veteran practitioners, with experience levels ranging from less than two years to over 15 years in the field. This blend of fresh ideas and seasoned wisdom fostered dynamic discussions and mentorship opportunities. Based on survey feedback collected before and after the conference, participants were drawn to the event primarily to network with peers, gain new insights, and further their professional development. The diverse backgrounds and shared motivations of attendees contributed to a comprehensive dialogue and inspired innovative approaches to addressing community violence." - **Giffords Center for Violence Intervention**



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The Trauma-Informed Fathers & Families (TIFF) Initiative:

Utilizing the Commonwealth Center For Fathers & Families grant, Trauma Informed Care counseling of Lexington is facilitating a new fatherhood group. FREE 7-Week Group for Fatherhood Support & Trauma Processing. Join other men who are ready to take their fatherhood experience to the next level. Group members receive a fatherhood resource packet including a \$25 gas card. Mondays, August 5 - September 16 from 5:30-6:30PM at the Lexington Public Library Marksbury Family Branch, Community Room B located at 2197 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40504

THE TRAUMA-INFORMED FATHERS & FAMILIES INITIATIVE

MONDAYS
STARTING AUG. 5TH
5:30-6:30pm
Lexington Public Library
Marksbury Family Branch
Community Room B
2197 Versailles Road
Lexington, KY 40504

BECOME THE FATHER YOU ASPIRE TO BE

a FATHERS' Growth GROUP

Join other men who are ready to take their fatherhood experience to the next level. Group members receive a fatherhood resource packet including \$25 gas card.
No Registration Fee

TICC Foundation
A Non-Profit Community-Based Service of The Trauma-Informed Counseling Center

To Register or For Information:
Call (859) 309-2877
theticclexington.com/ticc-foundation

CCF Commonwealth Center for Fathers & Families
The Trauma-Informed Fathers & Families Initiative is funded by CCF.

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Bystander Awareness Day At Legends Baseball Game:

August (National Bystander Awareness Month) is right around the corner. We can't thank you enough for your support and partnership in ending domestic & sexual violence and child abuse in our City so we are holding **our 3rd Annual Bystander Awareness Month Appreciation Event on August 31, 2024.**

Please see the attached flier for info. We are returning to the Legends Ballpark to share in the excitement of our very own Minor League Baseball team! As we did in 2022 with your help, we want to extend FREE Tickets to our Active Bystanders (members of your staff/organization who have participated in our training*) and the Legends have offered us a great deal on tickets! For ONLY \$10 you will receive entrance to the game AND a Combo Meal Voucher (Hot Dog, Chips, and Drink). The event this year will be better than ever, and the game closes out with a great Fireworks display! Please let me know how many tickets your office/organization would like to purchase and we'll get an invoice over to you to ensure that you are a part of our big day! We could also use a few volunteers, so if you have anyone within your organization who might be interested in helping out for the day, please let me know that as well!

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Bystander Awareness Day At Legends Baseball Game:



SAVE THE DATE

*3rd Annual
Bystander
Awareness Month
Appreciation Event*

Saturday, August 31, 2024
6:00 PM
at the Legends Ball Park

 GREEN DOT LEXINGTON | Small actions for a safer city

#BAM2024
#BeAnActive Bystander

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Symposium For Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence Registration Is

OPEN:

Please register and join us on September 18th, 2024 from 10 am to 3 pm, as One Lexington will be hosting its second annual "*Symposium on Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence*". This 1-day event will not only feature national speakers and workshops focused on the work of addressing community gun violence but will also celebrate and highlight YOU and the amazing work your organization is doing to make our community a safer place. We are also going to take this opportunity to get more feedback from you to see what gains have been made since we last met, as well as gain insight into any new challenges that you've encountered in your work. Even if you can't make it for the entire day, still register!!

There will also be a networking opportunity where different organizations and individuals can connect and begin the process of building some new partnerships. This year's symposium will be focused on the root causes of gun violence and will feature professional development opportunities and breakout sessions centered on **systemic inequalities, educational disparities, mental health access and stigmas in communities of color, substance use disorder, income inequality, poverty**, and more! We will also talk about the impact social media and music is playing when it comes to youth conflicts.

As we close out the month of June, Lexington has seen a **60 percent decrease in homicides and a 50 percent decrease in shootings** compared to this time in 2022. We believe that progress can be attributed to the advancements in public safety and the collaboration and work of community partners like yourselves. Our goal is to continue fostering this "all hearts on deck" approach by building the capacity and relationships of those who are on the ground doing the work!

Register HERE - <https://forms.gle/XMjWDgrVNoaYyTZe8> - Attached is a flier with a QR Code as well!

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SAVE THE DATE

ONE LEXINGTON SYMPOSIUM TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE

WEDNESDAY:

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

10:00A.M - 3:00P.M

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
DEVINE CARAMA (859)303-2637



Scan to register



SPINDLETOP HALL

3414 IRON WORKS PIKE

LEXINGTON, KY

WWW.SPINDLETOPHALL.ORG



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ONE Lexington Community Interactions - June 29th - August 12th

Community Events/Meetings

- Mayor's office Staff Meeting (2)
- Violence Intervention Team Meeting
- Building Bridges to Opportunity Press Conference
- Domestic Violence Podcast Interview
- One Lexington Team Meeting (3)
- Symposium Meeting w/ Dr.Haines
- Gainesway Park ribbon Cutting w/ Mayor
- Meeting w/ Housing Authority About Juvenile Behavior
- Crisis Response Home Visits (2)
- One Lexington Open Records Request Meeting
- Faith Leaders Meeting
- Hip Hop Proclamation Presentation

Youth & Young Adults

Engagements:

- Gainesway Park Ribbon Cutting -10
- Street Outreach -9
- **Total: 19**

Youth & Young Adult Conflict

Mediations

- Public Safety - 0
- Courts - 0
- School System - 0
- Community - 0
- **Total: 0**

Crisis Response Referrals

- UK Trauma Center (Project Peace) - 0
- Public Safety - 3
- Courts - 0
- School System - 0
- Community - 25
- **Total: 28**

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