

*GUYSS! We need to stop gun violence. Gun Violence in Lexington KY is a pressing issue that needs immediate attention. As Lexington grapples with occurring issues of fire-arm related crimes, it seems to be getting worse and worse each day.*

*For Example: LEX18 states, "Lexington saw a slight uptick in violence over the weekend. Now, the year's total homicide count is 21 since October 2nd of 2023. ONE Lexington posted on social media, pointing out that seven lives were lost to gun violence over the last 10 days." Gun violence not only endangers the lives of individuals directly, but also a threat to our public environment, innocent bystanders, children, and families when the wrong people get a hold of a firearm.*

*Many incidents of gun violence involve individuals struggling with mental health issues. For example: LEX18 news says, "The city of Lexington set a new homicide record in the month of May and according to the Lexington police department's crime data, at least 36% of the victims were due to gun violence. Analyzing that, more attention is being placed on the connection between mental health and crime." "I want to make sure our community understands there are several factors, like mental health, that are tied to our City's recent gun violence. We have current staff and programs working with those affected by the mental health crisis." Although resources to mental health support and intervention programs can contribute to early signs and signals that someone is in danger, reducing the risk of any kind of violence reach out and ask for help.*