

Review: 2016 FBI Crime in the United State Report

The FBI has released it's 2016 [Crime in the United States](#) report, commonly referred to as the UCR. First, a couple of fast facts;

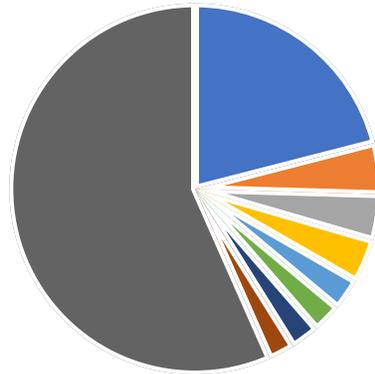
- **Violent Crime:**
 - National:
 - Nationally, violent crime increased for the second straight year, up 4.1 percent in 2016 from 2015.
 - The national violent crime rate was 386.3 per 100,000 residents.
 - Louisville/Kentucky:
 - The violent crime rate in Louisville was 675.8 per 100,000, it was 232.3 per 100,000 state-wide.
- **Homicide:**
 - National:
 - Nationally, there were 1,367 more murders in 2016 than 2015.
 - The national homicide rate was 5.3 per 100,000 residents.
 - Just eight cities; Chicago, Memphis, San Antonio, Orlando, Louisville, Dallas, Phoenix, and Las Vegas account for 43% of that increase.
 - Louisville/Kentucky:
 - Louisville accounted for 46% of Kentucky's Homicides in 2016, despite being only 15% of state's population.
 - Louisville's homicide rate was 17.4 per 100,000 residents.
 - Kentucky's homicide rate increased from 4.7 per 100,000 in 2015 to 5.9 per 100,000 in 2016.
- **Property Crime:**
 - National:
 - Property crime decreased by 1.3 percent, marking the 14th consecutive year these offenses declined.
 - Louisville:
 - The property crime rate in Louisville increased in 2016 from 4,166 per 100K in 2015, to 4,424 per 100,000 in 2016.

Analysis

The report paints a crime picture of the direction of violence in the United States, for the second straight year, total number of homicides have increased by more than 1,000. The 2017 total, 17,250, is the largest since 2006, and only the 3rd time we've seen that many homicides since 1997. 2017 had more than 3,000 more murders than 2014.

Unfortunately for Louisville, we're one of the prime drivers of that increase. Louisville is one of just 8 cities responsible for 43% of that increase. While many major American cities experienced some increase in homicide, some large cities like Houston and New York City did not.

2016 Homicide Increases: Top 8 vs. Rest of United States



- Chicago, IL
- Memphis, TN
- San Antonio, TX
- Orlando, FL
- Louisville, KY
- Dallas, TX
- Phoenix, AZ
- Las Vegas, NV
- Rest of United States

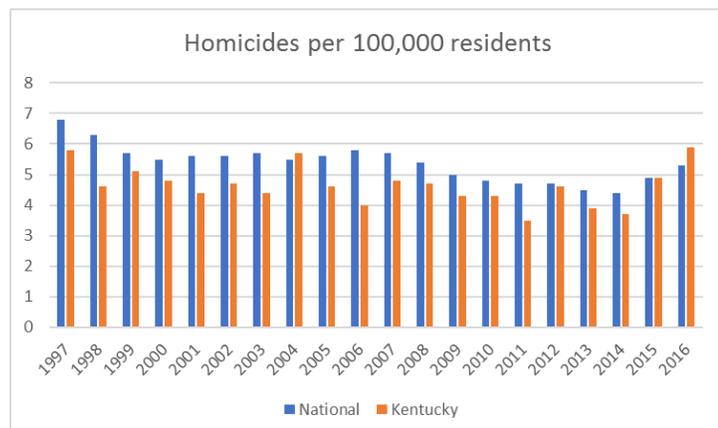
Most of the data in the report related to Louisville, our homicides, and how we stack up against similar sized cities like Memphis, New Orleans and Nashville we already knew. Louisville homicides have increased from 2014-2016 at an incredibly high rate, significantly higher than similar sized cities.

What we did learn is (1) how Louisville’s violence is effecting the rest of the state and (2) Louisville also experienced rising property crime rates from 2015-2016.

Kentucky’s had 5.9 homicides per 100,000 residents in 2016, above the national average of 5.3 per 100,000. This is the first time Kentucky’s state homicide rate has been above national average since 2004. And only the second time it’s been above national average since 1997. This increase has been exclusively drive by Louisville Metro. Louisville’s homicide rate in 2016 was 17.4 per 100,000 residents, higher than neighboring Nashville (12.1) and Indianapolis (17.1), and only slightly lower than Cincinnati (19). As we’ve noted before, Louisville’s homicide rate is benefited by city-county merger, and the rate [within the Watterson Expressway](#) is much higher.

Louisville, while only 15% of the state’s total population, accounted for 46% of the state’s murders in 2016. By contrast, the murder rate for the rest of the state increased slightly from 3.68 to 3.75 per 100,000 residents – due to an increase of 3 murders.

Additionally, we now have property crime rates for Louisville and for Kentucky. While property crime was down nationally for the 14th consecutive year, property crime increased in Louisville; from 4,166 offenses per 100,000 residents in 2015 to 4,424 offenses per 100,000 in 2016. The same was true state-wide where 2,177.6 offenses per



100,00 residents in 2015 became 2,189.7 per 100,000 in 2016.

While we knew the violence and homicide in Louisville was bad in 2016, now we know just how bad, and that it's driving up not only our state's homicide rate, but is a primary contributor to our nation's increase in homicides. With the additional increases in property crime, this time bucking the national trend, serious reforms are needed. That's why we released [LIVE: The Louisville Initiative for Violence Eradication](#), and will continue to work to produce policy solution that will make this city a safer place to live and raise families. Our most vulnerable populations are the ones most affected by this violence and crime, and we have a responsibility to create an environment in which their families can grow and their children can thrive, just like the rest of us.