San Bernardino is a city with a growing population, nearly a quarter of a million people, which was best known for being the location for the first McDonald’s. The partially rural city is also known for being the largest jurisdiction at the time to file bankruptcy in 2012, and a mass workplace shooting in December 2015 that killed 14 and seriously injured 22. But it is the everyday violence that has recently gained San Bernardino the dubious distinction of being named the “Most Dangerous” city in California.

In 2019, San Bernardino had 47 homicides and there were 49 homicides in 2018. In 2018, California had a rate of 4.4 homicide crimes per 100,000 population. With a population of over 200,000 people, San Bernardino’s homicide rate was five times the state’s average homicide rate in 2018. San Bernardino residents also suffer from high rates of poverty. The City’s poverty rate is more than double the national average. With the City’s former bankruptcy filing and high poverty rates, spending taxpayers’ sparse resources on shooting and homicide response is dire.

When someone is shot in San Bernardino, there is an immediate, multifaceted, and very expensive response from an array of government agencies. The Fire Department dispatches EMTs, government contracted ambulances respond, several police units descend on the scene, investigators from the District Attorney’s office often arrive, and if the victims are declared dead on the scene, the coroner is called. All of this is only the shooting scene itself. Then there is a hospitalization often paid for by tax dollars and in the case of serious injury, a rehabilitation. Victim compensation is often provided. There is a protracted investigation by the San Bernardino Police Department (SBPD) and the San Bernardino County District Attorney. They are sometimes joined by the federal US Attorney. Most often there is a trial and a long incarceration period. When there are multiple victims and/or multiple suspects, these efforts are multiplied for a single shooting incident.

These are just some of costs of each injury shooting in San Bernardino. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) was funded by the Hope and Heal Fund, which has invested in violence prevention efforts in San Bernardino, to conduct a detailed analysis and publish this Cost of Gun Violence study that documents the detailed government expenses that accompany every injury shooting in the City. NICJR tracked the direct costs of each shooting and has deliberately used the low end of the range for each expense. Additionally, not included in this study are the loss of production costs when the victim(s) or suspect(s) were working at the time of the incident. Nationally, those costs have been estimated at an additional $2 million for each shooting incident. Therefore, the calculated per homicide cost of $2.3 million in San Bernardino is a safe estimate, the real cost is likely even higher.

In the past five years, San Bernardino has had an average of 47 homicides. This results in an annual expense of $108 million.

In the past five years, San Bernardino has had an average of 47 homicides. This results in annual expense of $108 million. If San Bernardino could reduce its injury shooting rate by 20%, that could result in a combined government savings of over $21 million.

The City of San Bernardino and its police department has experienced diminished resources over the past few years. Shooting response and investigation is very time consuming. If police officers were freed up to focus on more service to the community, response times on all calls for service could improve, improved engagement with the community could be achieved, and all overall crime could be reduced. Savings from reduced shootings could
also be used to better invest in community-based interventions and services.
San Bernardino has recently launched a fledgling Ceasefire Gun Violence Reduction effort as well as a new city office dedicated to violence prevention. These efforts should be enhanced and fully supported and funded. Greater upfront investment in effective gun violence intervention strategies can yield significant reductions in shootings and produce massive savings.

San Bernardino California Cost Breakdown

**1. 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 San Bernardino Police Department, up to 12 officers including Patrol, Homicide Unit, and Forensics respond to a typical homicide shooting.

**2. 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 $50k to $179k per incident. With more than two-thirds of gunshot victims either uninsured or on Medical, this puts a tremendous strain on the county’s hospital network.

**3. 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. And due to the heavy penalty of homicide convictions, these cases often go to trial. Sometimes these cases involve multiple suspects with multiple court dates and separate trials. From the time of arrest, the court proceedings in an injury shooting and homicide case can take two years.

**4. Incarceration**

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. The San Bernardino County Jails cost on average $100 per day. Suspects can remain in the county system for two years until their trial, sentencing, and placement into the State prison system. The California State prison system cost $222 per day and can range from $643k to over $1.9 million to incarcerate individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide.

**5. Victim Support**

The majority of these costs are covered by California’s Victim Compensation program. Costs can range from $7k to $35k and include burial expenses, lost wages for a year, medical expenses, and counseling. Other costs in this category include county Social Services, the cost of families losing a financial contributor and the cost of the autopsy.

**6. Lost Tax Revenue**

California has a State Income Tax of 7.75% along with a combined State/Local Sales tax of 7.75%. When an injury shooting or homicide occurs, the State and County loses the ability to collect taxes (both income and sales tax) from the incarcerated suspects and homicide victims. Each incident can represent the lost tax revenue of two to three individuals, from 10 to 25 years.
The Cost Per Shooting

The true governmental cost of gun-violence to the City, County and State.

Homicide Cost

- CRIME SCENE: $10,330
- HOSPITAL: $50,400
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE: $180,183
- INCARCERATION: $1,940,669
- VICTIM SUPPORT: $58,884
- LOST REVENUE: $155,000

Injury Shooting Cost

- CRIME SCENE: $6,648
- HOSPITAL: $123,600
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE: $32,096
- INCARCERATION: $641,421
- VICTIM SUPPORT: $36,692
- LOST REVENUE: $31,000

**Total Cost Based on Two Suspects**

- Homicide Shooting: $2.3M per homicide shooting
- Injury Shooting: $871k per injury shooting

**Total Cost Based on Two Suspects**

- Per Homicide: $4.6M
- Per Injury: $1.6M

The Hope and Heal Fund is the only state-based donor collaborative fund committed to a public health and community-based approach to prevent gun violence in California. Hope and Heal Fund prioritizes solutions through a racial equity framework to prevent, interrupt and intervene gun violence and the trauma inflicted as a result. For more information about the Hope and Heal Fund, please visit hopeandhealfund.org.
### Data Sources

#### CRIME SCENE
- **Source**: Interviews with top officials of the San Bernardino Police Department.
- **Source**: San Bernardino government salaries ([Link](#)).
- **Notes**: Responses to injury shootings/homicides include three teams: Patrol (3-5 officers), Detectives (3 officers), and Forensic/Technicians (2 officers). Total hours spent per response could range from 14 hours per shooting, to 61 hours per homicide.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- **Source**: San Bernardino County Budget p433 ([Link](#)).
- **Source**: County Jail Budget FY2018 = $252,722,843.
- **Notes**: Annual average 125 hours is spent on attempted murder cases and 200 hours for homicides cases.

#### INCARCERATION
- **Source**: San Bernardino County Fire District Adopted Budget p629 ([Link](#)).
- **Notes**: Fire & EMT Budget (pE-3) = $99,814,141. Total Responses = 33,383. Average cost per response = $2,990.

#### VICTIM SUPPORT
- **Source**: Crime Victims Compensation Program ([Link](#)).
- **Notes**: Homicide Victim: $7,500 for burial expenses, $400/wk x 1 year = $20,000 for victim lost wages, $4,500 for grief counseling. Total = $32,000.

#### HOSPITAL
- **Source**: National Emergency Room Database (Record of 30 million emergency department visits in 950 hospitals in the U.S.).
- **Notes**: Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and release the same day = $5200 (ER base Cost). Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = $95,867 (Surgery Cost)

#### LOSS REVENUE
- **Source**: 2018 Tax-Rates.org.
- **Notes**: State income tax: 7.75%.

### Subject: Loss Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)

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| 2018 Tax-Rates.org | State income tax 7.75%.
| State/Local Sales tax 7.75% | If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $2,325. If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $775. Total combined tax = $3,100.
| Court Process | If person has to serve a 9 years sentence for attempted murder, then ($3,100 x 9 years) = $27,000 of missed combined tax revenue.
| If shooting victim doesn't work for one year, then an additional $3,100 of loss revenue is added. Total Loss Tax Revenue = $31,000 |

### Subject: Loss Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)

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| 2018 Tax-Rates.org | State income tax 7.75%.
| State/Local Sales tax 7.75% | If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $2,325. If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $775. Total combined tax = $3,100.
| Court Process | Average murder sentence is 25 years. But if a person has to serve a 25 years sentence and the victim is dead, then ($3,100 x 25 x 2 years) for a combined loss revenue of $155,000.
| | Total Loss Revenue for both suspect & murder victim = $155,000 |