Fresno has long been considered the capital of California’s Central Valley. While supplying much of California and even the country with its produce, the Central Valley had been considered the other part of the State, ignored by the coastal cities in Southern California and the Bay Area. But over the past decade, with large numbers of people fleeing the coast for the Central Valley, Fresno has gained significant prominence. The city has experienced steady growth over the past 10 years. Fresno is now the fifth largest city in California with 530,000 residents and more than 1 million people living in its metro area.

Fresno is also very diverse. More than two-thirds of residents are people of color; Latinos make up nearly half of the population. According to the most recent census data, Whites went from making up the vast majority of the population at 72 percent in 1970, down to 30 percent in 2010.

Though not among the most violent cities in the country, Fresno does have a violent crime rate well above the national average. The City has had a long history of intractable gang violence. In 2018, Fresno had the lowest homicide tally in at least the previous 15 years, but last year the City experienced a 30 percent increase in murders.

When someone is shot in Fresno, 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 at the shooting scene itself. Following the shooting, there is a hospitalization often paid for by tax dollars and, in the case of serious injury, rehabilitation. Victim compensation is often provided. There is a protracted investigation by the Fresno Police Department (FPD) and the Fresno County District Attorney. They are sometimes joined by the federal U.S. Attorney. Most often there is a trial and 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 Fresno. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) received funding from The California Wellness Foundation, which has invested in violence prevention efforts in Fresno, to conduct a detailed analysis and publish this Cost of Gun Violence study documenting 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 $2.4 million in Fresno is a safe estimate, the real cost is likely even higher.

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 increase, improved engagement with the community could be achieved, and overall crime could be reduced. FPD could also invest more time and effort in its own Violence Intervention & Community Services (VICS) Unit.
Established in 2006 to be a multidimensional community engagement and violence reduction strategy, the objective of the VICS "is to minimize violence in our community by increasing collaborative efforts and provide support for our youth and families through partnerships."

The deadly coronavirus is having severe impacts on local government budgets. Therefore, Fresno will have even more limited resources in the next few years. Savings from reduced shootings could be used to better invest in community-based interventions and services. In 2019, the Fresno City Council approved a new initiative to help reduce gun violence in the City. Local community leaders advocated for Fresno to partner with Advance Peace, a successful gun violence initiative that was responsible for reducing homicides in Richmond, CA, by more than 70 percent. Citing the need to balance the budget, the Mayor rejected the City Council’s plan through a line-item veto.

Savings from reduced shootings could be used to better invest in community-based interventions and services.

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<th>POPULATION</th>
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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 Fresno Police Department, up to 16 officers including Patrol, Homicide Unit, and CSI investigators respond to a typical homicide shooting.

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.

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.

INCARCERATION
Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. The Fresno County Jails cost on average $94 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 $637k to over $1.9 million to incarcerate individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide.

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.

LOST TAX REVENUE
California has a State Income Tax of 7.75% along with a combined State/Local Sales tax of 7.98%. 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 9 to 25 years.
The Cost Per Shooting

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

Homicide Cost

- CRIME SCENE
  - $7,896 Police Response
  - $2,500 Scene Cleanup
  - $1,625 Fire/EMT
  - $994 Ambulance Transport
  - $13,015

- HOSPITAL
  - $5200 EMR/Trauma Center
  - $45,200 Gunshot Surgery
  - $50,400

- CRIMINAL JUSTICE
  - $11,600 Police Investigation
  - $164,354 DA & Public Defender
  - $12,936 Court Process
  - $188,890

- INCARCERATION
  - $66,620 Pre-Trial Incarceration
  - $1,800,669 Prison Placement
  - $1,936,289

- VICTIM SUPPORT
  - $2,500 Corner's Office
  - $32,000 Victim of Crimes
  - $24,384 Receiving Social Service Benefits
    (one year support for two families)
  - $58,884

- LOST REVENUE
  - $156,150 Sales Tax Revenue
    (both suspect & murder victim)
  - $156,150

Injury Shooting Cost

- CRIME SCENE
  - $2,201 Police Response
  - $2,500 Scene Cleanup
  - $1,625 Fire/EMT
  - $994 Ambulance Transport
  - $7,320

- HOSPITAL
  - $5200 EMR/Trauma Center
  - $90,400 Gunshot Surgery
  - $28,244

- CRIMINAL JUSTICE
  - $3,480 Police Investigation
  - $23,000 DA & Public Defender
  - $1,764 Court Process
  - $28,244

- INCARCERATION
  - $66,620 Pre-Trial Incarceration
  - $568,421 Prison Placement
  - $637,041

- VICTIM SUPPORT
  - $24,500 Victim of Crimes
  - $12,192 Receiving Social Service Benefits
    (one year support for one family)
  - $36,692

- LOST REVENUE
  - $31,230 Sales Tax Revenue
    (both suspect & murder victim)
  - $31,230

Total Cost

- Homicide Cost: $4.6M
- Injury Cost: $864K

Total Cost Based on

- Two suspects: $1.5M per injury shooting
- Per one suspect: $4.6M per homicide shooting
### Data Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject: Lost Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)</th>
<th>Subject: Lost Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

#### Notes
- State income tax: 7.75% (State) / 7.98% (Calif 6%, County 1.98%)
- State/Local Sales tax: 7.98% (Calif 6%, County 1.98%)

#### Formulas
- Total Loss Sales Tax Revenue = $31,230
- State income tax = 7.75% 
  - If person earns $30k/year, then total income tax = $2,325
  - If person earns $30k/year, then total sales tax = $798.
- Total combined tax = $3,123
- Average murder sentence is 25 years. But if a person has to serve a 25 years sentence and the victim is dead, then ($3,123 x 25 years) = $2,500
- Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = $2,500
- Total Loss Revenue for both suspect & murder victim = $156,150