



THE COST OF GUN VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF **PORTLAND** OREGON

When someone is shot in Portland, 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, City contracted community outreach workers show up, and if the victims are declared dead on the scene, the medical examiner is called. And 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 protracted investigation by the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) and the Multnomah County District Attorney. They are sometimes joined by the federal US Attorney.

With PPB's clearance rate at 81 percent in 2017, most often there is a trial and a long incarceration period. When there are multiple victims and/or multiple suspects, these efforts multiply for a single shooting incident.

These are just some of costs of each injury shooting in Portland. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) was commissioned by the City of Portland to conduct a detailed analysis and publish this Cost of Gun Violence study that documents the 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

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incident. Nationally, those costs have been estimated at an additional \$2 million for each shooting incident. Therefore, the calculated per homicide shooting cost of \$1.5 million in Portland is a safe estimate, the real cost is likely even higher.

Each shooting homicide in Portland costs tax payers \$1.5 million

In the past five years, Portland has had an approximate average of 100 injury shootings and homicides which result in an annual expense to taxpayers of more than \$100 million. If Portland could reduce its gun violence rate by just 20%, that could result in a combined government savings of \$30 million every year.

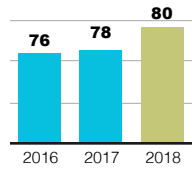
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Shooting response and investigation is very time consuming. If police officers were freed up to focus on more service to the community, response times on all calls for service could improve, improved engagement with the community could be achieved, and all overall crime could be reduced.

The City of Portland, Multnomah County, and the State of Oregon should consider greater upfront investment in gun violence reduction. Relatively small investment in effective gun violence intervention strategies can yield significant reductions in shootings, save lives and produce massive savings.

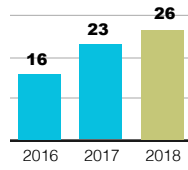
PORTLAND CRIME STATISTICS

From 2016 to 2018, Portland has had a 63% increase in homicides and 25% increase in injury shootings. The increase of violence not only results in the loss of lives, but also strains the public services such as law enforcement, emergency rooms, courts, and social services.



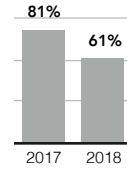
INJURY SHOOTINGS

SOURCE: Portland Police Bureau



HOMICIDES

SOURCE: PPB Website "Crime Statistics"



HOMICIDE CLEARANCE

SOURCE: PPB Interviews

PORTLAND COST PER SHOOTING 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 Portland Police Bureau, up to 28 officers including patrol, the Gun Violence Reduction Team, Homicide Unit, Forensics, and the DA's Office respond to a typical homicide shooting.



2. HOSPITAL & REHAB

Once a victim has been transported to the hospital, the cost of the Trauma Unit, surgery and rehabilitation are exorbitant. Costs can range from \$88k to \$144k 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 Multnomah County Jails cost on average \$267 per day. Suspects can remain in the county system for two years until their trial, sentencing, and placement into the State prison system. The Oregon State prison system cost \$116 per day and can range from \$338k to over \$973k to incarcerate individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide.



5. VICTIM SUPPORT

The majority of these costs are covered by Oregon's Crime Victim and Survivor Services program. Costs can range from \$51k to \$57k 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

Even though Portland doesn't have local sales tax, there is an average State income tax of 7.90%. When an injury shooting or homicide occurs, the State loses the ability to collect income 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.



OREGON'S COST OF VIOLENCE EACH YEAR

\$891 MILLION

"Based on the expenses we can directly measure, including healthcare costs (\$36 million), law enforcement and criminal justice expenses (\$30 million), costs to employers (\$5 million), and lost income (\$820 million), the initial price tag of gun violence in Oregon is over \$891 million per year. Much of this tab is picked up by the public."

THE ECONOMIC COST OF GUN VIOLENCE IN OREGON, The Giffords Law Center



GREATER COMMUNITY COST OF COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

In addition to the direct financial costs that taxpayers bear the burden of, community members in neighborhoods where rates of violence are highest, suffer from social impacts of trauma, toxic-stress, and community tension.

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Children are especially affected by the impact of violence around them. Groundbreaking research known as the ACEs study – Adverse Childhood Experiences – revealed that children who have traumatic experiences when they are young have significantly higher rates of poor health outcomes as they grow older. Experiencing violence, witnessing violence, having close friends or family members victimized by violence produces trauma and vicarious or second-hand trauma. Studies have proven that the brain function of young people who experience trauma can be negatively affected and cause depression, behavioral challenges, academic disruption, and delinquency.

Increased levels of violence and the trauma it produces also leads to community members being desensitized. The normalization or even expectation of violence can lead to high rates of gun possession, tension, and the resolving of minor disputes with gun violence.

The public health approach to violence also proves that like disease, violence is a contagion

The normalization or even expectation of violence can lead to high rates of gun possession, tension, and the resolving of minor disputes with gun violence.

and can breed in areas of social dysfunction. This is where we get the axioms hurt people, hurt people and that violence begets violence. They are not just clever clichés but based in science.

The National Institutes of Health, in its paper, “The Contagious Spread of Violence Among US Adolescents Through Social Networks” found that, “Contagious diseases and violence tend to cluster in similar ways. A cluster is an ‘aggregation of cases of a disease that are closely grouped in time and

place.’ There are geographic “hot spots” for contagious diseases, such as the 2015 measles outbreak linked to Disneyland in California involving clusters of unvaccinated children. Likewise, there are geographic hot spots for violent crime on specific streets and in specific neighborhoods.” (Bond and Bushman, 2017).

The direct financial burden of gun violence documented in this report also does not include the loss of resources in communities with high violence rates. Businesses, recreational centers, community events and festivals, access to fresh produce, and other resources usually flee from neighborhoods with high rate of violence.

A recent study conducted by the Controller for the City of Philadelphia examined the impact of gun violence on property values and corresponding tax assessments. “Our results indicate that a single homicide lowers sale prices by 2.3 percent in the immediate neighborhood (within 0.75 miles of the homicide),” states the “Report on the Economic Impact of Homicides” (Rhyhart, 2019).



The Cost Per Shooting

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

PORTLAND
OREGON

NICJR★
National Institute for
Criminal Justice Reform

Homicide Cost

Injury Shooting Cost

CRIME SCENE

\$6,964



CRIME SCENE

\$5,490

\$2,852 Police Response
\$2,500 Scene Cleanup
\$1,612 Fire/EMT Transport

\$1,378 Police Response
\$2,500 Scene Cleanup
\$1,612 Fire/EMT Transport

HOSPITAL

\$88,525



HOSPITAL

\$144,617

\$1,428 EMR/Trauma Center
\$87,097 Gunshot Surgery

\$1,428 EMR/Trauma Center
\$87,097 Gunshot Surgery
\$56,092 Rehabilitation

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$107,777



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$18,776

\$9,600 Police Investigation
\$90,873 DA & Public Defender
\$7,304 Court Process

\$6,000 Police Investigation
\$11,780 DA & Public Defender
\$996 Court Process

INCARCERATION

\$1,169,494



INCARCERATION

\$533,630

\$194,910 Pre-Trial Incarceration
\$973,820 Prison Placement

\$194,910 Pre-Trial Incarceration
\$338,720 Prison Placement

VICTIM SUPPORT

\$57,940



VICTIM SUPPORT

\$51,088

\$764 Medical Examiner's Office
\$35,000 Victim of Crimes
\$22,176 Receiving Social Service Benefits
(one year support for two families)

\$40,000 Victim of Crimes
\$11,088 Receiving Social Service Benefits
(one year for victim family)

LOST REVENUE

\$118,600



LOST REVENUE

\$26,092

\$118,600 Income Tax Revenue
(both suspect & murder victim)

\$26,092 Income Tax Revenue



total cost based on two suspects

\$3.0M
per homicide shooting

\$1.5M

Per **Homicide** Shooting
per one suspect

\$779k

Per **Injury** Shooting

per one suspect

total cost based on two suspects

\$1.5M
per injury shooting



CRIME SCENE	Subject:	Police Response	Fire/EMT Transport	Scene Clean Up
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with top officials of the Portland Police Bureau, including Captains, Lieutenants & Detectives City of Portland pay schedule. (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portland Fire and Rescue Annual Performance Report Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRC Rapid Response Bio Management Northwest
	Notes	<p>Initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 6 patrol, 1 Lt, 1 Sgt, 5 detectives, 2 CSI and 1 Forensic tech. They remain on the scene for 5-6 hours.</p> <p>Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 6 patrol, 1 Sgt, and 1 CSI Tech. They remain on the scene for 2-4 hours.</p>	<p>Total Expenditures = \$133,887,021 Fire/EMS call responses = 83,025</p> <p>Average cost per response = \$1,612</p>	<p>Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = \$2,500</p>
HOSPITAL	Subject:	ER/ Surgery for Gun-Shot Victim		
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 National Trends and Cost Burden of Surgically Treated Gunshot Wounds in the US (Link) 2021 Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs (Link) 		
	Notes	<p>Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and released the same day = \$1,428 (ER base cost) Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = \$87,097 (surgery cost) + \$56,092 (hospital stay & rehabilitation center) Average cost of gun-shot victims who required surgery, a hospital stay, and were released to rehabilitation centers = \$144,667(ER cost, surgery & rehabilitation cost) Formula for this study: (Base cost + surgery cost - 1/5 (20%) of surgery cost) = \$70,820 per shooting victim requiring surgery and rehabilitation.</p>		
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	Subject:	Police Investigation	DA & Public Defender	Court Process
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with Portland Police Detectives Information from PPB Assistant Chief and other PPB staff City of Portland pay schedule. (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of Time Spent in Capital and Non-Capital Murder Cases (Link) Public Defenders Office Salary (Link) Multnomah County Salary Tables: (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Judicial Salaries (Link) Interview with Court Executive Team member. Multnomah County Salary Tables: (Link) Bailiff pay scale: (Link) Court Reporter: (Link)
	Notes	<p>Investigations typically can extend over a two year period. An average of 125 hours is spent on attempted murder cases and 200 hours for homicides cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$48/hr (Detective) x 125 hours = \$6,000 \$48/hr (Detective) x 200 hours = \$9,600 	<p>1087 hours to defend & prosecute a murder case x \$76 (DA \$38/hr + PD \$38/hr) = \$82,612 + 10% overhead = \$90,873. To defend an attempted-murder case requires 1/7 of the time = \$11,780</p>	<p>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Court Reporter, Clerk = \$166 per hour.</p> <p>\$166 x 44 hours (murder case) = \$7,304 \$166 x 6 hours (A felony) = \$996</p>
INCARCERATION	Subject:	Pre-Trial Incarceration	State Prison (Attempted Murder)	State Prison (Murder Case)
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREA Multnomah County Sheriff Annual Report (Link) Multnomah County Budget FY 20 (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oregon Department of Corrections (Link) Measure 11 crimes and mandatory minimum sentences (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oregon Department of Corrections (Link) Measure 11 crimes and mandatory minimum sentences (Link)
	Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Jails Budget = \$77,588,285 Average daily population = 795 Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: \$267/day <p>Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison. \$267/day x 2 years = \$194,910</p>	<p>\$116/day to Incarcerate Adult in State Prison.</p> <p>Attempted murder cases serve an average of 10 years in State Prison, subtracting pre-trial 'time-served' in County Jail. (\$116/day x 8 years) = \$338,720</p>	<p>\$116/day to Incarcerate Adult in State Prison. Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served. (\$116/day x 23 years = \$973,820)</p>
VICTIM SUPPORT	Subject:	Victim of Crimes	Social Service Assistance	Medical Examiner's Office
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Victim and Survivor Services (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State Cash Assistance Programs: SNAP (Link) TANF (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multnomah County Budget - Medical Examiner budget presentation (Link)
	Notes	<p>Homicide Victim: \$5000 for burial expenses \$400/w x 1 year = \$20,000 for victim lost wages \$10,000 for family grief counseling Total = \$35,000</p> <p>Injury Shooting Victim: \$400/wk loss wages (1 year) = \$20,000 \$20,000 for counseling and medical Total = \$40,000</p>	<p>When victim is severely shot, many can't return to work immediately. Since the victim and perpetrator may be a major financial contributor to the household, many families may need to apply for social services support. The estimate for this study is for 1 year of Social Service assistance. (\$924/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = \$22,176</p>	<p>Multnomah County Medical Examiner FY 21 annual budget is \$1,854,287.</p> <p>In 2018, their annual workload for autopsy examinations was 2,425. This resulted in an average cost of \$764 per autopsy.</p>
LOSS REVENUE	Subject:	Loss Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)	Loss Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)	
	Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of Oregon Income Tax (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 Tax-Rates.org 	
	Notes	<p>State income tax= 7.90% State/Local Sales tax= 0%. If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = \$2,372.</p> <p>But if person has to serve a 10 years sentence for attempted murder, then (\$2,372 x 10 years) = \$23,720 of missed sales tax revenue.</p> <p>If shooting victim doesn't work for one year, then an additional \$2,372 of loss revenue is added. Total Loss Sales Tax Revenue = \$26,092</p>	<p>State income tax= 7.90% State/Local Sales tax= 0%. If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = \$2,372.</p> <p>Average murder sentence is 25 years. But if a person has to serve a 25 years sentence and the victims is dead, then (\$2,372 x 25 years x 2 people), for a combined loss revenue of \$118,600</p> <p>Total Loss Revenue for both suspect & murder victim = \$118,600</p>	