



RICHMOND CALIFORNIA

# THE COST

## OF GUN VIOLENCE

### THE DIRECT COST TO TAXPAYERS

**R**ichmond is a small city of 110,000 residents that has long been considered the stepchild of the Bay Area. But with 32 miles of mostly undeveloped shoreline and the most expensive housing market in the country in nearby San Francisco, Richmond has experienced significant growth and development in the past few years.

During World War II, Richmond's shipyards produced arms and equipment for the U.S. Armed Forces, building more ships than any other shipyard in the country. They also fueled the city's development and population growth. Shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser's company constructed the Richmond shipyards. He later organized health care services for his employees and their families, which led to the creation of Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest medical insurance companies in the country.

With Kaiser's corporate headquarters now located in Oakland and the shipyards long closed, Richmond has realized decades of population decline and economic hardship. Like many former industrial cities, the loss of employment and financial downturn that ensued from the closure of the shipyards and relocation of Kaiser was accompanied by an increase in crime and violence. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Richmond was one of the most violent cities in the country.

Richmond has experienced a sharp decline in gun violence in the past

decade. Once the most violent city per capita in California and among the top ten in the country, Richmond was the first city in the United States to open an office of violence prevention, called the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), doing so in 2007. ONS later launched a Peacemaker Fellowship which has been credited for the city's 70% decline in homicides.

Though Richmond has experienced gentrification in recent years, it still maintains a plurality of Black residents and is majority people of color. The city is 36% Black; 26% Latino; 22% White; 12% Asian; and 4% Other.

Even with the significant decrease in gun violence in Richmond since the creation of the ONS, the city still has a homicide rate three times higher than the state; further, like most other cities in the country, Richmond saw a rise in homicides in 2020.

**Increased investment in ONS and other effective violence reduction services would reduce shootings and homicides in the city.**

When someone is shot in Richmond, as in jurisdictions throughout the country, there is an immediate, multifaceted, and very expensive response from an array of government

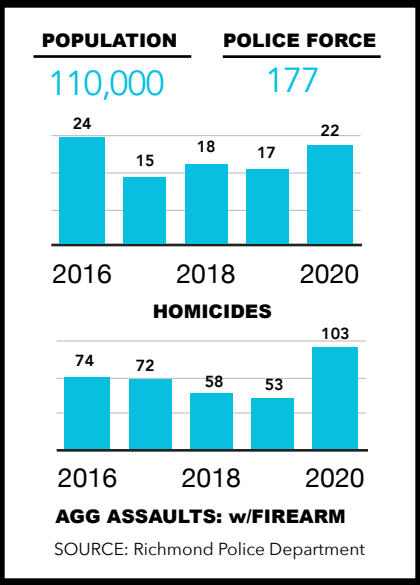
agencies. The Richmond Fire Department dispatches EMTs, government contracted ambulances respond, the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and sometimes additional policing agencies descend on the scene, investigators from the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office often arrive, and, if the victim/s are declared dead on the scene, the coroner is called. And all of this stems from just the shooting scene itself. In non-fatal shootings, immediately following is a hospitalization often paid for by tax dollars, and in the case of serious injury, rehabilitation. Victim compensation is often provided. There is protracted investigation by RPD and the District Attorney, who are sometimes joined by the US Attorney's Office. Most often there is a trial and a long incarceration period. When there are multiple victims and/or multiple suspects, these efforts multiply for even a single shooting incident.

These are just some of costs of each injury shooting and homicide in Richmond. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) conducted a detailed analysis of the Cost of Gun Violence in Richmond. NICJR tracked the direct costs of each shooting and has deliberately used low end range estimates for each expense. Additionally, not included in this assessment are productivity losses

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# RICHMOND CALIFORNIA COST BREAKDOWN



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relating to victim(s) or suspect(s) who were working at the time of the shooting. Nationally, those costs have been estimated at an additional \$1-2 million for each shooting incident. Therefore, the calculated per homicide shooting cost of \$3.2 million in Richmond is a conservative estimate; the real cost is likely even higher.

## Each shooting homicide in Richmond costs tax payers \$3.2 million

In the past five years, Richmond has had an approximate average of nineteen homicides per year, which result in an annual expense to taxpayers of more than \$60.8 million.

## If Richmond could reduce its gun violence rate by just 20%, combined government savings of \$12.2 million would be realized annually.

Officials in Richmond and Contra Costa County should consider increasing investment in proven gun violence reduction efforts. Additional investments in effective intervention strategies would yield significant reductions in shootings, save lives, and produce massive savings.



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## CRIME SCENE RESPONSES

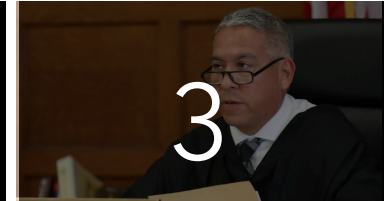
The response to a severe injury shooting or homicide scene usually includes a heavy police presence, Fire/EMT response, along with medical transport. According to officials with the Richmond Police Department, up to 16 officers, including Patrol, Homicide Unit, and CSI investigators, respond to a typical homicide shooting.



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## HOSPITAL & REHABILITATION

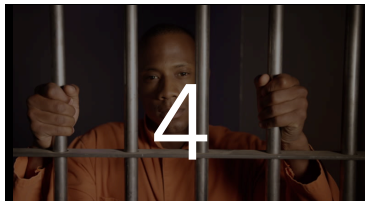
Once a victim has been transported to the hospital, the cost of the Trauma Unit, surgery, and rehabilitation, are exorbitant. Costs can range from \$88k to \$144k per incident. With more than 2/3 of gunshot victims either uninsured or on Medi-Cal, the Cost of Violence includes a tremendous strain on the County's hospital network.



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## 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. Due to the consequences of a homicide conviction, these cases often go to trial. Sometimes these cases involve multiple suspects with multiple court dates and separate trials. From the time of arrest, court proceedings in an injury shooting or homicide case can take up to two years.



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## INCARCERATION

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. A stay in the Contra Costa County Jail system costs on average \$201 per day. Suspects can remain in the County system for two years until trial, sentencing, and placement in the State prison system. The California State prison system costs \$290 per day; incarceration costs of individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide range from \$889k to over \$2.5 million.



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## VICTIM SUPPORT

The majority of these costs are covered by California's Victim Compensation program. Costs can range from \$87k to \$107k per victim, and include burial expenses, lost wages for a year, medical expenses, and counseling. Other costs in this category include County services, including social services and autopsy costs, and the long-term cost of families losing a financial contributor.



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## LOST TAX REVENUE

California has a State Income Tax with a flat fee of \$348.89 plus 4% of any income over \$22,107 for a person making \$30k/year along with a combined State/Local Sales tax of 9.75%. When an injury shooting or homicide occurs, the State and county/ies of residence loses the ability to collect taxes (both income and sales tax) from the incarcerated suspects and homicide victims. Each incident can represent lost tax revenue of a minimum of two individuals, from 9 to 25 years.





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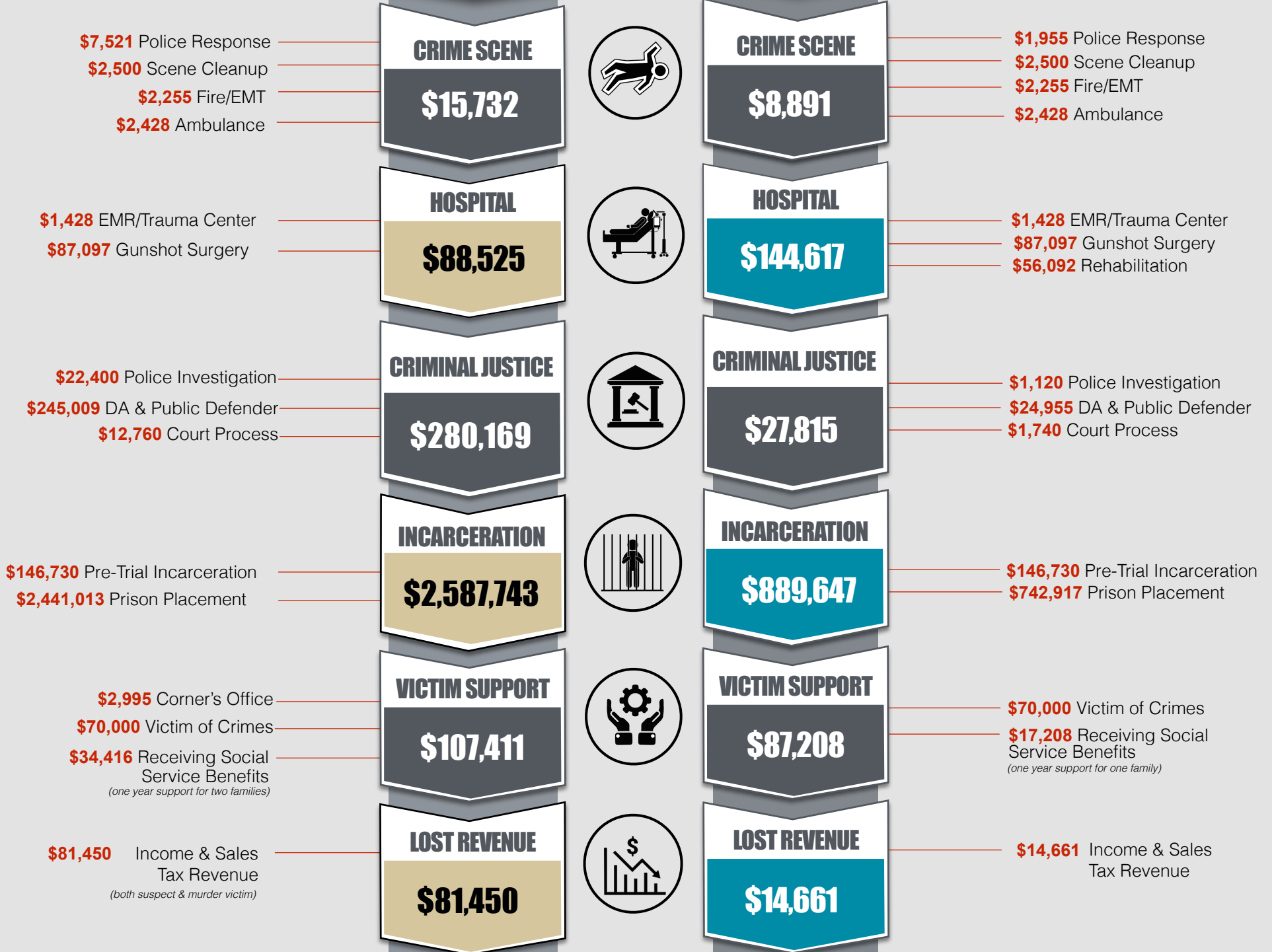
# The Cost Per Shooting

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



## Homicide Cost

## Injury Shooting Cost



★ total cost based on two suspects **\$6.4M** per homicide shooting

**\$3.2M**  
Per Homicide Shooting per one suspect

**\$1.2M**  
Per Injury Shooting per one suspect

★ total cost based on two suspects **\$2.4M** per injury shooting

# Data Sources



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## CRIME SCENE

Subject:	Police Response	Fire/EMT Transport	Scene Clean Up
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with top Richmond Police Department officials</li> <li>City of Richmond Salary Schedules (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Richmond Annual Operating Budget p195 (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Total Fire Department Responses (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Contra Costa County EMS contract (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Advanced Crime Scene Restoration</a></li> </ul>
Notes	<p>Initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 6-8 Patrol, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 2 Gang Unit, 4 Detectives, 2 CSI, and 1 Forensic Tech. They remain on the scene up to 8 hours.</p> <p>Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 6 patrol, 2 Gang Unit, 1 Sergeant and 1 CSI Tech. They remain on the scene for 1-2 hours.</p>	<p>Fire &amp; EMT Budget = \$31,878,713 Total Responses = 14,139 Medical Responses = 7,592</p> <p>Fire Department cost per response = <b>\$2,255</b> Ambulance cost per response = <b>\$2,428</b></p>	<p>Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = <b>\$2,500</b></p>

## HOSPITAL

Subject:	ER/ Surgery for Gun-Shot Victim
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2020 National Trends and Cost Burden of Surgically Treated Gunshot Wounds in the US (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>2021 Firearm Injuries: Health Care Service Needs and Costs (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>
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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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"> <li>Comparative interviews with police departments across the nation.</li> <li>Interviews with top Richmond Police Department officials.</li> <li>City of Richmond Salary Schedules (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimates of Time Spent in Capital and Non-Capital Murder Cases (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Interview with Public Defenders Office</li> <li>Deputy District Attorney (Advanced): (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Deputy Public Defender III: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Salaries (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Judicial Weighted Caseload Measurement (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Schedule 7A County Courts: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Sheriff Bailiff (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>
Notes	<p>Investigations typically can extend over a two year period. An average of <b>20</b> hours is spent on attempted murder cases and <b>400</b> hours for homicides cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$56/hr (2 Detective) x 10 hours = <b>\$1,120</b></li> <li>\$56/hr (2 Detective) x 200 hours = <b>\$22,400</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>1087</b> hours to defend &amp; prosecute a murder case x <b>\$161</b> (DA <b>\$84/hr</b> + PD <b>\$77/hr</b>) = \$175,007 + 40% overhead = <b>\$245,009</b>. To defend an attempted-murder case requires 1/7 of the time = <b>\$24,955</b></p>	<p>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Research Attorney, Court Reporter, Clerk = <b>\$290 per hour</b>. \$290 x 44 hours (murder case) = <b>\$12,760</b> \$290 x 6 hours (A felony) = <b>\$1,740</b></p>

## INCARCERATION

Subject:	Pre-Trial Incarceration	State Prison (Attempted Murder)	State Prison (Murder Case)
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY19 County Jail budget (<a href="#">Link</a>) p.87</li> <li>FY19 Contra Costa County Jail ADP (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative Analyst Office (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Injury shooting (9 years) (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative Analyst Office (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Murder (25 years) (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Jail budget = \$88.2 million</li> <li>Average daily population of County Jail = 1,200</li> <li>Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: <b>\$201/day</b></li> </ul> <p>Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the County upon sentencing and placement in State Prison. \$201/day x 2 years = <b>\$146,730</b></p>	<p>Annual cost of <b>\$106,131</b> to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.</p> <p>Convictions involving injury shootings garner an average of 9 years in state prison, minus pre-trial time served in the County Jail. (\$106,131 x 9 years) - 2 years = <b>\$742,917</b></p>	<p>Annual cost of <b>\$106,131</b> to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.</p> <p>Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served. (\$106,131 x 25 years) - 2 years = <b>\$2,441,013</b></p>

## VICTIM SUPPORT

Subject:	Victim of Crimes	Social Service Assistance	Medical Examiner's Office
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime Victims Compensation Program (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State Cash Assistance Programs: TANF (<a href="#">Link</a>), SNAP (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Average of Medical Examiner's Autopsy (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>
Notes	<p>Maximum Compensation Homicide and Non-fatal shooting = <b>\$70,000</b></p> <p>Eligible Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Medical</li> <li>* Outpatient mental health</li> <li>* Funeral and burial</li> <li>* Income loss</li> <li>* Relocation</li> <li>* Crime Scene Cleanup</li> </ul>	<p>When a victim is severely injured in a shooting, he or she often 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. (\$1,434/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = <b>\$34,416</b></p>	<p>Contra Costa County Coroner Fee Schedule (<a href="#">Link</a>) Cost per autopsy = <b>\$2,995</b></p>

## LOST REVENUE

Subject:	Lost Tax Revenue (Attempted Murder)	Lost Tax Revenue (Murder)
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 (<a href="#">Income Tax</a>), (<a href="#">State Sales Tax</a>) (<a href="#">City/County Sales/Use Tax</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 (<a href="#">Income Tax</a>), (<a href="#">State Sales Tax</a>) (<a href="#">City/County Sales/Use Tax</a>)</li> </ul>
Notes	<p>State income tax= <b>\$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315)</b> Richmond/Contra Costa County combined sales/use tax = <b>9.75%</b>. If person earns 30k/year, then <b>total income tax = \$664</b> If person spends 1/3 of income, then <b>total sales tax = \$965. Total combined tax = \$1,629/yr</b></p> <p>But if person has to serve a 9 years sentence for attempted murder, then (\$1,629 x 9 years) = <b>\$14,661 of missed combined tax revenue</b>. If shooting victim doesn't work for one year, then an additional <b>\$1,629 of lost revenue</b> is added. <b>Total Lost Sales Tax Revenue = \$16,290</b></p>	<p>State income tax= <b>\$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315) = \$664</b> Fresno City/Fresno County combined sales/use tax = <b>9.75%</b>. If person earns 30k/year, then <b>total income tax = \$664</b>. If person spends 1/3 of income, then <b>total sales tax = \$965</b>. <b>Total combined tax = \$1,629yr</b></p> <p>Average murder sentence is 25 years; combined revenue loss for victim and perpetrator is at least <b>\$81,450</b> (\$1,629 x 25 years x 2 people)</p>