



SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA

THE COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

THE DIRECT COST TO TAXPAYERS

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 \$3.1 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 \$29 million.

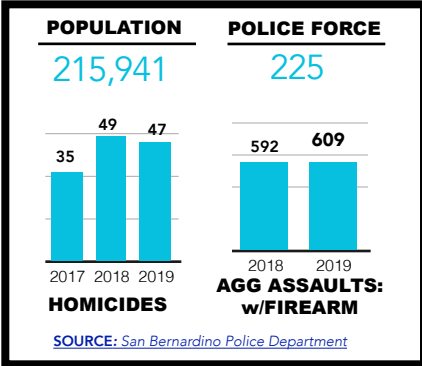
The City of San Bernardino and its police department has experienced diminished resources over the past few years. Shooting response and investigation is very time consuming. If police officers were freed up to focus on more service to the community, response times on all calls for service could improve, 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 \$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.

CALIFORNIA COST OF VIOLENCE EACH YEAR

\$1.4 BILLION

"The 9,980 shootings that occur each year in California are a serious drain on the state's economy. Based on the expenses we can directly measure, including **healthcare costs** (\$348 million per year), **law enforcement** and **criminal justice expenses** (\$625 million per year), **costs to employers** (\$39 million per year), and **lost income** (\$5.5 billion per year), the initial price tag of gun violence in California is over **\$6.5 billion per year**. Much of this tab is picked up by the public, in part because up to 85% of gunshot victims are either uninsured or on some form of publicly funded insurance. Additionally, law enforcement efforts are funded entirely by taxpayer dollars. As a result, **the annual cost of gun violence to California taxpayers is approximately \$1.4 billion.**"

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

4 INCARCERATION

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. The San Bernardino County Jails cost on average \$160 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 \$290 per day and can range from \$859k to over \$2.5 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 \$87k to \$106k 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 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 8.75%. 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.



SAN BERNARDINO
CALIFORNIA



The Cost Per Shooting

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



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.

Homicide Cost

CRIME SCENE

\$10,638

- \$5,148 Police Response
- \$2,500 Scene Cleanup
- \$2,990 Fire/EMT Transport



HOSPITAL

\$88,525

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



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$303,646

- \$11,000 Police Investigation
- \$283,054 DA & Public Defender
- \$9,592 Court Process



INCARCERATION

\$2,557,813

- \$116,800 Pre-Trial Incarceration
- \$2,441,013 Prison Placement



VICTIM SUPPORT

\$106,916

- \$2,500 Corner's Office
- \$70,000 Victim of Crimes
- \$34,416 Receiving Social Service Benefits
(one year support for two families)



LOST REVENUE

\$76,500

- \$76,500 Sales Tax Revenue
(both suspect & murder victim)



\$3.1M
Per **Homicide**
Shooting

per one suspect



total cost based on two suspects
\$6.2M
per homicide shooting

Injury Shooting Cost

CRIME SCENE

\$7,447

- \$1,957 Police Response
- \$2,500 Scene Cleanup
- \$2,990 Fire/EMT Transport

HOSPITAL

\$144,617

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

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$37,013

- \$6,875 Police Investigation
- \$28,830 DA & Public Defender
- \$1,308 Court Process

INCARCERATION

\$859,717

- \$116,800 Pre-Trial Incarceration
- \$742,917 Prison Placement

VICTIM SUPPORT

\$87,208

- \$70,000 Victim of Crimes
- \$17,208 Receiving Social Service Benefits
(one year support for one family)

LOST REVENUE

\$13,770

- \$13,770 Sales Tax Revenue

\$1.2M
Per **Injury**
Shooting

per one suspect



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

Data Sources



SAN BERNARDINO
CALIFORNIA



CRIME SCENE

Subject:	Police Response	Fire/EMT Transport	Scene Clean Up
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with top officials of the San Bernardino Police Department. San Bernardino government salaries (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Bernardino County Fire District Annual Report p10 (Link) San Bernardino County Fire District Adopted Budget p629 (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSCS Crime Scene Cleanup Aftermath Crime Scene & Death Cleanup
Notes	<p>Nationally, initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 6 Patrol, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and 6 Detectives. They remain on-scene between 2-6 hours.</p> <p>Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 6 Patrol, 1 Sergeant, and 2 Detectives. They remain on-scene between 2-6 hours.</p>	<p>Fire & EMT Budget (pE-3) = \$99,814,141 Total Responses = 33,383</p> <p>Average cost per response = \$2,990</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)</p> <p>Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = \$87,097 (surgery cost) + \$56,092 (hospital stay & rehabilitation center)</p> <p>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 top officials of the San Bernardino Police Department. San Bernardino government salaries (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimates of Time Spent in Capital and Non-Capital Murder Cases (Link) Interview with Public Defenders Office Deputy District Attorney III: (Link) Deputy Public Defender III: (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superior Court Salaries (Link) Judicial Weighted Caseload Measurement (Link) Schedule 7A San Bernardino Courts: (Link) Court Clerk (Judicial Assistant) (Link) Sheriff Bailiff: (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"> \$55/hr (Detective) x 125 hours = \$6,875 \$55/hr (Detective) x 200 hours = \$11,000 	<p>1087 hours to defend & prosecute a murder case x \$186 (DA \$93/hr + PD \$93/hr) = \$202,182 + 40% overhead = \$283,054. To defend an attempted-murder case requires 1/7 of the time = \$28,830</p>	<p>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Research Attorney, Court Reporter, Clerk = \$218 per hour. \$218 x 44 hours (murder case) = \$9,592 \$218 x 6 hours (A felony) = \$1,308</p>

INCARCERATION

Subject:	Pre-Trial Incarceration	State Prison (Attempted Murder)	State Prison (Murder Case)
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> San Bernardino County Budget p198 (LINK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Analyst Office (Link) Injury shooting (9 years) (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Analyst Office (Link) Murder (25 years) (Link)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Jail Budget FY2020 = \$292,397,425 Average daily population of county jail = 5,000 Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: \$160/day <p>Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison. \$160/day x 2 years = \$116,800</p>	<p>Annual Cost of \$106,131 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.</p> <p>Convictions involving injury shootings serve an average of 9 years in state prison, subtracting pre-trial 'time-served' in the county jail. (\$106,131 x 9 years) - 2years = \$742,917</p>	<p>Annual Cost of \$106,131 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.</p> <p>Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served. (\$81,203 x 25 years) - 2years = \$2,441,013</p>

VICTIM SUPPORT

Subject:	Victim of Crimes	Social Service Assistance	Medical Examiner's Office
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Victims Compensation Program (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"> National Average of Medical Examiner's Autopsy (LINK)
Notes	<p>Maximum Compensation Homicide and Non-fatal shooting = \$70,000</p> <p>Eligible Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Medical * Outpatient mental health * Funeral and burial * Income loss * Relocation * Crime Scene Cleanup 	<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. (\$1016/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = \$24,384</p>	<p>Cost per autopsy = \$2,500</p>

LOSS REVENUE

Subject:	Lost Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)	Loss Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 (Income Tax), (State Sales Tax) (City/County Sales/Use Tax) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021 (Income Tax), (State Sales Tax) (City/County Sales/Use Tax)
Notes	<p>State income tax= \$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315) Stockton/San Joaquin County combined sales/use tax = 8.75%.</p> <p>If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = \$664 If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = \$866. Total combined tax = \$1,530/yr But if person has to serve a 9 years sentence for attempted murder, then (\$1,530 x 9 years) = \$13,770 of missed combined tax revenue.</p> <p>If shooting victim doesn't work for one year, then an additional \$1,530 of lost revenue is added. Total Lost Sales Tax Revenue = \$15,550</p>	<p>State income tax= \$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315) = \$664 Stockton/San Joaquin County combined sales/use tax = 8.75%.</p> <p>If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = \$664. If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = \$866.</p> <p>Total combined tax = \$1,530yr</p> <p>Average murder sentence is 25 years; combined revenue loss for victim and perpetrator is at least \$76,500 (\$1,530 x 25 years x 2 people)</p>