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.

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### COST BREAKDOWN

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 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.

#### 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.

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

**The Cost Per Shooting**

**Homicide Cost**
- CRIME SCENE: $10,638
- HOSPITAL: $88,525
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE: $303,646
- INCARCERATION: $2,557,813
- VICTIM SUPPORT: $106,916
- LOST REVENUE: $76,500

**Injury Shooting Cost**
- CRIME SCENE: $7,447
- HOSPITAL: $144,617
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE: $37,013
- INCARCERATION: $859,717
- VICTIM SUPPORT: $87,208
- LOST REVENUE: $13,770

**Total Cost Based on two suspects**
- $6.2M Per Homicide Shooting
- $3.1M Per Injury Shooting
- $1.2M Per Homicide
- $2.4M Per Injury

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.

Total cost based on $6.2M per homicide shooting, $3.1M per injury shooting, $1.2M per homicide, $2.4M per injury.
**Police Response**
- Interviews with top officials of the San Bernardino Police Department.
- San Bernardino government salaries (Link)

**Crime Scene Clean Up**
- CSCE Crime Scene Cleanup
- Aftermath Crime Scene & Death Cleanup

**CRIME SCENE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Police Response</th>
<th>Fire/EMT Transport</th>
<th>Scene Clean Up</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
<td>• Legislative Analyst Office</td>
<td>• San Bernardino County Fire District Annual Report p10 (Link)</td>
<td>• CSGS Crime Scene Cleanup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>• San Bernardino County Fire District Adopted Budget p629 (Link)</td>
<td>• Aftermath Crime Scene &amp; Death Cleanup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fire & EMT Budget**
- (City/County) Sales/Use Tax

**Court Process**
- Legislative Analyst Office (Link)
- Court Clerk (Judicial Assistant) (Link)
- Sheriff Bailiff (Link)

### Data Sources

**HOSPITAL**

**Victim Support**

**VICTIM SUPPORT**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**INCARCERATION**

**LOSS REVENUE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**State Prison (Attempted Murder)**
- Legislative Analyst Office (Link)
- Injury shooting (9 years) (Link)

**State Prison (Murder Case)**
- Legislative Analyst Office (Link)
- Murder (25 years) (Link)

**State Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)**
- State income tax = $348.89 + 4% over $22,107 ($315)
- Stockton/San Joaquin County combined sales/use tax = 8.75%.
- If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $664.
- 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)