STOCKTON CALIFORNIA

THE COST
OF GUN VIOLENCE

THE DIRECT COST TO TAXPAYERS

NICTJR
National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
The City of Stockton has developed past its days as a small rural town in California’s Central Valley. Emerging from bankruptcy, the city is now experiencing population and economic growth with one of the most popular mayors in the country, whose innovative initiatives have garnered national attention. Although Stockton has long contended with stubbornly high rates of gun violence, the City is making progress on this front as well.

When someone is shot in Stockton, 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 Stockton Police Department (SPD) units descend on the scene, investigators from the District Attorney’s office often arrive, staff of the City’s Office of Violence Prevention show up, and if the victims are declared dead on the scene, the coroner 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 Stockton Police Department and the San Joaquin County District Attorney. They are sometimes joined by the federal US Attorney. With SPD clearance rate at 67 percent in 2018, 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 Stockton. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) was commissioned by the Hope & Heal Fund to conduct a detailed analysis and publish this Cost of Gun Violence study that documents the government expenses that accompany every injury shooting in Stockton. 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 $1-2 million for each shooting incident. Therefore, the calculated per homicide shooting cost of $3.1 million in Stockton is a safe estimate, the real cost is likely even higher.

Each shooting homicide in Stockton costs tax payers $3.1 million

In the past four years, Stockton has had an approximate average of 153 combined injury shootings and homicides which result in an annual expense to taxpayers of more than $250 million. If Stockton could reduce its gun violence rate by just 20%, that could result in a combined government savings of $94 million every year.

Stockton has invested in effective gun violence reduction strategies, which resulted in a 40 percent drop in homicides in 2018
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.

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.

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 Stockton Police Dept., up to 23 officers including Patrol, Gang Unit, Homicide Unit, Field Evidence Team, and the DA’s Office respond to a typical homicide shooting.

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. The San Joaquin County Jails cost on average $139 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 $844k to over $2.5 million to incarcerate individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide.

The majority of these costs are covered by California’s Victim Compensation program. Costs can range from $87k to $107k 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.

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 9.00%. 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.

**Homicide Cost**
- **Crime Scene**: $8,811
- **Hospital**: $88,525
- **Criminal Justice**: $222,437
- **Incarceration**: $2,542,483
- **Victim Support**: $107,330
- **Lost Revenue**: $77,750

**Injury Shooting Cost**
- **Crime Scene**: $5,149
- **Hospital**: $144,617
- **Criminal Justice**: $35,936
- **Incarceration**: $844,387
- **Victim Support**: $87,208
- **Lost Revenue**: $13,995

**Total Cost**
- **Homicide Shooting**: $3.1M
- **Per Homicide Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**: $1.1M

**Per Injury Shooting**
- **Per one suspect**: $1.1M

Total cost based on two suspects:
- **Homicide**: $6.2M
- **Injury**: $2.2M
## Police Response

**Source**
- Interviews with top officials of the Stockton Police Dept. including Captains, Lieutenants & Detectives.
- Stockton government salaries.

**Notes**
- Initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 6 patrol, 1 Sgt, 5 detectives, 2 CSI and 1 Forensic tech. They remain on the scene for 8 hours.
- Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 6 patrol, 1 Sgt, and 1 CSI Tech. They remain on the scene for 4-6 hours.

## Fire/EMT Transport

- City of Stockton Annual Budget FY 2020-21

## Scene Clean Up

- CCSR Crime Scene Cleanup
- Stormie Janitorial Service

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## Data Sources

- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
  - Sheriff Custody Budget FY2019 = $66,105,230
  - Average daily population of county jail = 1,939
  - Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: $139/day
  - Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served.
  - Annual Cost of $106,131 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.
  - Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served.

- **HOSPITAL**
  - 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 = $2,445,105
  - Average cost of surgery to clean up crime scenes involving blood = $2,500
  - 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)

- **LOSS REVENUE**
  - State income tax = $348.89 + 4% over $22,107 = $9,000.
  - If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $964.
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  - Average murder sentence is 25 years; combined revenue loss for victim and perpetrator is at least $77,750 ($1,555 x 25 years x 2 people)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Police Investigation</th>
<th>DA &amp; Public Defender</th>
<th>Court Process</th>
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<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Pre-Trial Incarceration</th>
<th>State Prison (Attempted Murder)</th>
<th>State Prison (Murder Case)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>FY19 Custody Division Budget.</td>
<td>Legislative Analyst Office.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Victim of Crimes</th>
<th>Social Service Assistance</th>
<th>Medical Examiner’s Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Crime Victims Compensation Program.</td>
<td>Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State Cash Assistance Programs.</td>
<td>County of San Joaquin Budget FY 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Maximum Compensation Homicide and Non-fatal shooting = $70,000.</td>
<td>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. ($1,434/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = $34,416</td>
<td>2017-18 Actual Net Budget = $2,445,105</td>
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<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Loss Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)</th>
<th>Loss Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>2021 Income Tax (State Sales Tax) (City/County Sales/Use Tax).</td>
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<td>Notes</td>
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**Crime Victims Compensation Program**
- Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State Cash Assistance Programs:
  - SNAP
  - TANF
  - Eligibility for Social Security Assistance.

**City of Stockton Annual Budget FY 2020-21**
- Annual Cost of $106,131 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.
- Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served.

**CSCS Crime Scene Cleanup**
- Stormie Janitorial Service

**Criminal Justice**
- Sheriff Custody Budget FY2019 = $66,105,230
- Average daily population of county jail = 1,939
- Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: $139/day
- Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into state prison: $139/day x 2 years = $101,470

**Hospital**
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**CJS/Criminal Justice System**
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