

STOCKTON CALIFORNIA

# THE COST

— OF GUN VIOLENCE —

THE DIRECT COST TO TAXPAYERS





# STOCKTON CALIFORNIA

## THE COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

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## 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



## STOCKTON CALIFORNIA COST BREAKDOWN



1

### CRIME SCENE RESPONSE

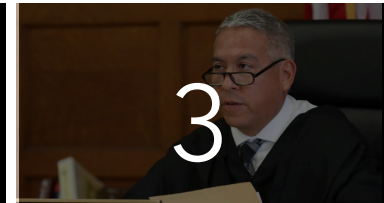
The response to a severe injury shooting or homicide scene usually includes a heavy police presence, Fire/EMT response, along with medical transport. According to officials with the Stockton Police Dept., up to 23 officers including Patrol, Gang Unit, Homicide Unit, Field Evidence Team, and the DA's Office respond to a typical homicide shooting.



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

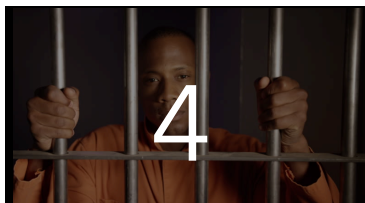
Police investigation; a trial or court process that includes prosecution and defense costs; and court staff make up the many costs of the court process in injury shooting and homicide cases. And due to the heavy penalty of homicide convictions, these cases often go to trial. Sometimes these cases involve 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.

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In the past few years, Stockton has invested in effective gun violence reduction strategies, which resulted in a 40 percent drop in homicides in 2018.

The City of Stockton should consider even greater upfront investment in violence reduction. As the City experienced, relatively small investment in effective gun violence intervention strategies can yield significant reductions in shootings, save lives and produce massive savings. ■

**The City of Stockton should consider even greater upfront investment in violence reduction.**



4

### INCARCERATION

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.



5

### VICTIM SUPPORT

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.



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 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.



**STOCKTON**  
CALIFORNIA



# The Cost Per Shooting

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



## Homicide Cost

### CRIME SCENE

**\$8,811**

- \$4,945 Police Response
- \$2,500 Scene Cleanup
- \$1,366 Fire/EMT Transport



### HOSPITAL

**\$88,525**

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



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**\$222,437**

- \$8,800 Police Investigation
- \$200,877 DA & Public Defender
- \$12,760 Court Process



### INCARCERATION

**\$2,542,483**

- \$101,470 Pre-Trial Incarceration
- \$2,441,013 Prison Placement



### VICTIM SUPPORT

**\$107,330**

- \$2,914 Corner's Office
- \$70,000 Victim of Crimes
- \$34,416 Receiving Social Service Benefits  
(one year support for two families)



### LOST REVENUE

**\$77,750**

- \$77,750 Sales Tax Revenue  
(both suspect & murder victim)



**\$3.1M**  
Per **Homicide**  
Shooting

per **one**  
suspect

## Injury Shooting Cost

### CRIME SCENE

**\$5,149**

- \$1,283 Police Response
- \$2,500 Scene Cleanup
- \$1,366 Fire/EMT Transport

### HOSPITAL

**\$144,617**

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

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**\$35,936**

- \$5,500 Police Investigation
- \$28,696 DA & Public Defender
- \$1,740 Court Process

### INCARCERATION

**\$844,387**

- \$101,470 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

**\$13,995**

- \$13,995 Sales Tax Revenue

**\$1.1M**

Per **Injury**  
Shooting  
per **one**  
suspect



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



total cost based on two suspects  
**\$2.2M**  
per **injury** shooting





CRIME SCENE	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Police Response</b>	<b>Fire/EMT Transport</b>	<b>Scene Clean Up</b>
	<b>Source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with top officials of the Stockton Police Dept. including Captains, Lieutenants &amp; Detectives.</li> <li>Stockton government salaries (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Stockton Annual Budget FY 2020-21 (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">CSCS Crime Scene Cleanup</a></li> <li><a href="#">Stormie Janitorial Service</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Notes</b>	<p>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.</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 4-6 hours.</p>	<p>Fire &amp; EMT Budget (pE-3) = <b>\$62,860,001</b></p> <p>Total Responses = 46,000</p> <p>Medical Responses = 20,078</p> <p>Average cost per response = <b>\$1,366</b></p>	<p>Average cost among competitive vendors to clean up crime scenes involving blood = <b>\$2,500</b></p>
HOSPITAL	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>ER/ Surgery for Gun-Shot Victim</b>		
	<b>Source</b>	<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>		
	<b>Notes</b>	<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 &amp; 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 &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	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Police Investigation</b>	<b>DA &amp; Public Defender</b>	<b>Court Process</b>
	<b>Source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with top officials of the Stockton Police Department, including Captains, Lieutenants &amp; Detectives.</li> <li>City of Stockton Salary Schedule (<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 III: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Deputy Public Defender III: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey of Judicial Salaries (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Judicial Weighted Caseload Measurement (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Schedule 7A San Joaquin Courts: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Superior court salary table: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>Sheriff Bailiff: (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>
	<b>Notes</b>	<p>Investigations typically can extend over a two year period. An average of <b>125 hours</b> is spent on attempted murder cases and <b>200 hours</b> for homicides cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$44/hr</b> (Detective) x 125 hours = <b>\$5,500</b></li> <li><b>\$44/hr</b> (Detective) x 200 hours = <b>\$8,800</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>1087 hours</b> to defend &amp; prosecute a murder case x <b>\$132</b> (DA <b>\$66/hr</b> + PD <b>\$66/hr</b>) = \$143,484 + 40% overhead = <b>\$200,877</b>. To defend an attempted-murder case requires 1/7 of the time = <b>\$28,696</b></p>	<p>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Research Attorney, Court Reporter, Clerk = <b>\$290 per hour</b>.</p> <p>\$290 x 44 hours (murder case) = <b>\$12,760</b></p> <p>\$290 x 6 hours (A felony) = <b>\$1,740</b></p>
INCARCERATION	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Pre-Trial Incarceration</b>	<b>State Prison (Attempted Murder)</b>	<b>State Prison (Murder Case)</b>
	<b>Source</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY19 Custody Division Budget (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> <li>San Joaquin Sheriff Report (<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>
	<b>Notes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheriff Custody Budget FY2019 = \$66,105,230</li> <li>Average daily population of county jail = 1303</li> <li>Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: <b>\$139/day</b></li> </ul> <p>Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison. \$139/day x 2 years = <b>\$101,470</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 serve an average of 9 years in state prison, subtracting pre-trial 'time-served' in the county jail.</p> <p>(\$106,131 x 9 years) - 2years = <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.</p> <p>(\$106,131x 25 years) - 2years = <b>\$2,441,013</b></p>
VICTIM SUPPORT	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Victim of Crimes</b>	<b>Social Service Assistance</b>	<b>Medical Examiner's Office</b>
	<b>Source</b>	<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: SNAP (<a href="#">Link</a>) TANF (<a href="#">Link</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County of San Joaquin Budget FY 2019-20 (<a href="#">LINK</a>)</li> </ul>
	<b>Notes</b>	<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 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 = <b>\$34,416</b></p>	<p>2017-18 Actual Net Budget = <b>\$2,445,105</b></p> <p>Total Cases = <b>839</b></p> <p>Cost per autopsy = <b>\$2,914</b></p>
LOSS REVENUE	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Lost Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)</b>	<b>Loss Tax Revenue (Murder: Loss Revenue for 2 people)</b>	
	<b>Source</b>	<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>	
	<b>Notes</b>	<p>State income tax= <b>\$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315)</b></p> <p>Stockton/San Joaquin County combined sales/use tax = <b>9.00%</b>.</p> <p>If person earns 30k/year, then <b>total income tax = \$664</b> If person spends 1/3 of income, then <b>total sales tax = \$891. Total combined tax = \$1,555/yr</b></p> <p>But if person has to serve a 9 years sentence for attempted murder, then (\$1,555 x 9 years) = <b>\$13,995 of missed combined tax revenue.</b></p> <p>If shooting victim doesn't work for one year, then an additional <b>\$1,555 of lost revenue</b> is added.</p> <p><b>Total Lost Sales Tax Revenue = \$15,550</b></p>	<p>State income tax= <b>\$348.89 + 4% over \$22,107 (\$315) = \$664</b></p> <p>Stockton/San Joaquin County combined sales/use tax = <b>9.00%</b>.</p> <p>If person earns 30k/year, then <b>total income tax = \$664</b>.</p> <p>If person spends 1/3 of income, then <b>total sales tax = \$891.</b></p> <p><b>Total combined tax = \$1,555yr</b></p> <p>Average murder sentence is 25 years; combined revenue loss for victim and perpetrator is at least <b>\$77,750</b> (\$1,555 x 25 years x 2 people)</p>	