

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

THE COST

OF GUN VIOLENCE

THE DIRECT COST TO TAXPAYERS

California's capital city was long considered a sleepy town outside the halls of power of the legislature and the immediate surrounding area. But over the past decade, as people have escaped the skyrocketing costs of the Bay Area, a celebrity mayor, the city's NBA team moving downtown, a new Sacramento has emerged.

With just more than half a million people, Sacramento is the sixth-largest city in the state. In 2017, Sacramento was the fastest growing major city in California. In 2002, the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University named Sacramento as America's Most Diverse City. Sacramento is majority people of color and according to the most recent American Community Survey, the city's demographics are: 34 percent white, 27 percent Latino, 18 percent Asian, and 15 percent Black.

As the city made major strides forward, it hit huge challenges. Within a year of hiring the first Black police chief in the department's history, Stephon Clark was tragically killed in his grandmother's backyard by Sacramento officers. On the heels of the unrest over Clark's death, the Governor signed into law historic legislation to increase the standard for when officers can use deadly force throughout the state (AB 392).

After the city brought in the celebrated Advance Peace program, which partnered with Black Child Legacy

Campaign and its Healing the Hood violence prevention and interruption strategy, Sacramento experienced two years of zero youth homicides and a reduction of shootings and homicides by nearly 30 percent. Then, in 2020, one of the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a sharp increase in shootings in Sacramento and around the country.

When someone is shot in Sacramento, there is an immediate, multifaceted, and very expensive response from an array of government agencies

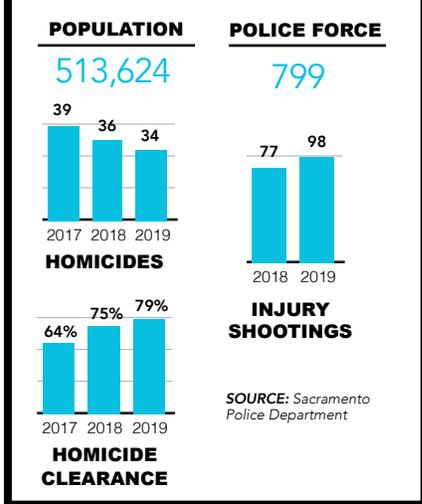
When someone is shot in Sacramento, there is immediate, multifaceted, and very expensive response from an array of government agencies. The Fire Department dispatches EMTs, government contracted ambulances respond, several police units descend on the scene, investigators from the District Attorney's office often arrive, city contracted community outreach workers 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 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 Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento County District Attorney. They are sometimes joined by the federal US Attorney. With Sacramento's clearance rate at 73% between 2017-2019, 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 Sacramento. The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) was commissioned by the Sierra Health Foundation 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 shooting cost of \$2.9 million in Sacramento is a safe estimate; the real cost is likely even higher. In his best-selling book, *Bleeding Out*, Thomas Abt writes: "when the



SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA COST BREAKDOWN



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collective costs of murder are estimated, they are staggering: anywhere from \$173 billion to \$332 billion.” (Abt, 2019)

A recent study conducted by the Controller for the City of Philadelphia examined the impact of gun violence on property values and corresponding tax assessments. “Our results indicate that a single homicide lowers sale prices by 2.3 percent in the immediate neighborhood (within 0.75 miles of the homicide),” states the “Report on the Economic Impact of Homicides” (Rhyhart, 2019).

In the past five years, Sacramento has had an average of 88 injury shootings and 35 homicides each year. This results in annual expense of \$198 million. If Sacramento could reduce its injury shooting rate by 20%, that could result in a combined government savings of \$51 million.

The City of Sacramento should consider greater upfront investment in gun violence reduction. Modest investment in effective gun violence intervention strategies can yield significant reductions in shootings and produce massive savings. The City has a relatively small Gang Prevention Taskforce and has made strategic investments in Advance Peace and the Black Child Legacy Campaign’s Healing the Hood Initiative. These are programs that work on the site of an incident to prevent retaliation and provide community-based wraparound care for those involved, their families and their neighborhoods - costs not even included in the \$2.9 million per homicide shooting estimate. They should receive greater and sustained funding, which would result most importantly in the preservation of life but also produce a financial return on investment.



1

CRIME SCENE RESPONSE

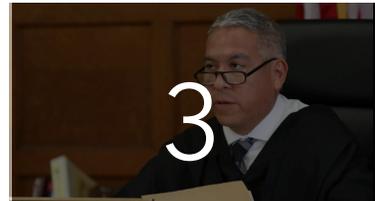
The response to a severe injury shooting or homicide scene usually includes a heavy police presence, Fire/EMT response, along with medical transport. According to officials with the Sacramento Police Department, up to 16 officers including Patrol, Homicide Unit, and CSI investigators respond to a typical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



4

INCARCERATION

Incarceration accounts for a large portion of the costs once a suspect is arrested. The Sacramento County Jails cost on average \$162 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 costs \$290 per day and can range from \$861k 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 \$81k 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 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 9 to 25 years.



GREATER COMMUNITY COST OF COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Neighborhoods where rates of violence are highest suffer from social impacts of trauma, toxic-stress and community tension.

The normalization or even expectation of violence can lead to high rates of gun possession, tension and the resolving of minor disputes with gun violence.

In addition to the direct financial costs that taxpayers bear the burden of, community members in neighborhoods where rates of violence are highest suffer from social impacts of trauma, toxic-stress and community tension.

Children are especially affected by the impact of violence around them. Groundbreaking research known as the ACEs study – Adverse Childhood Experiences – revealed that children who have traumatic experiences when they are young have significantly higher rates of poor health outcomes as they grow older. Experiencing violence, witnessing violence or having close friends or family members victimized by violence produces trauma and vicarious or second-hand trauma. Studies have proven that the brain function of young people who experience trauma can be negatively affected and cause depression, behavioral challenges, academic disruption and delinquency.

Increased levels of violence and the trauma it produces also leads to community members being desensitized. The normalization or even expectation of violence can lead to high rates of gun possession, tension and the resolving of minor disputes with gun violence.

The public health approach to violence also proves that like disease, violence is a

contagion and can breed in under-resourced communities. This is where we get the axioms hurt people, hurt people and that violence begets violence. They are not just clever clichés but based in science.

The National Institutes of Health, in its paper, “The Contagious Spread of Violence Among US Adolescents Through Social Networks” found that, “Contagious diseases and violence tend to cluster in similar ways. A cluster is an ‘aggregation of cases of a disease that are closely grouped in time and place.’ There are geographic ‘hot spots’ for contagious diseases, such as the 2015 measles outbreak linked to Disneyland in California involving clusters of unvaccinated children. Likewise, there are geographic hot spots for violent crime on specific streets and in specific neighborhoods.” (Bond and Bushman, 2017).

The direct financial burden of gun violence documented in this report also does not include the loss of resources in communities with high violence rates. Businesses, recreational centers, community events and festivals, access to fresh produce and other resources usually flee from neighborhoods with high rates of violence.



SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

The Cost Per Shooting

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



Homicide Cost

CRIME SCENE

\$4,905 Police Response
\$2,500 Scene Cleanup
\$1,761 Fire/EMT

\$9,166



HOSPITAL

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

\$88,525



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$18,800 Police Investigation
\$194,790 DA & Public Defender
\$13,288 Court Process

\$226,878



INCARCERATION

\$118,260 Pre-Trial Incarceration
\$2,441,013 Prison Placement

\$2,559,273



VICTIM SUPPORT

\$3,086 Corner's Office
\$70,000 Victim of Crimes
\$34,416 Receiving Social Service Benefits
(one year support for two families)

\$107,582



LOST REVENUE

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

\$76,500



\$2.9M

Per **Homicide** Shooting

per **one** suspect

Injury Shooting Cost

CRIME SCENE

\$692 Police Response
\$2,500 Scene Cleanup
\$1,761 Fire/EMT

\$4,953

HOSPITAL

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

\$144,617

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

\$940 Police Investigation
\$19,840 DA & Public Defender
\$1,812 Court Process

\$22,592

INCARCERATION

\$118,260 Pre-Trial Incarceration
\$742,917 Prison Placement

\$861,177

VICTIM SUPPORT

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

\$81,208

LOST REVENUE

\$13,770 Sales Tax Revenue

\$13,770

\$1.1M

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



total cost based on two suspects
\$5.8M
per **homicide** shooting

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



Data Sources



Sacramento
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 Sacramento Police Department City of Sacramento government salaries (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacramento Fire Department Annual Report (Link) Sacramento City Budget (Fire p185) (Link) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steri-Clean Vital Cleanup
Notes	<p>Initial police response to a homicide scene typically includes 4-5 patrols, 1 Sgt, 4 Detectives, 2 CSIs and 1 Forensic tech. They remain on the scene for 10 hours.</p> <p>Initial police response to an injury shooting scene typically includes 4 patrol, 2 Detectives, 1 Sergeant and 1 CSI Tech. They remain on the scene for 2 hours.</p>	<p>Fire & EMS FY20 Total Budget = \$138,069,267 EMS FY20 Total Budget = \$112,469,091 Total Responses = 91,205 Total EMS Responses = 63,843 Average cost per EMS response = \$1,761</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) Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = \$87,097 (surgery cost) + \$56,092 (hospital stay & 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 & 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"> Comparative interviews with police departments across the nation. Interviews with top officials of the Sacramento Police Department. City of Sacramento 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"> Survey of Judicial Salaries (Link) Judicial Weighted Caseload Measurement (Link) Schedule 7A County Courts: (Link) Sheriff Bailiff: (Link)
Notes	<p>Investigations typically can extend over a two year period. An average of 20 hours is spent on attempted murder cases and 400 hours for homicides cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$47/hr (2 Detective) x 10 hours = \$940 \$47/hr (2 Detective) x 200 hours = \$18,800 	<p>1087 hours to defend & prosecute a murder case x \$128 (DA \$64/hr + PD \$64/hr) = \$139,136 + 40% overhead = \$194,790. To defend an attempted-murder case requires 1/7 of the time = \$19,840</p>	<p>Combined hourly rates of the following staff: Judge, Bailiff, Research Attorney, Court Reporter, Clerk = \$302 per hour. \$302 x 44 hours (murder case) = \$13,288 \$302 x 6 hours (A felony) = \$1,812</p>

INCARCERATION

Subject:	Pre-Trial Incarceration	State Prison (Attempted Murder)	State Prison (Murder Case)
Source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Jail Budget, pg D-18 (Link) Sacramento County Jail Alternatives Report (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 FY2018 = \$220,114,279 Average daily population of county jail = 3,700 Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: \$162/day <p>Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison. \$162/day x 2 years = \$118,260</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. (\$106,131 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"> Sacramento County Coroner Office Info cost per 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. (\$1,434/mo x 12 months) x 2 families = \$34,416</p>	<p>Cost per autopsy = \$3,086</p>

LOST REVENUE

Subject:	Lost Tax Revenue (One person going to jail)	Lost 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) Sacramento/Sacramento County combined sales/use tax = 8.75%. 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. 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 Sacramento/Sacramento County combined sales/use tax = 8.75%. 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 = \$1,530yr</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>