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 $2.5 million in Stockton is a safe estimate, the real cost is likely even higher.

**Each shooting homicide in Stockton costs tax payers $2.5 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 $50 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 $50k to $179k 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 $120 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 $222 per day and can range from $643k to over $1.9 million to incarcerate individuals convicted of attempted murder or homicide.

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.

California has a State Income Tax of 7.75% along with a combined State/Local Sales tax of 7.75%. 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.

**HOMICIDE COST**
- **Crime Scene**
  - Police Response: $6,483
  - Scene Cleanup: $2,500
  - Fire/EMT Transport: $1,196
  - Total: $10,179
- **Hospital**
  - EMR/Trauma Center: $5,200
  - Gunshot Surgery: $45,200
  - Total: $50,400
- **Criminal Justice**
  - Police Investigation: $8,400
  - DA & Public Defender: $200,877
  - Court Process: $12,760
  - Total: $222,037
- **Incarceration**
  - Pre-Trial Incarceration: $87,600
  - Prison Placement: $1,942,475
  - Total: $2,030,075
- **Victim Support**
  - Coroner's Office: $2,914
  - Cost of Crimes: $32,000
  - Receiving Social Service Benefits: $24,384
  - Total: $59,298
- **Lost Revenue**
  - Sales Tax Revenue: $155,000
  - Total: $155,000

**INJURY SHOOTING COST**
- **Crime Scene**
  - Police Response: $2,006
  - Scene Cleanup: $2,500
  - Fire/EMT Transport: $1,196
  - Total: $5,702
- **Hospital**
  - EMR/Trauma Center: $5200
  - Gunshot Surgery: $90,400
  - Total: $95,600
- **Criminal Justice**
  - Police Investigation: $5,250
  - DA & Public Defender: $28,696
  - Court Process: $1,740
  - Total: $35,686
- **Incarceration**
  - Pre-Trial Incarceration: $8,192
  - Prison Placement: $2,030,075
  - Total: $2,038,267
- **Victim Support**
  - Cost of Crimes: $32,000
  - Receiving Social Service Benefits: $12,192
  - Total: $44,192
- **Lost Revenue**
  - Sales Tax Revenue: $31,000
  - Total: $31,000

**Total Costs**
- **Per Homicide Shooting**
  - Two suspects: $4.8M
  - Per one suspect: $2.4M
- **Per Injury Shooting**
  - Two suspects: $1.7M
  - Per one suspect: $0.85M

**Total Cost based on two suspects**
- **$2.5M**
  - Per Homicide Shooting
- **$962k**
  - Per Injury Shooting
### Data Sources

**CRIME SCENE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Police Response</th>
<th>Fire/EMT Transport</th>
<th>Scene Clean Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Source:  | • Interviews with top officials of the Stockton Police Dept. including Captains, Lieutenants & Detectives.  
|          | • Stockton government salaries.  | • City of Stockton Annual Budget FY 2019-20  |  
| Notes:   | Responses to injury shootings/homicides include three teams: Patrol (10 officers), Gang Unit (3 officers), and the Homicide Response Team (9 officers). Total hours spent per response could range from 48 hours per shooting, to 100 hours per homicide.  |  | • Crime Scene Cleanup  
|          |  |  | • Stormie Janitorial Service  

**HOSPITAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>ER/ Surgery for Gun-Shot Victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Source:  | • Interview with Trauma Center employees.  
|          | • National Emergency Room Database. (Record of 30 million emergency department visits in 950 hospitals in the U.S.)  
|          | • Cost of Gun Violence. John Hopkins study of Emergency Room Admissions  |  |
| Notes:   | Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and release the same day = $5200  
|          | Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = $95,867  
|          | 1/2 of gun-shot victims who required surgery were released to rehabilitation centers where average total medical bill = $179,000.  
|          | State income tax= 7.75%, State/Local Sales tax= 7.75%  
|          | Pre-Trial Incarceration  
|          | Homicide Victim:  
|          | • Average cost of gun-shot victims requiring surgery and hospital stay = $95,867  
|          | • Average cost of gun-shot victims treated and release the same day = $5200  
|          | • 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  
|          | • Total hours spent per response could range from 48 hours per shooting, to 100 hours per homicide.  
|          |  |  

**INCARCERATION**

<table>
<thead>
<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>• San Joaquin Sheriff Report</td>
<td>• Legislative Analyst Office</td>
<td>• Legislative Analyst Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• San Joaquin Sheriff Report</td>
<td>• Injury shooting (9 years)</td>
<td>• Murder (25 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Notes:   | • County Jail Budget FY2018 = $57,403,506  
|          | • Average daily population of county jail = 1303  
|          | • Average Daily Cost Per Inmate: $120/day  
|          | Average 2 year period of pre-trial incarceration in the county upon sentencing and placement into State Prison: ($120/day x 2 years) = $87,600  
|          | Annual Cost of $81,203 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.  
|          | Convictions involving injury shootings serve an average of 9 years in state prison, subtracting pre-trial 'time-served' in the county jail.  
|          | ($81,203 x 9 years) - 2 years = $643,227  
|          | Annual Cost of $81,203 to incarcerate an adult in the California state prison system.  
|          | Average inmate serves 25 years for murder, minus time served.  
|          | ($81,203 x 25 years) - 2 years = $1,942,475  
|          |  |  

**VICTIM SUPPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<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>• TANF: Eligibility and Benefit Amounts in State Cash Assistance Programs</td>
<td>• County of San Joaquin Budget FY 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Notes:   | Homicide Victim:  
|          | • State Income 7.75% (State/Local Sales tax 7.75%)  
|          | If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $2,325.  
|          | If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $775.  
|          | Total combined tax = $3,100  
|          | 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  
|          |  |  

**LOSS REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
<td>• 2018 Tax-Rates.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Notes:   | State income tax 7.75% (State/Local Sales tax 7.75%)  
|          | If person earns 30k/year, then total income tax = $2,325.  
|          | If person spends 1/3 of income, then total sales tax = $775.  
|          | Total combined tax = $3,100  
|          | Average murder sentence is 25 years. But if a person has to serve a 25 years sentence and the victim is dead, then ($3,100 x 25 years x 2 people), for a combined loss revenue of $155,000  
|          |  |  

**Notes:**  
- Total Loss Sales Tax Revenue = $31,000  
- Total Loss Revenue for both suspect & murder victim = $155,000