

THE ECONOMIC COST OF GUN VIOLENCE IN OHIO

Gun violence in Ohio exacts a high physical, emotional, and financial toll on our families, friends, and neighbors. We often hear about the heartbreak and pain these shootings cause, but there is another aspect of the gun violence epidemic that doesn't receive as much attention: the overwhelming financial cost.

TALLYING THE NUMBERS

The more than 2,500 shootings that occur each year in Ohio are a serious drain on the state's economy. Based on the expenses that can be directly measured, including **healthcare costs** (\$123 million per year), **law enforcement and criminal justice expenses** (\$227 million per year), **employer costs** (\$16 million per year), and **lost income** (\$2.4 billion per year), the initial pricetag of gun violence in Ohio is **\$2.7 billion per year**. When the reduced quality of life attributable to pain and suffering (\$4.6 billion) is considered, the estimate rises to **\$7.3 billion per year**. While this number is staggering, it actually understates the true cost of gun violence in Ohio, as it does not incorporate other significant, yet difficult-to-measure costs, including **lost business opportunities**, **lowered property values**, and **reductions in the tax base**.

A BUSINESS CASE FOR ACTION

Ohio's business community is severely impacted by the negative economic consequences of gun violence. Shootings engender fear in the affected neighborhood that keeps potential customers away, forces businesses to relocate or limit their hours of operation, and decreases foreign and local tourism.

In too many parts of the state, the number of shootings is moving in the wrong direction, trending toward violence and death. In 2016, the Cleveland area endured its deadliest year in more than a decade, with 139 gun homicides and more than 500 nonfatal shootings.



**TOTAL
DIRECTLY
MEASURABLE
COSTS
\$2.7
BILLION**

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence trends are not moving in the right direction in Ohio. Last year was Cleveland's deadliest in a decade, and other communities have faced similarly deadly upticks. **However, we are far from powerless in the face of this epidemic: a number of proven solutions exist to reduce gun violence without limiting responsible gun ownership.**

The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Ohio identifies two sets of solutions, each addressing a specific risk factor: **universal background checks for gun sales** and **community-level violence intervention programs**. The investment required to implement these lifesaving solutions is minuscule compared to the yearly cost of gun violence in Ohio.

ABOUT US

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

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