

THE ECONOMIC COST OF GUN VIOLENCE IN MINNESOTA

Gun violence in Minnesota exacts a high physical, emotional, and financial toll on our family, friends, and neighbors. We often hear about the heartbreak and physical 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 922 shootings that occur each year in Minnesota are a serious drain on our economy. Based on the expenses we can directly measure, including **healthcare costs** (\$32 million per year), **law enforcement and criminal justice expenses** (\$31 million per year), **employer costs** (\$4.5 million per year), and **lost income** (\$696 million per year), the initial price tag of gun violence in Minnesota is **\$764 million per year**. When the reduced quality of life attributable to pain and suffering (\$1.4 billion) is considered, the estimate rises to **\$2.2 billion per year**.

While this number is staggering, it actually understates the true cost of gun violence in Minnesota—it doesn't incorporate significant, yet difficult-to-measure costs, including **lost business opportunities**, **lowered property values**, and **reductions in the tax base**.

GUN VIOLENCE IS BAD FOR BUSINESS

Minnesota'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.

A 2016 report by the Urban Institute found that in Washington DC **each additional homicide was associated with the loss of two retail or service establishments** in the following year.

Conversely, reducing shootings improves local economies. The same Urban Institute report found that in Minneapolis just **one fewer gun homicide was associated with the creation of 80 jobs and an additional \$9.4 million in sales** across all businesses the following year.

\$764+
MILLION

TOTAL DIRECTLY
MEASURABLE
COSTS

giffordslawcenter.org

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

There's much work to be done: recently in the Minneapolis area, 17 people were shot, two of them fatally, in a five-day period. Fortunately, a number of proven solutions exist to reduce gun violence without limiting responsible gun ownership.

Giffords Law Center's comprehensive report, *The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Minnesota* identifies three sets of solutions, each addressing a specific risk factor: universal background checks for all gun sales, neighborhood revitalization programs, and hospital-based violence intervention strategies. The investment required to implement these lifesaving solutions is minuscule compared to the yearly cost of gun violence in Minnesota.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

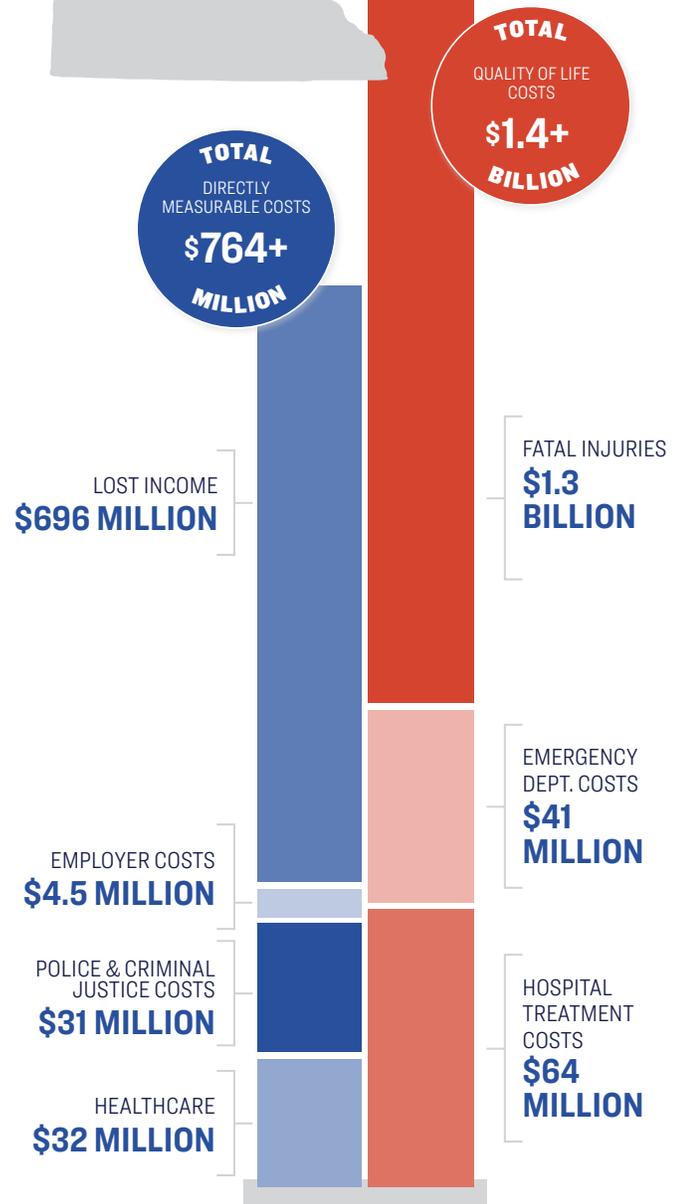
For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

CONTACT US

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**\$2.2+
BILLION**
GRAND TOTAL

ANNUAL COST OF GUN
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LEARN ABOUT MINNESOTA'S GUN LAWS AND READ THE FULL REPORT

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