

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**.

GUN VIOLENCE IS BAD FOR BUSINESS

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.

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, MN, 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.

In too many parts of Ohio, 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, and the effect this has on the local economy is clear.

\$2.7+
BILLION
TOTAL DIRECTLY
MEASURABLE
COSTS

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REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

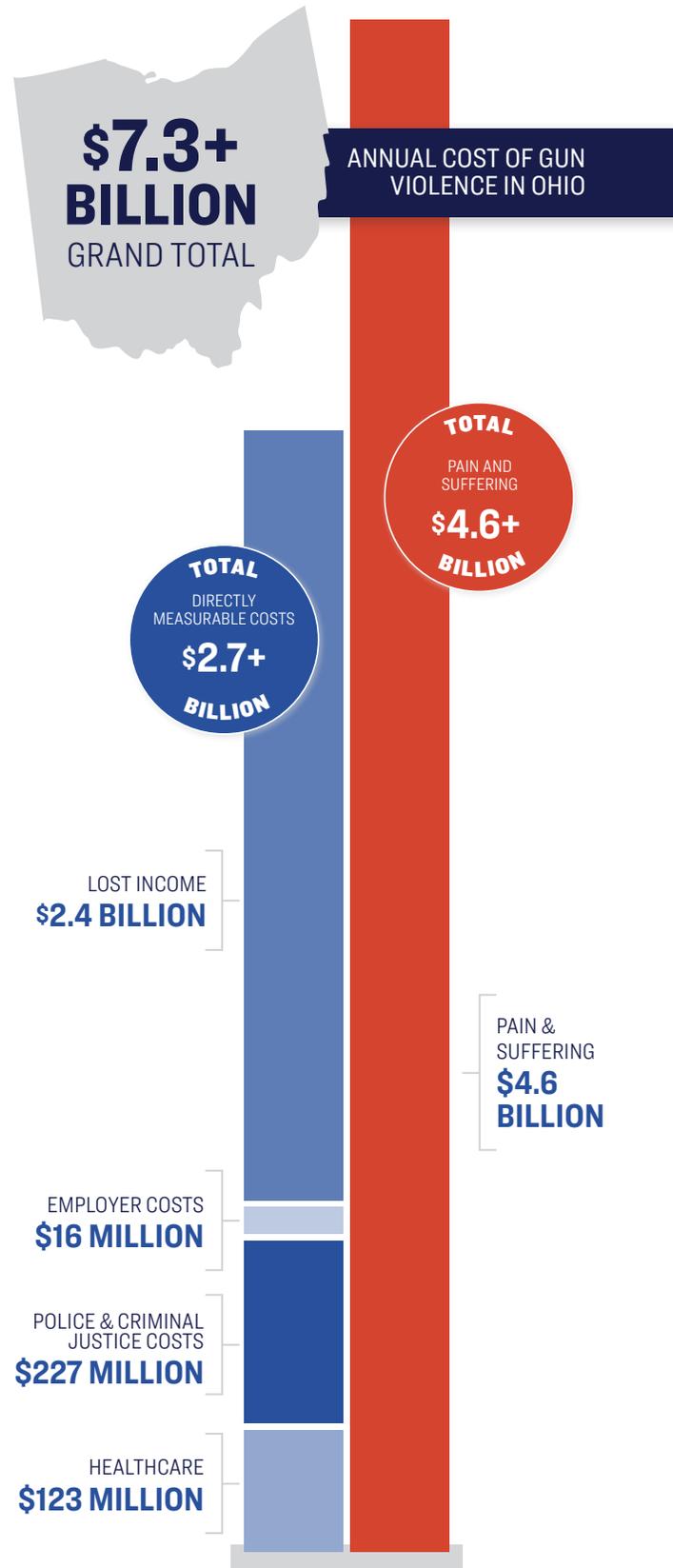
Gun violence trends are not moving in the right direction in Ohio. Last year was Cleveland's deadliest in a decade, and other communities have faced similarly deadly upticks. However, we are far from powerless in the face of this epidemic: a number of proven solutions exist to reduce gun violence without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

Giffords Law Center's comprehensive report, *The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Ohio*, identifies two sets of solutions, each addressing a specific risk factor: universal background checks for all 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.

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
media@giffords.org



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