

# 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**.

## A BUSINESS CASE FOR ACTION

The business community of Minnesota 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.

Conversely, reducing shootings improves local economies. A new study by the Urban Institute found that just one less gun homicide in Minneapolis was associated with the creation of 80 jobs and an additional \$9.4 million in sales across all businesses the following year.



READ THE FULL REPORT *The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Minnesota: A Business Case for Action*

[americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/MN](https://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/MN)

# REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

There's much work to be done: just this summer, during one 24-hour period in Minneapolis, seven people—most of them innocent bystanders—were shot. **Fortunately, a number of proven solutions exist to reduce gun violence without limiting responsible gun ownership.**

*The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in Minnesota* identifies three sets of solutions, each addressing a specific risk factor: **universal background checks** for 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 our state.

## ABOUT THE COALITION

The Minnesota Coalition for Common Sense is a state initiative, started by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, retired NASA astronaut and US Navy Captain Mark Kelly, the co-founders of Americans for Responsible Solutions. The coalition brings together a broad cross-section of state leaders—business, law enforcement, veterans, faith, medical, and civic leaders—who support commonsense solutions to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people and protect families from gun violence.

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