



The Perryman Group

The Human Tragedy of Mass Shootings also Creates an Economic Imperative

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Mass shootings are tragedies with immeasurable costs to victims and their families. At the same time, they cause tremendous and quantifiable economic harm. The Perryman Group estimated the magnitude of these harms in order to provide a perspective on the high costs.

"The focus in these all-too-frequent attacks should always be on the victims and their families," said Dr. Ray Perryman, founder and President of The Perryman Group. "In a brief moment, lives are permanently altered in ways that have lingering effects for generations to come. No one can begin to place a value on the pain and disruptions caused to innocent people just going about their daily routines. Our purpose in providing this assessment is simply to make others aware that the costs randomly imposed on these innocent people also reverberate through the economy in material ways."

Since the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, The Perryman Group estimates that losses to the US economy from mass shootings total more than \$20.5 billion in gross product and nearly 191,000 job-years due to death and injuries to victims. In addition, the quality-of-life losses for victims and their families as traditionally measured total at least \$9.5 billion.

"We focused our efforts on measuring only the economic harm stemming directly from the consequences to the victims," said Dr. Perryman. "Society also suffers from enforcement and incarceration costs, diversion of resources into security measures at potentially vulnerable venues, economic and psychological impacts on the affected communities, increased uncertainty, and many other adverse outcomes. In addition to the much more important consequences for the victims and their families, dealing with the issue is an economic imperative."

The Estimated Economic Losses to the United States Associated with Injuries and Deaths Incurred in Mass Shootings

December 14, 2012 (Sandy Hook) to August 31, 2019 (Odessa)

	Total Expenditures	Gross Product	Personal Income	Job-Years
Injuries	-\$19.3 b	-\$8.8 b	-\$5.3 b	-84,724
Deaths	-\$25.8 b	-\$11.7 b	-\$7.0 b	-105,950
Total	-\$45.1 b	-\$20.5 b	-\$12.4 b	-190,674

Source: The Perryman Group

Notes: Monetary amounts given in billions of 2019 US dollars. Components may not sum due to rounding. Total expenditures measures the reduction in dollars changing hands as a result of mass shootings; gross product (or output) is reduction in production of goods and services, is parallel to the gross domestic product numbers commonly reported by various media outlets, and is a subset of total expenditures; personal income is reduction in earnings of employees and other payments such as interest and rents; and job losses are measured in job-years as they are cumulative over the lives of the victims. These numbers reflect the effects of medical costs and lost earnings and are fully adjusted for the age distribution, worklife probabilities, labor force participation, and productivity potential of the victims. The analysis made use of the firm's econometric model and impact assessment system. Note that these estimates measure only the effects from losses by the victims of mass shootings. It does not include investigative costs; incarceration costs; investments in security by schools, churches, and other entities; or many other dimensions of the economic costs of mass shootings. It also does not include other types of gun violence.