

THE COSTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

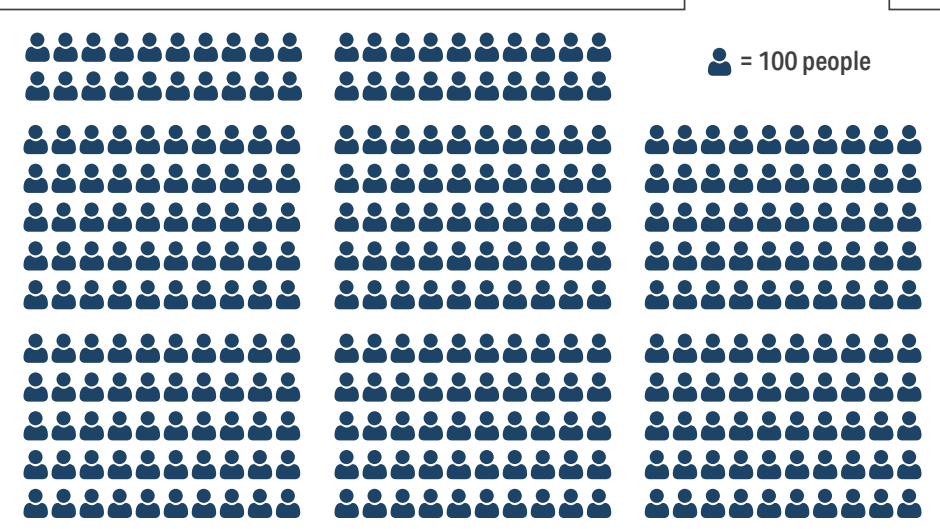
In the last several years, the United States has experienced a surge in extremist attacks, hate crimes, protests by heavily armed militias, and acts of brutality by law enforcement. This violence harms communities and undermines our democracy, and also has very real costs for society. The first step to address this challenge and rally support for investments in evidence-based solutions requires an understanding of its true impact on society and the benefit of investment to prevent and address its harm.

What is political violence?

Violence used with political motivation, to achieve a political goal, to assert power over another group, or to disseminate a political message to an outside audience.

PHYSICAL COSTS

27,730 HATE CRIMES *were reported to the FBI from 2016 to 2019, involving* **34,074** VICTIMS¹



PSYCHOLOGICAL COSTS

28% of individuals **EXPERIENCE PTSD** after witnessing a mass shooting.²

446 individuals applied for mental health treatment after the 2019 Walmart shooting in El Paso, TX

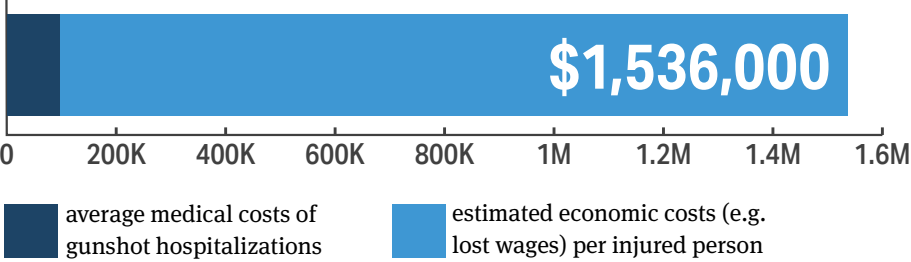
616 Virginia Tech students* were experiencing PTSD 3 to 4 months after the shooting.
(*from a sample of 4,000)

ECONOMIC COSTS

0.25 PERCENT of the overall economic cost of a terrorist attack is **INSURED PROPERTY LOSS**

INDIVIDUAL

Estimated Average Cost of a Severe Gunshot Injury



SOCIETAL

\$1M property damage following the 2016 riot in Portland
\$80M estimated lost revenue from shutting down El Paso the day after the 2019 Walmart shooting
\$250-\$330M cost to shut down the city of Boston for one day after the Boston Marathon Bombing

Violence Accelerates Violence

Within the first week following the Unite the Right attack in Charlottesville, VA research found³:

- 200% INCREASE** in Internet searches about killing ethnic minorities
- 800% INCREASE** in Internet searches on how to join the Ku Klux Klan
- 1,800% INCREASE** in Internet searches indicating a desire to kill Jewish Americans
- 22,000% INCREASE** in people wanting to donate to the Ku Klux Klan

Six weeks after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino, CA that killed fourteen people:

13,950 GUNS were bought by first-time owners



ACCESS TO GUNS INCREASES THE RISKS OF **SUICIDE, DEATH BY GUN ACCIDENT** AND THE **LETHALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**



THE WORK OF **PROMOTING DEMOCRACY** IS THE WORK OF **PREVENTING POLITICAL VIOLENCE.**

— Dr. Andrew Blum, Executive Director, Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego

Learn More



Political violence is a whole-of-society problem and requires a holistic solution. Learn more about evidence-based strategies developed by targeted communities that address, prevent and support recovery from acts of political violence and the steps you can take to help build a framework for resilience at:

democracyfund.org/costs-of-political-violence

1. FBI UCR Hate Crime Statistics. Accessed February 16, 2021. Available at: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime> | 2. Amy Novotny, "What Happens to the Survivors?" Monitor on Psychology, vol. 49, no. 8, September 2018, Accessed November 1, 2020. Available at: <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/survivors> | 3. "Charlottesville: The Aftermath," Infographic, Mosaic CVE, October 15, 2016. Accessed November 1, 2020. Available at: <http://mosaic.cve.com/charlottesville-the-aftermath/>