



The Peace Alliance

Key Statistics on the Challenges of Violence & Crime

On average, the annual cost of violence related only to paying for police, justice, corrections and the productivity effect of violent crime, homicide and robbery is **\$3,257 for each U.S. taxpayer or \$460 billion for the United States economy.**

In 2010, the Violence Containment Industry (VCI) accounted for **\$2.16 trillion, or around 15 percent of U.S. GDP.** This figure is considered conservative due to the difficulties of accounting for all private and public sector spending.

When adding up the concrete costs to the average American taxpayer it is estimated that **violence containment spending costs \$7,000 for every man, woman and child each year. That is \$6 billion a day in total, or \$246 million an hour.**

[2012 US Peace Index, Institute for Economics and Peace]

The world spends just **\$1 on conflict prevention for every \$1,885 it spends on military budgets.** In the U.S., less than 2% of income tax goes to civilian foreign affairs agencies; while, 39% goes to the military. And though taxpayers provide almost \$1 billion per year for military academies, they pay only about \$40 million for the United States Institute of Peace—the only U.S. agency dedicated to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. [Friends Committee on National Legislation report, Prevention is 60:1 Cost Effective, 2011]

U.S. National violence containment costs are over \$1.7 Trillion. [Global Peace Index, 2014 <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/#page/indexes/global-peace-index/2014/USA/OVER>]

Violence causes more than 1.6 million deaths worldwide every year. Violence is one of the leading causes of death in all parts of the world for persons ages 15 to 44. [Krug EG et al., eds. World report on violence and health. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002. Via CDC]

In the U.S., youth homicide rates are more than 10 times that of other leading industrialized nations, on par with the rates in developing countries and those experiencing rapid social and economic changes. The youth homicide rate in the U.S. stood at 11.0 per 100,000 compared to France (0.6 per 100 000), Germany (0.8 per 100 000), the United Kingdom (0.9 per 100 000) and Japan (0.4 per 100 000). [World Report on Violence and Health, World Health Organization 2002]

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With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the **United States has nearly 25 percent – 2.3 million – of its prisoners.** [San Francisco Chronicle, Norway, California: Contrast in criminal treatment Saturday, August 13, 2011]

According to the Bureau of Justice, the number of **people under some form of correction supervision in the U.S. grew from 200,000 people in 1980 to almost 7 million in 2014.**

Approximately **93,000 young people are currently in detention in the US**, most of them costing taxpayers over \$80,000 per person per year.
[<http://www.publiceye.org/defendingjustice/pdfs/factsheets/9-Fact%20Sheet%20-%20US%20vs%20World.pdf>]

The United States incarcerates a higher proportion of African Americans than South Africa did at the height of apartheid. [Race, Crime and Punishment, Breaking the connection in America. Aspen Institute. <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/Race-Crime-Punishment.pdf>]

Direct expenditures for corrections (i.e., prisons and jails) by local, state and federal governments between 1982 and 2005 increased 619 percent to \$65 billion per year.
[Direct Expenditures by Criminal Justice Function, 1982-2005, Bureau of Justice Statistics]

One in six American women has reported being the victim of an attempted or completed rape, and 10% of sexual assault victims are men. [2004 National Crime Victimization Survey]

In a study conducted in the 50 States and the District of Columbia, **nearly 25% of women (1 in 4) and 7.6% of men were raped and/or physically assaulted** by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or dating partner/acquaintance at some time in their lifetime. [Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes, U.S. Dep't of Just., NCJ 181867, Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence, at iii (2000), available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/181867.htm>]

Bullied victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims, according to studies by Yale University. **Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people**, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year, according to the CDC. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. Over 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it. [Int J Adolesc Med Health 20 (2), 2008]

Nearly 1 in 3 students (27.8%) report being bullied during the school year. [National Center for Educational Statistics, 2013]