

# In Broad Daylight

## New Calculator Brings Crime Costs—and the Value of Police—Out of the Shadows

Crime inflicts a substantial toll on individuals, businesses, and communities. Understanding the total cost of crime—which includes costs related to lost quality of life, general fear, and other intangibles, in addition to the more obvious costs related to lost property, incarceration, and the like—can help cities decide how best to invest their crime-control dollars. RAND's Cost of Crime Calculator lets city leaders and residents calculate the total cost of crime in their communities and assess the potential value of hiring additional police officers. The calculator can be found at <http://cqp.rand.org/cost-of-crime>.

SOURCES: *Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Police*, RAND/OP-279-ISEC, 2010, [www.rand.org/t/OP279](http://www.rand.org/t/OP279); Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States: 2010," website, [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010).

### THE MANY COSTS OF CRIME

<b>TANGIBLE</b>	<b>INTANGIBLE</b>
LOST PROPERTY	LOST QUALITY OF LIFE
PATROLLING & INVESTIGATION	LOST PRODUCTIVITY
MEDICAL TREATMENT	GENERAL FEAR
ADJUDICATION	LOST USE OF COMMUNITY SPACES
INCARCERATION	PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

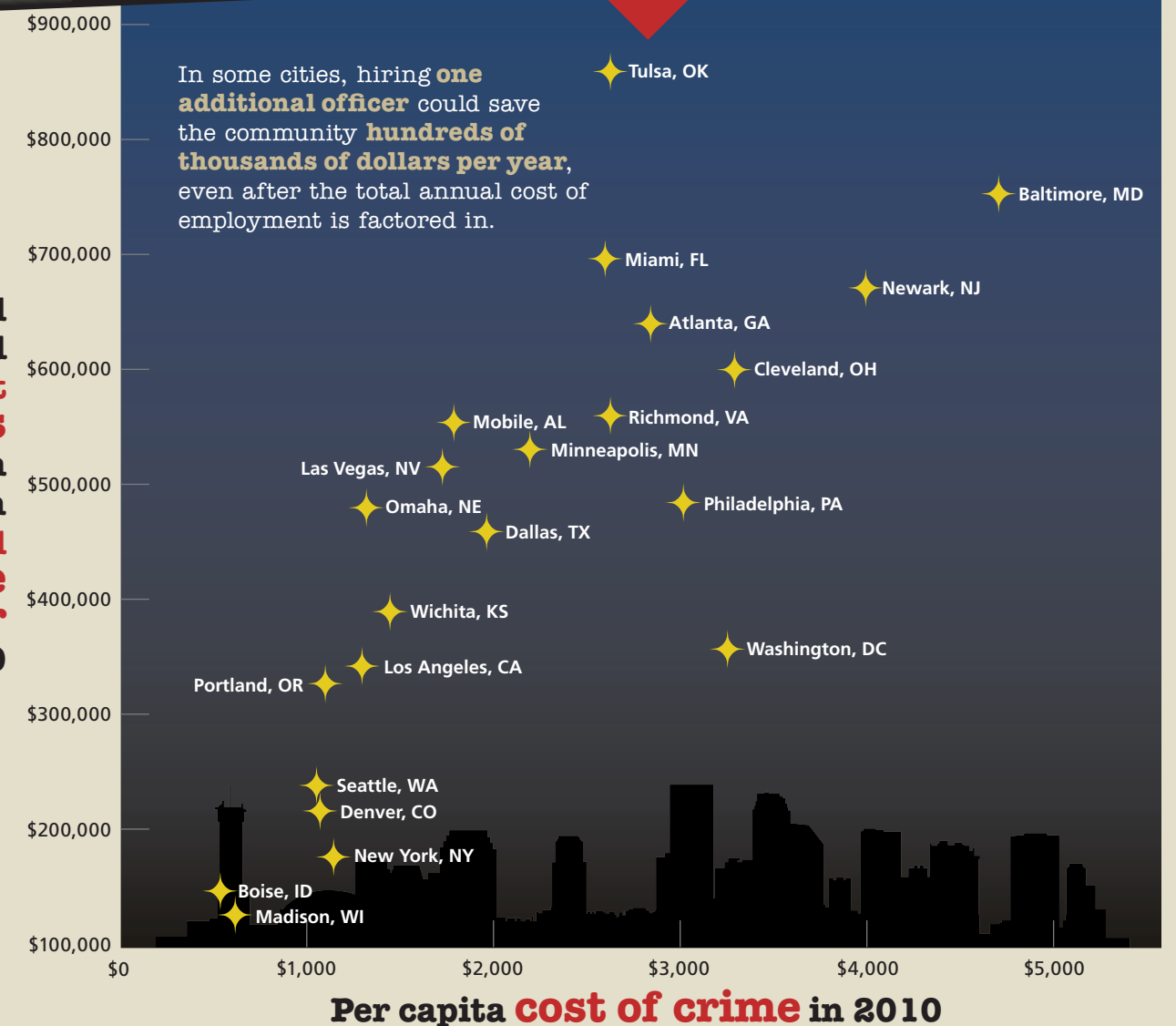
CRIME COST AMERICANS MORE THAN **\$300 BILLION** IN 2010

	cost per crime	number of incidents
<b>Murder</b>	\$9,081,677	14,748
<b>Rape</b>	\$228,572	84,767
<b>Aggravated assault</b>	\$91,694	778,901
<b>Robbery</b>	\$70,641	367,832
<b>Burglary</b>	\$13,751	2,159,878
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	\$9,533	737,142
<b>Larceny</b>	\$2,246	6,185,867
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$301,337,127,289</b>	

This calculation considers only the seven serious crimes classified by the FBI as "Part I" crimes and excludes the costs of unreported incidents. Thus, the total cost of crime in 2010 was probably much higher.

### THE COST OF CRIME TO RESIDENTS AND THE VALUE OF AN OFFICER

**Total expected crime-cost savings from hiring an additional police officer in 2010**



In some cities, hiring **one additional officer** could save the community **hundreds of thousands of dollars per year**, even after the total annual cost of employment is factored in.