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# A VICTIM'S VIEWPOINT

ATTORNEY GENERAL
*Bill Schuette*

# WHAT CRIMES DO JUVENILES GET SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR?

ONLY FIRST DEGREE MURDER

## ANSWER

Only the most serious charge of all — murder in the first degree — could ever result in a sentence of life without parole for a juvenile. They were all convicted by a jury for taking a human life.

## 1ST DEGREE MURDER IS:

1. Premeditated Murder

2. Murdering a Law Enforcement Officer

3. Felony Murder
*Not an "accidental murder."*

## WHO GOES TO PRISON?

ONLY 20 % OF CONVICTED FELONS

### ANSWER

Only 20% of Michigan's convicted felons go to prison.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OTHER 80%?

PROBATION OR JAIL + PROBATION

### ANSWER

They either go on probation or go to jail and then probation.

Michigan Department of Corrections Annual Statistical Reports, <http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,4551,7-119-1441---,00.html>

*Nationally, the average number of felons sentenced to prison has hovered around 40%. For the past 35 years, Michigan has been below 40%. For the past 20 years, Michigan has been substantially below 40%.*

# THE CONTEXT OF CRIME

## MICHIGAN HAS 4 OF THE TOP 10 MOST VIOLENT CITIES

Michigan has 4 of the top 10 "most violent cities in America."

Crime in Detroit is already far too high, with an average of more than one murder per day. The city's violent crime rate is five times the national average, last year rising to the highest of any city in America with a population of more than 200,000.

comments

### Flint crime doubled as size of police force was cut in half, analysis shows

By David Harris | dharris5@mlive.com
on August 25, 2013 at 7:00 AM, updated August 25, 2013 at 5:52 PM

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Roberto Acosta | MLive.com

**RELATED:** Find details on police and crime trends in your area.

FLINT, MI – Ten years ago, the Flint Police Department had enough personnel to fill a mid-size theater at Rave move theaters; by 2011, its staff couldn't fill even the smallest.

The Flint police department has shrunk nearly 50 percent since 2003, according to an analysis by MLive Media Group. In the same time, crime went up nearly 50 percent.

### 'We've lost respect for life': Detroit records deadliest year in decades

Detroit Interim Police Chief Chester Logan answers a question as Mayor Dave Bing looks on during a news conference in Detroit on Thursday

***By Andrew Mach, Staff Writer, NBC News***

The homicide rate in the city of Detroit continued a grim upward trend in 2012, hitting its highest peak in nearly two decades, officials said Thursday.

# THE COST OF CRIME

OVER $4MILLION PER MICHIGAN MURDER VICTIM

*Cost estimates per Michigan murder victim:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Medical Care | $ 44,833 |
| Future Earnings | $ 1,528,515 |
| Public Services | $ 2,826 |
| Property Damage & Loss | $ 1,733 |
| Subtotal (Monetary Cost) | $ 1,577,907 |
| Quality of Life | $ 2,709,249 |
| **TOTAL** **(COMPREHENSIVE COST)** | **$ 4,287,156** |

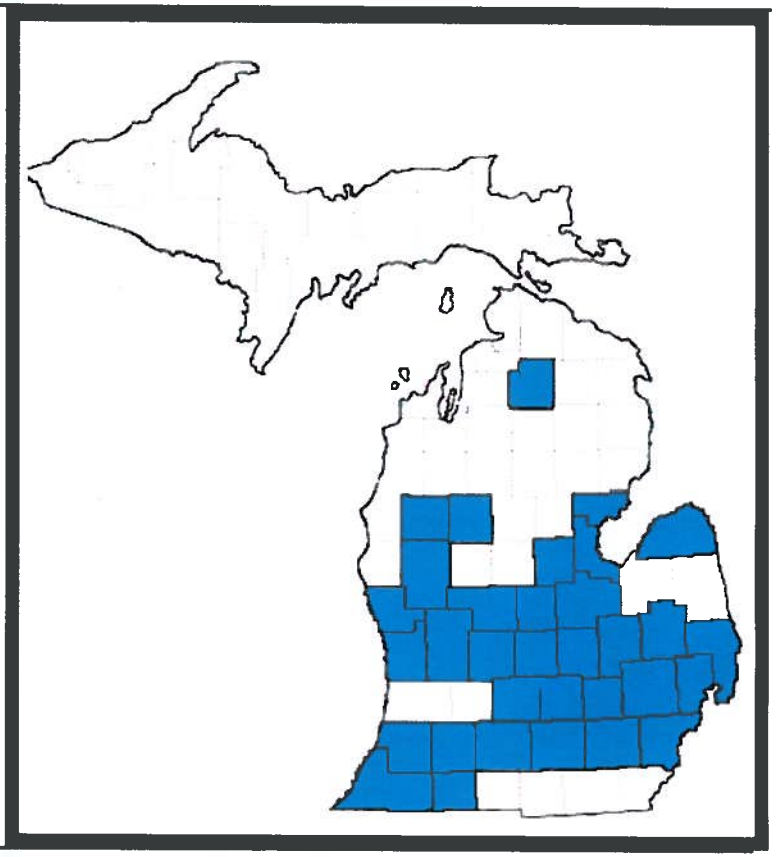
Considering the cost of crime, the focus seems to rest solely on the cost to MDOC.

But what about the cost to the victim and their family? What about the cost to society?

*"Societal Costs of Traffic Crashes and Crime in Michigan: 2011 Update." The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2011_Crash_and_Crime_Final_Report_361083_7.pdf>

# NUMBER OF VICTIMS BY COUNTY IN MICHIGAN

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arenac | 2 | Kent | 12 | | |
| Bay | 3 | Lake | 2 | | |
| Berrien | 13 | Lapeer | 1 | St. Clair | 11 |
| Calhoun | 9 | Macomb | 7 | St. Joseph | 4 |
| Cass | 2 | Midland | 1 | Van Buren | 2 |
| Clinton | 1 | Montcalm | 48 | Washtenaw | 7 |
| Eaton | 1 | Muskegon | 1 | Wayne | 170 |
| Genesee | 36 | Newaygo | 1 | | |
| Gratiot | 2 | Oakland | 1 | | |
| Huron | 1 | Osceola | 23 | | |
| Ingham | 2 | Otsego | 4 | | |
| Ionia | 2 | Ottawa | 6 | | |
| Jackson | 5 | Saginaw | 2 | | |
| Kalamazoo | 11 | Shiawassee | 2 | | |



**TOTAL LOVED ONES LOST 440**

# VICTIM STORIES

## FROM THE VICTIMS & FAMILIES PERSPECTIVE

- A grandmother was sewing at home when a juvenile broke in to steal items and money. **He shot her, and while she crawled toward the telephone, he left her to die.**

- A young wife, five months pregnant, stopped to offer a ride to hitchhikers. They wanted to steal a car and money, and then murder the driver to eliminate the only witness. **The juveniles forced the pregnant wife to drive to a deserted area, where they made her kneel down and shot her twice in the head.**

- A police officer stopped a young driver with no license. Instead of making an arrest, the officer gave a warning and drove him to his mother's apartment. Once there, the teen assaulted him. **While the officer was incapacitated on the floor, the teen shot him in the head.**

- A 17-year-old spends weeks meticulously planning the "perfect murder," including clean-up, a torch to burn off fingerprints and dismembering and burning the body. **After he murdered and decapitated a Wayne County man, he told a friend: "Next time I won't make the same mistakes."**

For the loved ones of these victims, there are no more Mother's Days or Father's Days or happy birthdays. Only painful remembrance. Their lives are torn apart. Trials compounded their agony, when the last moment of their loved one's lives were replayed in excruciating detail.
Now, they face the frightening prospect of a teenage murderer walking the streets.

"I've had talks with offender parents who lost their sons & daughter to the corrections department, but they get to go see that person. *They get to have conversations.*

**I get to go to a cemetery to see my brother."**

*-Jody Robinson*
*Oakland County*

*Her brother, James Cotaling, a 28-year-old auto mechanic, was killed inside a Pontiac house in 1990 by two teenage murderers. He suffered 25 knife wounds and was nearly decapitated.*