

# Indiana Gun Violence Fact Sheet

## **Two people are killed by guns in Indiana every day.**

- In Indiana 709 people were killed in gun-related violence in 2010.<sup>1</sup>
- Indiana's rate of gun deaths in 2010, at 10.9 for every 100,000 residents, was above the national average.<sup>2</sup>

## **Somebody is murdered by a gun in Indiana almost every 36 hours.**

- In 2010, 223 people were murdered by guns in Indiana.<sup>3</sup>
- From 2001 through 2010, 2,478 people were murdered by guns in Indiana. That is almost 50 percent more than all U.S. combat deaths in the Afghanistan war.<sup>4</sup>

## **Children and teens are at a higher risk of fatal gun violence in Indiana than in most other states.**

- Indiana had the 18th-highest rate of gun deaths among children and teens age 19 and under in 2010. That year 60 children were killed by guns in the state.<sup>5</sup>

## **Indiana has some of weakest gun laws in the country.**

- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gave Indiana 4 out of 100 possible points on their 2011 state scorecard, ranking the state 39th overall.<sup>6</sup>
- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Indiana an "F" for the strength of its gun laws.<sup>7</sup>
- Indiana's rate of submitting mental health records to the federal database—records that are used in background checks to deny dangerous people from getting guns—is almost eight times lower than the national average.<sup>8</sup>

## **Weak laws make Indiana a favorite source state for gun traffickers.**

- Indiana had the eighth-highest rate of crime gun exports in 2009, a key marker of illegal trafficking. Indiana supplied guns to out-of-state criminals at more than double the national rate.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2011 Indiana was the leading out-of-state source of guns used in crimes in Illinois, supplying more than three times more crime guns than the second-highest source state.<sup>10</sup>

## **The National Rifle Association thinks things in Indiana are going great.**

- The NRA gave seven out of the nine representatives from Indiana an "A" rating.<sup>11</sup>
- From 2003 through 2012, the NRA has collectively donated \$152,750 to federal candidates from Indiana.<sup>12</sup>

## **Polls show Indiana residents believe that gun laws should be made stricter.**

- Indiana residents overwhelmingly support universal background checks: 9 in 10 voters support universal background checks, while only 7 percent oppose. Universal background checks have an 80-point advantage among gun-owning households.<sup>13</sup>

## **Examples of why meaningful gun-violence prevention laws matter:**

- Universal background checks are critical to help prevent gun trafficking: Chicago is a hotspot for gun violence, but many of the guns used in crimes come from Indiana. A recent undercover investigation by the Chicago police discovered one group of gun runners channeling hundreds of illegal guns into Chicago after being purchased dozens at a time and without background checks at private gun shows in Indiana.<sup>14</sup>
- Assault weapons are only used to kill, and kill quickly: On June 1, 2006, Indiana witnessed its worst single murder massacre in history, in which two accomplices entered a home on Indianapolis's east side, shooting and killing seven family members. The shooters used military-style assault rifles to commit the crime, which took mere minutes.<sup>15</sup>

Questions? Email us at [guns@americanprogress.org](mailto:guns@americanprogress.org).

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Fatal Injury Data,” available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. (War casualties statistic from U.S. Department of Defense, available at <http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf>.)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings,” available at <http://www.bradiycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/IN/> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>7</sup> Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “Gun Laws Matter 2012: Understanding the Link Between Weak Laws and Gun Violence,” available at <http://smartgunlaws.org/gun-laws-matter-2012-understanding-the-link-between-weak-laws-and-gun-violence/> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>8</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records In The Federal Background Check System Put Guns In The Hands Of Killers” (2011).

<sup>9</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/IN/exports/> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>10</sup> Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, “Firearms Trace Data—2011,” available at <http://www.atf.gov/statistics/download/trace-data/2011/2011-trace-data-illinois.pdf> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>11</sup> “How the National Rifle Association Rates Lawmakers,” *The New York Times*, December 19, 2012, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/19/us/politics/nra.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Center for Responsive Politics, “Open Secrets,” available at <http://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/recips.php?id=D000000082&type=P&state=AZ&sort=A&cycle=2012> (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>13</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Results from Surveys in AZ, CO, IN, VA, OH,” available at [http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/poll\\_slides\\_2011.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/poll_slides_2011.pdf) (last accessed February 2013).

<sup>14</sup> Annie Sweeney and Jason Meisner, “Federal case outlines how guns made their way from Indiana to Chicago,” *Chicago Tribune*, February 17, 2013, available at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-guns-gangs-20130217,0,5523551,full.story>.

<sup>15</sup> Jon Murray, “RetroIndy: The Hamilton Avenue slayings of 2006,” *The Indianapolis Star*, January 9, 2013, available at [http://www.indystar.com/article/99999999/NEWS06/91008048/RetroIndy-Hamilton-Avenue-slayings-2006?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.indystar.com/article/99999999/NEWS06/91008048/RetroIndy-Hamilton-Avenue-slayings-2006?nclink_check=1).