FACT SHEET

Arizona Gun Violence

Arizona’s gun death rate is 40 percent higher than the national average.

• Arizona is the 11th-worst state for gun deaths: There were 14.6 gun deaths for every 100,000 people in the state in 2010. That’s 40 percent higher than the national average of 10.3 gun deaths for every 100,000 people.1

Somebody is murdered by a gun in Arizona almost every day.

• In Arizona there were 271 gun homicides in 2010.2
• From 2001 through 2010, 3,303 people were murdered by guns in Arizona. That number is almost double all U.S. combat deaths in the Afghanistan war.3

Women are more at risk of being killed by a gun in a domestic dispute in Arizona than almost anywhere else in the country.

• Arizona had the eighth-highest rate of women killed by men, many of which were committed with a firearm.4 It had the 13th-highest gun homicide rate for women in the country.5

Arizona has received abysmal gun safety ratings. Weak gun laws put Arizonans at risk.

• The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Arizona an “F,” ranking it 49th out of 50 states.6
• The Daily Beast listed Arizona as the second “deadliest gun state” in the United States in 2011 because of its combination of permissive gun laws and a high rate of gun deaths.7

Weak laws make Arizona a favorite source state for gun traffickers.

• Arizona had the 13th-highest rate of crime gun exports in 2009, a marker of illegal trafficking. Arizona supplied guns to out-of-state criminals at a rate of 75 percent above the national average.8
Polls show Arizonans strongly support common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.

- Arizonans overwhelmingly support universal background checks: 90 percent of residents want “every gun buyer to pass a background check.”

Stories help dispel some common myths surrounding gun-violence prevention:

- **Reality check:** “The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” In the Tucson shooting where Jared Loughner shot and killed six people, an armed civilian almost shot the bystander who tackled and disarmed Loughner.

- **Background checks and up-to-date mental health databases are critical:** Gracie Verduzco had been involuntarily committed to mental hospitals three times by judges in Arizona and the District of Columbia for having threatened then-President Bill Clinton. Because records were not submitted, Verduzco was able to purchase a .38-caliber revolver at a gun shop that she used shoot and kill one victim and injure four others at a Tucson-area post office.

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Endnotes


2. Ibid.

3. Ibid. (War casualties statistic from U.S. Department of Defense, available at http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf. The number used is from the start of the war to March 4, 2013.)


5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.


