

FACT SHEET

# Arkansas Gun Violence

*People are killed by guns in Arkansas at a rate far above the national average.*

- From 2001 through 2010 Arkansas had a gun death rate that was almost 50 percent higher than the national average, as well as the ninth-highest of any state in the country.<sup>1</sup>
- That amounts to 4,291 people killed by guns—almost 25 percent more than the number of U.S. combat deaths in the entire Iraq war.<sup>2</sup>

*Arkansas has some of the worst rates of gun crime in the nation.*

- As of 2010 Arkansas had the 10th-worst gun murder rate in the nation, 25 percent higher than the national average. Out of every 100,000 people, 4.5 people are murdered by guns.<sup>3</sup>
- Arkansas experienced the third-most aggravated assaults with a firearm per capita of the 50 states in 2011. On average, one of these crimes occurred in the state every three-and-a-half hours.<sup>4</sup>

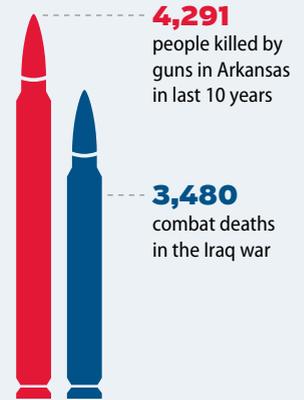
*Women are at an especially high risk due to Arkansas's rampant gun violence.*

- In 2010 Arkansas had the third-worst gun-murder rate for women among all 50 states.<sup>5</sup>
- The state ranks 19th-worst out of the 50 states in a key indicator of domestic violence: the rate of women killed by men in isolated crime.<sup>6</sup>

*Arkansas's gun safety ratings are among the worst in the nation.*

- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence put Arkansas 39th on their 2011 state rankings, and gave the state 4 out of a possible 100 points for sensible gun-violence prevention measures.<sup>7</sup>
- The Daily Beast listed Arkansas as the fourth “deadliest gun state” in the United States in 2011 because of its combination of permissive gun laws and a high rate of gun deaths.<sup>8</sup>

Nearly 25 percent more people were killed by guns in Arkansas from 2001 through 2010 than killed in combat in Iraq



In Arkansas an aggravated assault with a firearm occurs every three-and-a-half hours



Arkansas received 4 out of 100 on their 2011 state scorecard from the Brady Campaign



In 2009 Arkansas exported crime guns at a rate 89 percent higher than the national average



Exports per 100,000 inhabitants

*Weak laws make Arkansas a favorite state for gun traffickers to purchase guns.*

- In 2009 Arkansas’s “crime gun exports”—guns later recovered in crimes in other states that were originally sold in Arkansas—were exported from the state at a rate of 89 percent higher than the national average and 11th-highest among all 50 states.<sup>9</sup>

*Polls show Arkansas residents strongly support common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.*

- Arkansas residents overwhelmingly support universal background checks: 84 percent of residents want “every gun buyer to pass a background check.”<sup>10</sup>

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## Endnotes

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Fatal Injury Data,” available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed February 2013).
- 2 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 1, 2013.)
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Uniform Crime Reports,” available at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/violent-crime/violent-crime> (last accessed February 2013).
- 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 6 Violence Policy Center, “When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data,” available at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2012.pdf> (last accessed March 2013). (Data is the number of single victim/single offender homicides where a man killed a woman.)
- 7 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings,” available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/AR/> (last accessed March 2013).
- 8 “20 Deadliest Gun States,” The Daily Beast, January 10, 2011, available at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/01/11/20-deadliest-gun-states-from-mississippi-to-arizona.html>.
- 9 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/AR/exports/> (last accessed February 2013).
- 10 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New Poll Finds 84 Percent in Arkansas Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers,” Press release, March 15, 2013, available at [http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/ab/3/1390/AR\\_MAIG\\_Release\\_030513.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/ab/3/1390/AR_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf).