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.¹

• 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.²

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.³

• 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.⁴

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.⁵

• 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.⁶

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.⁷

• 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.⁸
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.9

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.”10

Endnotes

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.
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.