FACT SHEET

Louisiana Gun Violence

On key measures, Louisiana has been hit harder by gun violence than any other state in the country.

• As of 2010, Louisiana had the worst gun-murder rate in the nation—9.5 murders per 100,000 people, more than two-and-a-half times higher than the national average of 3.6 murders per 100,000 people.1
• From 2001 through 2010 Louisiana had more deaths per capita from guns than any other state, and almost two times the national norm for that period.2

The rates at which individuals are fatally injured by guns in the state are staggering.

• More than one person is murdered with a gun in Louisiana every day. From 2001 through 2010, 4,519 people were murdered by guns in the state—more than 1,000 more than all U.S. combat deaths during the Iraq war.3
• Guns take the life of a Louisianan every 10 hours.4

Among women and children, Louisiana’s extraordinarily high rates of gun murder remain.

• Louisiana has the highest gun-homicide rate among children ages 0–19 of any state in the country, at two-and-a-half times greater than the national average. In 2010, 67 children in Louisiana were murdered with guns.5
• The gun-homicide rate among women in Louisiana is the second-worst rate in the country.6 Women are at an increased risk of domestic violence, too: In 2010 Louisiana had the fourth-highest rate of women being killed by men, two-thirds of which occurred with a firearm.7

Unsurprisingly, Louisiana’s gun-safety ratings are among the worst in the nation.

• The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Louisiana an “F,” ranking it 45th out of 50 states.8
• The Daily Beast listed Louisiana as the fifth “deadliest gun state” in America in 2011 because of its combination of permissive gun laws and a high rate of gun deaths.9
Louisiana not only has rampant gun violence within its borders, but it contributes to crime in other states as well.

- In 2009 Louisiana had the 15th-highest rate of guns sold in the state that went on to be used in crimes in other states. These “crime-gun exports” are a key marker of illegal gun trafficking.\(^{10}\)
- Louisiana exported crime guns to other states at a rate 68 percent higher than the national average, and exported more crime guns than it imported.\(^{11}\)

Polls show that Louisianans strongly favor common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.

- Louisianans support universal background checks: 85 percent of residents “want every gun buyer to pass a criminal background check.”\(^{12}\)

Endnotes

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. (War casualties statistic is from the U.S. Department of Defense, available at [http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf). The number used is from the start of the war to March 1, 2013.)
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
11. Ibid.