

FACT SHEET

# Missouri Gun Violence

*Missouri has one of the worst rates of gun crime in the nation.*

- In 2010, Missouri had the fourth-highest rate of homicides with a firearm in the nation: 5.6 homicides per 100,000 people. That is 56 percent above the national average of 3.6 firearm homicides per 100,000 people.<sup>1</sup>
- Missouri had the fifth-highest rate of aggravated assaults with a firearm in 2011. With 5,290 cases that year alone, there was an aggravated assault with a firearm in the state every one-and-a-half hours.<sup>2</sup>

*The number of Missouri residents who have been victims of gun violence is staggering.*

- From 2001 through 2010, 7,525 people were killed by guns in Missouri. That is almost 50 percent more than the number of U.S. combat deaths in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2010 there were 335 gun murders in the state, or one almost every day.<sup>4</sup>

*Such high rates of gun violence put women and children more at risk.*

- Missouri had the sixth-highest rate of gun deaths among children ages 0–18 in 2010. Tragically, 62 children were killed by guns in 2010 alone.<sup>5</sup>
- As of 2010, Missouri’s rate of females murdered by guns was eighth worst in the nation.<sup>6</sup>

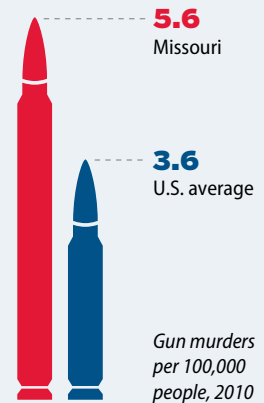
*Missouri has poor gun-safety measures.*

- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives Missouri a gun safety rating of “F” for having enacted “few” gun-violence prevention laws.<sup>7</sup>
- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gave Missouri 4 out of a possible 100 points on its 2011 scorecard, and ranked the state 39th out of 50 for the strength of its gun laws.<sup>8</sup>

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

- In 2009 Missouri sold almost 600 guns that went on to be used in crimes in other states.<sup>9</sup>

As of 2010 Missouri had the fourth-worst gun-murder rate in the nation, 56 percent higher than the national average



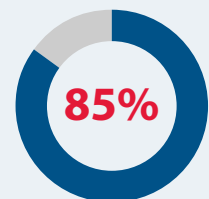
In Missouri a person is killed by a gun every 26 hours



In 2010, 62 children aged 0-18 were killed with guns in Missouri



Missourians overwhelmingly support “mandatory background checks for all gun buyers”



*Missourians strongly support common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.*

- Missourians overwhelmingly support universal background checks: In a February 2013 poll, 85 percent of state residents said they support “mandatory background checks for all gun buyers.”<sup>10</sup>

*Universal background checks matter.*

- Universal background checks keep guns out of the hands of criminals. A study by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research found that after Missouri repealed its “permit-to-purchase” law in 2007—a law that required background checks for all gun sales—the homicide rate in the state increased by 25 percent in the following three-year period. This occurred as the national homicide rate decreased by 10 percent. What’s more, the study discovered an extraordinary increase in “young”—meaning recently purchased—guns used in the crimes, suggesting that the law’s repeal made it much easier for criminals to purchase new guns.<sup>11</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 March 2013).
- 2 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 March 2013).
- 3 Centers for Disease Control. (War casualties statistic is from the 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.)
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 7 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 March 2013).
- 8 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings,” available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/MO/> (last accessed March 2013).
- 9 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/MO/exports/> (last accessed March 2013).
- 10 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New Poll Finds 85 Percent in Missouri Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers,” Press release, March 5, 2013, available at [http://iibcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/b3/b/1399/MO\\_MAIG\\_Release\\_030513.pdf](http://iibcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/b3/b/1399/MO_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf).
- 11 Zach Beauchamp, “Gun Homicides Increased 25 Percent After Missouri Repealed Background Check Law,” ThinkProgress, February 13, 2013, available at <http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2013/02/13/1589161/study-gun-homicides-increased-25-percent-after-missouri-background-check-laws-repeal/?mobile=nc>.