

FACT SHEET

South Carolina Gun Violence

South Carolina's rates of gun crime are some of the worst in the nation.

- South Carolina is the seventh-deadliest state for gun homicide: There were 5 gun murders for every 100,000 people in the state in 2010, 39 percent higher than the national average of 3.6 gun murders per 100,000 people.¹
- At two-and-a-half times worse than the national average, South Carolina has the second-worst rate of aggravated assaults with a firearm in the country.²

The number of South Carolina residents who have been victims of gun violence is staggering.

- From 2001 through 2010 there were 5,991 people killed by guns in South Carolina. That's 15 percent more than all U.S. combat deaths in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.³
- As of 2010, somebody is killed with a gun every 14 hours in the state,⁴ and an aggravated assault with a firearm occurs every hour and a half.⁵

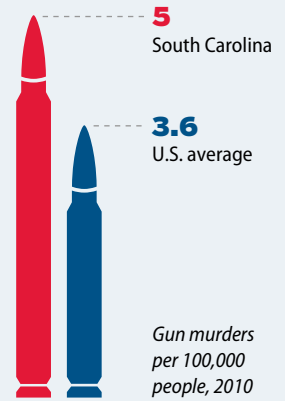
Law-enforcement officers are more at risk in South Carolina than almost anywhere else.

- The rate of law-enforcement officers feloniously killed with guns in the state is fourth worst in the nation. Between 2002 and 2011, 16 law-enforcement agents were murdered by guns.⁶

Women are more in danger of fatal domestic violence because of the prevalence of gun violence.

- In the most recent 10-year period (from 2001 through 2010), South Carolina ranked fourth worst in the nation on the rate of women murdered by guns, and 64 percent above the national norm.⁷
- On a narrower indicator of domestic violence, the rate of women murdered by men, South Carolina, as of 2010, ranks second worst. More than half of these crimes are committed with guns.⁸

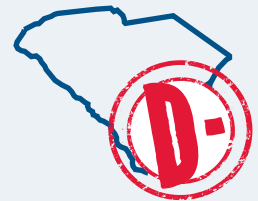
As of 2010 South Carolina had the seventh-worst gun-murder rate in the nation, 39 percent higher than the national average



In South Carolina a person is killed by a gun every 14 hours



The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave South Carolina a "D-"



In 2009 South Carolina exported crime guns at a rate more than two times the national average



Exports per 100,000 inhabitants

South Carolina has poor gun-safety ratings.

- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives South Carolina a “D-” for having enacted “few” gun-safety measures.⁹
- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gives South Carolina 8 out of 100 possible points on their 2011 state rankings.¹⁰

Weak laws make South Carolina a favorite state for illegal gun traffickers to purchase guns.

- South Carolina has the sixth-highest rate in the country of crime gun exports—guns sold in South Carolina that are later used in crimes in other states. In this key marker of illegal gun trafficking, as of 2009, the state is more than twice as bad as the national norm.¹¹

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 and Prevention. (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 FBI, “Uniform Crime Reports.”
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 8 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.)
- 9 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).
- 10 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings,” available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/SC/> (last accessed February 2013).
- 11 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/SC/exports/> (last accessed March 2013).