

FACT SHEET

Iowa Gun Violence

A person is killed by a gun in Iowa almost every day.

- In Iowa a person is killed by a gun every 40 hours. There were more than 200 people killed in gun-related violence in 2010.¹
- From 2001 through 2010, 1,976 people were killed by guns in Iowa. That's almost 20 percent more than the number of U.S. combat deaths during the entire war in Afghanistan.²

Iowa is not immune to daily acts of gun violence and serious gun crime.

- There were almost 600 reported aggravated assaults in Iowa in 2011 alone, or roughly one every 15 hours.³

Women and children are regularly victims of gun violence.

- In 2010 Iowa's rate of gun homicides among women was 22nd highest in the country.⁴
- There have been 177 children and teens age 19 and under killed by guns from 2001 through 2010.⁵

Iowa's gun safety ratings are weak.

- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gave Iowa 7 out of 100 possible points on their 2011 state scorecard.⁶
- Iowa's rate of submitting mental health records to the federal database—records that are used in background checks to deny dangerous people from getting guns—is more than five-and-a-half times lower than the national average.⁷

The National Rifle Association has only praised Iowa legislators working against gun-violence prevention.

- The three Republican officeholders in Iowa receive an "A" or "A+" from the NRA, while all three Democrats from Iowa get failing grades.⁸
- From 2003 through 2012 the NRA collectively donated \$76,300 to federal candidates from Iowa.⁹

Polls show that Iowans strongly support key gun-violence prevention measures.

- Iowans overwhelmingly support universal background checks: Almost 9 in 10 Iowans—88 percent—support a provision to require "background checks for all gun sales, including those at gun shows and by private sellers." Only 11 percent oppose.¹⁰
- By a 23-point margin, 60–37, Iowans favor a ban on "military-style weapons commonly known as assault weapons."¹¹
- By a 23-point margin, 59–36, Iowans favor a ban on ammunition magazines with more than 10 rounds.¹²

Questions? Email us at guns@americanprogress.org.

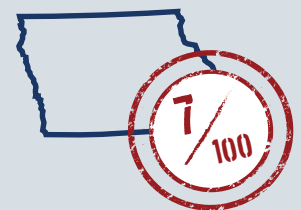
In Iowa, a person is killed by a gun every 40 hours



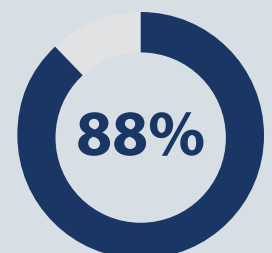
Almost 20% more people were murdered with guns in Iowa between 2001-10 than killed in combat in Afghanistan



Iowa received 7 out of 100 on their 2011 state scorecard from the Brady Campaign



Iowans overwhelmingly favor requiring "background checks for all gun sales"



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>.) (From start of the war to March 4, 2013).
- 3 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).
- 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings," available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/IA/> (last accessed February 2013).
- 7 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records In The Federal Background Check System Put Guns In The Hands Of Killers" (2011).
- 8 "How the National Rifle Association Rates Lawmakers," *The New York Times*, December 19, 2012, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/19/us/politics/nra.html>.
- 9 Center for Responsive Politics, "Open Secrets," available at <http://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/recips.php?id=D000000082&type=P&state=AZ&sort=A&cycle=2012> (last accessed February 2013).
- 10 Daniel P. Finney, "Iowa Poll shows majority of Iowans favor tougher gun laws," *The Des Moines Register*, February 9, 2013, available at <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130210/NEWS09/302100089/Iowa-Poll-shows-majority-Iowans-favor-tougher-gun-laws>.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid.