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.
Endnotes


4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

5 Ibid.


11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.