

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

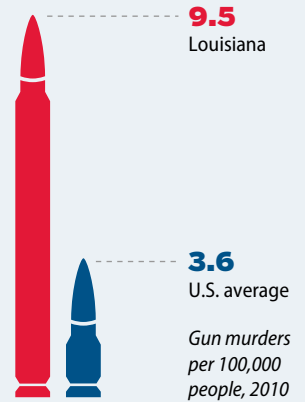
Among women and children, Louisiana's extraordinarily high rates of gun murder remain.

- 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's gun-murder rate is more than two-and-a-half times higher than the U.S. average



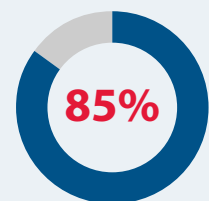
In Louisiana a person is killed by a gun every 10 hours



Louisiana has the highest gun-homicide rate among children aged 0-19 of any state



Louisianans overwhelmingly “want every gun buyer to pass a criminal background check”



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

- 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.
- 3 Ibid. (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 1, 2013.)
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 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.)
- 8 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).
- 9 “20 Deadliest Gun States,” The Daily Beast, January 10, 2011, available at <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/01/11/20-deadliest-gun-states-from-mississippi-to-arizona.html> (last accessed March 2013).
- 10 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/LA/exports/> (last accessed March 2013).
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New Poll Finds 85 Percent in Louisiana Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers,” Press release, March 5, 2013, available at http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/cf/b/1397/LA_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf.