

FACT SHEET

# Mississippi Gun Violence

*Mississippi has one of the worst rates of gun violence in the nation.*

- As of 2010 Mississippi had the second-worst gun-murder rate in the nation, 92 percent higher than the national average. Out of every 100,000 people, 6.9 people in Mississippi are murdered by guns each year.<sup>1</sup>
- From 2001 through 2010 Mississippi experienced the third-most gun deaths per capita of the 50 states, with 17 annual gun deaths for every 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>2</sup>

*Guns take the life of a Mississippian every 18 hours.*

- In 2010, 475 people were killed by guns in Mississippi, or one roughly every 18 hours.<sup>3</sup>
- In the most recent 10-year period (from 2001 through 2010), 4,937 people were killed by guns in Mississippi. That is 42 percent more than all U.S. combat deaths in the Iraq war.<sup>4</sup>

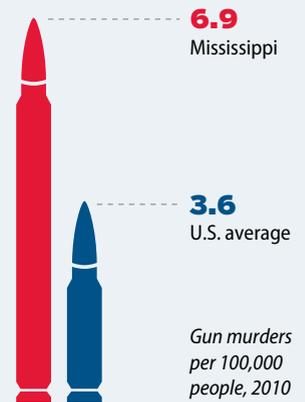
*Women and children are at an especially high risk due to Mississippi's rampant gun violence.*

- In 2010 Mississippi had the worst rate of gun murders of women among all 50 states. The state was more than two-and-a-half times worse than the national average.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2010 Mississippi had the fifth-worst gun-death rate for children ages 0–18. During that year alone, 62 children were killed by guns in the state.<sup>6</sup>

*Unsurprisingly, Mississippi's gun-safety ratings are among the worst in the nation.*

- The Daily Beast listed Mississippi as the “deadliest gun state” in America in 2011 because of its combination of permissive gun laws and high rate of gun deaths.<sup>7</sup>
- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Mississippi an “F” rating for the strength of its gun laws, ranking it 48th out of 50 states.<sup>8</sup>

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In 2009 Mississippi had the highest crime-gun export rate in the country—more than three times the national average



Exports per 100,000 inhabitants

*With such weak gun laws, Mississippi is arguably the single-worst state in the country for illegal gun trafficking.*

- Mississippi has the highest rate of crime-gun exports—guns sold in Mississippi that are later used in crimes in other states—in the country. In this key marker of illegal gun trafficking, as of 2009, the state exports 50.3 guns annually per 100,000 inhabitants, an astounding three-and-a-half times more than the national average of 14.1 guns per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>9</sup>
- Mississippi exported 1,485 guns in 2009, more than five times more than the number of guns it imported.<sup>10</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 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid. (War casualties statistic 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.)

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 "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>.

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 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "Trace the Guns 2010," available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/MS/exports/> (last accessed March 2013).

10 Ibid.