

FACT SHEET

# Arizona Gun Violence

*Arizona's gun death rate is 40 percent higher than the national average.*

- Arizona is the 11th-worst state for gun deaths: There were 14.6 gun deaths for every 100,000 people in the state in 2010. That's 40 percent higher than the national average of 10.3 gun deaths for every 100,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

*Somebody is murdered by a gun in Arizona almost every day.*

- In Arizona there were 271 gun homicides in 2010.<sup>2</sup>
- From 2001 through 2010, 3,303 people were murdered by guns in Arizona. That number is almost double all U.S. combat deaths in the Afghanistan war.<sup>3</sup>

*Women are more at risk of being killed by a gun in a domestic dispute in Arizona than almost anywhere else in the country.*

- Arizona had the eighth-highest rate of women killed by men, many of which were committed with a firearm.<sup>4</sup> It had the 13th-highest gun homicide rate for women in the country.<sup>5</sup>

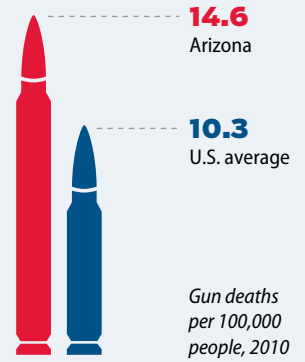
*Arizona has received abysmal gun safety ratings. Weak gun laws put Arizonans at risk.*

- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Arizona an "F," ranking it 49th out of 50 states.<sup>6</sup>
- The Daily Beast listed Arizona as the second "deadliest gun state" in the United States in 2011 because of its combination of permissive gun laws and a high rate of gun deaths.<sup>7</sup>

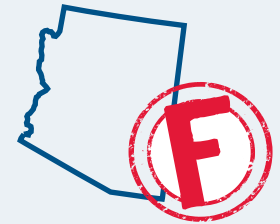
*Weak laws make Arizona a favorite source state for gun traffickers.*

- Arizona had the 13th-highest rate of crime gun exports in 2009, a marker of illegal trafficking. Arizona supplied guns to out-of-state criminals at a rate of 75 percent above than the national average.<sup>8</sup>

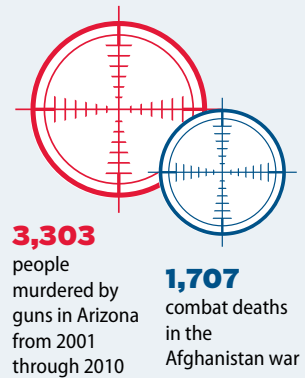
Arizona's gun-death rate is 40 percent higher than the U.S. average



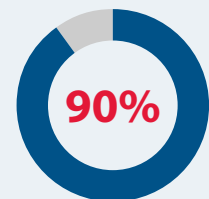
The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Arizona an "F," ranking it 49th out of 50 states



Almost twice as many people were murdered by guns from 2001 through 2010 in Arizona than killed in combat in Afghanistan



Arizonans overwhelmingly support universal background checks



*Polls show Arizonans strongly support common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.*

- Arizonans overwhelmingly support universal background checks: 90 percent of residents want “every gun buyer to pass a background check.”<sup>9</sup>

*Stories help dispel some common myths surrounding gun-violence prevention:*

- **Reality check:** “The only way to stop a *bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.*” In the Tucson shooting where Jared Loughner shot and killed six people, an armed civilian almost shot the bystander who tackled and disarmed Loughner.<sup>10</sup>
- **Background checks and up-to-date mental health databases are critical:** Gracie Verduzco had been involuntarily committed to mental hospitals three times by judges in Arizona and the District of Columbia for having threatened then-President Bill Clinton. Because records were not submitted, Verduzco was able to purchase a .38-caliber revolver at a gun shop that she used shoot and kill one victim and injure four others at a Tucson-area post office.<sup>11</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 February 2013).
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid. (War casualties statistic from 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 Violence Policy Center, “When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data,” available at <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2012.pdf> (last accessed February 2013). (Data is the number of single victim/single offender homicides where a man killed a woman.)
- 5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 6 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 February 2013).
- 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 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/AZ/exports/> (last accessed February 2013).
- 9 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New Poll Finds 90 Percent in Arizona Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers,” Press release, March 5, 2013, available at [http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/b1/e/1391/AZ\\_MAIG\\_Release\\_030513.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/b1/e/1391/AZ_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf).
- 10 William Saletan, “Armed Giffords hero nearly shot wrong man,” *Slate*, January 11, 2011, available at [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/41018893/ns/slate\\_com/t/armed-giffords-hero-nearly-shot-wrong-man/#.USUIGqWcdyx](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/41018893/ns/slate_com/t/armed-giffords-hero-nearly-shot-wrong-man/#.USUIGqWcdyx).
- 11 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Fatal Gaps: How Missing Records In The Federal Background Check System Put Guns In The Hands Of Killers” (2011).