

FACT SHEET

# New Mexico Gun Violence

*New Mexico's gun-death rate is 40 percent higher than the national average.*

- New Mexico is the 10th-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>
- From 2001 through 2010, 2,932 people were killed by guns in New Mexico. That is more than 70 percent more than the number of U.S. combat deaths in the Afghanistan war.<sup>2</sup>

*Women and children are at a higher risk of becoming homicide victims in New Mexico than in almost all other states.*

- Women are at an increased risk of domestic violence: In 2010 New Mexico had the seventh-highest rate of women being killed by men—the majority of which occur with a firearm.<sup>3</sup>
- Children ages 0–19 are killed by guns at a rate almost 60 percent higher than the national average and are murdered by guns at almost 40 percent above the national average. In 2010 New Mexico ranked sixth and seventh in these measures, respectively.<sup>4</sup>

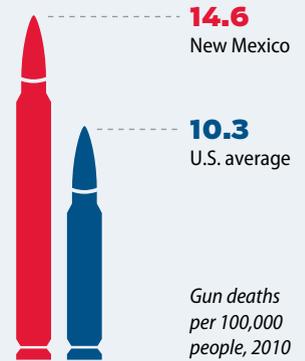
*New Mexico's gun-safety ratings are among the worst in the nation.*

- The Daily Beast listed New Mexico as the sixth “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>5</sup>
- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave New Mexico an “F” ranking it 40th out of 50 states for having enacted “few” gun-violence prevention laws.<sup>6</sup>

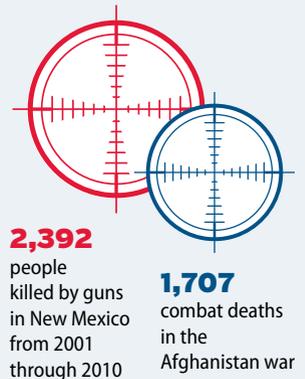
*Weak laws make New Mexico a favorite state for gun traffickers to purchase guns.*

- In 2009 New Mexico's “crime-gun exports”—guns later recovered in crimes in other states that were originally sold in New Mexico—were exported from the state at a rate of 54 percent above the national average. This is a key marker of gun trafficking.<sup>7</sup>

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



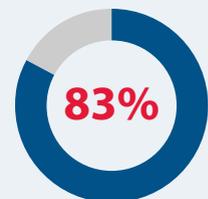
From 2001 through 2010 the number of people killed by guns in New Mexico was more than 70 percent higher than the number of U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan



The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave New Mexico an “F” for the strength of its gun laws



New Mexicans overwhelmingly want “every gun buyer to pass a background check”



*Polls show New Mexico residents strongly support common-sense gun-violence prevention measures.*

- New Mexico residents overwhelmingly support universal background checks: 83 percent of residents want “every gun buyer to pass a background check.”<sup>8</sup>

*It’s important to close the gun-show loophole.*

- A study by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, found that in one year 10,000 trafficked guns were involved in gun shows—about 30 percent of all criminal trafficking that year.<sup>9</sup>
- New Mexico’s neighboring state of Colorado, which passed a law to close the gun show loophole in 2000 after the Columbine High School shooting, dropped 10 places in the crime-gun export rate in just the first year after the law passed, from 17th to 27th in the country. It now sits even lower at 32nd overall for crime guns exported per capita.<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 February 2013).
- 2 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.)
- 3 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.)
- 4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 5 “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>.
- 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 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/NM/exports/> (last accessed March 2013).
- 8 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “New Poll Finds 83 Percent in New Mexico Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers,” Press release, March 5, 2013, available at [http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/09/5/1404/NM\\_MAIG\\_Release\\_030513.pdf](http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/09/5/1404/NM_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf) (last accessed March 2013).
- 9 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers* (U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2000), available at [http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/Following\\_the\\_Gun%202000.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/Following_the_Gun%202000.pdf). (The report documents criminal investigations from July 1996 through December 1998.)
- 10 “Close Federal Gun Loophole,” *The Denver Post*, April 20, 2010, available at [http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_14916364](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_14916364).