

FACT SHEET

Pennsylvania Gun Violence

Pennsylvania has been one of the deadliest states over the last 10 years.

- From 2001 through 2010 there were 12,941 gun deaths in Pennsylvania—the fourth-most gun deaths of all 50 states.¹
- In 2010 there were 1,307 gun deaths in Pennsylvania, or roughly one every seven hours.²

Every two days, three people are murdered by guns in Pennsylvania.

- There were 501 gun homicides in the state in 2010.³
- From 2001 through 2010, 5,061 people were murdered by guns in Pennsylvania. That number is as many as all U.S. combat deaths in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.⁴

The rate of gun homicides among children and teens in Pennsylvania is one of the highest in the country.

- In 2010 Pennsylvania had the fifth-highest rate of gun homicides among children and teens age 19 and under in the country. Almost three of every 100,000 children and teens in the state were murdered by guns.⁵
- With 132 total deaths of children and teens from guns—more than 4 for every 100,000 residents—Pennsylvania had the 10th-highest rate of gun deaths for children and teens age 19 and under.⁶

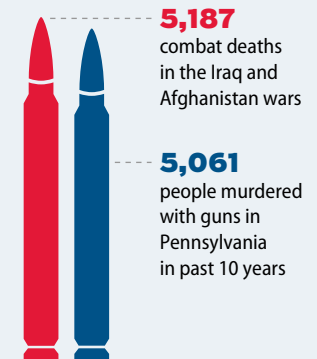
Pennsylvania has major gaps in its gun-violence prevention legislation.

- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gave Pennsylvania received 24 out of 100 possible points on their 2011 state scorecard.⁷
- The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gave Pennsylvania a “C” for the strength of its gun laws.⁸
- Pennsylvania does not prohibit high-capacity magazines or assault rifles and does not impose a waiting period on firearm purchases.⁹

In Pennsylvania, a person is killed by a gun every 7 hours



From 2001 through 2010, nearly as many people were murdered with guns in Pennsylvania than were killed in combat in the Iraq and Afghanistan war

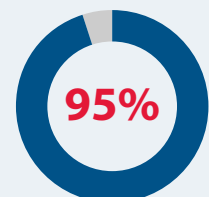


In 2010, 95 children ages 0 to 19 were killed with guns in Pennsylvania



= 2 children

Pennsylvanians almost universally support “requiring background checks for all gun buyers”



Weak gun laws result in an increase of illegal guns and gun trafficking by criminals.

- In 2009, 1,777 guns that had been sold in Pennsylvania were recovered in crimes in other states. Pennsylvania is also a net exporter of crime guns, exporting 635 more guns than it imports.¹⁰

Pennsylvanians almost unanimously support universal background checks.

- In a January 30 poll by Quinnipiac University, 95 percent of residents supported “requiring background checks for all gun buyers,” while only 5 percent opposed. Among respondents in gun-owning households, 95 percent supported universal background checks.¹¹

Why meaningful gun-violence prevention measures matter:

- **No universal background checks allow criminals easy access to guns:** In 2011 troubled 30-year-old John Schick attempted to purchase a gun in Portland, Oregon, but failed the background check because he had been committed to a mental institution there. But four months later he was able to purchase two handguns from a private seller in New Mexico without a background check—guns he would then use to kill or wound six people at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic near Pittsburgh before he was fatally shot by police.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.

4 Ibid. (War casualties statistic from U.S. Department of Defense, available at <http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf>.)

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, “Brady Campaign 2011 Scorecards: 2011 State Rankings,” available at <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/PA/> (last accessed February 2013).

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 February 2013).

9 Ibid.

10 Mayors Against Illegal Guns, “Trace the Guns 2010,” available at <http://www.tracetheguns.org/#/states/PA/exports/> (last accessed February 2013).

11 Quinnipiac University, “Quinnipiac University Poll Finding Near 100% Support For Wider Background Checks For Gun-Buyers,” January 31, 2013, available at <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-centers/polling-institute/pennsylvania/release-detail?ReleaseID=1843>.

12 Michael Fuoco and Sadie Gurman, “New Mexico man regrets selling guns used in Western Psych shootings,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 31, 2012, available at <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/new-mexico-man-regrets-selling-guns-used-in-killing-629219/>.