

BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

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BRADY CAMPAIGN STATE SCORECARD: OHIO, STRUGGLING WITH GUN TRAFFICKING, LACKS COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS

Washington, D.C. – Ohio has weak gun laws that help feed the illegal gun market and allow the sale of guns without background checks according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. In the organization's 2009 state scorecards released today for all 50 states, Ohio earned just 11 points out of a total of 100.

According to government figures, Ohio also has the ninth highest percentage of crime guns recovered that were originally purchased within the state. The Brady Campaign relates this "homegrown" gun violence to the lack of gun laws in the state and nationally.

"Since Ohio does not require Brady criminal background checks on all firearm sales, including those at gun shows, gun traffickers don't need to leave the state to funnel illegal guns to felons and gang members," said Toby Hoover, Executive Director of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence. "Ohio officials have done nothing in the past year to stop the flow of illegal guns within the state, including closing the loophole that allows dangerous people to walk into gun shows and buy guns without background checks."

Ohio advocates will be pushing legislation to require Brady criminal background checks on all firearm purchases including those at gun shows. The Brady Campaign is advocating for legislation to close the gun show loophole at the national level.

"We still make it way too easy in Ohio for dangerous people to get dangerous weapons," said Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Campaign.

The state's complete scorecard results can be accessed at www.bradycampaign.org. The categories covered by the Ohio 2009 scorecard are as follows:

- States can earn up to 35 points by taking steps needed to "Curb Firearm Trafficking." States can fully regulate the gun dealers within their borders, limit bulk purchases of handguns, provide police certain technology to identify crime guns, and require lost or stolen guns to be reported to the police. **Ohio scored just five points in this category.**

- States can earn up to 27 points by “Strengthening Brady Background Checks.” This involves requiring background checks on all gun sales, requiring a permit in order to purchase firearms and laws regulating ammunition. Short of universal background checks, states can also close the gun show loophole, at least requiring background checks for all gun show sales. **Ohio scored zero points in this category.**
- States can earn up to 20 points by “Protecting Child Safety” when it comes to guns. States can require that only childproof handguns be sold within their borders, require child safety locks to be sold with each handgun, hold adults accountable for keeping guns away from kids and teens, and require handgun purchasers to be at least 21 years of age. **Ohio scored just two points in this category.**
- States can earn up to 10 points by “Banning Military-style Assault Weapons,” as well as banning high-capacity ammunition magazines. **Ohio scored zero points in this category.**
- States can earn up to eight points by restricting most “Guns In Public Places” to trained law enforcement and security and by allowing localities to “Preserve Local Control” over municipal gun laws. This includes keeping guns out of workplaces and college campuses, not forcing law enforcement to issue concealed handgun permits on demand and not preventing municipalities from passing their own gun laws. **Ohio scored four points in this category.**

Brady Campaign officials acknowledge the research of Legal Community Against Violence on state gun laws. Their publication, “Regulating Guns in America,” and website served as a basis for our analysis. For more information about Legal Community Against Violence, see www.lcav.org.

As the nation's largest, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence, the Brady Campaign, with its dedicated network of Million Mom March Chapters, works to enact and enforce sensible gun laws, regulations and public policies. The Brady Campaign is devoted to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in our communities.

For continuing insight and comment on the gun issue, read Paul Helmke's blog at www.bradycampaign.org/blog/. Visit the Brady Campaign website at www.bradycampaign.org.

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