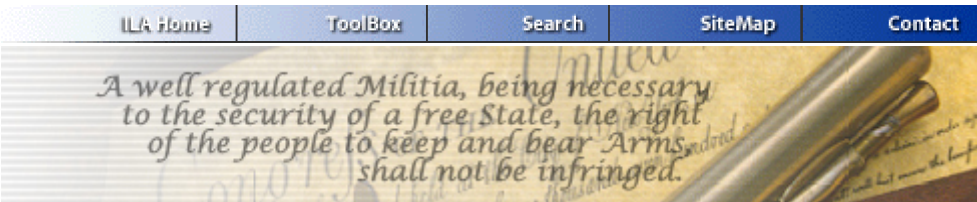




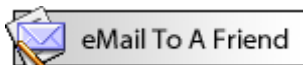
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# FACT SHEET



## Brady Campaign (Handgun Control, Inc.) 2001 "Report Card" Again Gives Higher "Grades" To States With Higher Violent Crime Rates

1/23/02

As it has for several years, the "gun control" lobby has again produced an annual "report card" on which it grades the states on their "gun laws protecting children." As in previous years, the more "gun control," the higher the grade. Brady doesn't care how much crime a state has, or whether "gun control," or a relative lack of it, has an effect on crime. The group certainly doesn't consider the factors that the FBI, other law enforcement professionals, criminologists, and sociologists associate with crime levels, such as prosecution, incarceration and other aspects of the criminal justice system; the economy; demographics and cultural factors; and the prevalence of drugs.

Why does Brady base its grades only upon the amount of "gun control" in a state, without regard for the results? Simple. Brady hates guns. It wants them outlawed or, failing that, severely restricted. As a result, its best grades go to states with worse crime rates, because states with more "gun control" generally have higher crime rates, as shown below:

	Number of	Avg.	Number of	5-Yr.
"Grade"	States/2001	Current Rate	States/5-Yr. Avg.	Avg. Rate
"A"	(5)	490.6	(1)	820.9
"B"	(5)	444.0	(9)	502.1
"C"	(11)	419.7	(14)	517.8
"D"	(22)	426.9	(21)	426.6
"F"	(7)	333.0	(5)	410.9

Brady's favorite state is Maryland. It receives the group's highest grade every year. For 2001, Maryland got an "A" (for the most "gun control") while Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, and Wyoming got "Fs" (for the least "gun control"). Brady is unconcerned with the fact that Maryland's violent crime rate

(786.6) is nearly double the average rate of the six "F" states (346.4).

Maryland also received Brady's highest average grade ("A") over the last five years, while Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, and Wyoming averaged "F". But Maryland's average violent crime rate for the five years (820.9) is double the average rate (410.9) for the five "F" states.

#### Other Examples of the Absurdity of Brady's "Grades"

- This year, Brady again gave a "D" to the state with the lowest violent crime rate (81.4), North Dakota. In each of the last five years, North Dakota has had the lowest violent crime rates of any state and has received a Brady "D."
- In 2001, Brady gave an average grade of "D" to the 10 states with the lowest violent crime rates (the average rate of which was 187.6). Brady gave an average grade of "C" to the 10 states with the highest violent crime rates (the average rate of which was 707.9, nearly four times higher).
- Brady never gives a "grade" to Washington, D.C., which has the most severe "gun control." But it is unclear whether this is because D.C. isn't a state, or because giving the highest possible grade to the jurisdiction with the highest violent crime rates year-in and year-out would too clearly demonstrate the worthlessness and, arguably, the negative effects of "gun control."

**States in descending order, according to 2000 violent crime rate  
(number of crimes per 100,000 population)**

		Violent	Crime
	Brady	Crime	Rank
	Grade	Rate	Among
			States
District of Columbia	none	1507.9	
Florida	C-	812.0	1
South Carolina	C-	804.9	2
Maryland	A-	786.6	3
New Mexico	C-	757.9	4
Tennessee	D+	707.2	5
Delaware	C+	684.4	6
Louisiana	F	681.1	7
Illinois	B+	656.8	8
California	B+	621.6	9
Alaska	D-	566.9	10
Michigan	D+	555.0	11
New York	B-	553.9	12
Texas	D-	545.1	13
Arizona	D	531.7	14
Nevada	D+	524.2	15
Georgia	D+	504.7	16
Oklahoma	D-	497.8	17

North Carolina	C	497.6	18
Missouri	C	490.0	19
Alabama	D-	486.2	20
Massachusetts	A-	476.1	21
Arkansas	D	445.3	22
Pennsylvania	D+	420.0	23
Kansas	C+	389.4	24
New Jersey	B	383.8	25
Washington	C-	369.7	26
Mississippi	D-	360.9	27
Oregon	D+	350.7	28
Indiana	D	349.1	29
Ohio	C-	334.1	30
Colorado	C-	334.0	31
Nebraska	B-	327.6	32
Connecticut	A-	324.7	33
West Virginia	D	316.5	34
Rhode Island	C+	297.7	35
Kentucky	F	294.5	36
Virginia	C	281.7	37
Minnesota	C+	280.8	38
Wyoming	F	266.5	39
Iowa	B-	266.4	40
Utah	D	255.7	41
Idaho	D-	252.5	42
Hawaii	B+	243.8	43
Montana	F	240.6	44
Wisconsin	C+	236.8	45
New Hampshire	D+	175.4	46
South Dakota	D	166.8	47
Vermont	D-	113.5	48
Maine	F+	109.6	49
North Dakota	D	81.4	50

Data Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports

Posted: 1/24/2002



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