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Gun laws come up short in N.C., Brady group says

The Charlotte Observer

North Carolina doesn't do enough to promote gun safety, according to a state scorecard released Thursday by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

The scorecards analyze whether states are making efforts to curb firearm trafficking, require background checks for purchasing guns, boost child safety, ban military-style assault weapons and clamp down on carrying guns in public places.

North Carolina earned 20 points out of 100. But its low score isn't unusual. The campaign reports that almost half of all states scored 10 points or less. South Carolina scored 11 points.

Roxane Kolar of the Durham-based North Carolinians Against Gun Violence said she has always seen strong opposition in the state to passing gun-control legislation because people "are worried that they'll lose the ability to own a gun."

They don't realize that gun control can simply mean regulations on how guns are used or sold, she said. For example, she said, her group would like to require that all guns be stored in fingerprint-triggered lockboxes that open only for registered users.

This year, state legislators are considering bills that would strengthen mandatory background checks on all gun purchases by including court mental health records. More details and state results can be accessed at www.bradycampaign.org.

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