



BACKGROUND CHECKS SAVE LIVES

Background checks performed by federally licensed firearms dealers are the only systematic way to prevent dangerous people from buying firearms. But a gap in the law allows felons, domestic abusers, and the severely mentally ill to avoid background checks by buying guns from unlicensed sellers—often through anonymous online transactions—who are not required by federal law to conduct checks.



BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BLOCKED MORE THAN 3 MILLION SALES TO PROHIBITED PURCHASERS SINCE 1994...¹

...BUT CRIMINALS EXPLOIT THE UNLICENSED SALES LOOPHOLE BY BUYING GUNS FROM STRANGERS ONLINE THROUGH SITES LIKE ARMSLIST.COM.²

As many as

1 IN 10

people seeking guns in unlicensed sales online have prohibiting criminal records.³ This is more than 6 times the share of prohibited purchasers who try to buy guns from licensed gun dealers.⁴

BACKGROUND CHECKS SAVE LIVES In the states that go beyond federal law and require background checks on all handgun sales:

47%

fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners⁵

53%

fewer law enforcement officers are shot and killed in the line of duty⁶

47%

fewer suicides by gun⁷

48%

less gun trafficking in their cities⁸



BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE EASY AND CONVENIENT

Over 90% of NICS checks are determined immediately,⁹ and 98.4% of Americans live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer.¹⁰

Democratic Support 98%

Republican Support 90%

93% OF AMERICANS SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES

A June 2016 Quinnipiac University poll found that 93% of Americans support requiring a background check on all gun buyers, including 98% of Democrats and 90% of Republicans.¹¹



I SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS

GUN OWNERS STRONGLY SUPPORT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES

A November 2015 poll by Public Policy Polling found 83% of gun owners—including 72% of NRA members—support background checks for all gun sales.¹²

REQUIRING A BACKGROUND CHECK FOR EVERY GUN SALE SAVES LIVES.

WWW.EVERYTOWN.ORG



1. US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2013-14 - Statistical Tables, by Jennifer C. Varberg, Ronald J. Frandsen, Joseph M. Durst, Trent D. Buskirk, and Allina D. Lee (June 2016), <http://bit.ly/2av5tvL>. Data for 2015 and 2016 were obtained by Everytown from the FBI directly. Though majority of the transactions and denials reported by FBI and BJS are associated with a firearm sale or transfer, a small number may be for concealed carry permits and other reasons not related to a sale or transfer.
2. Mayors Against Illegal Guns. 'Felon Seeks Firearm,' available at: <http://everytown.org/article/felon-seeks-firearm/>.
3. Everytown for Gun Safety, Online and Off the Record, October 2014, available at: <http://every.tw/1IZpwt2>.
4. US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2013-14 - Statistical Tables, by Jennifer C. Varberg, Ronald J. Frandsen, Joseph M. Durst, Trent D. Buskirk, and Allina D. Lee (June 2016), <http://bit.ly/2av5tvL>.
5. Everytown for Gun Safety, State Background Check Requirements and Rates of Domestic Violence Homicide, January 2015, available at <http://every.tw/1Aj9HZj>.
6. Everytown for Gun Safety, State Background Check Requirements and Rates of Homicide Against Law Enforcement Officers, January 2015, available at <http://every.tw/1FpRqkh>.
7. Everytown for Gun Safety, State Background Check Requirements and Suicide, January 2015, available at <http://every.tw/2dLOkRk>
8. Daniel W. Webster, Jon S. Vernick, and Maria T. Bulzacchelli, "Effects of State-Level Firearm Seller Accountability Policies on Firearm Trafficking," *Journal of Urban Health* 86, no. 4 (July 2009): doi:10.1007/s11524-009-9351-x.
9. National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Operations 2015. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Available at <http://bit.ly/2d94eDl>.
10. How Many Gun Dealers Are There In Your State? Available at <http://everytown.org/article/how-many-gun-dealers-are-there-in-your-state/>.
11. Quinnipiac University Poll, Overwhelming Support For No-Fly, No-Buy Gun Law, Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; Support For Background Checks Tops 90 Percent Again, June 2016, <http://bit.ly/2dRwoR4>.
12. Public Policy Polling, Gun Owners Overwhelmingly Support Background Checks, See NRA as Out of Touch, New Poll Finds, November 2015, at <http://ampr.gs/1SR7KSa>.