

“Bad Apple” Gun Dealers

The overwhelming majority of guns used for crime are not stolen.

5% of gun dealers supply
90% of the guns used in crimes.

Stopping these “bad apple” dealers is one key part of the Brady Campaign’s fight to end gun violence in America. We know who these dealers are, and these dealers are collectively responsible for *thousands* of deaths.

How do they get away with it?

- **Purchasing in bulk to illegally traffic guns** to criminals.
- **Skipping background checks** required by law.
- **Looking the other way** for suspicious customers.
- **Falsifying records**, disconnecting security cameras, and claiming under-the-table sales as “lost” or “stolen.”

The Brady Campaign has a plan.

We’ve launched a nationwide campaign to stop these bad actors and keep guns away from criminals and murderers. We’re fighting for new legislation to stop bad apple dealers and suing them on behalf of those victimized by their irresponsible and illicit sales. **But we need your help.**

- **The Brady Gun Dealer Code of Conduct** is a list of policies and practices gun dealers should adopt to prevent gun sales to criminals and the black market.
- **Communities can organize** protest actions against bad apple dealers who enable local violence and press these dealers to change or close.
- **The news media** should expose bad apple dealers by digging into gun violence incidents and spotlighting where criminals are freely obtaining weapons.
- **Law enforcement** should identify and publicly name bad dealers, by tracing every gun they recover and operating undercover stings against suspicious gun shops.

We call on Congress to:

- **Require Brady background checks whenever a firearm is sold.**
- **Pass the Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act**, which explicitly makes straw purchases a federal crime, and renders gun trafficking a federal crime akin to drug trafficking.
- **Eliminate the Tiahrt Amendment**, which prevents the agency which inspects gun dealers – the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) from publicly releasing information on where guns used in a crime originated.
- **Stop stymying the ATF** with underfunding and the so-called “Firearm Owner’s Protection Act,” which limits ATF’s ability to inspect dealers and revoke dealer licenses.
- **Pass the Equal Access to Justice for Victims Act**, which allows victims of gun violence to hold irresponsible dealers and manufacturers responsible.