

Chicago Releases New Crime Gun Trace Data Identifying Bad Apple Gun Dealers.

Chicago released a new report that analyzes the crime guns recovered in Chicago. Like many cities, Chicago traces the sales paths for the guns it recovers at crime scenes. Its new analysis of that data shows that a small number of gun dealers are disproportionately supplying guns to criminals. The report examines the sources of nearly 15,000 crime guns recovered between 2013 and 2016. Over 11 percent of crime guns recovered over this time period in Chicago came from just two gun stores. One of them, Chuck's Gun Shop, sold nearly 1,000 guns that were recovered at crime scenes in the city. Officials agree that tracing these guns is a critical step in understanding not only the supply pipeline of crime guns, but how to address that and reduce gun deaths in the city.

ABOUT 40% OF CRIME GUNS COME FROM LOCAL GUN DEALERS, BUT NEARLY 60% COME FROM OUT OF STATE.

There's a local gun dealer problem and also an out of state one. About 40% of crime guns come from local gun dealers, but nearly 60% come from out of state. Many of those are from states with weaker gun laws, like neighboring Indiana. Three of the top ten dealers named in the report are located in Indiana: Westforth Sports in Gary, Cabela's in Hammond, and Blythe's Sport Shop in Griffith.

The Brady Center applauds the work done by the City of Chicago and its law enforcement for providing this data to the public. The report is available [online](#).

Brady Center Files Lawsuit Against Trump Administration Agency for Failure to Provide Data on Investigations Into "Bad Apple" Gun Dealers and Leaked Memo on ATF Support of Gun Lobby.

Brady sued the Trump administration this fall. Months ago, we sought information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives ("ATF") about the results of gun store inspections and a leaked memo about ways to weaken regulation of gun dealers. The ATF is a component of the Department of Justice, and is responsible for issuing licenses to gun dealers and inspecting those dealers to ensure they are complying with federal firearms law. We filed requests under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") for documents about violations by gun dealers that ATF found in those inspections. As the Supreme Court has said, "FOIA is often explained as a means for citizens to know 'what their Government is up to.'"

But ATF ignored our FOIA requests and provided no documents, so we were forced to sue them. This data should be available to the public, so we can all know which gun dealers are not abiding by their legal obligations. This lawsuit also covers the ATF's failure to provide documents about a secret [white paper that was leaked](#) by the Washington Post. The white paper, which was dated January 20, 2017, President Trump's Inauguration Day, proposed various ways to roll back regulations and restrictions on certain parts of the gun industry, including loosening oversight on gun dealers that sell crime guns. If you'd like to know more about this case, please read our [press release](#).

Brady Center Wins Grants From Two Foundations to Support Work In Oakland and Stockton.

In November, Brady received two major grants that we will use to help reduce the supply of crime guns across California. The Lynx Foundation's generous grant will help us launch important initiatives in Oakland, CA, while another generous grant from Battery Powered will support our work in Oakland and Stockton, CA.

Four Men Sentenced in Illegal Weapons Purchasing and Trafficking Scheme to Mexican Cartel.

In past years, tens of thousands of guns seized in Mexico have been traced back to the United States, where gun traffickers rely on illegal straw purchasers (an individual who purchases a firearm on behalf of someone else, who frequently cannot pass a background check) to buy firearms, particularly high-powered assault-style rifles and shotguns, to be smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border. These guns often end up in the hands of gangs that terrorize Mexico. In November, a judge in San Antonio, TX, sentenced a former Army Sergeant to 200 months in prison after he pled guilty to conspiring with 3 others to illegally purchase over 40 assault-style rifles. He delivered firearms to individuals who were directly supplying the Gulf Cartel, a notorious gang responsible for drug, weapons, and human trafficking throughout Mexico. His arrest and conviction are part of a concerted effort by both the ATF and the Homeland Security to slow the flow of guns crossing the border into Mexico from the United States.