

Table 1.110

Estimated number of applications and rejections for firearm transfers

United States, 1999-2003

	Applications		
	Received	Rejected	Percent rejected
1999	8,621,000	204,000	2.4%
2000	7,699,000	153,000	2.0
2001	7,958,000	151,000	1.9
2002	7,806,000	136,000	1.7
2003	7,831,000	126,000	1.6

Note: The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (the Brady Act) mandates criminal history background checks on persons applying to purchase firearms from federally licensed firearm dealers (Federal Firearm Licensees or FFLs). The permanent provisions of the Brady Act became effective on Nov. 30, 1998. The act established the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and requires a background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or a State point of contact on all persons applying to receive a handgun or long gun from a FFL. When a background check produces evidence of factors that disqualify an applicant from owning a firearm, the application is rejected. The Bureau of Justice Statistics began the Firearm Inquiry Statistics (FIST) program in 1995 to collect information on background checks conducted by State and local agencies. These data combine FIST estimates of the number of checks and rejections done by State and local agencies and the FBI number of actual transactions and rejections reported by the NICS operations reports. Counts of applications received and rejected are rounded.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2003*, Bulletin NCJ 204428 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, September 2004), p. 2. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.