

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 1.110.2008

Estimated number of applications and rejections for firearm transfers

United States, 1999-2008

	Applications received	Rejections				Rate per 1,000 applications
		Total		Felons ^a		
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1999	8,621,000	204,000	2.4%	147,000	72%	17.0
2000	7,699,000	153,000	2.0	88,000	58	11.4
2001	7,958,000	151,000	1.9	87,000	58	10.9
2002	7,806,000	136,000	1.7	65,000	48	8.3
2003	7,831,000	126,000	1.6	53,000	42	6.8
2004	8,084,000	126,000	1.6	53,000	42	6.6
2005	8,278,000	132,000	1.6	57,000	43	6.9
2006	8,612,000	135,000	1.6	52,000	39	6.0
2007	8,658,000	136,000	1.6	49,000	36	5.7
2008 ^b	9,901,000	147,000	1.5	77,000	52	7.8

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 persons applying to receive a handgun or long gun from a FFL. NICS is a system comprising data on persons who are prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm under the Brady Act or under State law. 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 Program (FIST) 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.

^a Previous felony conviction or under felony indictment.

^b During 2008 the FBI began a new classification system for rejections. Therefore, the data for 2008 may not be directly comparable to previous years.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2008 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 227471, Table 1 and Table 5 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft/2008/tables/bcft08stt1.pdf> and <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft/2008/tables/bcft08stt5.pdf> [Aug. 13, 2009]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.