

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/pdf/t11112008.pdf

Table 1.111.2008

Reasons for rejection of firearm transfer applications

United States, 1999-2008^a

Reason for rejection	State and local agencies							2006		2007		2008		FBI				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ^b
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Felony indictment or conviction	72.5	57.6	57.7	51.8	44.8	49.6	45.9	44.7	26.2	38.6	25.4	45.7	23.8	37.6	36.8	36.1	35.5	55.9
Other criminal history ^c	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25.0	26.9	28.5	29.0	NA
Domestic violence																		
Misdemeanor conviction	9.0	8.9	10.6	10.4	11.7	12.6	11.8	10.8	14.1	6.7	11.5	9.9	14.4	11.5	10.8	9.8	8.5	7.3
Restraining order	2.1	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.7	1.3	3.6	2.2	4.0	2.2	5.1	4.7	4.3	3.9	4.1
State law prohibition	3.5	4.7	7.0	9.9	10.4	9.0	9.6	6.1	1.3	8.9	9.0	10.5	5.4	X	X	X	X	6.8
Fugitive	5.0	4.3	5.8	8.0	7.8	8.3	8.3	9.3	10.0	6.0	2.2	8.6	1.1	4.6	5.3	6.1	7.2	13.4
Illegal alien	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.4
Mental illness or disability	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.4	2.4	2.7	3.0	5.7	3.5	3.0	4.4	3.7	5.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1
Drug addiction	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.0	9.1	1.2	11.3	3.1	12.9	9.1	8.8	8.7	9.4	9.5
Local law prohibition	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	2.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	4.7	X	X	X	X	X
Other ^d	6.0	19.2	12.1	12.0	14.9	12.3	15.2	18.4	31.3	31.7	31.5	13.9	29.7	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.6	0.6

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 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.

^a Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding or missing data.

^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.

^c Includes State law prohibitions, multiple driving-under-the-influence offenses, non-National Crime Information Center warrants, and other unspecified criminal history disqualifiers.

^d Includes juveniles, persons dishonorably discharged from the armed services, persons who have renounced their U.S. citizenship, and other unspecified persons.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2004*, Bulletin NCJ 210117, p. 5; *2005*, Bulletin NCJ 214256, p. 5 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice); *2006 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 221786, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft06st/table/bcft06st04.htm> [Mar. 21, 2008]; *2007 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 223197, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft/2007/table/bcft07st04.htm> [July 22, 2008]; *2008 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 227471, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/bcft/2008/tables/bcft08st4.pdf> [Aug. 13, 2009]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.