

Table 1.111.2009

Reasons for rejection of firearm transfer applications

United States, 1999-2009^a

Reason for rejection	1999-2009			2006		2007		2008		2009		FBI					
	FBI ^b	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 ^b	2009
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Felony indictment or conviction	64.5	52.8	26.4	44.7	26.2	38.6	25.4	45.7	23.8	39.4	21.7	37.6	36.8	36.1	35.5	55.9	48.5
Other criminal history ^c	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25.0	26.9	28.5	29.0	NA	NA
Domestic violence	16	13.6	13.5	14.5	15.4	10.3	13.7	13.9	16.6	13.5	15.8	16.6	15.5	14.1	12.4	11.4	11.5
Misdemeanor conviction	11.6	10.1	11.6	10.8	14.1	6.7	11.5	9.9	14.4	10.2	13.9	11.5	10.8	9.8	8.5	7.3	7.2
Restraining order	4.4	3.5	1.9	3.7	1.3	3.6	2.2	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	5.1	4.7	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.3
State law prohibition	2.6	7.7	12.4	6.1	1.3	8.9	9.0	10.5	5.4	10.7	6.3	X	X	X	X	6.8	11.2
Fugitive	6.6	6.8	1.3	9.3	10.0	6.0	2.2	8.6	1.1	7.1	1.0	4.6	5.3	6.1	7.2	13.4	16.8
Illegal alien	1.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.0
Mental illness or disability	0.6	2.5	4.4	5.7	3.5	3.0	4.4	3.7	5.3	6.2	5.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.4
Drug use or addiction	7.7	1.1	8.9	1.0	9.1	1.2	11.3	3.1	12.9	1.6	15.2	9.1	8.8	8.7	9.4	9.5	9.3
Local law prohibition	X	X	5.1	0.0	2.7	0.0	2.3	0.0	4.7	X	1.5	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other ^d	0.7	15.1	27.5	18.4	31.3	31.7	31.5	13.9	29.7	21.2	32.5	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.6	0.6	0.3

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.

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

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

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

^dIncludes 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, 2006 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 221786, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/html/bcft/2006/table/bcft06st04.cfm> [Mar. 21, 2008]; *2007 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 223197, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/html/bcft/2007/table/bcft07st04.cfm> [July 22, 2008]; *2008 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 227471, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/html/bcft/2008/tables/bcft08stt4.pdf> [Aug. 13, 2009]; *2009 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 231679, Table 4 [Online]. Available: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/html/bcft/2009/tables/bcft09st04.pdf> [Oct. 20, 2010]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.