

BACKGROUND CHECKS SAVE LIVES

Background checks keep guns out of the hands of people with dangerous histories and they are the foundation of any comprehensive gun violence prevention strategy. Currently, background checks are only required under federal law for sales conducted by licensed dealers. This gap in the law allows felons, domestic abusers, fugitives, and other prohibited purchasers to buy guns from unlicensed sellers without a background check, no questions asked.



BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BLOCKED MORE THAN 3.5 MILLION SALES TO PROHIBITED PURCHASERS SINCE 1994...¹

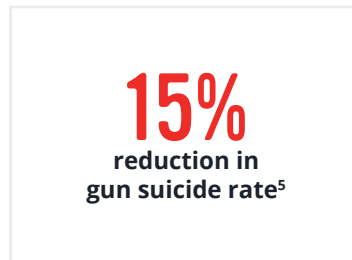
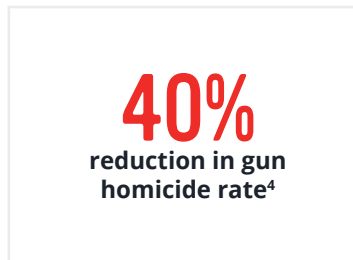
...BUT CRIMINALS EXPLOIT THE UNLICENSED SALES LOOPHOLE BY BUYING GUNS FROM STRANGERS ONLINE THROUGH SITES LIKE ARMSLIST.COM.²

In some states, as many as

1 IN 10

people seeking guns in unlicensed sales online have prohibiting criminal records.³

BACKGROUND CHECKS MATTER When Connecticut passed a law requiring handgun background checks for a purchase permit and at the point of sale the state experienced:



BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE EASY AND CONVENIENT

Nearly 90% of NICS checks are determined immediately.⁶

85% OF AMERICAN VOTERS SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES

An October 2018 Pew Research Center poll found that 85% of Americans support requiring a background check on all gun buyers, including 91% of Democrats and 79% of Republicans.⁷



IN STATES THAT GO BEYOND FEDERAL LAW AND REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS ON POINT-OF-SALE CHECK AND/OR PURCHASE PERMIT:

There are lower rates of firearm homicide,⁸ firearm suicide,⁹ and firearm trafficking.¹⁰



1. Karberg JC, Frandsen RJ, Durso JM, Buskirk TD, Lee AD. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Background checks for firearm transfers, 2015 - Statistical tables. <https://goo.gl/SbaLbt>. Data for 2016 and 2017 were obtained by Everytown from the FBI directly. Though the majority of the transactions and denials reported by FBI and BJS are associated with a firearm sale or transfer, a small number may be for concealed carry permits and other reasons not related to a sale or transfer.
2. Everytown for Gun Safety, Online and Off the Record, October 2014, available at <http://everytown.org/documents/2014/10/online-and-off-the-record.pdf>; Danger in the Land of Enchantment, Investigating Online Gun Sales in New Mexico, February 2017, available at https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/EGS-031-NewMexico_5a_020817.pdf; The Wild Wild Web, Investigating Online Gun Markets in Nevada, January 2016, available at: https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Nevada_Wild-WildWeb_073117_web.pdf
3. Everytown for Gun Safety, Online and Off the Record, October 2014, available at <http://everytown.org/documents/2014/10/online-and-off-the-record.pdf>
4. Rudolph, K. E., Stuart, E. A., Vernick, J. S., & Webster, D. W. 2015. Association between Connecticut's permit-to-purchase handgun law and homicides. *American journal of public health*, 105(8), e49-e54.
5. Crifasi CK., Meyers JS, Vernick JS, & Webster DW. 2015. Effects of changes in permit-to-purchase handgun laws in Connecticut and Missouri on suicide rates. *Preventive Medicine*. 2015(79):43-49.
6. National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Operations 2016. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Available at: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2016-nics-operations-report-final-5-3-2017.pdf/view>
7. Pew Research Center. 2018. Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support. Available at <https://pewrsr.ch/2SnLhzn>
8. Fleegler EW, Lee LK, Monuteaux MC, Hemenway D, Mannix R. Firearm legislation and firearm-related fatalities in the United States. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2013; 173(9):732-740.
9. Fleegler EW, Lee LK, Monuteaux MC, Hemenway D, Mannix R. Firearm legislation and firearm-related fatalities in the United States. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2013; 173(9):732-740.
10. Webster DW, Vernick JS, Bulzacchelli MT. Effects of state-level firearm seller accountability policies on firearm trafficking. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2009. 86(4):525-537; Federal law bars felons from having firearms, but does not bar misdemeanors outside the domestic violence context. Webster DW, Vernick JS, McGinty EE, & Alcorn T. Preventing the diversion of guns to criminals through effective firearm sales laws. In *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*. 2013. Vol. 9781421411118, pp. 109-121. Webster DW, Vernick JS, Bulzacchelli MT. Effects of state-level firearm seller accountability policies on firearm trafficking. *Journal of Urban Health*. 2009. 86(4):525-537; Federal law bars felons from having firearms, but does not bar misdemeanors outside the domestic violence context. Webster DW, Vernick JS, McGinty EE, & Alcorn T. Preventing the diversion of guns to criminals through effective firearm sales laws. In *Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis*. 2013. Vol. 9781421411118, pp. 109-121.