

BUILDING A FUTURE WITHOUT GUN VIOLENCE: CHICAGO



Brady: United Against Gun Violence is the nation's leading gun violence prevention group in the U.S., responsible for the 1994 bipartisan Brady Background Check bill, which established our country's background check system for gun sales. But we know that changing laws alone won't end gun violence; we must also change hearts and minds. That's why we take a comprehensive approach to end this epidemic: change the laws, change the gun industry, and change the culture.

BRADY'S COMBATING CRIME GUNS PROGRAM

Our Combating Crime Guns program works to shift the burden of gun violence prevention efforts from the communities most impacted by gun violence to the suppliers of crime guns irresponsible gun industry businesses that prioritize profits over public safety. This initiative focuses on stemming the flow of firearms into urban communities, particularly those predominantly Black and Brown, which are most affected by gun homicides.

Gun crime in Chicago can be reduced by holding the gun industry responsible for its role in ensuring easy access to firearms. The business practices of gun dealers across the state have an impact on the residents of Chicago. We must all work together to advocate for gun industry accountability.

GUN VIOLENCE IN ILLINOIS

- On average, **1,657** people die and **4,994** are wounded by guns in Illinois annually.
- In 2022, **1,798** Illinois residents lost their lives to gun violence: **1,091** firearm homicides and **676** firearm suicides.
- Only **14%** of Illinois' population are Black, but more than **three-quarters** of firearm homicide victims in 2022 were Black.

- Among Great Lake states, Illinois had the **highest** overall homicide and firearm homicide rates for all ages, including for victims age 24 and younger.

KEY TERMS

CRIME GUN: a gun that has been recovered by law enforcement after being or suspected of having been used in a crime, or where the possession of the gun itself was a crime.

"TIME-TO-CRIME": the amount of elapsed time between the retail sale of a firearm by a federal firearms licensee (FFL) and its recovery by law enforcement. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) considers a time-to-crime of less than three years to be a potential indicator of trafficking.

GUN TRACING: a method for identifying a gun's chain of custody from manufacture to first retail sale. This is used to identify potential gun traffickers, detect patterns in the sources and kinds of crime guns, and help solve crime.

CRIME GUNS RECOVERED IN ILLINOIS: 2017-2021

- Only **11%** of crime guns were found in possession of the original purchaser.
- **47%** of recovered crime guns during this period had a low “time-to-crime” (less than three years). This percentage increased to **57%** by 2022.
- **Nearly half** (49%) of crime guns recovered in IL that could be traced to a dealer came from Illinois dealers.

These data points indicate that reforming gun industry practices to prevent straw purchases and gun trafficking would likely have a significant impact on gun crime in the state.

CRIME GUNS RECOVERED IN CHICAGO: 2017-2021

- A total of **50,312** crime guns were recovered in Chicago between 2017 and 2021. Of these, **37,680** guns were successfully traced.
- **16,499** crime guns came from Illinois dealers, representing **44%** of the successfully traced guns — and more than **70%** came from dealers in Chicagoland states (IL, WI, IN).
- Only **49** crime guns were traced to dealers within the City of Chicago, accounting for less than **0.1%**. Chicago has not had a licensed gun dealer for decades.

Preventing gun crime in Chicago requires a regional solution; the dealers supplying crime guns cannot be held responsible solely by the City of Chicago, as they tend to be located in surrounding areas.

***FIREARMS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS IN THE U.S.
WE MUST COME TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR KIDS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE.***

