

BUILDING A FUTURE WITHOUT GUN VIOLENCE: CHICAGO

WORLDCAFE SESSION



70% of crime guns recovered in Chicago came from nearby gun dealers in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin¹

DEMAND 2 DEALERS

DL2 dealers sell the most crime guns quickly used in crimes. From 2021 - 2023:

- 2% of dealers nationwide were part of the DL2 program.
- 37 Chicagoland dealers were in the DL2 program — most for many years.
 - They supplied **at least** 2,225 crime guns recovered nationally from 2020 - 2022
- All of the top 10 suppliers of crime guns recovered in Chicago from 2013 - 2016 were still in the DL2 program in 2023.
- These Chicagoland dealers supplied **at least** 6,190 guns recovered in Chicago crimes from 2009 - 2016²

GUN DEALER INSPECTIONS

- Chicagoland dealers were cited for more than **280 violations** of federal gun laws from 2015-2018 yet **only two** of these dealers had their licenses revoked.³
- ATF inspections have become less frequent since the pandemic. ATF has only inspected 5% of dealers a year since 2020,⁴ less than a quarter of their goal of 33% annually.
- Even before 2020, ATF had only 17 gun dealer inspectors for the entire state of Illinois, meaning each inspector was in charge of overseeing more than 125 dealers.⁵
- Many inspection reports are available on Brady's Gun Store Transparency Project at gunstoretransparency.org.⁶
- Illinois State Police started inspecting gun dealers in 2019, but they so far have not revealed the results of their inspections.

FIREARM PROCUREMENT

- Taxpayers are the #1 buyer of firearms in America, spending more than \$5 billion on guns and ammunition for law enforcement agencies annually.
- Grassroots activists have successfully pushed San Francisco, Oakland, and San Diego to pass ordinances requiring their city governments only purchase firearms from dealers that have responsible business practices, follow the law, and sell few crime guns. On the state level, New Jersey led the way in instituting an executive order doing similar.⁷

Questions about how to get involved?

Contact Brady Senior Manager Anneliese Dickman at adickman@bradyunited.org

KEY TERMS

“DEMAND LETTER 2” (DL2): A program created by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to identify firearms dealers that sell the most crime guns quickly recovered in crimes and to aid law enforcement investigations. To qualify, a dealer must have had at least 25 crime guns with low times-to-crime (less than 3 years) that were traced by law enforcement in the past year.

“TIME-TO-CRIME” (TTC): The amount of elapsed time between the retail sale of a firearm by a federal firearms licensee (aka dealer) and its recovery by law enforcement. ATF considers a time-to-crime of less than three years to be “low” and a potential indicator of trafficking.

“CHICAGOLAND”: The Chicago Combined Statistical area, as defined by the U.S. Census. This includes areas of WI (largely Kenosha) and eastern IN.

FURTHER READING

- [Brady’s Gun Store Transparency Project](#)
- [Brady’s 2023 DL2 report: The Suppliers of America’s Gun Violence Epidemic](#)
- [Gun stores with DL2s in 2022 - 2023](#)
- [Brady’s 2022 California Procurement Report](#)
- [News article on San Diego Procurement ordinance](#)

ENDNOTES

[1] 70% of crime guns traced 2017 - 21 from and successfully traced to a purchaser came from dealers in IL, WI, or IN. Source is: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (2023). NFCTA: Crime Guns - Volume Two, Appendix on Chicago. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/chicago-il-state-report-mega-city/download>

[2] City of Chicago 2017 and 2014 crime gun trace reports. See <https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/mayor/Press%20Room/Press%20Releases/2017/October/GTR2017.pdf> and <https://bradyunited.box.com/s/gpc6123h4w1k1w8l-js925vjvi1e6csx>

[3] Of the Chicagoland dealers Brady has inspection reports on gunstoretransparency.org as of 9/9/2024. The website encompasses 75% of reports of Warning Letter or higher issued from 7/1/2015 - 8/2/2018

[4] Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (2019 - 2022). Fact Sheets. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/fact-sheets>

[5] Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (2022). NFCTA: Crime Guns - Volume One. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, U.S. Department of Justice. <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-firearms-commerce-volume>

[6] Specifically, the website contains ~75% of inspections issued July 1 2015 - August 2 2018 with a result of a Warning Letter or more severe. Additional inspections are consistently added to the site.

[7] See Brady Report on New Jersey procurement order <https://www.bradyunited.org/about-us/press/brady-releases-new-report-on-new-jerseys-efforts-to-reduce-gun-violence-through-executive-action>