



Inspecting Gun Dealers **Stops the Flow of Crime Guns** and Saves Lives

Inspecting gun dealers for compliance with state and federal law uncovers and deters criminal behavior. A shocking 48% of the dealers inspected in 2019 by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) were found to be violating federal gun laws. Yet the chronically underfunded and understaffed ATF is only able to inspect dealers once every seven years on average.

Trafficked Guns Have **Killed Officers and Teens**

Lou's Jewelry and Loan was a notorious gun dealer in Delaware County whose guns made their way into the hands of domestic terrorists. Firearms traced to Lou's were also used to kill a law enforcement officer and 14-year-old boy, Anthony Oliver, Jr., among others. After Anthony's parents sued Lou's, ATF revoked their license and the number of crime guns traced back to Lou's dropped dramatically.

On the eve of Officer Bradley Fox's 35th birthday, he was shot and killed by an individual with an illegally possessed gun. The gun was bought at In Site Firearms in Montgomery County by a straw purchaser on behalf of the shooter.

OUR MISSION The mission of CeaseFirePA is to end the epidemic of gun violence across the Commonwealth and our country through education, coalition building, and advocacy.

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Local law enforcement can and should inspect dealers

In 2022, ATF told Congress that inspecting firearm dealers is critical for public safety. When dealers sell to straw purchasers, or engage in gun trafficking and other illegal activity, guns are funneled to activity that fuels the epidemic of gun violence in cities across the U.S.

State and local law enforcement can fill this inspection gap, and they have a responsibility to do so to keep guns from flowing illegally from dealers in their neighborhoods to the streets, often in other underserved communities.

THE DATA



1% of Dealers are Responsible for 50% of Crime Guns

According to a lawsuit filed by the City of Philadelphia, 1,300 crime guns recovered by the Philadelphia PD were sold by only three dealers in Philadelphia and Bucks Counties between 2015 and 2019. These guns were possessed by minors, people who committed domestic abuse, and other prohibited people. They were used in shootings, armed robberies, and drug distribution.



State with Strong Laws and Oversight Have Less Gun Trafficking

Dealers in states with strong laws and oversight – ones that require dealer licensing, mandatory record keeping, law enforcement access to records, regular inspections, and reporting of lost and stolen firearms to state or local law enforcement – divert 64% fewer guns to the criminal market than states without such regulation.



Inspections Work in Every Industry

Over 40 years, regular workplace inspections and stronger federal standards cut workplace deaths by 69% while the American workforce doubled. Just like restaurants and food manufacturer inspections are critical to food safety and public health, inspecting the sellers of deadly weapons are as well.

Preventing food poisoning outbreaks saves Americans billions of dollars in medical costs. Americans would similarly save significant amounts by reducing gun crime and trafficking through regular dealer inspections.



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Pennsylvania requires dealers to, among other things:

- **Safely store firearms** when the business is closed to prevent “smash and grab” burglaries
- **Keep three copies of every firearm sold and retain the records for 20 years**
- **Get evidence of a purchaser’s identity** before transferring a firearm to them

PENNSYLVANIANS DESERVE SAFETY. DEALER INSPECTIONS ARE KEY.

Several states, including Pennsylvania, require gun dealers to get a license to operate and allow state and local law enforcement to inspect dealers for compliance with state and federal law.

Law enforcement inspections not only encourage dealers to follow these laws but make it easier to prosecute dealers and buyers who engage in criminal conduct before guns turn up at crime scenes.



3,339

Federally licensed gun
dealers in PA as of August
2024



20

The number of years
between ATF inspections of
dealers on average



854

Extra ATF agents (more than double the number
actually employed in 2022) needed to meet goal of
inspecting US gun dealers once every 3 years



3,652

The largest number of crime
guns traced to a single PA
dealer.



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