

COMBATING CRIME GUNS INITIATIVE



Brady's Combating Crime Guns Initiative works to shift the burden of gun violence from the shooters to the suppliers of crime guns, including irresponsible gun industry actors who prioritize profit over public safety.

Many local and national programs work tirelessly to intervene in and prevent violence through direct services. These efforts aim to decrease the **demand** for guns and drive related declines in urban homicide. In addition to this important work, we must also address the **supply** of illegal guns that flood into communities and drive urban homicide.

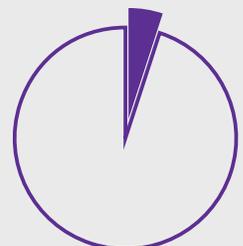
Despite the best efforts of its workforce, the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives \(ATF\)](#) is unable to provide meaningful oversight of the gun industry. The ATF is chronically underfunded and constrained by acts of Congress that were designed by gun lobby-backed politicians. While Brady continues its efforts to reform the ATF to ensure it has the resources and authority to provide meaningful oversight, we simply cannot wait.

Everyday gun violence in communities across the United States, fueled by irresponsible and unlawful gun sales by gun dealers, has a disproportionate impact on Black and Brown communities and is a major contributor to racial inequality in America. At Brady, we believe that where you live should not determine if you live and that the color of your skin should not dictate your life expectancy. Yet, tragically, today it does. Half of all American homicides occur in just [127 cities and towns](#) containing only a quarter of the population. Black children are 10 times more likely to be shot than white children. The [homicide rate for Black men](#) is 30.7 per 100,000, while for white men it is 2.4 per 100,000 nationwide. Addressing the supply-side of gun violence is an issue of racial justice.

WHAT IS A CRIME GUN?

A crime gun is a gun that has been recovered by law enforcement after being used in a crime, suspected of being used in a crime, or the possession of the gun itself may have been a crime. Most crime guns start in the legal marketplace at a licensed dealer, and incredibly only 5% of gun dealers are responsible for 90% of recovered crime guns. **Irresponsible, negligent, or reckless business practices by gun dealers are the root cause of crime guns.**

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A SUPPLY-SIDE APPROACH

The burden of ending gun violence should not rest solely on the communities most impacted. A comprehensive approach to ending gun violence addresses the supply-side, specifically the gun industry and dealers who are contributing to and profiting from gun violence.

A supply-side approach is focused on the supply of crime guns and encourages elected officials, community members, and law enforcement to address not just the shooter, but also the source or supplier of the gun. By using a behavior change approach that holds gun dealers accountable, in addition to existing intervention and prevention efforts, local communities could experience a reduction in homicide and shooting rates in even the most impacted neighborhoods. In other words, a supply-side strategy is a critical aspect of a comprehensive public health approach to reducing gun violence.

CITY-BASED PROGRAMS

Currently, Brady has staffed local Combating Crime Guns programs in Oakland, CA, Los Angeles, CA, and Milwaukee, WI, and is developing a statewide program in New Jersey. These programs aim to work with local community members to reduce gun violence by stemming the flow of crime guns, frequently from dealers outside their city or even their own state. **These programs rely on a three-pronged strategy: Educate; Identify; Reform.**



EDUCATE

Educate: The majority of the cities most impacted by gun violence do not have many (if any at all) federally licensed gun dealers within their city limits. Instead, the dealers sit outside the communities that are most affected, frequently in less diverse and more affluent suburbs, and profit off of irresponsible or illegal sales that drive dozens of guns into cities.

IDENTIFY

Identify: It's critical to identify the irresponsible dealers that are enabling the proliferation of crime guns. In order to do this, Brady is building partnerships with law enforcement, elected officials, and community members to create and publicize crime gun trace data at both the state and local levels.

REFORM

Reform: Brady supports a comprehensive approach to reforming gun dealers, which includes raising consumer awareness to hold negligent or irresponsible gun dealers accountable. Reform also includes gun dealers adopting the Brady Code of Conduct, local legislators passing enforceable legislation around dealer licensing and trace report requirements, and law enforcement and local agencies working to hold irresponsible dealers and straw purchasers accountable.



ENHANCED INSPECTIONS INITIATIVE

Brady's Enhanced Inspections Initiative focuses on identifying and reforming problematic gun dealers by providing state and local authorities with the tools necessary to optimize their gun dealer inspection processes. State and local gun industry oversight is necessary because the ATF inspects **only about 7%** of licensed gun businesses each year, meaning that a majority of FFLs are not inspected within any five-year period. Some dealers go **more than a decade** without any agency ensuring compliance with the laws that were enacted to ensure public safety. Although the ATF is supposed to prioritize high-risk gun dealers responsible for high numbers of crime guns, the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General found that there was no evidence showing this was the case. **Even when the ATF does inspect a federal firearms licensee (FFL), it often fails to adequately enforce the law.**

Through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and [litigation](#), Brady has obtained and analyzed over 15,000 pages of ATF inspection data. Using this and other data, Brady has created a method for identifying key characteristics of dealers more likely to violate the law. **Our method is 4.5 times more likely to identify a problem dealer than random selection.** We expect its accuracy to increase as we gain access to more data.

Brady is working to integrate its proprietary data-analytics tool into state and local inspection processes. This tool allows state and local authorities to focus their limited resources on dealers who are likely to be violating the law. In doing so, states and localities will be able to fill the oversight void that currently exists due to ATF constraints, and conduct their own, more efficient oversight of dealers.

Together with our partners, the Enhanced Inspections Initiative combines analytics with Brady's expertise and national resources to better understand urban firearm gun homicide and violence, identify problem dealers, and stem the flow of guns into impacted communities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BRADY'S COMBATING CRIME GUNS INITIATIVE,
PLEASE VISIT [BRADYUNITED.ORG/COMBATING-CRIME-GUNS](https://bradyunited.org/combating-crime-guns)**