

**** FACT SHEET ****

VIRGINIA, BACKGROUND CHECKS, AND GUN SHOWS

Gun Violence in Virginia

- □ 757 Virginians died from gun violence in 2001 - 77 of them children. Virginia's gun death rate is higher than the national average¹
- In 2000, 1129 crime guns used in various states and Washington, DC, were traced back to Virginia, making the state a leading source of crime guns in the nation²
- 91% of crime guns recovered in Richmond were originally purchased within Virginia, suggesting the state's weak gun laws aid criminal access to guns³

Gun Shows In Virginia

- In 2002, 74 gun shows were held in Virginia. 16,012 gun transactions by licensed sellers occurred at these shows.⁴
- Between 22 and 35% of gun show vendors are unlicensed sellers.⁵
- States that do not require gun show background checks – such as Virginia – are more likely to export crime guns to other states.⁶
- In 2002, background checks prevented nearly 2,500 illegal gun transactions to criminals in Virginia -- 69% of these denied transactions involved a felony or domestic violence conviction.⁷
- 88% of Virginians support requiring criminal background checks on all sales at gun shows. 84% of Virginia's gun owners – and 81% of NRA supporters – favor the measure.⁸
- Nationally, 26,000 guns were illegally trafficked from gun shows between 1996 and 1998, making gun shows America's second largest source of crime guns⁹
- 10% of guns used in crime by juveniles were sold either at a gun show or a flea market¹⁰

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "[WISQARS -- Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System](http://www.cdc.gov)," www.cdc.gov.

² U.S. Department of Justice and Treasury. " **Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (2000)**," July 2002.

³ Webster DW, Vernick J., Hepburn L., "Relationship Between Licensing, Registration, and Other Gun Sales Laws and the Source State of Crime Guns," *Injury Prevention*, September 2001.

⁴ Virginia State Police, Criminal Justice Information Services Division

⁵ Virginia State Police, Criminal Justice Information Services Division

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice and Treasury. "Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers," June 2000.

⁷ Virginia State Police, Criminal Justice Information Services Division

⁸ Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, October 2001

⁹ U.S. Department of Justice and Treasury. "Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers," June 2000.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice and Treasury. "Commerce in Firearms in the United States." February 2000.