

# Washington state is for background checks

## Guns kill more Washingtonians than wars

More Washingtonians were killed by gunfire from 2001 through 2010 than all Americans who have died fighting in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.



Washingtonians killed with a gun from 2001 through 2010  
**5,692**

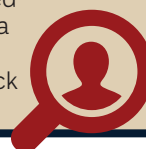
Americans killed in action in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars  
**5,253**

## Background check system created

In 1993 Congress passed the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, requiring all federally licensed firearm dealers to perform a background check on every firearm purchaser.

**2 million**

individuals have been blocked because of a failed background check



**92%**

of all federal background checks are immediately determined



## The problem?

Only federally licensed gun dealers are required to perform background checks. So-called “private sellers”—people who only sell guns occasionally—don’t have to conduct checks under current law.



Percentage of gun criminals who acquired their gun from a source other than a licensed dealer in a transaction that did not require a background check.

This “private sale loophole” allows gun purchasers to buy weapons without a background check from:

- Gun shows
- The Internet
- Classified ads

**12**

Number of Washington state law enforcement officials feloniously killed with a firearm in the state from 2002 through 2011, a rate almost 20 percent higher than the national average



**14 hours**

Somebody is killed with a gun in Washington State every 14 hours



## The solution?

Universal background checks. Private sellers and buyers should be required to visit a Washington state gun dealer to conduct a background check and process a gun sale.

Getting a background check is easy because there are over a thousand gun dealers all across Washington State. In fact, there are about as many gun dealers as the number of U.S. Post Offices and Starbucks in the state combined. An astounding 98 percent of Washingtonians live within 10 miles of a federally licensed gun dealer.



**1,056**

Federally licensed gun dealers in Washington state



**693**

Starbucks locations in Washington state



**454**

U.S. Post Offices in Washington state



Percentage of Washingtonians support universal background checks