

Submitter: Steven Carlton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3076

Investigators recovered and traced 6,160 guns (including 25 machine guns) used in crimes in Oregon in 2023. Of those, 3,475 – 56% – came from in-state- the majority of crime guns traced in Oregon are coming from Oregon dealers. 40% of crime guns were recovered within 10 miles of the gun dealer

ATF State Report: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/oregon-state-report/download> and trace data:

Contrast New Jersey. Of the 4,619 firearms recovered from crime scenes there, 667 – 14% – came from in-state dealers. NJ requires: state license, employee background checks, required security measures, and warnings to purchasers.

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/gun-sales/gun-dealers/>
<https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/firearms-trace-data-new-jersey-2023>

I am a resident of Bend- here is the picture where I live. There are 60+ gun dealers in Bend,..61% are at residential addresses. I would ask if these homes, at the least, aren't targets for theft. If they fail to safely store guns, the punishment is a misdemeanor so not a large deterrent. I would ask, are any of us comfortable with guns being actively marketed in our neighborhoods from homes that can be readily targeted for theft?

Firearms were the most commonly used method of suicide in Deschutes County and suicide death rates are higher than the State of Oregon and almost twice the national average. Deschutes County Suicide Trend Report Report

Firearm suicide rates have been shown to be 3.4 times higher in cities with the highest firearms dealer rates .City firearms dealers play an important role in access to lethal means, especially in small cities and through pawnshops. These findings hold implications for how cities can engage firearms dealers as suicide prevention partners.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39762005/#:~:text=ln%20adjusted%20regression%20models%2C%20city,small%20cities%20and%20through%20pawnshops.>

Here's our personal experience: in a recent meeting with community members 2 employees of a local store stated that it is a usual occurrence for them to see an apparent case of a "straw buyer" making gun purchases but they had no support or resources to prevent or report their observations.

The ATF, charged with regulating gun dealers is unable to do the job. Records show that in 2022 and 2023, the agency inspected just 31 and 34 of Oregon's roughly 2,000 firearms dealers – less than 2%.

<https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/fact-sheet/fact-sheet-facts-and-figures-fiscal->

year-2023

Oregon has the 4th lowest ratio of field officers to FFLs, resulting in an ATF inspection once every 10 years. Despite finding violations over half the time, ATF revokes only 1% of FFLs. Brady Gun Store Transparency Project.

<https://gunstoretransparency.org/about-project> . In Deschutes County between 2015 and 2017, a group of just 4 dealers had 25 ATF citations despite the low rate of inspections. <https://gunstoretransparency.org/>

Justin Lomax, an ATF supervisor, agreed that inspections are falling short of the bureau's goal. But he said it's a matter of resources. In the current political climate, this is highly unlikely to improve.

<https://www.opb.org/article/2025/03/03/fewer-than-2-of-oregon-gun-dealers-inspected-in-recent-years-records-show/>

16 states have legislation requiring a dealer license, including CA and WA. Intrastate gun trafficking has been found to be four times higher in cities located in states with weak gun-dealer regulations than in cities in states with strong regulations *Journal of Urban Health*. 2009; 86(4): 525-37.

State gun licensing and inspections combined result in a 64% reduction in gun trafficking and a 50% reduction in gun homicides

Journal of Urban Health, 2009 May 29;86(4):525–537. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2014 Aug;104(8):1384–1386.

Given that a large proportion of stolen guns are traced back to a small number of gun dealers, lawmakers should hold those dealers accountable. I would urge you pass this