



U.S. Gun Policy, Global Harm

**Cross-Border Gun Trafficking
from the Great Lakes Region**

Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

U.S. Gun Policy Imposes Costs Beyond Its Borders

Gun trafficking is a global public safety crisis, and the United States is the predominant source of trafficked guns. Guns are trafficked from weak gun law states to stronger gun law states within the United States, and from the U.S. to nations with far stronger gun laws. While domestically the focus is generally limited to the fact that permissive U.S. gun policies result in gun death rates that are 20 times higher than in comparable countries, U.S. gun policy has international effects as well. Cross-border gun trafficking from the U.S. contributes to nations in the Americas having the highest gun death rates in the world, accounting for over half of global gun deaths.¹ It also enables organized crime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and a host of other public health, human rights, and societal harms.

Cross-border trafficking imposes the consequences of U.S. gun policy on other countries. The problem of cross-border gun trafficking — guns trafficked from one country to another — raises an additional set of issues, as it effectively imposes the costs of the U.S.'s uniquely lax gun policies on allies and neighbors who have chosen more restrictive gun regulations that are in keeping with global standards. U.S. gun policy can negatively affect international, regional, and bilateral relations, which can have repercussions that extend beyond gun-related issues.

Why This Report Focuses on the Great Lakes

This report examines one major regional pipeline: the Great Lakes states. A problem as vast as international gun trafficking is difficult to comprehend. One promising way to examine it is to break it down, analyzing one region that plays an outsized role in cross-border gun trafficking in detail. This report provides an in-depth examination of cross-border gun trafficking from and through the states bordering the Great Lakes, along the U.S.'s northern border. Those states are Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. This region is significant both because of its close economic connection with, and its contribution to, gun violence in Canada. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that Ohio is the leading source state of crime guns recovered in Canada, with Michigan fifth. ATF also found that Ohio is the fourth leading source state of crime guns in the Caribbean (Florida is the overwhelming leader).

Canada is the region's central foreign crime gun destination, but the Great Lakes trafficking problem reaches farther. Given the close relationship between Canada and the Great Lakes, their geographic proximity, and the volume of trafficking between the regions, Canada is the major foreign destination discussed in this report. However, guns are trafficked from the Great Lakes region to other countries as well, including countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as countries as far as Saudi Arabia and the Ivory Coast. The report covers the impact of U.S. guns on Canada's gun violence problem, and the problem of cross-border trafficking to other countries.

Canada's Gun Violence Problem and the U.S. Crime-Gun Pipeline

The Great Lakes region shares a close and special relationship with Canada that could be imperiled by rampant firearms trafficking into Canada. As close neighbors and partners in commerce, border security, and resource management, the Great Lakes states and Canada have long shared a unique relationship. However, the unsightly underbelly of that relationship is the Great Lakes region's role as a facilitator of gun trafficking from the United States into Canada. Of the crime guns traced in Canada, 76.5 percent originated in the U.S.

Illegal guns from the United States are major drivers of Canada's violent crime problem. Canadian violent crime and gun-related crime have increased drastically in the past decade. Canada has reasonably strong gun laws that, in comparable countries, would generally result in lower gun death rates. Yet it suffers from the fourth highest rate of firearm homicide deaths among populous high-income countries, after the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Chile, and the second highest rate of childhood firearm deaths among populous high-income countries, after the U.S. A key reason for Canada's unusually high gun violence is the crime gun pipeline from its neighbor to the south.

Key Finding: Ohio and Michigan Are the Principal Great Lakes Source States

Ohio is the Great Lakes' key problem state. ATF trace data identifies Ohio as the leading source state for traced crime guns recovered in Canada, and a significant source of crime guns recovered in the Caribbean. Ohio's weak gun laws, large firearms market, permissive private-sale and gun-show environment, limited dealer oversight, industry protections, and restrictions on local regulation make it uniquely consequential.

Michigan is the next most important Great Lakes source state and a central route state. ATF identifies Michigan as the fifth-largest source state for traced Canadian crime guns, and its crossings into Ontario make it indispensable to the pipeline. Michigan's recent strengthening of gun laws may reduce its source-state role over time, but the available tracing data do not yet reflect their impact.

The other Great Lakes states play more limited roles. New York and Illinois have stronger gun laws and do not appear as major source states for Canadian crime guns. Indiana, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota have features that may enable trafficking in some contexts, but the available data indicate that they supply far less guns to the Canada pipeline than Ohio and Michigan. Some also function primarily as routes for guns purchased elsewhere.

Trafficking cases show recurring patterns. The trafficking cases examined in this report show repeated methods and patterns: straw purchasing, bulk and repeat sales, private sales, gun-show transactions, purchases from dealers with repeated crime-gun traces, shipment of parts, and rapid movement from legal sale to criminal recovery. These patterns are enabled by gaps in law, oversight, tracing, industry accountability, and cross-border enforcement.

Purpose and Recommendations

This report lays the groundwork for understanding and reducing gun trafficking from the Great Lakes states. It explains how guns move from the Great Lakes states to Canada and other countries, the harm this phenomenon causes, why Ohio and Michigan stand out as source states, why other Great Lakes states are less significant sources, and what policy, enforcement, and accountability measures can reduce this trafficking path. Legal and policy reforms, at the federal and state level, can make a difference, as can litigation brought in and outside of the U.S. against negligent gun industry companies who facilitate gun trafficking.

The report primarily recommends policies and industry reforms to reduce the supply of crime guns at the source. Federal reforms should include universal background checks, buyer licensing or individualized vetting, stronger scrutiny of bulk and repeat sales, better dealer oversight, mandatory tracing, and repeal of legal barriers that shield the gun industry from accountability. Similar reforms at the state level should prioritize Ohio because of its outsized role. The report also recommends strategic litigation, as well as enhanced cross-border enforcement on firearms trafficking into Canada.

Introduction: The Great Lakes Gun Trafficking Pipeline

Gun Trafficking is a Global Public Safety Crisis

Gun trafficking is a major problem in the U.S. and globally.² It arms criminals ranging from international drug cartels to vast criminal networks to murderers and robbers. Trafficked guns, and the violence they enable, facilitate drug trafficking, human trafficking, political instability, and injuries and deaths. They spur migration and threaten democracies. They undercut laws intended to keep guns out of dangerous hands. They imperil a host of human rights, including the paramount right to life.

Due to the U.S.'s combination of weak gun regulations and significant firearm manufacturing, the U.S. is a major source nation for gun trafficking around the world.³ Between 70-90 percent of crime guns in Mexico,⁴ 73 percent of crime guns in the Caribbean,⁵ and 76.5 percent of traced crime guns in Canada were trafficked from the U.S.⁶

Why the Great Lakes Region Matters

As neighbors, Canada and the U.S. Great Lakes states share land or lake borders, and work together to manage Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.⁷

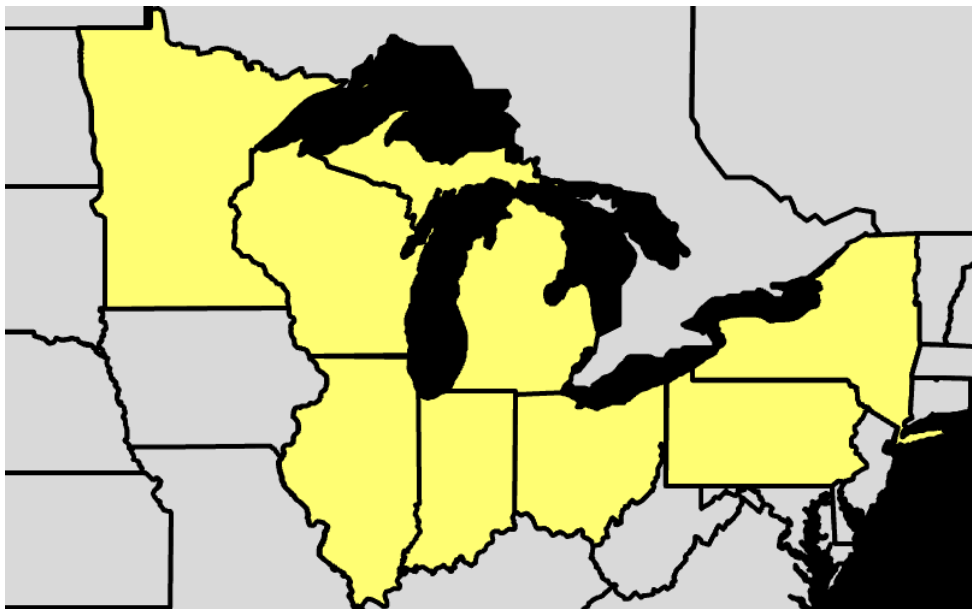


Figure 1-Great Lakes Region Map

Experts have called the collaboration between the two countries “the most stable, productive, and mutually beneficial form of binational water governance on Earth.”⁸ Among other aspects of the partnership, the two countries share the treaty-created Great Lakes fishery,⁹ the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement,¹⁰ and the Great Lakes Agreement and Compact.¹¹ The U.S. government refers to the relationship as “one of the world's oldest and most effective environmental partnerships.”¹²

This close relationship makes gun trafficking from the Great Lakes to Canada of particular significance for both countries; strengthening and continuing this partnership requires full awareness of the less desirable impacts of a shared border, as well as those that deserve to be celebrated.

Two states in the region, Ohio and Michigan, are leading sources of crime guns recovered in Canada.¹³ Just as those states would be called out if they were allowing toxic waste to pour across the border into their neighbor to the North, addressing their role in enabling gun trafficking to Canada is critical to the greater relationship between the region, the United States, and Canada.

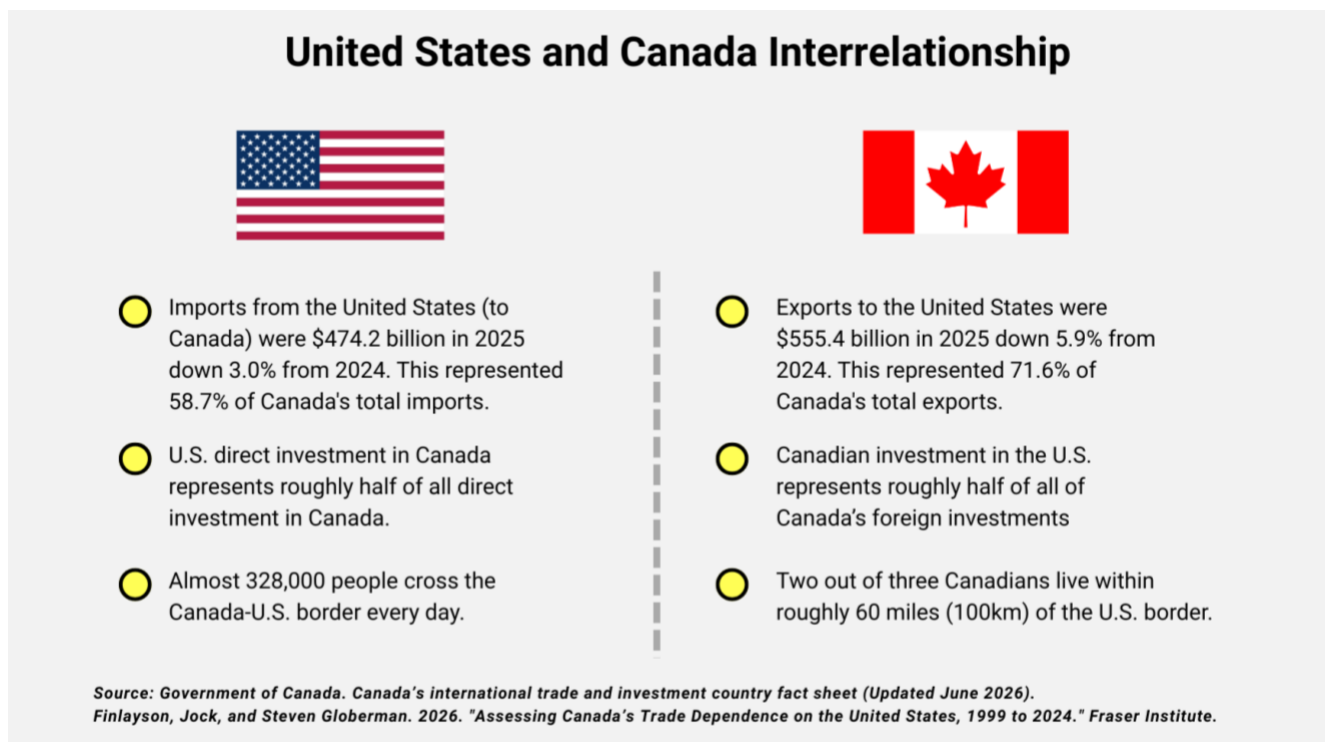


Figure 2-U.S. and Canada Interrelationship

How U.S. Guns Supply the Crime-Gun Pipeline

Gun Trafficking Explained

What is gun trafficking?

Gun trafficking is the movement of firearms from the legal to the illegal market. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime defines illicit gun trafficking as “the import, export, acquisition, sale, delivery, movement or transfer of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition from or across the territory of one State Party to that of another State Party if any one of the States Parties concerned does not authorize it in accordance with the terms of [the UN Firearms] Protocol or if the firearms are not marked in accordance with article 8 of this Protocol[.]”¹⁴

What is cross-border gun trafficking?

Cross-border gun trafficking is the illicit movement of guns from one country to another. This international phenomenon works the same as intra-U.S. trafficking: criminals in countries with strong gun laws obtain guns from countries with weak gun laws – especially the United States. Lax domestic gun regulation has led the U.S. to become the predominant source of trafficked guns to nearby countries with strict gun laws, including Mexico, Canada, Haiti, the Bahamas, and Jamaica.¹⁵ Just as the “Iron Pipeline” brings guns up Interstate 95 from gun dealers in the Southern U.S. to states and cities in the Northeast with stronger laws, other “Iron Pipelines” bring guns from the U.S. south to Mexico and north to Canada.

Gun Trafficking undercuts strong laws

Gun trafficking brings guns to places and people who would otherwise not obtain them. States with weaker gun laws tend to be sources of guns trafficked to states with more restrictive laws.¹⁶ As a result, the restrictive policies of states with strong laws are undercut, as criminals and gangs are armed by a thriving criminal gun market.

Gun trafficking is the top source of crime guns

This diversion from the legal consumer market to the criminal market is by far the most common method criminals use to acquire guns. According to a 2023 ATF report, 96 percent of crime guns that are recovered in the U.S. and traced were originally purchased from a federally licensed firearms dealer in the commercial market; 50

percent were recovered at a crime scene within three years of their initial sale – a key indicator of firearms trafficking.¹⁷

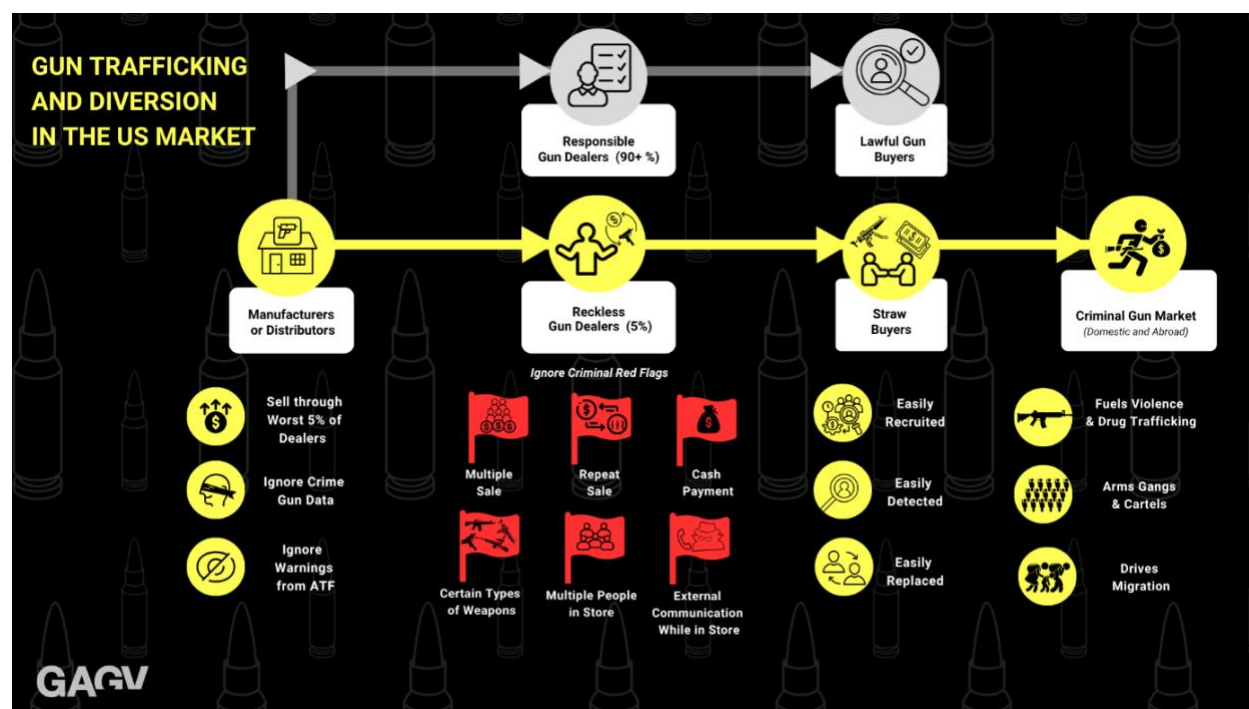


Figure 3-Gun Trafficking and Diversion in the US Market

How Guns Move from Legal to Criminal Markets

Gun Trafficking from the U.S.

Gun trafficking from the Great Lakes states to Canada, the Caribbean, and Mexico, is part of the broader phenomenon of gun trafficking stemming from the United States' immensely profitable commercial gun market, estimated to generate over \$23 billion annually.¹⁸ The United States' unique combination of weak gun industry regulation with this vast commercial market has created conditions for both the world's highest legal gun ownership rate and the pernicious, steady diversion of initially legal civilian firearms to the criminal market. One 2025 Everytown report estimated an average of 180,000 guns were diverted annually from legal channels to the criminal market between 2017 and 2026.¹⁹

Trafficked guns enable violent crime, coercion, and homicides that would have been much harder, or even impossible, for criminals to perpetrate without illegally sourced weapons. The U.S., with some of the weakest gun regulations in the world, serves as a paramount source of crime guns for countries across the Western Hemisphere.

Deputy Chief Alvaro Almeida of York Regional Police Services:

"The proliferation of illegal guns in our communities is alarming, and we are all battling the same challenges – illegal guns coming from the United States."²⁰

Gun trafficking is not an inevitable result of firearms commerce; it is largely a consequence of irresponsible business practices by gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers. Reckless and unlawful sales practices by a small percentage of dealers are responsible for a vast proportion of trafficked guns.

Bad Apple Dealers

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reported that about 5 percent of U.S. gun dealers sold about 90 percent of crime guns, while about 90 percent of dealers sold no crime guns.²¹ While the ATF stopped releasing dealer-specific information after Congress passed the 2003 Tiahrt Amendment, more recent data confirms this trend: in 2020, "50% of crime guns traced back to Pennsylvania dealers were sold by just 1% of dealers and 90% were traced back to 20% of dealers."²²

Straw Buying

Certain indicators (shown in **Figure 3** above) signal to dealers that buyers might be trafficking or straw buying on behalf of another person – which is illegal under U.S. federal law – rather than purchasing lawfully for themselves.²³ While the majority of gun dealers act responsibly and refuse to sell to buyers exhibiting such behavior, the reckless minority of dealers choose profit over safety.²⁴

The Gun Industry's Role

Businesses at every level of the U.S. gun industry have the power to stop such unlawful purchases. Manufacturers could refuse to sell to reckless dealers who routinely supply the crime gun market – and to distributors who supply such dealers – and require that their dealers employ defined safe sales practices that include training employees, restricting or scrutinizing suspect transactions such as bulk and repeat sales, and requiring screening for indicators of straw buying and trafficking. Distributors could do the same.

And the 5 percent of dealers who sell 90 percent of crime guns could choose to sell responsibly and lawfully like the other 90 percent of dealers who sell no crime guns.²⁵ The preventative measures noted above have been well-known in the gun industry for over 25 years. Indeed, the need to use safe sales practices was well known when the Department of Justice urged the gun industry to implement safe practices in a 2001 report:

"The firearms industry can make a significant contribution to public safety by adopting measures to police its own distribution chain. In many industries, such as the fertilizer and explosives industries, manufacturers impose extensive controls on their dealers and distributors. Gun manufacturers and importers could substantially reduce the illegal supply of guns by taking similar steps to control the chain of distribution for firearms. To properly control the distribution of firearms, gun manufacturers and importers should: identify and refuse to supply dealers and distributors that have a pattern of selling guns to criminals and straw purchasers; develop a continual training program for dealers and distributors covering compliance with firearms laws, identifying straw purchase scenarios and securing inventory; and develop a code of conduct for dealers and distributors, requiring them to implement inventory, store security, policy and record keeping measures to keep guns out of the wrong hands, including policies to postpone all gun transfers until NICS checks are completed."²⁶

Inspired by information uncovered during the production of this report, GAGV will issue subsequent reports that more deeply discuss how U.S.-origin gun trafficking functions and the impact of U.S.-sourced guns on crime and gun violence throughout the Americas more broadly.

Canada's Gun Violence Problem and Its U.S. Origins

Trends in Canadian Gun Violence

From 2018–2022, Canadian officials seized 68,338 illegal guns in cross-border mail from the U.S. into Canada.²⁷ The number of firearms Canada seized at the land border more than doubled in 2021 to 1,110 from 495 in 2020 — the highest total since at least 2016.²⁸ From 2003 to 2022, the number of semiautomatic pistols and assault rifles entering Canada from the U.S. each year increased from 6,205 to more than 66,000.

At the same time, Canada's annual rate of shootings per capita increased by 869 percent.²⁹ The pipeline of trafficked guns from the U.S. clearly contributes to Canada's increasing gun violence problem. A 2021 report from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation found that Canada had the fourth highest rate of firearm homicide deaths among populous high-income countries after the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Chile, and the second highest rate of childhood firearm deaths among populous high-income countries after the U.S.³⁰ Firearm violence in Canada reached a 14-year peak in 2022, then declined 1.7 percent in 2023.³¹ Firearm-related violent crime increased 55 percent from 2013-2023, while overall violent crime grew 30 percent.³²

As of 2022, Canada has a firearm mortality rate of 2.21 per 100,000 people, still much lower than the U.S.'s rate of 13.5 per 100,000 people, although far higher than comparable countries with comparably strong laws.³³

The U.S. is the Leading Source of Canadian Crime Guns

Gun trafficking is generally a product of gun policy and industry practice. Traffickers go to jurisdictions and dealers where they can obtain guns, then bring them to places where it is difficult to obtain guns.

Traffickers seeking to supply the Canada crime gun market go to specific U.S. gun dealers who sell guns to them or their associates.³⁴ In 2025, 76.5 percent of all crime guns in Canada were traced to the U.S.,³⁵ and that number can reach up to 90 percent in urban areas such as Quebec and Toronto.³⁶ On a regional scale, 88 percent of the crime

guns seized by the Toronto Police Service in 2024 were traced to the U.S.³⁷ Similarly, the U.S. is the source of solid majorities of crime guns seized by police in York;³⁸ Durham;³⁹ and Peel.⁴⁰ As of 2024, over 90 percent of all traced crime guns in Ontario came from the United States — and Ontario is the only Canadian province that attempts to trace all crime guns.⁴¹

The Economics of Gun Trafficking

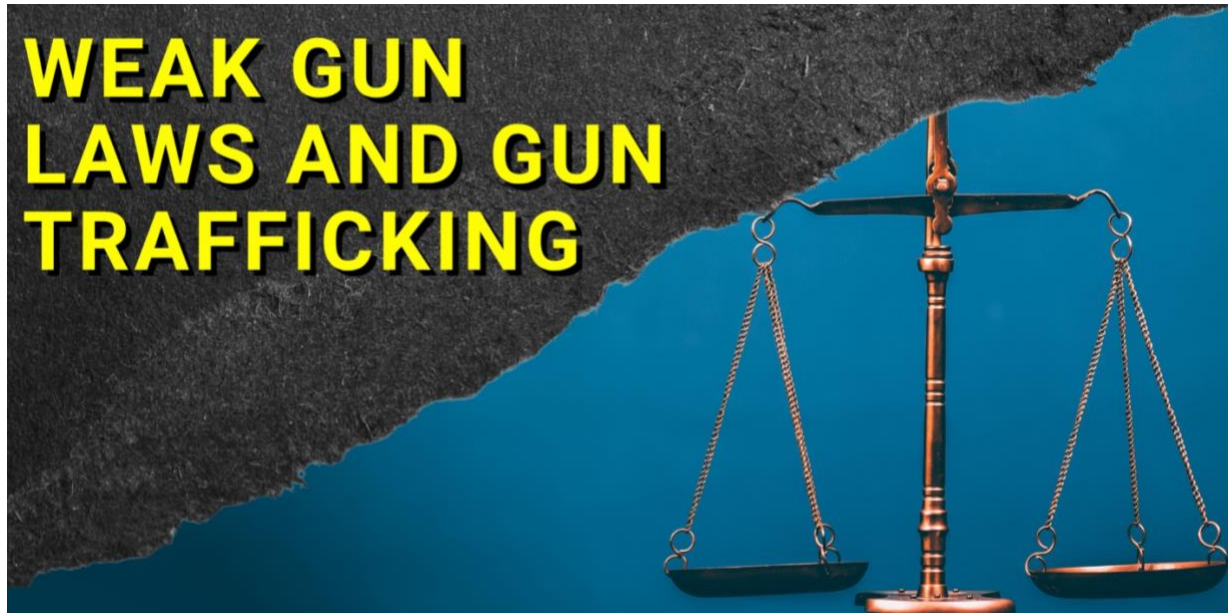
The question of why gun trafficking from the U.S. to Canada is such a problem may be answered by economics. Because strong Canadian laws make guns hard for criminals to obtain in Canada, the law of supply and demand makes smuggling firearms to Canada highly lucrative. For example, Texas smugglers can make five times higher profits per gun by selling handguns to Canada than to Mexico.⁴² And guns can sell for ten times more on the Canadian criminal market than they originally sold for in the U.S.⁴³ These profits are large enough to reshape trafficking patterns. In fact, trace data shows that, as of 2022, approximately 30 percent of guns purchased in Texas and traced to crimes abroad were linked to Canada.⁴⁴ Just a few years prior, 100 percent were linked to Mexico.⁴⁵ A firearm bought legally for \$300–\$500 in an American state with minimal oversight can fetch \$3,000–\$5,000 on the Canadian black market.⁴⁶

Toronto Police Service Deputy Chief Myron Demkiw:

***“Our problem in Toronto [is] handguns
from the United States.”⁴⁷***

Those high profits have inspired the ongoing flow of U.S. firearms into the hands of Canada’s criminals.

How Weak U.S. Gun Laws Drive Gun Trafficking



The Association of Weak Gun Laws and Gun Trafficking

The association between weak gun laws and gun trafficking is revealed by crime gun tracing – the determination of the commercial history of guns recovered by law enforcement.⁴⁸ Tracing data identifies where crime guns were sold and where they ended up in crime, which tends to show that trafficked guns are purchased in states or countries with weak gun laws, and brought to places with strong laws. Further highlighting the association between strong guns laws and crime gun supply, the five states that ATF found had the lowest percentages of crime guns traced to purchasers were in the top six highest ranked states for strong gun laws in Everytown's rankings.⁴⁹

This pattern makes sense: permissive, or weak, gun laws make guns more generally accessible, including to potential gun traffickers. Gun traffickers buy guns where they can obtain them, easily and efficiently, without detection. If they could buy guns in their home city or country, they would, as would any purchaser of any product, legal or illegal. Permissive countries and states, with willing gun dealers, are therefore susceptible to being sources of gun trafficking.

Traffickers seeking to arm criminals in Canada generally obtain their guns in the U.S. because it is hard for them to obtain guns at home, and easy for them to obtain guns

here. That is largely a product of reckless gun industry practices in the U.S. – and the weak federal and state laws enabling them.

The fact that trafficked U.S. guns are the overwhelming source of Canadian crime guns suggests that one impactful solution to Canada's gun violence problem must come from the southern side of the border: U.S. gun dealers, distributors and manufacturers, and U.S. and state policymakers.

The following section compares gun laws in Canada and the United States to reveal how the differing levels of regulation lead traffickers to cross the border to obtain guns in the U.S. It also points to potential policy fixes that could reduce cross-border trafficking.

Crime Gun Sources

Analysis of trace data also considers the extent to which a state's crime guns are sold locally in-state (intrastate) as opposed to being sold in other states (interstate). A high percentage of intrastate crime guns generally suggests that the state's gun laws are weak and make it sufficiently easy for in-state criminals to obtain guns that they do not need to traffic guns from outside of state.⁵⁰ For this reason the top five states with the highest percentage of interstate crime guns (that is, crime guns purchased out-of-state) are all states with some of the strongest gun laws in the country: New Jersey (81.8% of crime guns originate out-of-state); New York (79.7%); Massachusetts (67.1%); Hawaii (54.1%); Maryland (53.4%).⁵¹ Conversely, the states with the five highest percentages of intrastate crime guns all have weak gun laws – with three in the Great Lakes region: Texas (85.5%), Wisconsin (84.3%), Ohio (83.4%), Virginia (83.2%), and Indiana (82.9%).⁵²

Gun Ownership in Canada

Canada is a stable country, with low rates of violent crime compared to the rest of the Americas. It shares a similar significant hunting and gun culture with the United States and has one of the world's highest rates of legal civilian gun ownership (5th globally, behind the U.S. in 1st, Yemen in 2nd, and Serbia and Montenegro tied for 3rd).⁵³

World's highest rates of legal civilian gun ownership per 100 people*

Source: Small Arms Survey 2017.

*Top 10 chart excludes countries with under 500k population.

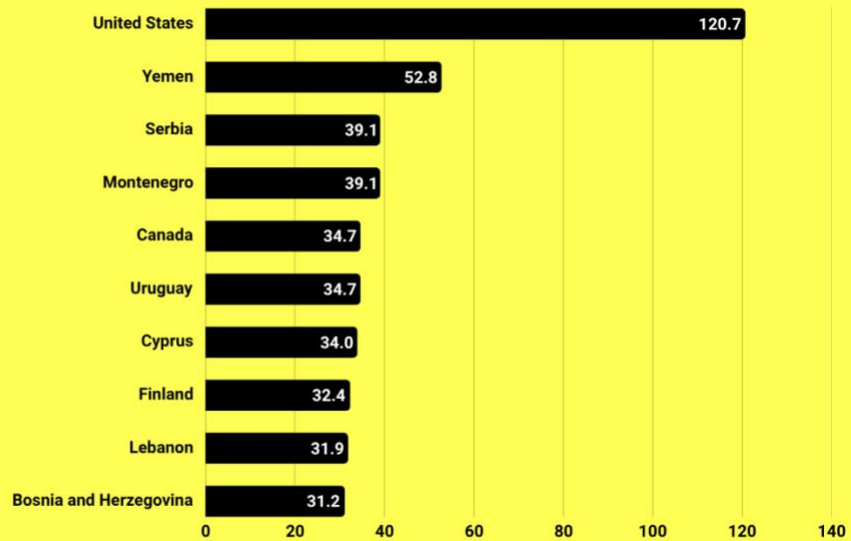


Figure 4-World's highest rates of legal civilian gun ownership per 100 people chart

So how do Canadian criminals arm themselves? They obtain their weapons from Canada's lax gun-selling southern neighbor: the United States. This phenomenon is explained by comparing the gun laws of the two nations: Canada makes it hard for criminals and gun traffickers to obtain guns, while the U.S. makes it relatively easy.

Comparing Gun Laws in Canada and the U.S.

Overview

Canada has had significantly more restrictive gun laws than the U.S. for some time, and after several highly lethal mass shootings, Canada enacted a series of even stronger gun ownership and industry regulations. Canada's gun laws have, for the most part, been effective in preventing the domestic sale of firearms into the hands of criminals.

The U.S., by contrast, has by far the most permissive gun laws of any comparable, high-income, populous country, and some of the weakest gun laws in the world. Gun licensing, for one important example, is the foundation of many gun laws in most of the world. In most of these countries, people are not allowed to possess a gun until they are individually vetted to determine that they can safely handle and possess a gun and would not pose an unreasonable risk to others. Additionally, most countries have some form of registration that provides law enforcement with information to enable efficient investigation of gun crimes, just as automobile registration is used to address motor vehicle accidents and driving violations. The United States is the only comparable country that has neither of these types of gun laws. Indeed, it is one of only two countries that allow civilian firearm ownership and do not require any form of licensing; the other is Yemen.

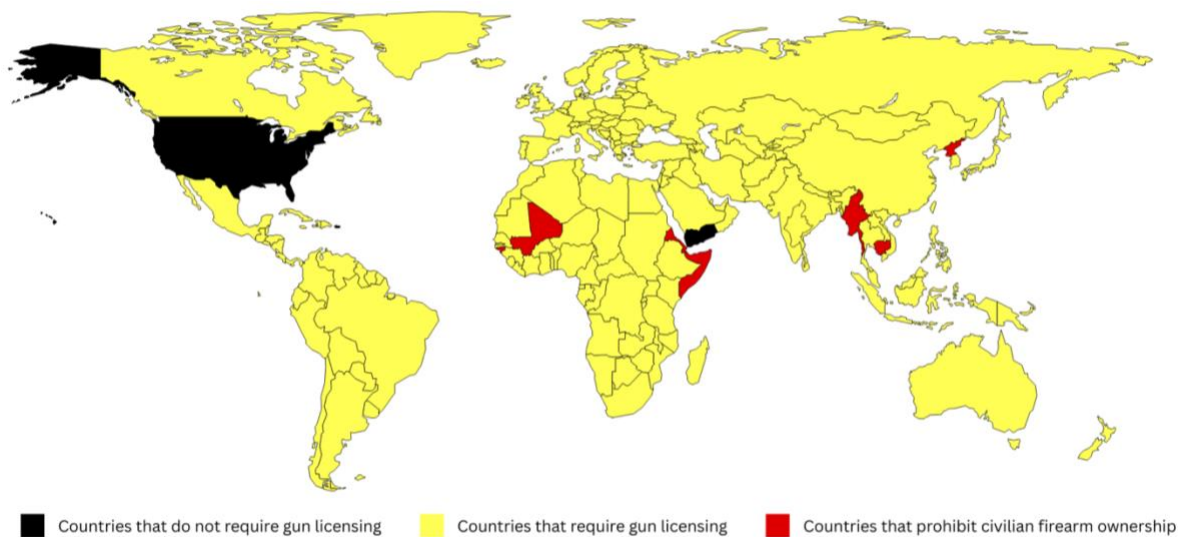


Figure 5-Map of Global Gun Licensing

A comparison of Canadian and U.S. gun laws demonstrates why suppliers of Canadian criminals choose to obtain their guns from the far more accessible U.S. market. Several regulations differentiate Canadian and U.S. gun policy.

Standards for Gun Possession

Canada

The requirements for obtaining firearms are significantly more demanding in Canada compared to the U.S.

Licensing and registration

Canadian law requires individual registration for a possession and acquisition license (PAL) before acquiring a firearm.⁵⁴ To obtain a license, a gun buyer or possessor must pass a rigorous background check which considers criminal, mental health, addiction, and domestic violence records.⁵⁵ The potential buyer or possessor must demonstrate an understanding of firearm safety and the law by completing a theoretical and/or practical training course. Gun owners must be over the age of 18 and must renew their PAL every five years.⁵⁶ Purchasing a handgun additionally requires a Restricted PAL (RPAL) and range club membership.

Extreme Risk Protection Law

“Extreme risk protection” or “Red Flag” laws, passed in 2023, allow Canadians to apply for an emergency prohibition order — a court order authorizing authorities to temporarily seize a person's firearms and suspend their firearm license for 30 days — if they believe an individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or others.⁵⁷

U.S.

No licensing or registration

In contrast, U.S. federal law does not require any license to buy or possess a gun, and federal gun registration is specifically prohibited.⁵⁸ As a result, unlike automobiles and drivers, law enforcement has no accessible record of guns and gun owners. Except for persons falling into a few prohibited categories, most anyone over the age of 18 may buy rifles or other long guns, and persons over the age of 21 may generally buy handguns.⁵⁹

No pre-purchase individualized assessments

In the U.S. there is no individualized vetting of whether a prospective gun owner appears to pose a risk when armed based on their mental state, history of violence, or lack of knowledge of gun handling. Instead, only a few objective categories of persons are prohibited from buying guns, such as persons convicted of felonies or domestic violence misdemeanors, determined by a court or tribunal to pose a danger due to mental illness, subject to a domestic violence protective order, dishonorably discharged from the military, and fugitives from justice.⁶⁰ A person with no competence or knowledge in firearms, or who cannot articulate a reason why he wishes to purchase one, five, or fifty guns, and appears to be a gun trafficker or poses other risks, may buy all the guns he can pay for – so long as he does not fall into a prohibited category, and a dealer is willing to sell to him.

Gaps in prohibited categories allow at-risk persons to obtain guns

These categories leave gaping holes in U.S. law. For instance, guns may be purchased or possessed by people with; histories of violence and criminal activity, so long as they have not been convicted of a felony or domestic violence crime. Persons with serious mental health issues may buy guns so long as some tribunal has not found them a danger to themselves or others, or they have involuntarily committed themselves for in-hospital treatment. Even persons are on the terrorist watch or “no fly” lists are not prohibited from buying guns.

No limits on amount of guns

U.S. federal law imposes no limits on how many guns can be purchased, whether over a period of time or in a single purchase.⁶¹ No justification is required for large quantity or repeated purchases, even though they are indicative of gun trafficking. Federal law only requires that persons buying multiple handguns from a licensed dealer fill out a form that is provided to ATF for notice, but it does not bar or delay the sale. Straw purchasers can also purchase at multiple dealers or on different days to avoid the ATF notification requirement. Most states retain this permissive system.

No background checks or records for private gun sales

U.S. federal law only requires a minimal criminal background check before gun sales *by licensed dealers*, which is usually completed in minutes, after which buyers can leave the store with their gun (or guns) without a waiting period.⁶² However, federal law also allows unlicensed persons to sell guns in “private” sales without any background check or record, so long as the seller is not engaged in the business of dealing in firearms.⁶³ This creates a significant gap in the law that enables felons and others prohibited from possessing guns to buy from unlicensed “private” sellers, who are readily found on websites like Armslist.com, which operates like a “Craigslist,” or at gun shows.

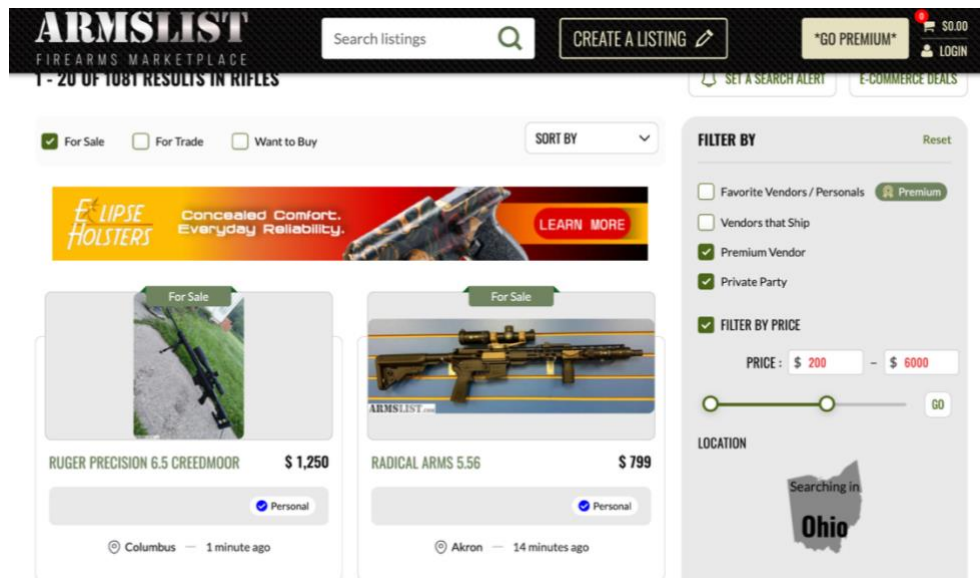


Figure 6-Screenshot of firearm sales in Ohio from Armslist.com

State laws

Some U.S. states have adopted stronger laws, including requiring background checks for all gun sales and empowering authorities to seize firearms in emergency circumstances (“red flag” or “extreme risk protection order” laws). But trafficking can easily subvert these laws by enabling prohibited persons – or traffickers who supply them – to obtain guns from states with weaker laws.

Assault Weapons

Canada

From at least the 1990s some military-style guns were banned in Canada, as well as high-capacity ammunition magazines.⁶⁴ Following several high-profile mass shootings, additional semi-automatic, assault-style military rifles were banned since 2020, and a freeze on handgun sales was implemented in 2022.⁶⁵ More rifles were added to the prohibited list in December 2024 and March 2025. Automatic fire and devices that simulate it – including Glock auto switches and bump stocks – are prohibited under the Criminal Code. The Criminal Code limits handgun magazines to 10 rounds and semi-automatic rifle magazines to 5 rounds.⁶⁶

U.S.

While semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines were prohibited by U.S. federal law in 1994, the law included an unusual 10-year sunset provision under which it expired in 2004, and Congress has not renewed it.⁶⁷ Under federal law today, assault rifles such as AR-15s and AK-47s – and even .50 caliber sniper rifles that can

shoot down helicopters – are allowed to be purchased by most 18-year-olds, as are high-capacity magazines of any size. Some states have prohibited or restricted the sale of certain types of military-style weaponry to civilians, but most U.S. states have not.

Ghost Guns

Canada

Ghost guns – personally made or untraceable firearms – are classified as prohibited under Bill C-21 (2023), and even possession of 3D-printing files for the purpose of manufacturing a firearm is a criminal offense.⁶⁸

U.S.

In the U.S., it is legal to privately manufacture ghost guns and silencers for personal use. Since 2022 ghost guns are classed as firearms, thus requiring a serial number and federal government registration, when they are intended to be sold for profit.⁶⁹ Some states regulate or prohibit the production of ghost guns, but the majority have not.

Gun Carrying

Canada

In Canada, concealed carry of firearms is illegal, and open carry of non-restricted (hunting) rifles and shotguns is limited to wilderness protection.⁷⁰ Open carry of handguns or restricted long guns is regulated by the extremely narrow Application to Carry permitting system, which requires the applicant to have a “lawful occupational purpose.”⁷¹

U.S.

U.S. carry laws, which are made at the state level, are limited, and under recent Supreme Court rulings, cannot prohibit carrying. In most states, persons can either carry guns in public without any permit or are presumptively entitled to obtain a permit to carry.

The majority of states in the Great Lakes region require training and permits for concealed carrying but allow unregulated open carry. Notable exceptions are Indiana and Ohio, which also allow unregulated concealed carry, and Illinois and Minnesota, which respectively prohibit and require a permit for open carry.⁷²

Gun Industry Oversight and Accountability

A critical difference between the two nations' gun policies concerns regulation and accountability of gun sellers and manufacturers.

Canada

Canada tightly regulates gun dealers and subjects members of the gun industry to the same civil liability and accountability standards as other businesses and individuals. As a result, companies that make defective guns or sell and distribute guns in unsafe or reckless manners can be held fully accountable for the harm they cause.

U.S.

The U.S. only imposes limited requirements for obtaining a federal firearms license required to engage in the business of dealing in firearms, and gun dealers are rarely inspected, and even more rarely investigated, indicted, or have their licenses revoked, even when there is evidence of serious violations of law.⁷³

In response to civil lawsuits by victims of gun industry negligence that provided some accountability for sellers and manufacturers, in 2005 the U.S. Congress enacted the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act ("PLCAA"), which provides licensed gun companies with virtual immunity from many negligence actions, special protections from civil liability that no other industry or people in the U.S. enjoy.⁷⁴ This lack of regulation and accountability creates a sense of impunity that emboldens bad actors in the industry and facilitates reckless sales to gun traffickers.

Constitutional Law

Canada

While gun laws can and are contested in the courts in Canada, the Canadian Constitution does not establish a constitutional right to possess guns.

U.S.

The relatively sparse gun laws that exist in the U.S. have been placed at risk by recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court. For over two hundred years the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution did not provide a basis to challenge gun laws since it was recognized as only related to state militia participation and did not protect a right to possess guns for private purposes. However, in 2008, in the 5-4 *District of Columbia v. Heller* decision,⁷⁵ the Court held that private gun possession is generally guaranteed by the Second Amendment, at least in the home for self-defense. In 2022, in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*,⁷⁶ the Court further restricted gun laws by

holding that laws that affect Second Amendment rights are presumptively unconstitutional unless they have a sufficiently close historical analogue to an 18th or 19th century policy. *Bruen* also held that the Second Amendment protects not only gun possession in the home but, to some degree, gun-carrying outside of the home, and struck down as unconstitutional New York's longstanding law requiring permitting by law enforcement to carry guns in public.

Courts have used this precedent to strike down numerous state and federal gun laws, including the federal laws banning handgun sales to persons 18-20 and possession of guns with obliterated serial numbers, as well as state law restricting public gun carrying and more.⁷⁷ Several of these cases are limited to certain states or regions, and others are on appeal as this area of law is in flux.

Gun Violence by the Numbers

Canada's gun deaths as a percentage of homicides (38%) are much lower than in the U.S. (78.5%), but remain markedly higher than comparable developed nations like Australia (12%) and the UK (6%).⁷⁸ While some of Canada's high gun crime rate could be a result of significant gun ownership (34.7 guns per 100 people), countries such as Serbia (39.1) and Finland (32.4) have higher or comparable rates of gun ownership, but far lower gun homicide rates.⁷⁹ One critical aggravating factor for Canada is its proximity to the loosely regulated U.S. gun market; from 2021-2024, between 81.2% and 97.1% of crime guns recovered in Canada and submitted for tracing to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were determined to have been sourced from the U.S.⁸⁰

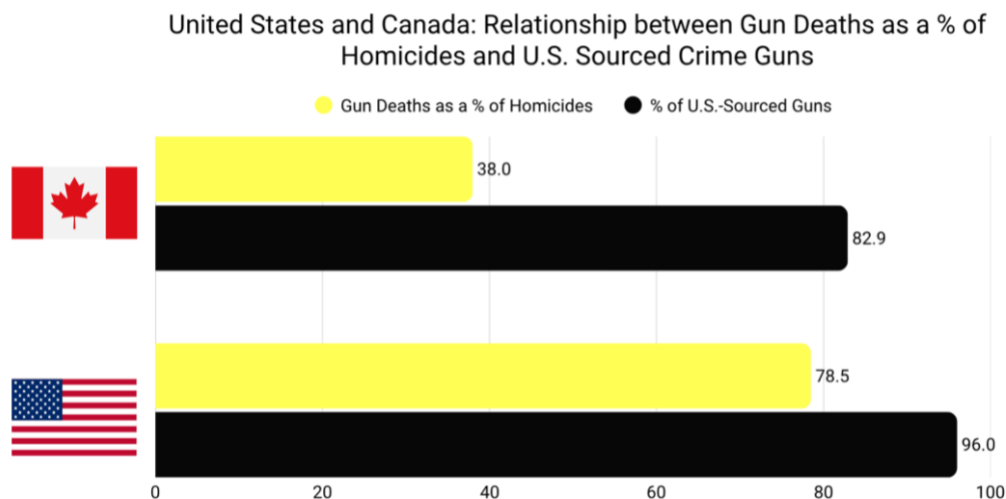


Figure 7-US and Canada: Relationship between Gun Deaths as a % of Homicides and U.S. Sourced Crime Guns

Ohio and the Great Lakes States Trafficking Problem

State gun laws are particularly important in the U.S. since federal law creates the floor, not the ceiling, for gun restrictions (subject to Constitutional limitations). Given the permissiveness of U.S. federal gun laws, state gun law regulations are critical in preventing gun trafficking and violence.

This section compares state gun laws in the Great Lakes and Ontario, the primary target of U.S. gun trafficking to Canada. We differentiate states in the region based on the strength of their laws, pointing out the worst offenders and noting which states are currently improving their laws, and which are regressing. These comparisons are carried out through analysis of the legal differences between states and the statistical differences in outcome in terms of gun trafficking and violence.

As Ohio is the leading trafficking source in the region — and the leading state source for crime guns in Canada — Ohio is analyzed in greater detail. This analysis illuminates why Ohio is the leading source state for Canadian crime guns among Great Lakes states.



Ohio: The Great Lakes' Key Problem State

Ohio Spotlight: The Great Lakes' Central Source State

ATF trace data identifies Ohio as the leading source state for traced crime guns recovered in Canada and the fourth-leading source state for traced crime guns recovered in the Caribbean. Ohio combines several likely contributing factors: a large firearms market, weak gun laws, permissive private-sale and gun-show environments, limited dealer oversight, industry-protection laws, restrictions on local regulation, and proximity to the Detroit-Windsor corridor. Those factors make Ohio a profound example of how state policy choices can turn a legal firearms market into an international crime-gun source.

ATF data has found that Ohio was the single largest source state for traced crime guns recovered in Canada between 2017 and 2021, accounting for 15 percent of all such traced weapons.⁸¹ Of the eight Great Lakes states, Ohio alone ranks among the top five source states for crime guns across multiple international and domestic destinations documented by ATF trace data. ATF concluded that Ohio was the fourth largest source state for traced crime guns recovered in the Caribbean.⁸²

Domestically, the ATF identifies the Ohio-to-New York corridor as the eighth-largest interstate gun trafficking pipeline in the United States.⁸³ The overwhelming majority (approximately 83 percent) of crime guns recovered within Ohio were purchased in-state⁸⁴ — a figure that reflects the degree to which Ohio's permissive regulatory environment sustains a large intrastate criminal gun market in parallel with the state's outsized export of crime guns to other jurisdictions. Ohio's dubious distinction as the Midwest's greatest source of international crime guns appears associated with the state's regulatory environment, market scale, and geographic access to Canada's primary smuggling corridors, each of which is examined below.

Ohio's prominence as the leading source state for Canadian crime guns is made possible, first and foremost, by its permissible regulatory regime, which is further enabled by its geographical proximity. The state requires no background check for private firearm sales — including those conducted at gun shows — and no permit to purchase any firearm.⁸⁵ It maintains no state-level dealer licensing requirement, leaving gun sellers subject only to federal oversight, which the ATF itself has acknowledged is chronically insufficient: in 2022, the agency inspected only 9 percent of federally licensed firearms dealers nationally, a rate at which the average dealer could expect an inspection less than once per decade.⁸⁶

Ohio legislators have relaxed laws even more in recent years. In June 2022, Ohio enacted Senate Bill 215, eliminating the training requirement and background check previously required to obtain a concealed handgun license, making Ohio a permitless carry state.⁸⁷ Ohio imposes no mandatory crime gun tracing obligation on law enforcement agencies, no extreme risk protection order law, and, through an aggressive state preemption statute, prohibits local governments from enacting supplemental firearm regulations — while exposing local officials who attempt to do so to civil suits and fines.⁸⁸ Ohio shields firearms manufacturers, distributors, and dealers from accountability in civil lawsuits beyond the already significant federal protections of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.⁸⁹

Each of these gaps, individually, reduces friction in the firearms acquisition pipeline; in combination, they produce an environment in which both legal and illegal transactions generate minimal documentation and minimal accountability at any stage between a gun dealer's sale and a crime gun's recovery.

The scale of Ohio's firearms market compounds these regulatory gaps. While Ohio is the seventh most populous state, in 2023 Ohio ranked sixth nationally in total firearm sales, with 583,314 guns sold.⁹⁰ At the same time, Ohio ranked eighth nationally in firearms ownership,⁹¹ suggesting many firearms purchased in Ohio are destined for out-of-state consumers.

Ohio Gun Dealers

Ohio hosts 4,234 federally licensed dealers — the seventh-highest count of any state — making it the largest weakly regulated firearms market near Canada's major population centers.⁹²

Within that dealer population, six gun shops in the greater Akron area alone appeared on the ATF's 'Demand 2' list — identifying dealers that sold 25 or more guns later traced to crimes within a single year.⁹³ Court filings from federal prosecutions of Ohio-based trafficking networks identify specific dealers as the source of firearms that were straw purchased in bulk and rapidly trafficked to Canada, including Lev's Pawn Shop (Columbus), Vance Outdoors/Vance Retail LLC (Obetz), Mike's Pawn Shop (Columbus), Cap City Outfitters (Hilliard), and Bass Pro Shops (Cincinnati), among many others.⁹⁴

Lev's Pawn Shop, in particular, appears in the indictment of *United States v. Kone and Griffin*, in which a gun purchased there on June 4, 2023, was recovered at a Toronto crime scene just 19 days later, a typical sign of illicit gun purchases by traffickers.⁹⁵

Vance Outdoors, one of Ohio's largest retail firearms chains, appears in multiple federal prosecutions. A report published in 2004 listed Vance's as the 17th highest seller of crime guns in the U.S., with 556 guns recovered in crime from 1996-2000 sold in its store.⁹⁶

The concentrated presence of high crime gun-selling dealers operating under minimal state oversight makes Ohio an attractive target for traffickers seeking to supply the criminal market in Canada and other countries.

Ohio Gun Trafficking Cases

Federal criminal prosecutions confirm the scale and systematic nature of Ohio-sourced gun trafficking to Canada.

A recent development in a major bust occurred in August 2026 when a Canadian-American pled guilty and was sentenced to over 7 years for his role in a 2023 scheme that smuggled approximately 150 firearms from Ohio to Canada between January and April of that year.⁹⁷ In the sentencing decision in *R v Cumberbatch*, Superior Court Justice Evelyn ten Cate noted “Mr. Cumberbatch was involved in a well-organized, for-profit organization and was instrumental in the importation and distribution of these firearms.”⁹⁸

In one of the most significant documented Ohio-to-Canada cases, *United States v. Abdulwahab Sharif Mohamed Hassan, et al.*, 11 defendants were convicted in November 2021 for a conspiracy in which straw buyers purchased at least 200 firearms — primarily from dealers in Columbus, Ohio — beginning in mid-2018; they then stockpiled them, and trafficked them to Canada.⁹⁹ As of the date of conviction, at least 10 of the guns had been linked to crimes in Canada, with times-to-crime of under two years; several had been fitted with Glock conversion switches to enable automatic fire.¹⁰⁰

In *United States v. Jeremy Hearn, et al.*, four individuals straw purchased 32 firearms from at least 12 gun dealers across central Ohio between January and April 2018 and trafficked them to Canada.¹⁰¹

In *United States v. Timothy Moorman*, a Cincinnati defendant straw purchased at least 21 firearms — predominantly Glock pistols — from Cincinnati-area dealers within a single month in late 2023; at least nine of those firearms were recovered at Canadian crime scenes within two weeks of Moorman's purchase, a time-to-crime figure that the ATF regards as a leading indicator of immediate diversion to the criminal market.¹⁰²

These cases are not isolated incidents. And they are the tip of the iceberg, as most trafficking goes undetected and unprosecuted.

Ohio's role as a source state for internationally trafficked firearms goes beyond Canada and its neighboring states. In May 2025, the ATF's Columbus Field Division hosted a press conference to highlight weapons seized in operations targeting the illegal flow of firearms to Mexico, displaying seized weapons including an Ohio Ordnance Works M2 .50 caliber machine gun, an FN M240 7.62mm machine gun, an FN M249 5.56mm light machine gun, and a Barrett M82 .50 caliber semi-automatic rifle — weapons of the

caliber that cartels, the ATF noted, specifically seek out “to facilitate, expand and protect their criminal enterprise.”¹⁰³

In a related case, *United States v. Yarquimedes Rodriguez Hilario and Adison Lopez-Ramirez*, two Cleveland men were indicted in March 2025 for selling and attempting to sell 90 rifles and one MAC-10-type machine gun to undercover federal agents posing as members of a Mexican drug cartel.¹⁰⁴

Ohio's reach extends further: in *United States v. Koffi Andrea Versaint Taregue*, defendants purchased at least 58 firearms from dealers in the Cleveland area — including 17 in a single day — intended for trafficking to the Ivory Coast in West Africa, illustrating that Ohio's permissive regulatory environment generates trafficking flows to destinations well beyond North America.¹⁰⁵

The pattern across these prosecutions reveals not only the volume of Ohio-sourced trafficking but the degree to which it is enabled by the absence of any effective mechanism — at either the state regulatory or gun industry level — to detect and interrupt systematic straw purchasing before traffickers obtain guns. As the ATF has documented across multiple iterations of its Commerce in Firearms reports, approximately 5 percent of dealers nationally sell 90 percent of crime guns, while 90 percent of dealers sell no crime guns at all.¹⁰⁶ The concentration of crime-gun-selling dealers in Ohio, documented in court records across multiple prosecutions involving overlapping sets of dealers, suggests that this dynamic is operative there.

Yet Ohio imposes no mandatory crime gun tracing requirement that would generate the data needed to identify that concentration, no state licensing regime to revoke a dealer's authority to sell, and it limits the legal mechanisms to hold manufacturers and distributors accountable for continuing to supply high-crime-gun dealers. In Ohio, the decision to continue supplying reckless dealers remains, in practice, a cost-free one for the industry.

The result is a market in which the downstream consequences of that decision — for communities in New York and Toronto, for those killed by cartel weaponry in Mexico, and for populations in the Ivory Coast — are externalized entirely and borne by those least equipped to demand accountability.

A Failure to Address Ohio's Contributing Role to Gun Trafficking

The fact that Ohio has been a major source state for gun trafficking has been known for decades – including by Ohio lawmakers.

- **A 2003 report found Ohio was seventh in the U.S. and first in the Midwest in exporting crime guns to other states.¹⁰⁷**
- **A 2013 report reached similar conclusions a decade later; as Columbus, Ohio Deputy Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell explained: “People know they can come to Ohio, get a gun and take it someplace where there are tougher restrictions. It happens at gun shows in the sticks and through underground schemes on city streets.”¹⁰⁸**
- **Eight years later ATF’s finding that Ohio was the top source state of crime guns to Canada was widely reported.¹⁰⁹**

In response, Ohio legislators have made its gun laws weaker, rather than attempt to stop the crime gun pipeline from their state.

State Gun Law Differences

The remaining seven Great Lakes states — Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York — have a deeply uneven approach to regulating firearms. Examining their laws side by side reveals a spectrum that runs from Illinois and New York, the most comprehensively regulated states in the group, to Indiana and Ohio, which in recent years has dismantled multiple layers of oversight that once distinguished it from the most permissive states in the country.

That spectrum has direct and measurable consequences for cross-border gun trafficking. ATF found Michigan was the fifth highest origin state for traced crime guns in Canada, after Ohio, Texas, Georgia, and Florida.¹¹⁰ None of the other six Great Lakes states appear in the top five.

Understanding why Ohio remains the top crime gun source state in the region, and how Michigan is second, though may be reducing its role as a source state, requires looking at both what these states do and, critically, what they don't.

Table 1-Gun Safety Ranking by U.S. State

State	Gun Safety Ranking (Weakest to Strongest)	
	Everytown Gun Law Rank	Giffords Gun Law Rank
Ohio	30	30
Indiana	26	26
Wisconsin	22	22
Michigan	20	17
Pennsylvania	18	16
Minnesota	14	15
New York	4	4
Illinois	2	6

Gun Law Comparisons: Great Lakes States & Ontario

Table 2-Gun Law Comparisons: Great Lakes States & Ontario

Category	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	New York	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin	Ontario
SAFETY									
Background Checks	Point-of-sale background checks for all purchases	No state background check requirement	No state background check requirement	Point-of-sale background checks without permits	Point-of-sale background checks for all purchases	No state background check requirement	Point-of-sale background checks for handguns	No state background check requirement	Background checks required for permit
Permits / Licensing	Permits required for all purchases	No permits required	Permits required for all purchases	Permits required for handgun and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon purchases	Permits required for handgun and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon purchases	No permits required	No permits required	No permits required	Permit required for all firearm purchases; handguns require special permit
Extreme Risk / Red Flag Laws	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Assault Weapons / Glock Switches / Bump Stocks	Assault weapons, Glock switches, and bump stocks prohibited	Glock switches prohibited, assault weapons and bump stocks unregulated	Glock switches prohibited, assault weapons and bump stocks unregulated	Glock switches and bump stocks prohibited, assault weapons unregulated	Assault weapons, Glock switches, and bump stocks prohibited	Glock switches prohibited, assault weapons and bump stocks unregulated	Assault weapons, Glock switches, and bump stocks unregulated	Glock switches prohibited, assault weapons and bump stocks unregulated	Assault weapons, Glock switches, and bump stocks prohibited
High-Capacity Magazines	Prohibited	Unregulated	Unregulated	Unregulated	Prohibited	Unregulated	Unregulated	Unregulated	Prohibited

Category	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	New York	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin	Ontario
INDUSTRY									
Dealer Licensing	State dealer license required; employee background checks and store security required	State dealer license required	No state license required	No state license required	State dealer license required; store security required	No state license required	State dealer license required	No state license required	No state license required; employee background checks required federally
Ghost Guns / Gun Part Regulation	Serial numbers and background checks required for all firearms and component parts	Unregulated	Unregulated	Unregulated	Serial numbers and background checks required for all firearms and component parts; 3D printers sold must be equipped with technology to stop 3D printed guns	Unregulated	Unregulated	Unregulated	Firearm barrels and handgun slides require a valid license to buy or import
Accountability Litigation Laws	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA; industry liability broadened by state law	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA; enhanced industry immunity under state law	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA; industry liability broadened by state law	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA; enhanced industry immunity under state law	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA	Gun industry litigation restricted under PLCAA	No PLCAA equivalent, regular civil liability applies to gun industry
Microstamping	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
Local Regulation Permitted	Local gun laws permitted	Local gun laws prohibited, local officials can be sued/fined for	Local gun laws prohibited	Local gun laws prohibited	Local gun laws permitted	Local gun laws prohibited, local officials can be sued/fined for	Local gun laws prohibited	Local gun laws prohibited	Local gun laws severely limited

Category	Illinois	Indiana	Michigan	Minnesota	New York	Ohio	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin	Ontario
		attempted regulation				attempted regulation			
Trafficking / Straw Purchasing Laws	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Crime Gun Tracing	Required	Not required	Not required	Required	Required	Not required	Required	Not required	Not required
Stolen Gun Reporting	Required	Not required	Required	Not required	Required	Required	Not required	Not required	Required
Sale Records to Law Enforcement	Not required	Not required	Requires handgun sales reported to law enforcement	Not required	Required	Not required	Required	Not required	Not required
Wait Periods / Charleston Loophole	3-day waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks prohibited	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted	30-day waiting period for handguns and assault weapons; sales during ongoing background checks prohibited	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted after 30 days	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted after 10 days	No waiting period; sales during ongoing background checks permitted after 5 days	28-day waiting period for first-time license applicants; sales during ongoing background checks prohibited



Michigan

Michigan is the next highest source of Canadian crime guns among the Great Lakes states, and the only other state in the region in the top five, ranking fifth overall as a source state. This appears to result from a combination of the same factors: proximity and, until recently, comparable regulatory gaps.

Gun Law Summary

While Michigan's gun laws are not strong, they have been strengthened in recent years. In Everytown's rankings of state gun laws, Michigan has climbed from #24 in 2022 and 2023 to #20 in more recent years. Giffords gives it a B- grade; in 2022, it was a C+.

Time-to-crime

Michigan tops the list of Great Lakes states by crime guns with the shortest time-to-crime,¹¹¹ which suggests trafficking. Michigan's median time-to-crime is 1.9 years, the lowest in the country, though Wisconsin (tied for 7th at 2.5 years), Ohio (tied 10th at 2.6 years), Indiana (tied 12th at 2.7 years), and Illinois (tied 17th at 2.9 years) all have median time-to-crimes below the 3-year threshold that ATF views as generally suggestive of intentional trafficking.

Licensing and background checks

Historically, Michigan required a permit to purchase handguns but applied no equivalent requirement to long guns, and even its handgun permit requirement had weaknesses: Concealed Pistol License holders were exempted from the federal background check when purchasing at a dealer.¹¹²

Michigan began closing these gaps in 2024, when legislation signed in April 2023 took effect, requiring background checks for all firearm sales — including private transfers of rifles and shotguns — and a license to purchase for all firearms.¹¹³

Extreme risk protection law

An extreme risk protection order law also took effect in February 2024, allowing the seizure of guns from certain people found at grave risk of harming themselves or others.¹¹⁴

Crime gun sources

Michigan's crime guns, like Ohio's, are generally purchased in-state: 78.4% of Michigan crime guns are sold in-state, 21.6% come from out-of-state.¹¹⁵ This suggests that its laws are sufficiently permissive that criminals or the traffickers who supply them generally do not need to travel to obtain guns.

Trends

Michigan's recent reforms to strengthen its gun laws are significant. However, the ATF data covering 2017-2021 predates these changes, and any impact they may have on the trafficking pipeline would not yet be reflected in tracing statistics.

Geography

Michigan's borders share hundreds of miles of water with Ontario, and the Ambassador Bridge connects Detroit directly to Windsor. The only other Great Lakes states with road crossings into Canada (New York and Minnesota) have stronger gun laws.

The Other Great Lakes States Are Not Significant Sources of Cross-Border Gun Trafficking

The other six Great Lakes states are not on the list of the top five source states of Canadian crime guns. Only one of the trafficking cases we have reviewed and included in the Appendix involve guns purchased in those states to be trafficked to Canada; that incident involves sales in Pennsylvania. In the Appendix's examples of guns purchased to be trafficked to other countries, including that Canada incident, guns sold in those states for cross-border trafficking are distributed as follows:

Ohio — 10

Michigan — 5

Indiana — 2

Illinois — 1

Pennsylvania — 1

Wisconsin — 1

Minnesota — 0

New York — 0 ¹¹⁶

While this is an admittedly small sample size, there may be conclusions that can be drawn from it regarding the association between gun laws and trafficking.



Indiana

Indiana's gun laws are weak: the second lowest in the region per Everytown's rankings other than Ohio. While Indiana does not appear to be a significant source of Canadian crime guns, it is involved in the third-most examples of cross-border trafficking of the studied states (after Ohio and Michigan).

Indiana also is a significant source state for trafficked guns within the U.S.; Indiana is the top out-of-state source of Illinois crime guns, accounting for about 16% of those crime guns.¹¹⁷ Gun dealers in Gary and elsewhere in northwest Indiana have long been found to be major sellers of crime guns used in nearby Chicago.¹¹⁸

This suggests that Indiana's firearms market is conducive to gun trafficking, but other factors direct that trafficking to interstate, rather than cross-border, markets.

Gun laws

Indiana shares some of Ohio's permissive law features — including no private-sale background checks¹¹⁹ and special protections for the gun industry beyond the federal liability shield. Everytown classifies its laws as “weak,” ranking 26th; Giffords gives it a D-.

Crime gun sources

Indiana also is listed fifth in the country of states with the highest percentage of crime guns purchased in-state: 82.9%.¹²⁰ Like Ohio and Michigan, this suggests that Indiana's laws make it fairly easy for in-state criminals to obtain guns there, so they do not need to go out of state to obtain guns.

Geography

Given the relative weakness of Indiana's gun laws, and the fact that it is a significant source of in-state crime guns and Illinois crime guns, it appears likely that geography, and more attractive alternatives, are significant factors in making it a less prominent source state for cross-border trafficking than Ohio or Michigan. While it borders Lake Michigan, it shares no coastline with Canada, has no land crossing into Canada, and is a longer drive. Also, it is a smaller state with a smaller firearm market than Ohio.



Illinois

Illinois, despite a large population of approximately 12.7 million, is not a significant source state of crime guns in Canada. This fact is likely attributable in part to its stronger gun laws. Everytown ranked it 7th in 2022, and it is now ranked second due to recent strengthening of its gun laws. Giffords gives its gun laws an A grade.

Permit to Purchase/Licensing

Illinois imposes a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card system, which requires every person wishing to purchase or possess a firearm to hold a state-issued card.¹²¹ Every FOID application triggers an automated search of criminal history records, FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) data, and Illinois Department of Justice records.¹²²

Illinois also bans assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. It also requires law enforcement to participate in ATF's eTrace crime gun tracing platform.¹²³

These multiple overlapping layers mean that every firearm transaction in Illinois creates a verified paper trail, raising the cost and risk of straw purchasing and trafficking.

Crime gun sources

Over half of Illinois crime guns are purchased out of state (51.2%), which suggests that its laws make it sufficiently difficult to obtain guns that there is a need for criminals to obtain guns from out of state. However, more analysis is needed, as this may be different in different parts of the state.



Pennsylvania

Gun Law Summary

Pennsylvania's gun laws are rated 18th by Everytown, which is better than Ohio (30), Indiana (26), Wisconsin (22), and Michigan (20), but lower than the other Great Lakes states. Giffords gives it a B.

Crime Gun Sources

Pennsylvania is the source of a significant share of its in-state crime guns (78.5%),¹²⁴ which suggests that its laws are not so strong that criminals need to utilize traffickers with out-of-state sources.

Geography

Geography, and more attractive alternatives for traffickers, may account for Pennsylvania's status as a less than significant source for cross-border gun trafficking. Pennsylvania does not share a road crossing into Canada, and it is longer drive and less convenient than urban centers in Ohio and Michigan, which have weaker laws. This confluence of factors makes Pennsylvania a less favored state for cross-border traffickers supplying the crime gun market.



Wisconsin

Available data indicate that Wisconsin is also not a significant source of crime guns in Canada. This appears associated with a variety of factors.

Gun laws

Wisconsin shares some of Ohio's permissive features — most notably the absence of private-sale background checks, no licensing, no assault weapon or high-capacity magazines restrictions, or waiting periods.¹²⁵ But it has some stronger laws, including some handgun dealer regulation; Everytown ranks it 22nd in the country, eight spots above Ohio.

Importantly, unlike Ohio's laws, Wisconsin does not provide additional insulation from civil liability for gun dealers and manufacturers, thus enabling negligent and reckless companies to be held accountable for harm they cause. Some of the top crime gun selling dealers in Wisconsin have been subject to civil lawsuits, and some to eventual liability.¹²⁶ Studies have shown this sort of accountability can reduce the flow of crime guns.¹²⁷

Crime gun sources

Wisconsin is listed in the top five – second – of states with the highest percentage of crime guns purchased in-state: 84.3%.¹²⁸ Like Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, this suggests that Wisconsin's laws make it fairly easy for in-state criminals to obtain guns there, so they do not need to go out of state to obtain guns.

Geography

Geography and other factors, such as size, appear to account for Wisconsin's lack of prominence in cross-border trafficking. Wisconsin is a smaller state with a smaller firearm market and, crucially, no direct border with Ontario. Wisconsin's border runs along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, far from Ontario's population centers and the Windsor-Detroit corridor.

However, it should be noted that the one trafficking example from Wisconsin discussed in the Appendix is a very substantial case involving trafficking extremely destructive high-caliber guns to cartels in Mexico. This suggests that Wisconsin has potential to be a source state, and may be more of a source than is revealed by the known information.



Minnesota

Minnesota appears not to be a significant source of crime guns in Canada. This is likely a combination of relatively strong gun laws and geography.

Gun laws

Minnesota has actively reformed its gun laws in recent years, enacting a permit requirement for handguns and assault weapons from private sellers effective August 2023.¹²⁹

Crime gun sources

Minnesota is the source of a significant share of instate crime guns (71.3%), although lower than Ohio (83.4%), Indiana (82.9%), Pennsylvania (78.5%), and Michigan (78.4%).¹³⁰ As with those states, this suggests that its laws are not so strong that criminals need to utilize traffickers with out-of-state sources.

Geography

Geography appears to be a factor in making Minnesota a less significant source of cross-border trafficking. While Minnesota is one of the three Great Lakes states with a road crossing into Canada, making it accessible for traffickers, its border runs along Manitoba rather than Ontario, placing it far from the main trafficking destinations of Greater Toronto Area.



New York

Gun Law Summary

New York does not appear to be a source state of trafficked guns abroad. This is not surprising. It has some of the strongest gun laws in the country; Everytown ranks it fourth, while Giffords gives it an A.

Crime Gun Sources

Almost 80% of New York crime guns are purchased out of state, the second highest rate in the country.¹³¹ The source of New York's crime guns suggests that its laws make it difficult for criminals to obtain guns, and that New York is far more of a target of trafficked guns than a source.

Even though New York is one of three Great Lakes states with a land border with Canada by which people can drive, New York appears to not be a significant source of cross-border gun trafficking, which is likely largely due to its strong gun laws. Its geography does, however, make it a prominent transit state for traffickers targeting Canadian population centers in either Ontario or Quebec.

Enforcement

Of course, laws are only as effective as their enforcement. The ATF's Demand Letter 2 (DL2) list, which tracks dealers that have sold high levels of guns traced to crime with short time-to-crime, focused ATF enforcement on problem dealers. A 2025 report found that Indiana and Ohio – the two states that specially shield bad actors in the gun industry – lead the region with the 4th and 14th highest number of DL2 dealers per capita among U.S. states.¹³² Wisconsin (25th), Michigan (27th), Pennsylvania (28th), and Illinois (30th) are far lower, and Michigan has notably improved from 2022-2024, when it placed 20th. Minnesota is 37th, and New York is tied for 50th, with 0 DL2 dealers between 2022 and 2024. The DL2 program was recently discontinued by the Trump Administration, as it rolled back numerous gun policies.¹³³

Why are Florida, Georgia and Texas Top Sources of Crime Guns to Canada?

Although this report is limited to considering the Great Lakes states' role in cross-border gun trafficking, it is important to consider why Florida, Georgia and Texas are listed as the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th ranking source states of crime guns to Canada, even though they are significantly farther away from Canada than Michigan, which is 5th. One might wonder: if geography and inconvenience is a factor that leads traffickers to favor closer states, why would traffickers seek to obtain guns almost 1,500 miles away in south Florida?

This issue merits more investigation and analysis, including potential interviews with gun traffickers, which was not a part of this report. One explanation may be the sheer size of their firearms markets; all three states are estimated to have more firearm owners than Ohio,¹³⁴ and Texas and Florida have the 1st and 3rd highest number of federal firearms licensees, respectively.¹³⁵ However, another potential explanation is that Florida, Georgia and Texas are all states that not only have weak gun laws that make it fairly easy for traffickers to obtain guns, but also have established trafficking networks. Florida is the dominant source of guns trafficked to the Caribbean, as well as the leading source state of crime guns recovered in Central America and Outside North America. Georgia was the second highest source state of crime guns traced to the Caribbean, and the third highest to Outside North America. Texas, as of the 2017-2021 ATF data, was the leading source state of guns trafficked to Mexico, as well as the second highest source state of crime guns in Central America and Outside North America.

Criminal organizations and traffickers establish a comfort level with certain jurisdictions when they learn that they can repeatedly obtain guns with minimal interference. Perhaps more importantly, traffickers identify and frequent dealers who have shown they will repeatedly engage in suspect transactions to traffickers. There is reason to think that the well-earned reputation of Florida, Georgia and Texas as sources for cross-border gun trafficking earns them more business when new trafficking routes are established.

Overview of State Laws and Their Contribution to Gun Trafficking

Taken together, the data tells a coherent story: the intersection of regulatory permissiveness, large population, and geographic proximity to Canada's most active smuggling corridors appears to make a state a significant source of crime guns in Canada. Ohio possesses all three factors in combination. Michigan possesses the geographic factor most acutely, with a regulatory environment that — during the period studied — remained porous enough to sustain its place in the top five. The others are missing one or more elements of that combination — a finding that underscores that gun trafficking is not simply a product of weak laws or geography alone, but of both operating in concert.

The cumulative effect of these differences is substantial. The ATF's National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment identified Ohio, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Michigan as the top five source states for traced crime guns recovered in Canada, accounting for 53 percent of all such firearms.¹³⁶

Table 3-ATF Data on Top 5 Source States of Crime Guns Recovered in Canada and the Caribbean, 2017-2021

CANADA	PERCENTAGE	CARIBBEAN	PERCENTAGE
Ohio	14.9%	Florida	57.1%
Florida	12.6%	Georgia	13.5%
Georgia	10.0%	Texas	4.9%
Texas	8.5%	Ohio	2.3%
Michigan	6.6%	North Carolina	2.1%

Until the regulatory environment on both sides of the border converges — or until enforcement resources match the scale of the problem — the Great Lakes corridor will remain one of the most consequential fault lines in North American gun policy.

The Great Lakes as a Source for Cross-Border Gun Trafficking



Cross-border gun trafficking is not some vague, undetectable phenomenon; it plays out in specific instances where guns are brought across the border, by the trafficker or someone else, and then used in crimes to victimize innocent people and communities.

This section is guided by a survey of specific examples of cross-border firearms trafficking prosecutions from the Great Lakes region to countries outside the U.S., taken from U.S. federal prosecutions for firearms laws violations. These cases, further detailed in the Appendix at the end of the report, illustrate common patterns in trafficking from the region.

The number of trafficking cases discussed here and in the Appendix is substantial, involving significant numbers of guns diverted to the criminal market. However, these are just a sampling of prosecutions, which represent only the tip of the iceberg for trafficking. Most criminal trafficking goes undetected or unprosecuted. And this list is not even a comprehensive compilation of all regional prosecutions.¹³⁷

These cases provide a window into the scope of the gun trafficking problem, and they show how guns are trafficked from licensed U.S. dealers to the criminal market in other

countries. These selected examples alone involve the actual or intended trafficking of at least 1271 firearms and over 4500 rounds of ammunition. The perpetrators made at least \$750,000. The most common weapons trafficked were Glock handguns.

These cases also demonstrate common patterns of gun trafficking. In several cases, the trafficker engaged in multiple sales of firearms, and/or was a repeat buyer at the same gun dealer, buying many guns from the dealer. In other cases, traffickers used straw purchasers or bought through private sales to avoid background checks. These cases show guns sold by dealers in the Great Lakes states to be trafficked mostly to Canada, but also to Mexico, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, among other countries.

A couple of examples provide a picture.

Grin and Barrett: A Cartel Trafficking Network in the Great Lakes



Figure 8-Barrett .50 Cal Rifle

In one trafficking case, known as “Grin and Barrett” for the high caliber Barrett .50 caliber rifles that led to its discovery, a Wisconsin family built what one ATF official called “the most prolific [Jalisco New Generation Cartel] firearms trafficking network ever discovered.”¹³⁸ The network, with U.S. operations centered on the Wisconsin-based cousin of a Mexican trafficker, sprawled across 13 states, and transferred over \$600,000 worth of military-grade weaponry to cartel buyers in under a year.

Mexican authorities stumbled upon the trafficking ring during an investigation of a cartel hit squad responsible for the attempted assassination of a government minister. After recovering the weapons they found at the hit squad's safehouse, they traced one Barrett .50 caliber rifle to a firearms dealer in Wisconsin, Shooters' Sports Center, where it had been purchased just two months before the raid – a remarkably brief time-to-crime that meant it had almost certainly been sold directly to a trafficking network supplying the criminal market. Further investigation revealed that the store, which was “lucky to sell one Barrett .50 caliber in a normal year,” had sold four such guns to two brothers and their associates over the course of just six months.

The rifles, prized by cartels for their ability to deal immense damage over great distances, have become crucial in their fight against the Mexican government and one another. Mexican authorities recovered over 300 Barrett .50 caliber rifles between 2020 and 2023, and cartels have used them to shoot down Mexican military helicopters, ambush law enforcement officers, and assassinate government officials. In the U.S., they are the highest quality military-grade weaponry available on the civilian market, where they sell for \$9,000. On the Mexican black market, the price rises from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

ATF agents stepped in after flagging the alarming number of Barrett sales at gun stores in the area, and they raided the traffickers' home four months later after an ATF tail saw them with two military-grade assault rifles. The agents recovered 52 firearms, three empty Barrett cases, and two lavish Colt 1911 pistols covered in gold-plating and cartel insignia.

The operation, with clear trafficking signals such as multiple purchases, multiple related buyers over a short time period, and unusual military-style guns, could have been easily prevented by a gun dealer who simply asked the right questions about why the traffickers wanted the military-grade weapons or why they needed them in such high quantities. The dealers in this case chose profit instead.

Glock 19 BBF797US: The Trafficking Network that Killed OPP Constable Greg Pierzchala

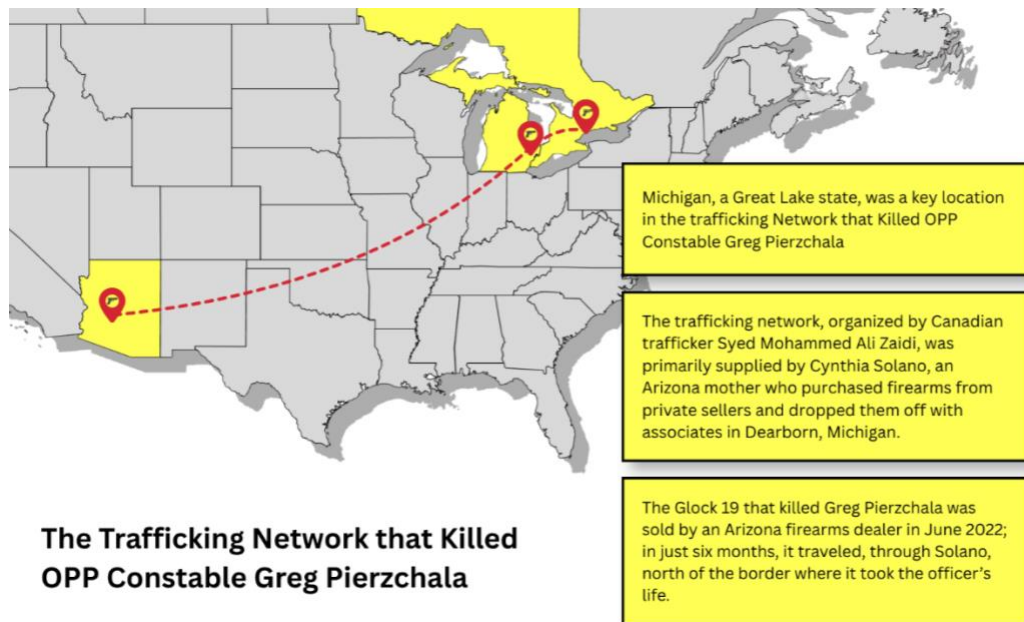


Figure 9-The Trafficking Network that Killed OPP Constable Greg Pierzchala

One U.S. to Canada trafficking case led to the fatal shooting of Ontario Provincial Police Constable Greg Pierzchala in Hagersville, Ontario, on December 27, 2022. The Canadian officer was the victim of a trafficking operation that saw firearms sold by Arizona dealers travel north, get smuggled through Michigan, and ultimately arrive in the hands of criminals in the Greater Toronto Area.

Pierzchala was murdered in cold blood by a petty criminal during a routine police response to a vehicle stopped in a ditch on the side of the road.¹³⁹ The criminal, on the run after a local crime spree, shot the officer and fled into the woods, where he was ultimately arrested after a four-hour manhunt. The firearm had its serial number intact – BBF797US – a fact that would ultimately reveal its connection to a much broader trafficking network.

The trafficking network, organized by Canadian trafficker Syed Mohammed Ali Zaidi, was primarily supplied by Cynthia Solano, an Arizona mother who purchased firearms from private sellers and dropped them off with associates in Dearborn, Michigan. The method of purchase meant no background checks, no paper trails, and no flagging the ATF for multiple purchases. From there, it was easy to get them across the border by stashing them in trucks and driving them across the Ambassador Bridge to a safehouse in Windsor.

Zaidi was arrested in May 2022, just months before Pierzchala's shooting, in a law enforcement operation called Project Barbell that saw six traffickers arrested and 62 firearms seized.¹⁴⁰ But even with its organizer behind bars, the network continued to function. Solano continued to purchase American guns, and they continued to find their way to Canadian criminals.

The Glock 19 that killed Greg Pierzchala was sold by an Arizona firearms dealer in June 2022; in just six months, it traveled, through Solano, north of the border where it took the officer's life.¹⁴¹

Law enforcement wouldn't successfully staunch the flow of weapons until January 3, 2023 – a week after Pierzchala's death – when a state trooper approached Solano's car after she had pulled to the side of the road with tire trouble. In her trunk, he found five suitcases filled with 87 handguns. Zaidi had continued to run the network from behind bars, but without Solano to purchase and transport them from Arizona, the flow of guns trickled to a stop.

Before the end of the trafficking operation that took Pierzchala's life, Solano had made nearly \$90,000, and Zaidi had smuggled hundreds of firearms, mostly Glock handguns, from the legal U.S. market to Canadian criminals.

Betsy Powell, the Toronto Star reporter who covered the case, wrote, "Criminals love the Austrian-made Glock, due to its light weight, simple-to-fire operation and ability to hold numerous rounds," citing a 2023 report from Canada's Firearms Analysis and Tracing Enforcement program.¹⁴² With a largely unregulated private firearms market in the U.S., they are incredibly easy for criminals like Solano and Zaidi to get their hands on.

Cases like that of OPP Constable Greg Pierzchala are tragic, but preventable. The firearm that took his life had a time-to-crime of just six months, meaning its original legal purchaser likely bought it with the intent to resell to the criminal market.

Gun dealers who ask due diligence questions, and gun manufacturers who maintain higher standards for sales practices in their distribution networks, have the power to save lives like Pierzchala's by preventing obvious sales to criminals. Many choose not to.

These selected examples alone involve the actual or intended trafficking of at least 1271 firearms and over 4500 rounds of ammunition. The perpetrators made at least \$750,000. The most common weapons trafficked were Glock handguns.

1271



4500



\$750k



Glock



The Great Lakes as a Trafficking Route

The Great Lakes states play another key role in cross-border gun trafficking besides serving as source states for gun sales: they are part of trafficking routes through which guns purchased in other states, such as Florida, Georgia, and Texas, are then transported into Canada. This role is in many respects passive and simply a product of the region's geography along or near the border. However, it may present an opportunity to interrupt trafficking through greater law enforcement efforts.

Trafficking Routes

From 2017 through 2021, Ohio and Michigan were the largest and fifth-largest, respectively, source states for U.S. guns trafficked to Canada. Numerous guns also were trafficked to Canada from Florida (12.6 percent), Georgia (10.0 percent), and Texas (8.5 percent).¹⁴³ As a result of simple geography, many of these guns travel through the Great Lakes region.

Two Canadian provinces border the U.S. Great Lakes region: Ontario and Quebec; in 2024, 15.3 million cars entered Ontario from the U.S. and 2.8 million entered Quebec from the U.S.¹⁴⁴ There are 14 land crossings for vehicles into Ontario and 29 into Quebec.¹⁴⁵ These crossings are along the 445 miles of border between New York and Canada, 42 miles between Pennsylvania and Canada, 146 miles between Ohio and Canada, 721 miles between Michigan and Canada, and 547 miles between Minnesota and Canada.¹⁴⁶

In addition, there are 2,380 total miles of water boundaries between the two countries.¹⁴⁷ These thousands of miles of border, largely without fencing,¹⁴⁸ can be relatively easy for traffickers to traverse. While there are numerous locations along the border where firearms could exit the U.S. and enter Canada, there are a few locations which are known smuggling points.

Border Crossings

It is difficult to track total firearms trafficking due to its illicit nature. However, there are heavily documented border crossings, extensively covered by journalists and independent reports, and significant firearm seizure by law enforcement, that indicate which crossings are used to transit many firearms into Canada. There are two primary crossings in the Great Lakes region: the Detroit-Windsor Corridor, made up of the Detroit–Windsor Tunnel, the Ambassador Bridge, and the Gordie Howe International Bridge; and the Buffalo-Niagara Corridor, made up the Peace Bridge, the Niagara Falls International Rainbow Bridge, and the Lewiston–Queenston Bridge.

Most firearms transiting these crossings are destined for Ontario, Canada’s most populous province, where 91 percent of crime handguns are traced to U.S. origins. In Toronto, Canada’s largest city, 88 percent of crime guns are traced back to the U.S., many of which likely transited the border at these prominent crossings.

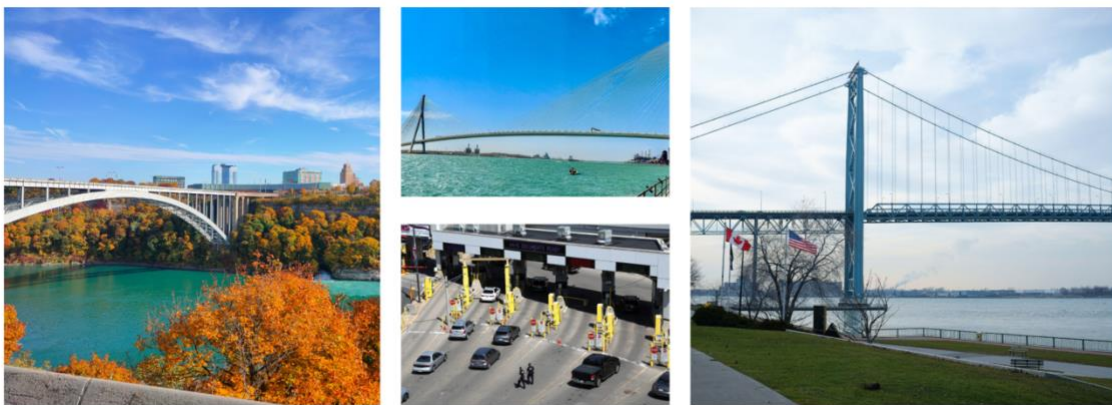


Figure 10-U.S. Canada Border Crossings. From left to right: Rainbow International Bridge, Gordie Howe International Bridge, Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, Ambassador Bridge (Photo credit: envato elements)

Former Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair has called the Detroit-Windsor Corridor “a pipeline” for trafficking and his then-counterpart, Windsor Police Chief Al Frederick, acknowledged Windsor’s border as “a gateway” for the trade.¹⁴⁹

In 2023, Access to Information Act data obtained by CBC News showed a combined 73 guns were seized at the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel in Windsor alone.¹⁵⁰ By 2025, the number had more than doubled, with CBSA officers at the Ambassador Bridge and Windsor-Detroit Tunnel seizing 150 firearms between January 1 and October 31, 2025.¹⁵¹

Many more trafficked guns likely pass through these crossings undetected; for reference, research on U.S. gun trafficking over the Mexican border suggests authorities seize less than 15 percent of weapons smuggled out of the country, with seizures by U.S. authorities accounting for just 2 percent of total outgoing illegal firearms.¹⁵²

Using this data, a reasonable estimate of total traffic across just the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel would be around 1,200 firearms in 2025. During the trial of OPP Constable Greg Pierzchala's shooter, an OPP officer estimated that 50 to 100 firearms cross the U.S.-Ontario border every day – a rate that would suggest trafficking of 18,000 to 36,000 firearms annually through the region.¹⁵³

Former Windsor Police Superintendent Jason Crowley explained the economics fueling the crime gun pipeline: "You will see a gun, a firearm purchased in the States for potentially \$200 to \$300, and they'll go on the streets [in Canada] for \$3,000."¹⁵⁴

Ghost Guns and Accessories

The ghost gun trade has also thrived across the corridor. During May and June 2025, border services officers from Windsor, Toronto, and Montreal offices intercepted four parcels containing firearms parts and tools for manufacturing firearms, all imported from the United States and directed to the same Windsor address. Following up on the investigation, the Ontario Firearms Smuggling Enforcement Team executed a search warrant in Windsor, confiscating 48 firearms, 30 auto sears used to convert semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic machine guns, various firearms parts, 175 magazines (of which 104 were prohibited in Canada), and about 17,000 rounds of ammunition.¹⁵⁵

Border Enforcement

Responding to a surge in firearms trafficking during the pandemic, the U.S. and Canada established the Cross-Border Firearms Task Force to facilitate intelligence sharing and joint investigations in 2021. In 2023, the CBSA established a dedicated law enforcement unit specifically focused on these trafficking corridors: the Ontario Firearms Smuggling Enforcement Team (OFSET), a team of CBSA criminal investigators, intelligence analysts, and intelligence officers dedicated solely to investigating firearms smuggling in Ontario. Neither ATF nor the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have yet developed a similar unit focused on the U.S.-Canada illicit firearms trade.

Beyond these prominent crossings in the Great Lakes region, heavily documented trafficking routes include the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory,¹⁵⁶ straddling New York, Ontario, and Quebec along the St. Lawrence River, and Blaine-Surrey Corridor,¹⁵⁷ via the

Peace Arch Border Crossing and the Pacific Highway between Washington and British Columbia.

The 12-mile border of the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory, comprised of both water and land, is known to smugglers as “The Black Hole” where traffickers can cross land as well as the St. Lawrence River using jet skis, speedboat, and snowmobiles.¹⁵⁸ Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Police Chief Shawn Dulude clarified that traffickers are not coming from the native tribe, but rather through the reservation due to geography.¹⁵⁹

In addition, ports of entry between the U.S. and Canada were not built, nor are they operated, to prevent exportation of illegal goods into Canada. According to the Department of Homeland Security itself, ports of entry between the U.S. and Canada “were not constructed with exit processing in mind.”¹⁶⁰ Furthermore, “U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) does not consistently conduct outbound inspections of personal vehicles and pedestrians at land border crossings on the Southwest and northern borders to prevent the illegal exportation of currency, firearms, explosives, ammunition, and narcotics.”¹⁶¹ The U.S. does not even track border exits into Canada, but rather relies on Canada to share its entry data.¹⁶²

Beyond Canada: Other Destinations for Great Lakes Guns

While geography might suggest that all guns trafficked from Great Lakes states are destined for Canada, this is not the case. Although Canada is a key destination for Great Lakes traffickers, firearms procured in Great Lakes states have been trafficked to Mexico, Honduras, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. Here, we provide a limited number of examples of trafficking to these destinations as an illustrative, rather than exhaustive, summary of these crimes.



Mexico

Estimates indicate that between 200,000 and 600,000 U.S. firearms are trafficked into Mexico annually.¹⁶³ Guns sourced from the United States constitute 70-90 percent of all Mexican crime guns.¹⁶⁴ The major buyers of U.S. guns in Mexico are highly violent, militarized drug cartels.¹⁶⁵ These cartels kidnap and murder civilians, target journalists, and wreak havoc on the state as they engage in drug trafficking and fight for territory.¹⁶⁶ While the greatest sources of the guns used by cartels are gun dealers along the U.S.-Mexico border, some trafficking networks also smuggle guns from further destinations, including the Great Lakes States.

In addition to the “Grin and Barrett” example discussed above, in September 2025, Chicago, Illinois police officer Kevin Rodriguez and his accomplice Diego Valdez were indicted for conspiring to straw purchase firearms and traffic them to Mexico.¹⁶⁷ In September 2024, Rodriguez allegedly used his status as a police officer to purchase a Valhalla model WLA15A, 5.56 mm rifle (serial number WAL01242) and a Valhalla model M4E1, 5.56mm pistol (serial number M4-0358413), both of which he transferred to Valdez.¹⁶⁸ Valdez trafficked both guns to Mexico on December 4, 2024.¹⁶⁹



Honduras

Alex Martinez of Indiana was prosecuted for trafficking weapons from the U.S. to Honduras. The U.S. is the “most important source for weapons trafficked into Honduras,” with Honduran officials reporting that the majority of non-registered crime guns come from the U.S., and U.S. officials claiming the number is just under half.¹⁷⁰ The other major sources of guns to Honduras are neighboring countries and government diversion.¹⁷¹ Honduras’s trafficking problem fuels high rates of violence and crime in the country.¹⁷²



Jamaica

Between 2018 and 2022, there were 7,399 guns recovered from crimes in the Caribbean and traced by ATF.¹⁷³ Of these recovered guns, 73 percent (or 5,399 guns) came from the United States.¹⁷⁴ While Florida is the predominant source state for Caribbean crime guns, between 2017-2021 Ohio was the fourth-highest volume U.S. source state for crime guns traced in the Caribbean, accounting for 2.3 percent (75) of guns recovered in the region.¹⁷⁵

Jamaica suffers from one of the world’s highest homicide rates, and over 80 percent of Jamaican homicides are committed with guns, largely trafficked in from the U.S.¹⁷⁶ In April 2025, William O’Neill, the UN High Commissioner’s Designated Expert on Haiti, said:

“The country is awash in guns, probably in the hundreds of thousands in a population of 11 million. The gangs have access to an increasing number of high calibre weapons, and a seemingly endless supply of ammunition and some gangs have weapons that pierce armour . . . ”¹⁷⁷



Saudi Arabia

Mark John Buschman was prosecuted for trafficking weapons from Wisconsin to Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia, only licensed firearm owners may possess firearms, and only one firearm per person without additional authorization.¹⁷⁸ In 2012 and 2009, the number of gun deaths in Saudi Arabia were 92 and 82, respectively, while the rates of gun deaths per 100,000 people were 0.32 and 0.31, respectively.¹⁷⁹

Gun trafficking in the Great Lakes states has a truly global reach. No doubt, Canada suffers the most from gun trafficking originating in the Great Lakes region. The same set of circumstances that enable gun trafficking from the Great Lakes to Canada, however, such as the reckless actions of the gun industry and weak state laws, enable firearms trafficking to countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions.

Policy Recommendations to Shut Down the Trafficking Pipeline

The Great Lakes gun-trafficking problem is not inevitable. It is enabled by weak laws, uneven enforcement, inadequate dealer oversight, special protections for the gun industry, and insufficient cross-border coordination. The following reforms would reduce the flow of trafficked firearms from the Great Lakes region and from the broader U.S. market into Canada and other countries.

Federal Policy Reforms

Congress should enact laws that regulate firearm sales and the gun industry in ways that make trafficking harder to carry out and easier to detect. Federal law should restrict high-risk sales practices, including repeated and multiple sales to purchasers who exhibit trafficking indicators, require stronger oversight of licensed dealers, and close gaps that allow private sellers and reckless dealers to supply the criminal market. Specifically, this should include:

- Requiring universal background checks for all gun sales
- Requiring licensing, permits to purchase, or other individualized vetting of buyers
- Restricting or enhanced vetting of high-risk bulk and repeat sales
- Enhancing oversight and regulation of gun dealers

Policy Reforms, With Special Attention to Ohio

Ohio and other Great Lakes states should enact stronger gun-safety laws, including:

- Requiring universal background checks for all gun sales
- Requiring licensing, permits to purchase, or other individualized vetting of buyers
- Requiring state gun dealer licensing
- Requiring reporting of lost-and-stolen guns
- Mandating crime-gun tracing
- Restricting or enhanced vetting of high-risk bulk and repeat sales

Because Ohio is the region's leading problem state, Ohio reforms would be the most impactful in reducing cross-border gun trafficking and should be the top priority.

For Ohio specifically, the highest-priority reforms are universal background checks, permit-to-purchase or licensing requirements, state dealer licensing and inspection authority, mandatory crime-gun tracing, meaningful oversight of bulk and repeat sales, restoration of local regulatory authority, repeal of state-level gun-industry immunity provisions, and stronger accountability tools for dealers and distributors that repeatedly supply guns later recovered in crimes.

Gun Industry Accountability

Federal and state policymakers should eliminate special protections that allow negligent gun manufacturers, distributors, and dealers to avoid accountability when their practices facilitate trafficking. This includes repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), that prevents holding some bad actors accountable for facilitating trafficking, and the Tiahrt Amendment, that prevents disclosure of industry sources of crime guns and trafficking.

States should adopt firearms accountability laws and codes of conduct that establish reasonable business practices for the gun industry and impose liability for negligent practices. Codes of conduct should include requiring gun manufacturers and distributors to refuse to supply dealers with repeated crime-gun traces and negligent sales practices, and requiring gun dealers to use safe sales practices designed to detect straw purchasing and trafficking.

Enforcement and Dealer Oversight

ATF and state enforcement agencies should focus resources on the small share of dealers that supply a disproportionate number of crime guns. Enforcement should prioritize dealers with repeated trafficking indicators, short time-to-crime traces, multiple sales to the same purchasers, and sales patterns associated with straw purchasing. Stronger inspection, investigation, license-revocation, and referral practices would help force problem dealers to reform or stop supplying the crime-gun market. Prosecution of trafficking cases should not only target buyers, but in appropriate cases should include complicit gun dealers.

Civil Litigation and International Accountability

Civil litigation can reduce trafficking by changing the conduct of problem dealers, distributors, and manufacturers. Lawsuits in the United States can use remaining pathways under PLCAA, including statutory predicate claims, while litigation outside the United States may provide broader accountability because foreign courts are not

constrained by PLCAA. These cases can encourage safer sales, distribution, and oversight practices that reduce the supply of crime guns.

Cross-Border Cooperation

The United States and Canada should strengthen cross-border tracing, intelligence sharing, outbound inspection, joint investigations, and dedicated enforcement capacity focused on firearms trafficking into Canada. The United States should recognize its responsibility to prevent guns from being trafficked over its borders, and take appropriate actions.

Conclusion

Gun trafficking from the U.S. subverts laws and fuels violence and crime in countries throughout the world. The Great Lakes region plays a significant role. Guns purchased in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and other states have caused deaths and injuries, armed organized crime, fueled violence in Canada, as well as nations as far as Mexico, the Caribbean, West Africa, and the Middle East. The region's role is twofold: it is both a source of trafficked guns and a transit corridor for firearms purchased elsewhere in the United States.

Ohio stands out as the Great Lakes' central problem state. ATF data identifies it as the leading source state for traced crime guns recovered in Canada, and federal prosecutions show Ohio-sourced firearms moving repeatedly into Canadian criminal markets. Its weak laws, large firearms market, lack of meaningful dealer oversight, protection of the gun industry from accountability, and proximity to major Canadian trafficking corridors combine to make it uniquely consequential. Michigan also plays a significant role, both as a source state and as a gateway into Ontario, though recent reforms may reduce that role over time. The other Great Lakes states appear less central to the Canada pipeline, but their varied laws and trafficking cases reinforce the report's central finding: gun trafficking follows opportunity.

That opportunity is created by policy choices. Guns flow from jurisdictions where they are easy to buy in bulk, where private sales and gun-show transactions are weakly regulated, where dealers face limited scrutiny, where tracing is incomplete, and where manufacturers and distributors can continue supplying reckless sellers without meaningful consequences. Geography helps explain why the Great Lakes matter, but weak regulation and weak industry accountability explain why the pipeline exists.

While these policies and practices are domestic to the U.S., the consequences are borne beyond U.S. borders. For example, communities in Canada, who have made different policy choices to make it far more difficult to obtain guns, pay the price.

Reducing the international effects of U.S. gun policy requires accepting responsibility for the harms caused by the export of violence and instability abroad — and it requires action at the source. Stronger federal and state gun laws, with special attention to Ohio, are essential. These include universal background checks, permit-to-purchase or licensing systems, stronger dealer oversight, mandatory crime-gun tracing, scrutiny of bulk and repeat sales, and repeal of special gun-industry immunity protections. Beyond

legislation, meaningful reforms can be made through civil accountability for companies that repeatedly supply the crime-gun market. Border enforcement and cross-border cooperation are also necessary, but they cannot substitute for reducing the supply of trafficked guns before they reach the border.

The Great Lakes region has long been defined by cooperation between the United States and Canada. Addressing gun trafficking should be understood as part of that shared responsibility. The policies that created and sustain this pipeline can be changed. Doing so would save lives in Canada, the United States, and far beyond the Great Lakes.

Appendix: Trafficking Case Studies

Project Moneypenny: Toronto Investigators Seize Nearly 200 U.S. Guns from 42 Canadians

-  42 Arrests
-  172 Guns
-  3 Auto Switches
-  1454 Rounds of Ammo
-  3 Sets of Body Armor
-  45 High-Capacity Magazines

Dates	Announcement: April 2023
Location of Purchases	Ohio, Florida, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Chicago, IL, U.S. Ontario, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	173 firearms, including handguns, assault rifles, and shotguns
Results	In April 2023, Toronto law enforcement announced an investigation termed "Project Moneypenny," which led to the arrest of 42 Canadians and the seizure of 173 guns in the Toronto area and Chicago. The guns originated from Florida, Ohio, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas before being shipped to Canada. In addition to the firearms, investigators seized 1,454 rounds of ammunition, 3 sets of body armor, 3 auto switches, and 45 high-capacity magazines.
Sources	Lane Harrison, <i>Hundreds of charges laid, 173 guns seized in firearm trafficking operation, police say</i> , CBC News (Apr. 11, 2023), https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/police-gun-cross-border-1.6806530 ; Jack Boland, <i>173 guns seized, 42 arrested in large cross-border trafficking investigation</i> , Toronto Sun (Apr. 11, 2023), https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/173-guns-seized-42-arrested-in-large-cross-border-trafficking-investigation ; Ismail Shakil, <i>Police bust major US-Canada firearms</i>

Trafficker Sells U.S. Glock Handguns to Undercover Canadian Police Officers

Dates	Sentenced: February 2026
Location of Purchases	Florida, Michigan, and Ohio, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Brampton, Ontario, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	At least five Glock pistols
Results	According to the Brampton, Ontario Guardian: "Raoul Harvey, 30, originally of Brampton, was handed 11 years in prison for firearm and drug trafficking, as part of the York Regional Police's Project Monarch, during which he sold five Glock pistols to police for \$28,500 before eventually stealing \$17,000 from undercover officers after promising to deliver them three more handguns, the court heard."
Sources	https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/crime/arms-fentanyl-dealer-to-be-deported-after-11-year-sentence/article_455d91e7-8d2c-5cb3-8736-2bf1f07ee762.html https://www.minicounsel.ca/scj/2026/911

**Cincinnati Dealers' Guns
Recovered Two Weeks
Later at Canadian
Crime Scenes**

1-Month Scheme



9 Crime Guns



2 Weeks to Crime

Dates	Indictment: April 2024 Guilty Plea: September 2024
Location of Purchases	Cincinnati, OH, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Cincinnati area, Ohio, U.S. (straw purchases) Canada and Detroit (firearms recovered in connection with crimes)
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	21 firearms, including 18 Glock pistols (various models) 2 Springfield Armory Hellcat 9mm pistols 1 Canik Century Arms TP9 Elite SC 9mm pistol
Results	In April 2024, Timothy Moorman of Cincinnati was indicted with charges related to straw purchasing firearms. Within a one-month period, Moorman allegedly straw purchased at least 21 guns from Cincinnati-area gun dealers and provided them to co-conspirators, who trafficked them elsewhere. At least nine of those firearms were recovered at Canadian crime scenes less than two weeks after Moorman's purchase. In February 2025, Moorman was sentenced to 12 months and 10 days in prison.
Sources	Press Release, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio, Grand jury indicts Cincinnati man who allegedly served as straw purchaser for at least 21 firearms (Apr. 10, 2024), https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/grand-jury-indicts-cincinnati-man-who-allegedly-served-straw-purchaser-least-21 . https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/68789355/united-states-v-moorman/

Canadian Criminals Buy Glock Handguns from Texas and Ohio Dealers



Dates	Indictment: June 2025
Location of Purchases	Texas, Ohio
Location of Alleged Crime	Michigan, Texas, Ohio
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	26 Glock handguns and 10 additional firearms
Results	Akeem Richards-Crawford, Dwayne Harrison, and Jannai Stewart were indicted in June 2025 for a conspiracy to obtain and traffic firearms and firearm magazines from the U.S. into Canada. In October 2023, Richards-Crawford and Harrison traveled from Canada to Michigan. Harrison then traveled to Houston, Texas, where he purchased fifteen guns, including Glock handguns, from unnamed seller(s). An unnamed co-conspirator bought additional Glock handguns in Ohio as well. In the early morning of October 26, 2023, the co-conspirators attempted to traffic 36 firearms, including 26 Glock handguns, from Michigan to Canada. Some traveled by jet ski over the Chenal Ecarté while others attempted to travel on land from Algonac, Michigan, but were intercepted by law enforcement.
Sources	Case: United States of America v. Richards-Crawford, et al, Docket No. 5:25-cr-20477 (E.D. Mich. Jun 25, 2025), indictment.

Ohio Trafficking Ring Sells Over 200 U.S. Guns to Canadian Buyers

Dates	Indictments: August and November 2020 Convictions: November 2021
Location of Purchases	Columbus, OH
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio, U.S. Used in crimes in multiple locations in Canada
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	200 firearms, including multiple guns made by Ruger Smith & Wesson Taurus Diamondback Tisas, and Glock
Results	In November 2021, 11 defendants were convicted in a conspiracy to smuggle at least 200 firearms from Ohio to Canada. Beginning in mid-2018, the defendants purchased the guns through straw buyers, stockpiled them, and trafficked them to Canada. As of November 2021, at least 10 of the co-conspirator guns were connected to crimes in Canada, all of which had a time-to-crime of under two years. Several of them had been outfitted with Glock conversion switches.
Sources	<i>United States of America v. Abdulwahab Sharif Mohamed Hassan, et al.</i> , # 2:20-cr-00209 (S.D. Ohio 2020); Press Release, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio (Nov. 5, 2021), https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/11-central-ohio-men-convicted-conspiring-illegally-smuggle-hundreds-guns-canada-profit

12 Ohio Gun Dealers Supplies Cross-Border Firearms Traffickers

Dates	Indictment: August 2018
Location of Purchases	Ohio, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	32 firearms manufactured by Ruger, Hi-Points, SCCY, Baretta, Kel-Tec, Rossi, Smith & Wesson, Charter Arms, Harrington and Richardson, and Taurus
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In August 2018, four Ohio and New York individuals were charged in a scheme to straw purchase, smuggle, and resell firearms from Ohio into Canada. The scheme lasted from at least January-April 2018, during which the group straw bought from at least 12 gun dealers in central Ohio.
Sources	<i>United States of America v. Jeremy Hearn, et al.</i> , # 2:18-cr-00182 (S.D. Ohio 2018); Press Release, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio, Ohio-to-Canada gun smuggling ringleader sentenced to prison (Sept. 30, 2019), https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdoh/pr/ohio-canada-gun-smuggling-ringleader-sentenced-prison .

Undercover Federal Agents Prevent Cleveland Men from Trafficking 91 Military-Grade Firearms to Mexico

Dates	Indictment: March 2025 Trial: Upcoming
Location of Purchases	Unknown
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio and Florida, U.S.
Key Sales	Sales to undercover agents beginning in 2021
Firearms Involved	90 rifles and one Mac-10-type machine gun
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: A pair of Cleveland men are facing charges for attempting to sell dozens of AR-15-style firearms to drug cartel members in Mexico, federal authorities announced this week. Yarquimedes Rodriguez Hilario, 32, and Adison Lopez-Ramirez, 34, sold and attempted to sell 90 rifles and one machine gun to undercover federal agents posing as Mexican cartel members, said prosecutors out of the Middle District of Florida. Pretrial motions continue (as of May 2026).
Sources	https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/two-cleveland-men-indicted-trying-send-firearms-drug-cartel-members-mexico https://apps.flmd.uscourts.gov/calendar/ceocalendar/3A33week2ceo.htm

Ohio ATF Seizes Military-Grade Firearms and Explosives Heading to Mexico

Dates	May 2025
Location of Purchases	Ohio
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio
Key Sales	Unknown
Firearms Involved	Ohio Ordnance Works M2 .50 caliber machine gun FN M240 7.6mm machine gun FN M249 5.56 light machine gun Barrett M82 .50 semi-automatic rifle
Results	On May 2, 2025, the Columbus Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives hosted a press conference to highlight weapons seized through their actions to stop the illegal flow of guns and ammunition to Mexico. According to local press reports, "Some of the weapons displayed by the Columbus ATF included: Ohio Ordnance M2 .50 caliber, FN M240 7.6mm, FN M249 5.56, and the Barrett M82 .50 semi-automatic rifle. Cartels rely on specific firearms, such as those large caliber ones, to facilitate, expand and protect their criminal enterprise, the ATF said."
Sources	https://cwcolumbus.com/news/local/atf-to-address-firearms-trafficking-to-mexico-in-upcoming-press-conference https://www.atf.gov/news/press-releases/atf-columbus-host-press-conference-combatting-firearms-trafficking-to-mexico

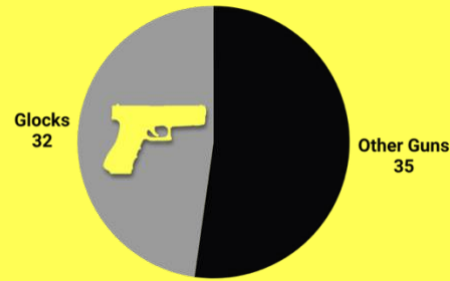
Straw Purchasers Attempt to Traffic Ohio Firearms to Canadian Buyers

Dates	Indictment: October 2023 Trial (Griffin): pled guilty in August 2024 Trial (Kone): pled guilty in November 2024
Location of Purchases	Columbus and Obetz, OH, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Toronto, Canada Pennsylvania, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	Ruger model LC9S 9mm pistol HS Produkt (IM Metal) brand, model XDS, 9 mm pistol Ruger model Security 9, 9 mm pistol, Smith and Wesson model SD9VE, 9 mm pistol one Glock model 23 Gen5, .40 caliber pistol, Taurus model PT709 Slim, 9 mm pistol Glock model 42, .380 caliber pistol Taurus model PT111G2A, 9 mm pistol Alex Pro Firearms, LLC, model APF-15, .556 caliber pistol 3 Romarm/CUGIR, model Micro Draco, .762 caliber pistols Glock model 43, 9 mm pistol 2 HS Produkt (IM Metal), model Hellcat, 9 mm pistols Glock GMBH, model 26GEN4, 9 mm pistol Glock GMBH, model 17, 9 mm pistol 3 Glock GMBH, model 27, .40 caliber pistols Glock GMBH, model 48, 9 mm pistol 2 Glock Inc. model 43, 9 mm pistols
Results	In October 2023, Ousmane Kone and Sema'j Anttwon Griffin were indicted for an alleged conspiracy to straw purchase guns in Ohio and sell them in Canada.
Sources	<i>United States of America v. Ousmane Kone and Sema'j Anttwon Griffin</i> , #2:23-cr-00210 (S.D. Ohio 2023); <i>Columbus men accused of buying guns in Ohio, selling in Canada</i> , ABC 6 on Your Side (Dec. 13, 2023) https://abc6onyourside.com/news/local/columbus-men-accused-of-buying-guns-in-ohio-selling-in-canada .

Former UN Employee Sells Ohio Guns to West African Criminals

Dates	Indictment: May 2023
Location of Purchases	Cleveland, Ohio area
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio, U.S. Ivory Coast
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	58 firearms including - Mossberg rifles - Henry rifles - Smith & Wesson rifles - Remington shotgun - CZ rifles - Beretta shotgun - Beretta pistols - Ruger rifles - Anschutz rifle - Glock pistols - DPMS rifle - Taurus revolvers
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In September 2025, Bile Jean Philippe Assemian, a former United Nations employee, was extradited from Kenya to the United States, where he is wanted in Ohio on charges related to the illegal trafficking of firearms from the U.S. to the Ivory Coast. Koffi Andrea Versaint Taregue was charged in the same indictment in May 2025. Assemian and Taregue purchased or caused to be purchased at least 58 firearms intended for trafficking to the Ivory Coast, including 17 weapons purchased in a single day on January 24, 2020.
Sources	Adam Ferrise, <i>Ex-United Nations employee extradited to Cleveland on gun smuggling charges</i>, Cleveland.com (Sept. 25, 2025) https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2025/09/ex-united-nations-employee-extradited-to-cleveland-on-gun-smuggling-charges.html. https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/70668140/5/united-states-v-taregue/

11 Guns from Michigan Trafficker Recovered at Canadian Crime Scenes



Dates	Indictment: October 2017 Trial: Jackson pled guilty in January 2019
Location of Purchases	Metropolitan Detroit area, Ann Arbor, and Port Huron, Michigan
Location of Alleged Crime	Michigan, U.S. Ontario, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	67 firearms, including 32 Glock handguns Glock 27 Glock 19 BEBR726, Glock GMBH 26GEN4 9 Pistol Glock GMBH 30S 45 Pistol, Taurus PT 140 Glock 30 Glock 19 Gen 4Taurus 709 Slim Glock 30S Glock 33 357 Pistol Ruger LC9 Ruger LCPII 380 Pistol HS Products (IM Metal) XD40 40 Pistol Sig Sauer P250 Springfield Armory XD Taurus PT 140 MIL G2 40 Pistol
Results	Randy Jackson, a U.S. citizen from Michigan, bought 67 guns from January-October 2017 to smuggle to Canada. He traveled to Canada on a weekly basis and purchased guns in the U.S. the day he crossed the border. Of the guns he smuggled into Canada, 32 were Glocks. At least 15 have since been recovered, including 11 recovered at Canadian crime scenes.
Sources	<i>United States of America v. Randy Jackson</i> , No. 2:22-cr-20208 (E.D. Mich. 2022); <i>Michigan vet pleads guilty to smuggling guns into Canada through NEXUS pass</i> , Fox 2 (Jan. 10, 2019), https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/michigan-vet-pleads-guilty-to-smuggling-guns-into-canada-through-nexus-pass .

Ontario Trafficking Network Linked to Murder of Canadian Law Enforcement Officer

Dates	Pled guilty in 2024, sentenced in 2025
Location of Purchases	Arizona, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Arizona, U.S. Toronto, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	87 firearms recovered, including one equipped with a machinegun conversion device
Results	Cynthia Solano pled guilty to Possession of a Machinegun and Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering. Working with a transnational trafficking organization, beginning in 2022 she engaged in money laundering and used the proceeds to assist in firearm purchases. In 2022, she drove a firearm purchased by straw buyer Andrew David Richardson from Arizona to Michigan, where it was trafficked into Canada. Randall McKenzie used the same gun later that year to kill Ontario Provincial Police Constable Greg Pierzchala. McKenzie was convicted of first-degree murder in 2025. Solano was laughter arrested in 2023 after being found trafficking 87 firearms to Michigan, intended for Canada. Solano worked with Syed Zaidi, who later pled guilty to firearms trafficking in Ontario.
Sources	https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/phoenix-woman-sentenced-87-months-prison-possession-machinegun-and-conspiracy-commit https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/how-the-murder-of-an-ontario-cop-traced-back-to-this-arizona-mom/article_23c16484-ed9d-447d-906f-59fdb3fd80c.html Case: USA v. Solano, Docket No. 2:23-cr-00408 (D. Ariz. Mar 15, 2023)

One U.S.-Sold Handgun Kills Two Canadian Teenagers

Dates	Indictment in 2014, judgement in 2016
Location of Purchases	Michigan
Location of Alleged Crime	Michigan, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	Taurus PT-740 Slim, and dozens of others
Results	In June 2014, Canadian citizen Jermaine M. Welsh straw purchased a Taurus PT-740 Slim, along with dozens of other firearms. That particular Taurus was smuggled across the Canadian border at Windsor, Ontario. The Taurus made its way to London, Ontario, where on June 14, 2015, it was used to murder 18-year-old Jeremy Cook. Jeremy tracked his lost phone to a parking lot and was shot twice upon confronting the men he suspected were responsible for its theft. The second shot to the chest killed him. After Cook's death, the firearm made its way to Toronto, where it was used in the accidental shooting of 14-year-old Lecent Ross on July 9, 2015. In the 15 months after being illegally purchased and illegally trafficked across international borders, one Brazilian-made but U.S.-sold gun took the lives of two Canadian teenagers.
Sources	https://globalnews.ca/news/8838422/one-illegal-handgun-two-deaths-tracing-the-path-of-the-aurus-pt-740-slim/ https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/jeremy-cook-second-degree-cellphone-1.4277000 https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/lecent-ross-death-teen-sentencing-1.4008190 Case: United States of America v. MacDougall, et al., Docket No. 2:14-cr-20756 (E.D. Mich. Nov 25, 2014), Court Docket

Canadian Student Mail Orders U.S. Firearms

Dates	Indictment: July 2024 Plea Agreement: July 2025 Sentenced: November 2025
Location of Purchases	Multiple locations in the U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Ontario, Canada Michigan, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple companies in the U.S.
Firearms Involved	3D Printed Glock pistols 2 Shotguns
Results	In January 2025, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) received information that Sarmad Rafi, a then 21-year-old university student from Ontario attempted to purchase 17 sear pins for fully automatic M16 weapons, military grade assault rifles, from a company in the United States and requested that the parts be shipped to a parcel pickup business called "SCC Parcel Pickup" in Port Huron, Michigan. From December 2023 to December 2024, Rafi sent and then retrieved 13 packages from the same parcel pickup business in Port Huron and brought them back to Canada often on the same day. Canadian authorities executed a search warrant of his residence in Ontario and seized a 3D printer, 3D printed Glocks, non-serialized AR-15 lower receivers, level IV body armor plates, three firearms, and high-capacity magazines for pistols with pins removed so the magazines could hold more than 10 rounds and magazines for rifles with capacity to hold 30 rounds. More than 2,000 rounds of ammunition for large rifle cartridges and two shotguns were recovered from Rafi's storage locker. Rafi confessed that he illegally exported weapons parts from Michigan to Canada to resell them to other individuals for a profit.
Sources	https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/69844349/united-states-v-rafi/

Grin and Barrett: Wisconsin Family Leads \$600,000 Cartel Trafficking Ring

Dates	Indictment: November 2021 Trials: Multiple trials with 8 individuals charged
Location of Purchases	Racine, Wisconsin
Location of Alleged Crime	Jalisco, Mexico Wisconsin, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	At least four Barrett .50 caliber rifles; \$600,000 worth of firearms
Results	In 2018, Racine, Wisconsin became a source of high caliber weapons for one of Mexico's violent gangs, the Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG). A local family, along with a cousin in Mexico, provided guns to the CJNG including to leader Nemesio Oseguera "El Mencho." The investigation was called "Grin and Barrett" after the Barrett .50 caliber rifles that were among the weapons trafficked from Racine to Mexico. In under a year, traffickers brought over \$600,000 worth of military-style firearms to Mexico. These included four Barrett .50 calibers purchased from one gun dealer in under six months, when the same store typically sold one or less in a single year. Legal proceedings continue.
Sources	https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/mexico-usa-guns/ https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/66865810/united-states-v-cisneros-hernandez/

Wisconsin Military Rifle Used by Cartel to Fight Mexican Law Enforcement

Dates	Indictment: September 2021
Location of Purchases	Wisconsin, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Wisconsin, U.S. Mexico
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	25+ firearms, including a .50 caliber rifle recovered in Mexico
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In March 2021, Roland Munoz, a fugitive since his indictment in September 2021, was arrested in March 2025. Munoz was indicted for trafficking guns from Wisconsin to other U.S. states and to Mexican cartels. Among the firearms trafficked by Munoz's conspiracy was a .50 caliber rifle recovered in Mexico after an armed encounter between Mexican law enforcement and the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación.
Sources	Press release, United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, FUGITIVE FIREARMS TRAFFICKER CAPTURED IN MEXICO AS PART OF OPERATION RIPSAN (Mar. 5, 2025) https://www.justice.gov/usao-edwi/pr/fugitive-firearms-trafficker-captured-mexico-part-operation-ripsaw .

Wisconsin Man Sells U.S.-Origin Firearms to Middle East

Dates	Indictment: February 2025
Location of Purchases	Wisconsin U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Wisconsin, U.S. Saudi Arabia
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	Multiple firearms including 2 Smith & Wesson handgun receivers and rifles.
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: Mark John Buschman of Viroqua, Wisconsin, was indicted for allegedly selling firearms to buyers in Saudi Arabia. According to the indictment, Buschman illegally sold firearms to Saudi Arabia for five years between 2019-2024 and often removed the serial numbers from the firearms before shipment. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, “Court documents indicate that serial numbers from some of the firearms and firearms parts were removed before he shipped the items. The defendant then prepared the items further before shipping them by concealing the firearms and firearm parts inside of common household appliances and tools such as toasters, coffee makers, space heaters, fans, and landscaping edge trimmers. For example, the defendant concealed rifle barrels in items such as car axles, and smaller pistols inside of toasters.”
Sources	Press release, United States Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs, Wisconsin Man Indicted for Selling and Smuggling Firearms to Buyers in Saudi Arabia (Feb. 4, 2025) https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/wisconsin-man-indicted-selling-and-smuggling-firearms-buyers-saudi-arabia.

Manitoba Man Steals Minnesota Firearms

Dates	Indictment: April 2026 Trials: Upcoming
Location of Purchases	To be determined
Location of Alleged Crime	Manitoba, Canada Minnesota, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	Reported stolen from a gun show in Minnesota: 1 Taurus Judge revolver Recovered at the suspect's home: 5 pistols 2 rifles
Results	On April 15, 2026, Canadian authorities executed a search warrant at the home of Wilfred Kachurowski, 73, accused of stealing a handgun from a Minnesota gun show. According to the RCMP press release dated April 22, 2026: "Seven firearms were recovered, at least two of which were identified as being stolen from the United States. None of the firearms were stored in compliance with regulations and several firearms were loaded. [Kachurowski] has been charged with seven firearms- and gun smuggling-related offences, including: • Weapons trafficking; • Importing weapons knowing they are unauthorized; • Possession of a firearm when knowing possession is unauthorized. • Unauthorized possession of a firearm; • Unauthorized possession of a prohibited weapon; • Possession of a restricted firearm; and • Unsafe storage of firearms."
Sources	https://rcmp.ca/en/manitoba/news/2026/04/4352401

Minnesota Border Patrol Agents Find 67-Gun Stash on Canadian Border

Dates	Indictment: May 2024
Location of Purchases	Unknown
Location of Alleged Crime	Neché, North Dakota, USA
Key Sales	Unknown
Firearms Involved	65 handguns 65 pistol magazines 2 rifles 1 suppressor 2 rifle magazines
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In May 2024, after spotting individuals running across the border from Minnesota to Canada, U.S. Border Patrol agents, assisted by K9 unit, located three abandoned backpacks containing 65 handguns, 65 pistol magazines, 2 rifles, a suppressor, and 2 rifle magazines. The guns were discovered in Neche, North Dakota about 15 miles west of the Minnesota border.
Sources	<i>K-9 helps Border Patrol sniff out firearm stash in North Dakota</i> , Fox (May 29, 2024), https://www.fox9.com/news/border-patrol-finds-stash-65-guns-northern-mn .

Minnesota Trooper Finds 67 Guns Bound for Canada During Traffic Stop

Dates	Indictment: January 2021 Trial: Defendants pled guilty in 2021
Location of Purchases	Unknown, likely Florida and Texas
Location of Crime	Fergus Falls, Minnesota, U.S.
Key Sales	Straw purchases in Florida
Firearms Involved	67 firearms and numerous magazines, including 15 high-capacity magazines
Results	In January 2021, Canadians Muzamil Aden Addow and Dayne Adrian Sitladeen were stopped by a Minnesota State Patrol Trooper. During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered 67 firearms and numerous pistol magazines, including 15 high-capacity pistol magazines, including one which was partially loaded with live ammunition rounds. Both men were wanted for violent crimes in Canada and had used false identification to travel to Florida, purchase the firearms from straw buyers, and traffic them back to Canada to sell for profit.
Sources	United States of America v. Muzamil Aden Addow, Dayne Adrian Sitladeen. Case No. 0:21-cr-00035 (D. Mich. 2021); Press Release, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Canadian Citizen Sentenced to 68 Months in Prison for Aiding and Abetting Illegal Possession of Firearms (Dec. 14, 2021), https://www.atf.gov/news/press-releases/canadian-citizen-sentenced-68-months-prison-aiding-and-abetting-illegal-possession-firearms

Illinois Police Officers Caught Trafficking U.S. Firearms to Mexican Cartels

Dates	Indictment: September 2025 Trial (Rodriguez): Upcoming. Status hearing is July 28, 2026. Trial (Valdez): pled guilty in June 2026.
Location of Purchases	Dyer, Indiana, U.S. Monee, Illinois, U.S.
Location of Alleged Crime	Illinois, U.S.
Key Sales	Purchases of firearms with intent to traffic
Firearms Involved	Valhalla model WLA15A, 5.56 mm rifle Valhalla model M4E1, 5.56mm pistol
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In September 2025, police officer Kevin Rodriguez and his accomplice Diego Valdez were indicted for conspiring to straw purchase firearms and traffic them to Mexico. In September 2024, Rodriguez allegedly used his status as a police officer to purchase a Valhalla model WLA15A, 5.56 mm rifle (serial number WAL01242) and a Valhalla model M4E1, 5.56mm pistol (serial number M4-0358413), both of which he transferred to Valdez. Valdez trafficked both guns to Mexico on December 4, 2024.
Sources	Press release, United States Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois, Federal Indictment Charges Chicago Police Officer with Conspiring to "Straw Purchase" Firearms on Behalf of Acquaintance (Sept. 24, 2025) https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/federal-indictment-charges-chicago-police-officer-conspiring-straw-purchase-firearms ; <i>U.S.A. v. Rodriguez</i> , No. 1:25-cr-00585 (filed Sept. 18, 2025), indictment.

Trafficker Uses Mohawk Territory to Avoid U.S.-Canada Law Enforcement

Dates	Indictment: May 2024
Location of Purchases	Unknown
Location of Alleged Crime	Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
Key Sales	Unknown
Firearms Involved	26 illegal handguns 2 illegal assault-style rifles 37 boxes of ammunition 20 prohibited overcapacity magazines 74 magazines 1 Glock upper receiver
Results	In May 2024 in Cornwall, Ontario (close to the borders of New York State and Quebec) a law enforcement team investigating gun trafficking from the United States conducted a vehicle stop and seized 26 illegal handguns, 2 illegal assault-style rifles, 37 boxes of ammunition, 20 prohibited overcapacity magazines, 74 magazines, and 1 Glock upper receiver. Johnson was charged in Ontario with 28 counts of possession for the purpose of weapons trafficking, 28 counts of possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized, 28 counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, 5 counts of possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition, 4 counts of contravention of transportation regulations, 1 count of unauthorized possession of a weapon, and 4 counts of unauthorized possession in a motor vehicle.
Sources	<i>Akwesasne man faces 126 charges for alleged gun smuggling through Mohawk territory</i> , The Gazette (May 29, 2024), https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-crime/akwesasne-man-faces-126-charges-for-alleged-gun-smuggling-through-mohawk-territory/

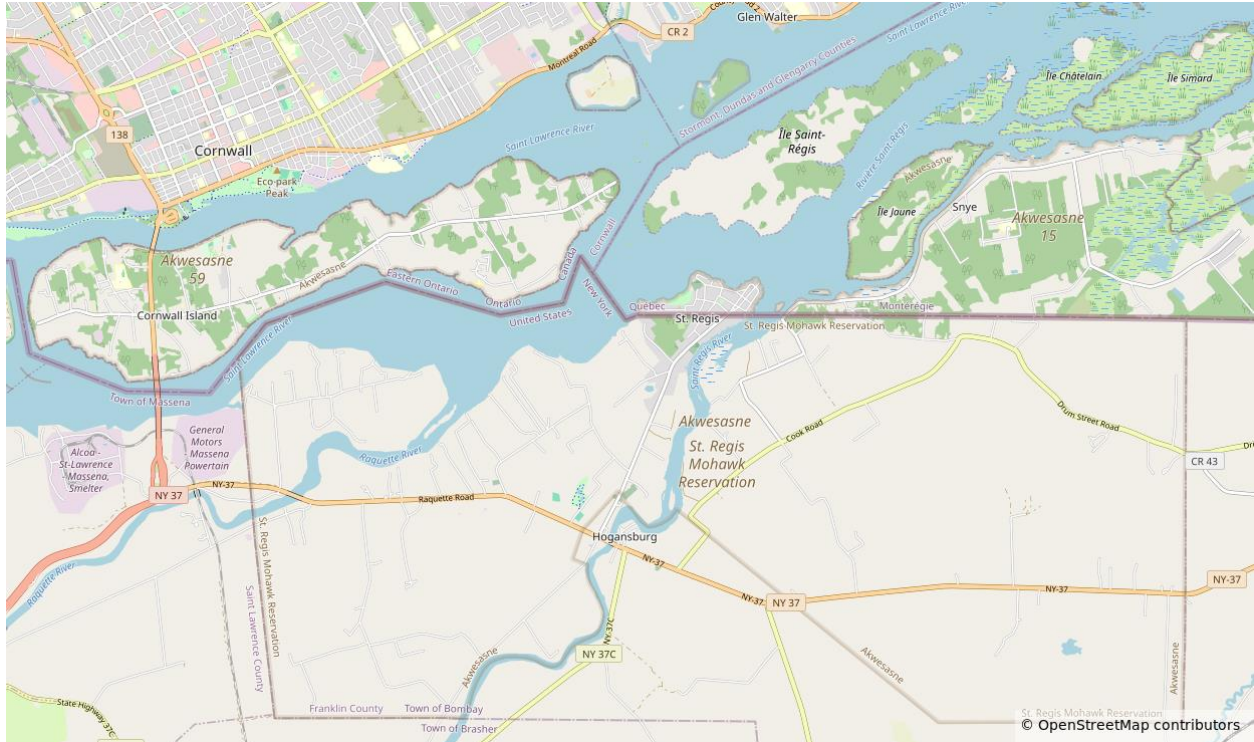


Figure 11-Map showing Akwesasne Reservation and US-Canada border (openstreetmap.org)

Toronto Trafficker Smuggles Texas Guns Through Akwesasne Reservation

Dates	Trial: Pled guilty June 2024
Location of Purchases	Dallas, Texas
Location of Alleged Crime	New York, U.S.
Key Sales	Unknown
Firearms Involved	28 Firearms
Results	In April 2023, Saybundith Sithivong of Canada travelled from Toronto to Dallas, Texas to acquire 28 firearms. Sithivong then drove from Texas to northern New York to transport the firearms into Canada illegally via the Akwesasne Mohawk Indian Reserve. Once there, he oversaw the transfer of the firearms to another vehicle destined for Canada via an unguarded road on the reservation.
Sources	United States of America v. Saybundith Sithivong, Case No. 8:24-cr-00225 (N.D.N.Y. 2024).

New York Police Make 89-Gun Trafficking Bust at Traffic Stop

Dates	Indictment: May 2026 Trial: Upcoming
Location of Purchases	To be determined
Location of Alleged Crime	Liberty, New York, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple purchases including stolen firearms
Firearms Involved	89 firearms of various types, 17 of which were stolen. Firearms included: • Glock 27 40 caliber handgun • Glock 23 40 caliber handgun • Glock 26 9mm handgun • Anderson AM15 223 caliber rifle • Smith & Wesson MP-15 223 caliber rifle • Taurus PT111 Millennium G2 9mm handgun • Glock 19 9mm handgun • Smith and Wesson SD9 9mm handgun • Smith & Wesson M&P 40 Shield 40 caliber handgun
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In May 2026, U.S. authorities arrested Malik Bromfield, Faizan Ali, and Kamal Salman after a traffic stop in New York state. Following a canine detection of narcotics on the vehicle's exterior, a search of the interior discovered a large cache of weapons (89 firearms of various types), which authorities believe were being trafficked from the U.S. into Canada, plus \$3,000 in \$100 bills.
Sources	https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/media/1440191/dl https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/new-york-weapons-smuggling-firearms-arrest-charges-9.7194045 https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/three-men-charged-attempted-smuggling-89-firearms

Online Seller Sends AR-15 Kit to Montreal Trafficker in New York Motel

Dates	Sentenced in February 2020
Location of Purchases	Lake George, NY
Location of Alleged Crime	New York, U.S.
Key Sales	Online purchases delivered to New York
Firearms Involved	Pistol kits
Results	In February 2020 Luc Emond of Montreal, Canada, was sentenced to 10 months in prison for attempting to smuggle pistol kits, one of which was an AR-15 kit, into Canada. Edmond ordered the kits online and had them delivered to a motel in New York, from where he hid the kits in his car and attempted to illegally traffic them into Canada.
Sources	Press Release, United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York, Montreal Man Sentenced for Attempting to Smuggle Firearms Parts into Canada (Feb. 19, 2020), https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndny/pr/montreal-man-sentenced-attempting-smuggle-firearms-parts-canada .

Trafficker Mails Firearms to Canada Through the U.S. Postal Service

Dates	Indictment: July 2024 Trial: Upcoming
Location of Purchases	Saint Marys, Pennsylvania
Location of Alleged Crime	British Columbia, Canada Pennsylvania, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	7 Glock pistols
Results	The indictment includes the following allegations: In July 2024, Gary James Murray of Saint Marys, PA was indicted for trafficking firearms to British Columbia. The indictment includes the following allegations: Murray communicated with buyers in Canada via Telegram, purchased 7 Glock handguns in Pennsylvania, disassembled them, concealed the parts in household objects, and mailed them to Canada by USPS and UPS. He provided the buyers with instructions on how to reassemble the guns upon receipt and received payment on CashApp in exchange for the trafficked guns. Based on court documents filed in the case, Murray straw purchased from Dunham's Sports and Elk County Ammo and Arms – both FFLs in Saint Marys. Pretrial motions continue (as of May 2026).
Sources	https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdpa/pr/saint-marys-resident-charged-conspiring-traffic-illegal-firearms-canada https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/68950708/united-states-v-murray/Northwest Pa. man charged with using mail to smuggle guns into Canada

Florida and Georgia Firearms Found in Cross-Border Gun Bust

Dates	Indictment: April 2024 Guilty Plea: May 2025
Location of Purchases	Florida, Georgia, and other locations
Location of Alleged Crime	Pennsylvania, U.S.
Key Sales	Multiple purchases
Firearms Involved	Glock pistols 2 fully automatic weapons
Results	In April 2024, Durante King-Mclean, Prasath Paramalingam, and Archit Grover, of Ontario, Canada, as well as Jalisa Edwards of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, were charged in relation to a conspiracy to traffic firearms to Canada. In September 2023, King-Mclean was stopped by state police in Pennsylvania, after which officers found firearms in the vehicle and King-Mclean fled on foot. Sixty-five guns, a majority Glocks, were found in the vehicle, including 2 fully automatic weapons, 11 stolen weapons, and 1 with an obliterated serial number. The weapons were allegedly intended to be trafficked into Canada. Many of the weapons were purchased in Florida and Georgia.
Sources	<i>United States of America v. Durante King-Mclean, et al.</i> , # 1:24-cr-00096, (M.D. Pa. 2024); Press Release, United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Four Individuals Indicted on Charges Related to Attempted International Arms Trafficking (Apr. 16, 2024) https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdpa/pr/four-individuals-indicted-charges-related-attempted-international-arms-trafficking .

Dealer Sells 75 Guns to Trafficker

6-Month Scheme



92 Guns Sold



7 Days to Crime

Dates

Pled guilty in 2022, sentenced in 2023

Location of Purchases

Texas

Location of Alleged Crime

Texas, Maryland, Canada

Key Sales

Multiple purchases

Firearms Involved

92+ firearms purchased, of which 87 were handguns

Results

Between 2019 to 2021, Demontre Hackworth straw purchased at least 92 firearms, 75 of which he bought from a single federal firearms licensee (Triggernometry Arms, LLC) over only six months in 2021. As of Hackworth's 2022 indictment, 16 of those firearms had been recovered at crime scenes in Texas, Maryland, and Canada. The first firearm was recovered at a crime scene a mere seven days after purchase. The crimes likewise varied from homicide, to aggravated assault, to drug trafficking. One high profile crime was committed with a firearm straw purchased by Hackworth: the murder of Kiér Laprí Kartier, a 21-year-old Black transgender woman in Arlington, Texas. Four of Hackworth's unlawful guns were recovered at crime scenes in Canada, though the details of those incidents are not publicly available.

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Project SAFE & Project PISTACHIO

Successive operations by London Ontario investigators seized over 150 guns in a 6-month period

- **70 individuals charged**
- **Approximately 150 guns seized**
- **\$8 million in seized drugs**

Dates	Project Pistachio Announcement February 2023 Project SAFE announcement April 2023
Location of Purchases	Ohio
Location of Alleged Crime	Ohio; New York, U.S London, Ontario, Canada
Key Sales	Multiple straw purchases
Firearms Involved	Handguns and long guns
Results	70 individuals arrested and charged for over 550 offenses across both investigations 24 firearms seized (Project Pistachio) 26 firearms seized (Project SAFE) 100 additional firearms traced and confiscated across both investigations
Sources	Marshall Healy, 550 charges laid in months-long London, Ont. police investigation into illegal guns, Global News (Jul. 27, 2023) https://globalnews.ca/news/9861047/550-charges-london-police-investigation-illegal-guns/ Jane Sims, 'Never again': London gun-smuggling mastermind gets 14 years, The London Free Press (Jan. 27, 2025) https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/london-gun-smuggling-mastermind-sentenced-to-prison Jane Sims, Londoner who helped smuggle 150 guns into Canada gets 7 1/2 years, The London Free Press (Aug. 17, 2026) https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/londoner-who-helped-smuggle-150-guns-into-canada-gets-7-1-2-years London Police Service, 2023 Edition London Police Service Annual Report, London Ontario: London Police Service (Jun. 19, 2024) https://www.londonpolice.ca/media/xdwavbu0/2023-annual-report-finalv.pdf

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