

OSP Firearms Background Check Program - Statistics from 2012-2013

From the Oregon Senate Judiciary Hearing on SB 1551 - Feb 6, 2014

Testimony by: Tricia Whitfield, Director, Oregon State Police (OSP) Identification Services Section

OSP Firearms Background Check Unit Stats

- 2012: 256,988 approvals and 2,525 denied transactions
- 2013: 261,132 approvals and 2,151 denied transactions

Records retention for Firearms Background Checks (*select testimony*)

- By statute we are allowed to retain the information for up to 5 years for all the transactions
- We are currently maintaining the information for up to 5 years for denied transactions
- We keep the information on approved transactions for 10 days - after 10 days the information is "purged" - the exception to that is if the initial check indicated there was a potential prohibitor prior to being ultimately approved, and it requires research (out of state, etc.), those records are kept for up to 5 years so they don't have to go through the research again.
- Consistent trend: 3% to 6% of transactions are pended due to incomplete information
- Sen. Prozanski: "If a sale goes through with no problems, no flags, basically within 10 days those records are purged, meaning they are no longer in existence?"
- Tricia Whitfield: "Sen. Prozanski, correct."
- Sen. Close mentioned a Jan 28th email to Tricia Whitfield where Sen. Close asked how many of those denied transactions are prosecuted.
- Tricia Whitfield replied via email that there is an Oregon statute that prevents using information from the background check for anything other than the background check process itself.
- Tricia Whitfield, responding to another question: That's correct, we don't know how many are prosecuted. As part of the process, we are required to report any denied transactions to the national "Instacheck" system at the FBI [NICS], who then notify the ATF. The ATF regulates firearms. I don't have any information about the number of prosecutions, that's correct.

Stolen gun check stats (in addition to the background checks)

- 2012: 13,421 checks 117 hits (stolen)
- 2013: 17,116 checks 99 hits (stolen)
- No idea on number of those hits that were prosecuted/returned either - OSP Identification Services Section notifies OSP dispatch

Reference

- [National Instant Criminal Background Check System](#) (NICS)
- [Oregon Firearms Instant Check System](#) (FICS)