

FOR THE RECORD: **NICS & PUBLIC SAFETY**

Each year, more than 114,000 people are shot in the United States, 33,000 of them fatally. Worse yet, we know too many of these tragedies are preventable. The National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, helps keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people—one of the most effective ways of preventing deadly shootings.

WHAT IS NICS?

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System, known as NICS, is one of the most important tools we have in the fight against gun violence. This powerful, necessary set of databases helps stop more than 100,000 prohibited purchasers from buying guns from licensed dealers every year. Unfortunately, far too many others slip through the cracks due to missing or incomplete background check records, often with deadly consequences.

STRENGTHENING THE BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

Improving the number and quality of records sent to NICS must be a top priority for lawmakers in every state in order to ensure the background check system is as thorough as possible. *For the Record: NICS & Public Safety* explores what NICS is, how it works, and why this system is so essential to safeguarding our communities.

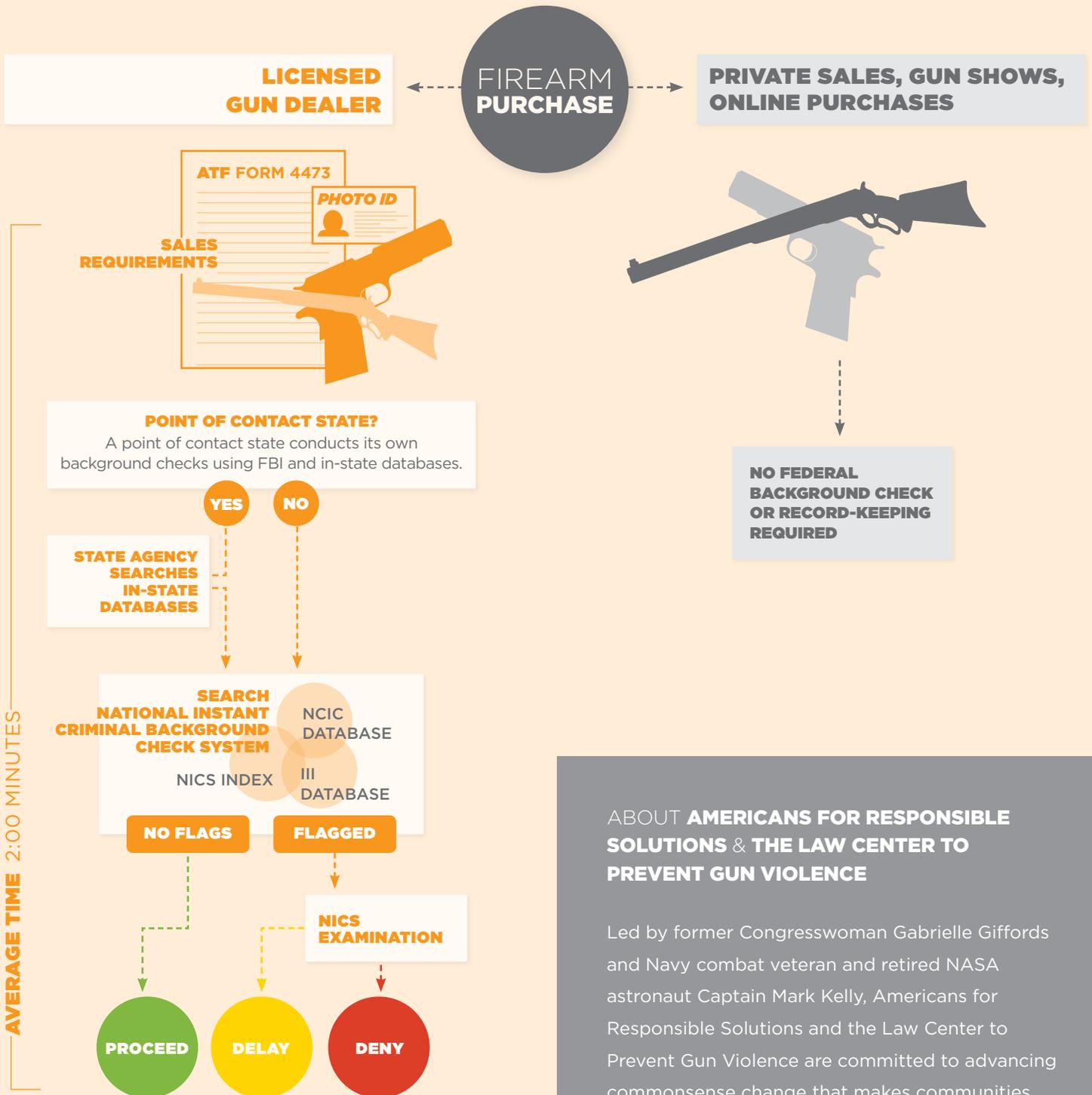
By examining existing gaps in federal law and record-reporting challenges at the state level, we can better understand how to strengthen this critical system. Background checks can and do stop the flow of guns to dangerous people, but NICS must be properly maintained and strengthened to maximize its lifesaving potential.

NUMBER OF ILLEGAL GUN SALES
STOPPED BY BACKGROUND CHECKS

2.8 MILLION

SINCE 1993

THE NICS PROCESS



ABOUT AMERICANS FOR RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS & THE LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates at the federal, state, and local levels to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in critical firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

responsiblesolutions.org
smartgunlaws.org

EMAIL info@responsiblesolutions.org
media@smartgunlaws.org