

Executive Summary

FIREARM PURCHASER LICENSING: RESEARCH EVIDENCE TO INFORM STATE POLICY

Firearm purchaser licensing (FPL) laws (sometimes referred to as permit-to-purchase) require an individual to obtain a license through an application process before purchasing a firearm. They are among the most effective policies at reducing gun violence. FPL laws create robust mechanisms of accountability among both prospective gun owners and sellers to ensure that those disqualified from firearm ownership can't legally obtain a gun.

This report compiles existing research to inform state policy. It includes an overview of state FPL laws and recommends core components of FPL laws to maximize public health benefits. These recommendations pertain to:



Proof of firearms
safety training



Fingerprinting



In-person step



Comprehensive
background
check



Waiting periods

Research Evidence That Informs Policy Solutions

FPL laws are associated with significant reductions in multiple forms of firearm violence including homicide, suicide, and shootings by police.

More specifically research shows that FPL laws are associated with:

- ✓ Reducing firearm homicides in urban areas
- ✓ Reducing mass shootings
- ✓ Preventing guns from being diverted to criminal use
- ✓ Protecting law enforcement

Public Polling Nationally

The majority of adults support firearm purchaser licensing laws regardless of gun ownership or political party affiliation.

72%
Americans overall
support FPL laws

