Inspections of Firearms Sellers Under the White House's 2021 Zero Tolerance Policy

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The Biden Administration announced in June 2021 that it would ramp up inspections of licensed firearm sellers as part of a wider gun control and public safety strategy. The White House touted the increased inspections, explaining that it wanted to "crack down on rogue gun dealers" and had "zero tolerance" for them.

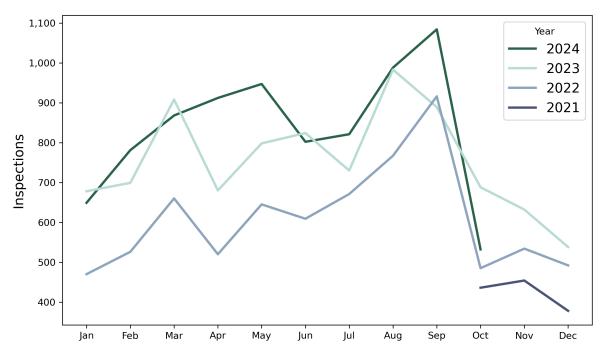
Here, I quickly explore limited publicly available inspection data that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives launched on its website soon after the White House announced its strategy.

The Number of Inspections Grew from 2022 to 2024

The number of ATF inspections increased each year.

ATF inspections also have seasonality. The ATF inspected firearms sellers the most during late summers.

Figure 1



The Number of Inspections Varied by Field Office

Figure 2

ATE Inspections by Field Office Oct 2021 - Oct 2024

ATF Inspections by Field Office, Oct 2021 – Oct 2024								
Columbus 2731	Detroit 778	Philadelp 615		Baltimore 465 Los Angeles 471		Newark 238 St. Paul New York 422 350		
	Denver 811	New Orle 629	ans	Atlanta 575	Wash 5	ington 19	Seattle 501	
Kansas City 2991 Dallas 3139	Miami 827	Louis 729		San Francisco 718		N	Nashville 708	
	Charlotte 1125		Boston 1115			Tampa 1010		
	Houston 1873		Phoenix 1495			Chicago 1159		

Inspection Results Also Varied by Field Office

Figure 3

ATF Warnings by Field Office, Oct 2021 – Oct 2024

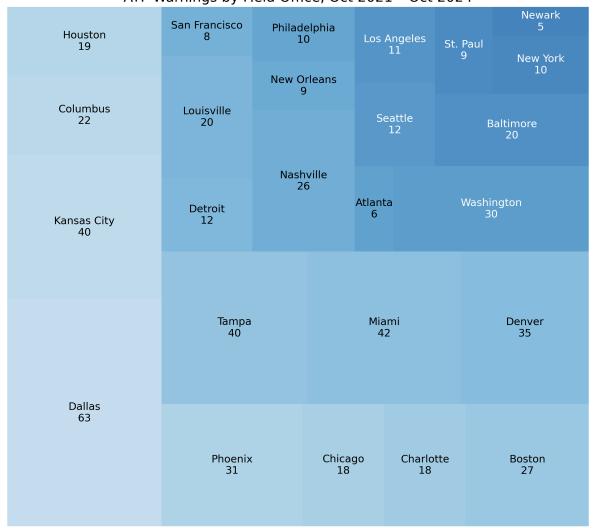


Figure 4

ATF Revoked Licenses by Field Office, Oct 2021 - Oct 2024

