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

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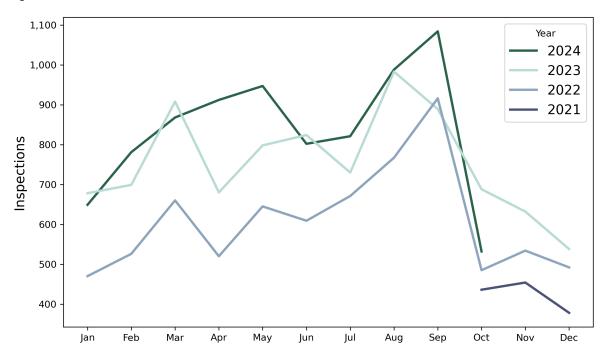
The Biden Administration announced in June 2021 that it would ramp up inspections of licensed firearms-sellers as part of a wider gun control and public safety strategy. The White House touted the increased inspections, explaining that it wanted to "crack down on rogue gun dealers" and had "zero tolerance"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

Here, I briefly explore limited publicly available inspection data. The Bureau of Alcohol, To-bacco, Firearms and Explosives, which conducts the inspections, launched these data on its website soon after the White House's announcement.

### The Number of Inspections Grew from 2022 to 2024

The number of ATF inspections grew each year. Figure 1 shows this increase, accounting for seasonal patterns. The ATF inspected firearms sellers (known as Federal Firearms Licensees) the most during late summers.

Figure 1.



#### The Number of Inspections Varied by Field Office

Dallas, Kansas City and Columbus—cities in the south and midwest—had the most inspections over the full period of data (Figures 2 and 3). Field offices in the west and northeast tended to have fewer inspections. These differences are likely because ATF field offices receive more funding when they have more licensees in their area.

Figure 2.

ATF Inspections by Office, Oct 2021 - Oct 2024 Newark 238 Detroit Philadelphia 778 615 St. Paul New York Columbus 2,731 471 Denver **New Orleans** Washington 519 Seattle 501 Atlanta 811 629 575 Miami Louisville San Francisco Nashville Kansas City 827 708 729 718 2,991 Charlotte **Boston** Tampa 1,125 1,115 1,010 Dallas 3,139 Houston Phoenix Chicago 1,873 1,495 1,159

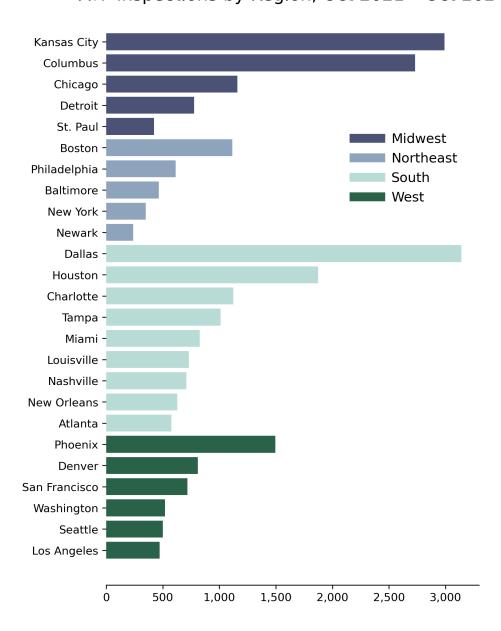
Figure 3.

ATF Inspections by Region, Oct 2021 - Oct 2024 Northeast 2,783 Midwest 8,081 West 4,515 South 10,615

Looking at offices by region in Figure 4 shows more offices in the south than the other regions.

Figure 4.

ATF Inspections by Region, Oct 2021 – Oct 2024



## Inspection Results Also Varied by Field Office

Field offices that issued the most warnings and revoked the most licenses (Figures 5 and 6) were similar to those that had the most inspections (Figure 2). These similarities suggest that so-called rogue gun dealers are not concentrated in or attracted to any particular area.

Figure 5.

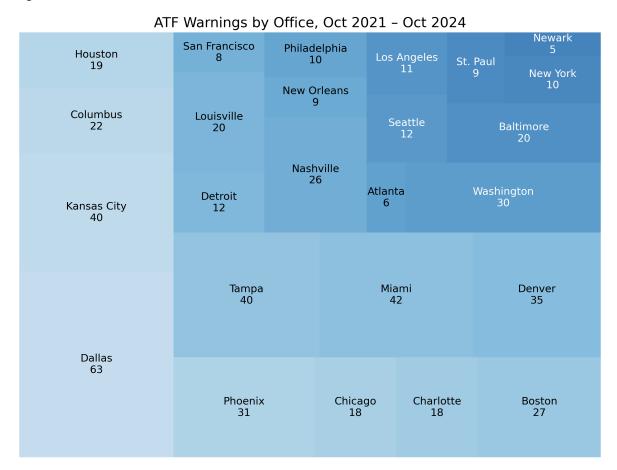


Figure 6.

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

