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Table 2. Number of applications and denials, by type of agency and type of check, 1999 - 2008

Type of checks conducted	2008			1999-2008 ^a		
	Applications	Denials	Percent denied	Applications	Denials	Percent denied
National total (FIST and FBI)	9,900,711	147,080	1.5 %	84,340,362	1,463,940	1.7 %
FBI total	5,813,249	70,725	1.2 %	48,159,005	680,905	1.4 %
State and local total (FIST) ^b	4,087,462	76,355	1.9 %	36,181,357	783,035	2.2 %
State agencies						
Total	3,551,936	63,051	1.8 %	30,974,930	668,222	2.2 %
Instant checks ^c	2,395,133	42,546	1.8	21,520,780	504,814	2.3
Purchase permits ^d	361,373	9,648	2.7	3,202,911	75,936	2.4
Exempt carry permits ^e	323,722	6,053	1.9	2,098,762	43,426	2.1
Other approvals ^f	471,708	4,804	1.0	4,152,477	44,046	1.1
Local agencies^g						
Total	766,293	13,304	1.7 %	6,207,965	114,813	1.8 %
Purchase permits ^d	367,719	7,930	2.2	3,824,049	81,436	2.1
Exempt carry permits ^e	334,577	4,855	1.5	1,865,517	29,137	1.6
Other approvals ^f	63,997	519	0.8	518,399	4,240	0.8

^aTotals for the 10-year period include December 1998.

^bAgencies that conduct exempt carry permit checks in Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, and Wyoming request an FBI background check, but the state agency makes the decision to approve or deny an applicant. Applications in these states are included in FBI checks but denials are included in state and local checks, causing a reduction of FIST total applications by 230,767 in 2008 and by 1,001,538 for 1999 to 2008.

^cInstant check requires a seller to transmit a buyer's application to a checking agency by telephone or computer; the agency is required to respond immediately or as soon as possible.

^dPurchase permit systems require a buyer to obtain, after a background check, a government-issued document such as a permit, license, or identification card that must be presented to a seller in order to receive a firearm.

^eExempt carry permit is a state concealed weapons permit, issued after a background check, that exempts the holder from a new check at the time of purchase under an ATF ruling or state law.

^fOther approval systems require a seller to transmit an application to a checking agency, with transfers delayed until a waiting period expires or the agency completes a check.

^gTotals were estimated. See **Methodology** for more detail.