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# Appendix V: GAO Contact and Staff Acknowledgments

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## GAO Contact

Gretta L. Goodwin, (202) 512-8777, [GoodwinG@gao.gov](mailto:GoodwinG@gao.gov)

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## Staff Acknowledgments

In addition to the contact named above Eric Erdman, Assistant Director, and Andrew Curry, Analyst-in-Charge, managed this assignment. Winchee Lin, John Hocker, Billy Commons, Dominick M. Dale, Michele C. Fejfar, Eric D. Hauswirth, and John Yee made significant contributions to the work.

Ms. Gretta L. Goodwin

denials. The New NICS will provide a better mechanism in which to capture and track incoming fax responses. Also in New NICS, the FBI can monitor, on an annual basis, the prohibiting categories for delayed denial transactions and take action, as necessary, to work with DOJ entities and states to improve timely completion of transactions.

However, as the FBI advised GAO, although New NICS reporting capabilities should enable the FBI to learn the number of delayed denials for each prohibiting category(ies), it may not be truly representative of the prohibiting category(ies) causing the most delay. For example, if a transaction is delayed based on potential disqualifying information related to prohibiting categories 2 and 8, and information to deny on prohibiting category 2 is received first, the subject is denied firearm possession based on category 2. The statistics would therefore reveal that category 2 was the delay in the transaction when in actuality category 8 would have caused a longer delay. Therefore, the statistics may not be truly representative of the prohibiting categories causing the most delay when more than one potential prohibiting category exists for a transaction.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report. We look forward to GAO closing the recommendation the FBI has agreed to implement.

Sincerely yours,



Stephen L. Morris  
Assistant Director  
Criminal Justice Information  
Services Division

# Appendix IV: Comments from the Department of Justice



U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarksburg, WV 26306

June 17, 2016

Ms. Gretta L. Goodwin  
Acting Director  
Homeland Security and Justice Issues  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) draft report entitled *GUN CONTROL: Analyzing Available Data Could Help Improve Gun Checks Involving Domestic Violence Records* (GAO-16-483). The FBI's planned actions to address the recommendation are outlined below:

**Recommendation:** To help the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Section achieve its mission to enhance national security and public safety by providing the timely and accurate determination of a person's eligibility to possess firearms, we recommend that the Director of the FBI monitor NICS check outcomes for specific categories of prohibited individuals to assess timeliness and provide this information to other DOJ entities for use in establishing priorities and tools to assist states in submitting more complete records for use during NICS checks.

**FBI's response:** The FBI agrees with the recommendation. The FBI plans to implement New NICS in the near future as the replacement system for its current NICS. The New NICS will provide new capabilities and functionality to make NICS transaction processing more efficient and accurate and to provide enhanced reporting capabilities. In its New NICS, the FBI will include the capability to produce reports that will include, among other things, how long delayed denial transactions are taking to complete and the prohibiting categories for the delayed

**Appendix III: Protection Orders in the National  
Crime Information Center Protection Order File  
for States, District of Columbia, and  
Territories, 2006 through 2015**

<b>State</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
	Brady	5	0	174	789	232	0	0	3	2	2
Wyoming	Total	961	1074	1033	1299	1155	1066	998	939	897	1011
	Brady	579	574	619	781	688	644	615	628	583	718
<b>Total Protection Orders</b>		<b>721914</b>	<b>781463</b>	<b>892307</b>	<b>818617</b>	<b>864378</b>	<b>816180</b>	<b>818353</b>	<b>793652</b>	<b>843744</b>	<b>907300</b>

**Legend:**

Total = Total protection orders active during the year

Brady = Total protection orders with a disqualifying Brady Indicator. The Brady Indicator flags protection orders related to domestic violence that prohibit the individual from receiving or possessing firearms under federal law.

Source: GAO analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation data. | GAO-16-483

Note: The data only include protection orders that were active at some point during the calendar year, including protection orders that expired or were subsequently cancelled.

**Appendix III: Protection Orders in the National  
Crime Information Center Protection Order File  
for States, District of Columbia, and  
Territories, 2006 through 2015**

State	Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nevada	Total	1	1	8	19	15	43	52	36	30	48
	Brady	0	0	7	8	9	10	22	18	18	39
New York	Total	57195	57933	55813	77576	75967	78545	77670	82211	148427	153636
	Brady	43469	35415	26038	36775	32746	31116	30392	25085	45427	75868
Ohio	Total	35447	37100	38938	38411	37748	34784	32574	31167	29204	28261
	Brady	20472	21134	21583	21809	21605	20907	19865	18933	17459	17837
Oklahoma	Total	1456	1794	1458	2162	2117	1652	1643	1974	1738	2321
	Brady	352	398	318	1034	759	590	520	562	581	500
Oregon	Total	12033	12540	12795	13118	13493	14791	14898	14614	14367	15129
	Brady	1716	1822	1846	1847	1288	996	825	684	635	612
Pennsylvania	Total	15016	14640	14562	15367	15085	14460	14324	13367	12356	12276
	Brady	9293	9639	9576	8280	8054	7822	7686	7039	6649	6478
Puerto Rico	Total	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Brady	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	Total	4664	4572	5189	6767	10412	9739	10063	8626	9385	10142
	Brady	1347	834	1650	1294	1358	1687	2182	1731	2190	3785
South Carolina	Total	3629	3821	3621	3684	3536	3627	3162	3098	2765	2810
	Brady	2572	2834	2412	2448	2326	2419	2178	2101	1902	1912
South Dakota	Total	1167	1286	1363	1341	1322	1239	1274	1204	1112	1245
	Brady	308	324	286	273	313	355	351	280	275	291
Tennessee	Total	9239	10008	10599	10666	10510	10137	9591	9085	8655	8619
	Brady	6735	6622	6827	7232	6976	6766	6026	5731	4879	4523
Texas	Total	11144	12547	13726	16659	19099	19608	18934	19935	20255	20738
	Brady	10713	10642	8037	5665	4808	4969	4301	2943	2005	2169
Utah	Total	0	12240	1236	6957	462	941	14008	6004	1732	8788
	Brady	0	1547	74	697	93	139	0	0	0	0
Virginia	Total	20917	29498	13022	12618	14389	16948	19564	17795	15775	15254
	Brady	9791	15276	7711	7832	7823	7781	8300	7687	8199	7998
Virgin Islands	Total	0	0	255	99	99	85	72	60	79	82
	Brady	0	0	242	86	99	70	67	41	51	60
Vermont	Total	1441	1457	1448	1446	1420	1424	1488	1370	1408	1311
	Brady	1080	1056	997	887	859	779	903	883	876	767
Washington	Total	48105	49972	50153	51643	51840	50590	49704	48202	47603	50688
	Brady	24563	24294	24442	23652	23177	23280	23707	22497	22773	23924
Wisconsin	Total	7181	7014	6556	7149	7286	6730	7131	6527	6325	6062
	Brady	3973	3941	3818	3936	3800	3573	3680	3640	3449	3285
West Virginia	Total	30	28	201	2044	4788	971	5295	4509	1161	1965