

## **U.S. Firearms Help to Fuel Violent Crime in Mexico**

ATF data show that, from 2019 to 2024, roughly two-thirds of firearms recovered by law enforcement in Mexico and submitted for tracing were purchased in the United States. In 2024, 71% of the 26,000 recovered firearms were purchased in the U.S. Mexico has just two gun stores, and firearm sales are tightly restricted. But gun traffickers frequently purchase firearms in the U.S. and deliver them to drug cartels in Mexico. The Mexican government sued U.S. gun manufacturers over the flow of weapons, alleging the gunmakers “aided and abetted” rogue firearms dealers who made illegal sales to traffickers, ultimately arming drug cartels and fueling rampant violence in Mexico. However, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously blocked the lawsuit, citing the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, or PLCAA, that shields the gunmakers from liability.

[Bulletin: The Data on U.S. Guns Used in Crimes in Mexico](#)

<https://www.thetrace.org/2025/06/supreme-court-mexico-gun-industry-plcaa/>