



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

AB 2552
GUN SHOW REPORT
2025



Introduction

This report is the third annual California Department of Justice (DOJ) Gun Show Report, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2552 (Stats. 2022, ch. 696). Effective July 1, 2023, AB 2552 requires DOJ to inspect at least half of all gun shows in California each year, and to report information annually regarding these inspection activities.

This report summarizes information about DOJ's inspection and enforcement efforts conducted at gun shows in California during the reporting period spanning January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

AB 2552 Requirements

AB 2552 imposed new requirements for gun show producers and vendors.¹ These requirements were designed to improve the safety of gun shows and the communities in which they occur by preventing the sale of illegal firearms or the sale of firearms to prohibited persons, and by reducing the proliferation of unserialized ghost gun kits and components.

DOJ's Responsibilities

AB 2552 also expanded DOJ's authority, mandate, and staffing capacity to conduct inspection and enforcement activities at California gun shows.

Pursuant to AB 2552, California law requires DOJ to:

- Conduct enforcement and inspection activities of at least half of all gun shows or events held in California each year, commencing July 1, 2023.²
- Post information on DOJ's website regarding violations of Penal Code section 27310, subdivision (a) discovered during these inspection activities.³
- Submit a report to the Legislature by May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, summarizing DOJ's gun show enforcement and inspection activities.⁴

Summary of Data for 2025

- Field Representatives in DOJ's Bureau of Firearms (BOF) inspected 26 out of a total of 44 gun shows in 2025; these inspections occurred across 17 counties.
- From 2024-2025, the total number of violations identified in gun show inspections decreased by 75.8%, from 211 in 2024 to 51 in 2025. The average number of violations per inspection decreased by 71.2%, from 6.81 in 2024 to 1.96 in 2025.
- All violations were documented in inspection reports and licensees were advised of actions they needed to take to correct violations and come into compliance with applicable laws. Field Representatives requested assistance from BOF Special Agents at two gun shows where one vendor and one gun show trader were suspected of being in possession of assault weapons. After further investigation no charges were filed.
- Of the 51 violations identified in 2025, 21 (41%) were by firearm dealers, 18 (35%) by gun show producers, and 12 (24%) by ammunition vendors.

1 See AB 2552 (Stats. 2022, ch. 696), amending California Penal Code sections 27240, 27245, 27305, 27310, and 27350.

2 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310(c).

3 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310(d).

4 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310(e).

- The highest number of violations recorded during a single gun show was 14. These violations were identified at one gun show that occurred within San Bernardino County.
- Of the different types of violations, the highest percentage were for missing or incomplete ammunition Dealer Record of Sale worksheets that are required under Penal Code section 30352.

As required by Penal Code section 27310, subdivision (d), information about more recent gun show violations can be found on DOJ's website at oag.ca.gov/firearms/ab2552.



Overview of Gun Shows

What are Gun Shows?

Federal law defines a “gun show or event” as a “function sponsored by any national, state, or local organization, devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms, or an organization or association that sponsors functions devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms in the community.”⁵ California laws governing gun shows incorporate this federal definition.⁶

Gun shows are held at various types of venues where vendors gather to, among other things, display, market, and/or sell firearms, ammunition, firearm accessories, and non-firearm products. Researchers have estimated that on average, over 2,000 gun shows are held nationwide each year.⁷ In California, 51 gun shows occurred in 2021, 59 occurred in 2022, 46 occurred in 2023, 51 occurred in 2024, and 44 occurred in 2025.

Gun Shows and Firearm Trafficking

In many other states, gun shows are relatively unregulated and may feature both licensed dealers, who are required to conduct background checks to sell firearms under federal law, as well as many *unlicensed* sellers offering firearms, ammunition, and related products without background checks, sale records, or other safety requirements. As a result, without appropriate precautions and oversight, these events may become a magnet for prohibited purchasers and gun traffickers.⁸

Researchers have documented, for instance, that gun shows may become an “intermediate source of crime guns, supplying organized gun trafficking operations and surrogate or ‘straw’ purchasers who in turn supply criminal end users.”⁹ In a 2000 report, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) found that 30% of all guns linked to federal gun trafficking prosecutions had been sold at a gun show.¹⁰

Under California law, sales and transfers of firearms and sales of ammunition must generally be conducted by, or processed through, licensed firearm dealers or ammunition vendors, whether or not those sales or transfers are conducted at a gun show.¹¹ These licensees are responsible for conducting background checks and ensuring compliance with other requirements.¹²

However, in recent years, BOF Special Agents have encountered illicit sales of firearms, ammunition, and firearm-related products at gun shows. For example, Special Agents have observed dealers illegally

5 27 C.F.R. § 478.100(b).

6 See Cal. Pen. Code, §§ 27200(a); 26805(b).

7 See David Pérez Esparza, et al., “Examining a Dataset on Gun Shows in the US, 2011-2019,” *Journal of Illicit Economies and Development*, 4(1): 86-96 (Sep. 2022), <https://jied.lse.ac.uk/articles/10.31389/jied.146>.

8 See, e.g., Garen Wintemute, “Inside Gun Shows: What Goes on When Everybody Thinks Nobody’s Watching,” UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program (Sep. 2009), https://health.ucdavis.edu/vprp/pdf/Wintemute_InsideGunShows.pdf; Garen Wintemute, et al., “Gun Shows and Gun Violence: Fatally Flawed Study Yields Misleading Results,” *Am. Journal of Public Health*, 100(10), 1856-60 (Oct. 2010); Chelsea Parsons, et al., “The Bureau and the Bureau,” pp. 57-63, Center for American Progress (Spring 2015), <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2015/05/31061036/ATF-report-webfinal2.pdf>; Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “Gun Shows,” <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/gun-sales/gun-shows/>.

9 See id.; Garen Wintemute, et al., “Gun Shows and Gun Violence: Fatally Flawed Study Yields Misleading Results,” *Am. Journal of Public Health*, 100(10), 1856-60 (Oct. 2010).

10 See id. and Chelsea Parsons, et al., “The Bureau and the Bureau,” pp. 57-63, Center for American Progress (Spring 2015), <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2015/05/31061036/ATF-report-webfinal2.pdf> (citing Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), “Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws against Firearms Traffickers pp. 14, 17 (2000)).

11 See, e.g., Cal. Pen. Code, §§ 27310(a); 27315.

12 Id.

selling assault weapons and large capacity magazines, and have arrested people with felony records who illegally purchased firearms, ammunition, or firearm parts:

- In January 2025, Special Agents observed a person with a prohibiting felony record inquiring about firearm parts at a gun show; further investigation led to that person's arrest and seizure of illegal machine guns and short barrel rifles.
- In March 2025, Special Agents arrested a person with a prohibiting felony record for purchasing firearm ammunition magazines at a gun show; further investigation led to the seizure of two unserialized ghost guns at that person's residence.
- In August 2025, field representatives conducting an inspection observed a firearms dealer displaying several illegal firearms at a gun show leading to the seizure of several assault weapons by Special Agents.
- In December 2025, Special Agents observed a person with a prohibiting felony record with a firearm holster at a gun show; further investigation led to the seizure of a ghost gun at that person's residence.

It must be noted that this report does not present data about *all* illegal activity that BOF Special Agents uncover and investigate in connection with gun shows, but rather, focuses primarily on violations by gun show producers, firearm dealers, and ammunition vendors, as well as private individuals selling illegal weapons, identified through inspection and enforcement activities required by AB 2552.

Additionally, prior to July 2022, companies and individuals increasingly sought to circumvent California's background check and other gun safety laws by selling unserialized ghost gun kits and related components, including nominally unfinished frames and receivers. Ghost gun products were increasingly sold at gun shows and other venues before California enacted a package of new ghost gun reform laws beginning in 2022, including AB 2552, to comprehensively strengthen oversight and regulation of the ghost gun industry and regulate the sale of firearm precursor parts and other ghost gun products.¹³ As discussed in more detail in the DOJ Office of Gun Violence Prevention's report on "[California's Fight Against the Ghost Gun Crisis: Progress and New Challenges](#)," the proliferation of unserialized, skip-the-background-check ghost guns accounted for about two-thirds of the total increase in crime guns recovered in California between 2019 to 2021.¹⁴ The sale of ghost guns and related components without a background check is a significant threat to public safety, and without a serial number, ghost guns cannot be traced through traditional investigative processes.

DOJ's Role at Gun Shows

Field Representatives: BOF's Regulatory Compliance Unit (RCU) has teams of Field Representatives who travel to DOJ-approved gun shows. They conduct in-person inspections of the shows and their licensed producers, as well as the firearm dealers, ammunition vendors, and manufacturers who participate or conduct sales to ensure they are in compliance with all applicable firearm laws.

Special Agents: BOF's Enforcement Branch has teams of Special Agents throughout the state who regularly conduct enforcement efforts at in-state gun shows to identify and deter illegal firearms and ammunition transactions at these venues. Due to the proliferation of illegal firearms, such as ghost guns and large capacity magazines in California, partly due to the purchase of these items at out-of-state gun shows, Special Agents interdict convicted felons, criminal gang members, and firearm trafficking organizations that purchase these items out-of-state and transport them into California. DOJ is the only state law enforcement agency in California that specifically targets criminal activity at gun

¹³ See AB 1621 (2022), AB 2156 (2022), and AB 1594 (2022).

¹⁴ DOJ Office of Gun Violence Prevention report, "California's Fight Against the Ghost Gun Crisis: Progress and New Challenges" (Oct. 2024), at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ogvp-report-ghost-guns.pdf>.

shows and has the resources and expertise to do so.

Requirements for Vendors and Producers

Effective January 1, 2023, AB 2552:

- Requires vendors who wished to participate at gun shows to certify in writing to a DOJ-licensed gun show producer that they would not display, possess, or offer for sale any unserialized firearm frame or receiver, including any unfinished frame or receiver, or any attachment or conversion kit designed to convert a handgun into a short-barreled rifle or assault weapon.¹⁵
- Re-emphasizes that the sale of firearm precursor parts at a gun show or event must be conducted in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws.¹⁶
- Requires gun show producers to post additional notices at each public entrance to a gun show informing attendees about specified laws and responsibilities, including California's laws requiring firearms to be safely stored to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access.¹⁷
- Increases penalties for gun show producers who willfully violate California laws governing gun shows.¹⁸

15 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27305 (as amended by AB 2552).

16 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310(a) (as amended by AB 2552).

17 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27240(a) (as amended by AB 2552).

18 Cal. Pen. Code, § 27245 (as amended by AB 2552).



Data Points

Number and Locations of Gun Show Inspections

BOF Field Representatives completed inspections at a total of 26 gun shows in 2025. Table 1 lists the 26 gun shows that were inspected, the county and venue where they took place, and the number of violations found at each for both producers and vendors.

- Orange and San Bernardino counties had three inspections each.
- El Dorado, Fresno, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, and Solano counties had two inspections each.
- Butte, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Tehama counties each had one gun show inspection during this time period.

The highest number of violations recorded during a single gun show was 14, occurring at a gun show in San Bernardino County. No violations were recorded at 13 inspected gun shows.

Table 1: Number of Violations and Locations of Inspections Carried Out, by Number of Recorded Violations, 2025

Date	County	Number of Inspected Vendors*	Gun Show Name (Venue)	Production Company	Producer Violations Recorded	Vendor Violations Recorded	Total Violations Recorded
10/18/2025	San Bernardino	4	Ontario Gun Show (Ontario Convention Center)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	1	13	14
8/16/2025	Kern	1	Bakersfield Gun Show (Kings County Fairgrounds)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	2	10	12
9/13/2025	Solano	1	Vallejo Gun Show (Solano County Fairgrounds)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	6	0	6
6/28/2025	Orange	4	Huntington Beach Gun Show (Huntington Beach Elks Lodge)	JLJR, LLC	0	4	4
11/1/2025	El Dorado	1	Placerville Gun Show (El Dorado County Fair & Event Center)	S&N Promotions, Inc., DBA NorCal Gun Shows	1	2	3
2/15/2025	Solano	2	Vallejo Gun Show (Solano County Fairgrounds)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	2	0	2
3/1/2025	San Bernardino	2	San Bernardino Gun Show (National Orange Show Grounds)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	0	0	0
4/12/2025	Glenn	1	Willows Gun Show (Willows VFW Hall)	D&S Productions	1	1	2
5/17/2025	Stanislaus	4	Modesto Gun Show (Modesto Centre Plaza)	Great Gun Shows	0	2	2

Date	County	Number of Inspected Vendors*	Gun Show Name (Venue)	Production Company	Producer Violations Recorded	Vendor Violations Recorded	Total Violations Recorded
9/27/2025	Fresno	0	Fresno Gun Show (Fresno Elks Lodge)	JLJR, LLC	2	0	2
2/2/2025	El Dorado	3	Placerville Gun Show (El Dorado County Fair & Event Center)	S&N Promotions, Inc., DBA NorCal Gun Shows	1	0	1
3/8/2025	San Luis Obispo	3	San Luis Obispo Gun Show (Madonna Inn)	Great Gun Shows	0	1	1
3/1/2025	Orange	1	Fullerton Gun Show (Fullerton Elks Lodge)	JLJR, LLC	2	0	2
3/22/2025	Butte	1	Gridley Gun Show (Butte County Fairgrounds)	S&N Promotions, Inc., DBA NorCal Gun Shows	0	0	0
4/26/2025	Sacramento	1	Sacramento Gun Show (Capital Sports Center)	Great Gun Shows	0	0	0
6/7/2025	San Luis Obispo	0	San Luis Obispo Gun Show (Madonna Inn)	Great Gun Shows	0	0	0
6/21/2025	San Diego	1	Escondido Gun Show (California Center for the Arts)	JLJR, LLC	0	0	0
6/21/2025	Fresno	0	Fresno Gun Show (CPDES Portuguese Hall of Fresno)	Great Gun Shows	0	0	0
7/12/2025	Los Angeles	1	Lancaster Gun Show (Rudy Post Quartermaster VFW Post 3000)	JLJR, LLC	0	0	0
7/19/2025	San Joaquin	1	Stockton Gun Show (Stockton Ballroom)	Great Gun Shows	0	0	0
8/2/2025	Humboldt	3	Loleta Gun Show (Loleta Fireman's Pavilion)	D&S Productions	0	0	0
8/2/2025	San Bernardino	3	Ontario Gun Show (Ontario Convention Center)	B&L Productions, Inc., DBA Crossroads of the West	0	0	0
8/23/2025	Tehama	0	Red Bluff Gun Show (Tehama County Fairgrounds)	D&S Productions	0	0	0
10/4/2025	Orange	0	Fullerton Gun Show (Fullerton Elks Lodge)	JLJR, LLC	0	0	0
11/8/2025	Santa Clara	0	Santa Clara Gun Show (American Legion)	JLJR, LLC	0	0	0
11/22/2025	San Joaquin	0	Lodi Gun Show (Lodi Grape Festival Grounds)	Great Gun Shows	0	0	0

*The term "vendors" in this column, and in the column entitled "Vendor Violations Recorded," refers to licensed firearm dealers and ammunition vendors at the gun show. The term does not include the gun show producer that is putting on the gun show because each gun show has only one gun show producer.

Numbers and Types of Gun Show Inspection Violations

From the 26 gun show inspections conducted in 2025, BOF Field Representatives recorded a total of 51 violations by 14 out of the 43 gun show producers, firearms dealers, and ammunition vendors inspected. All licensees found in violation of state laws and/or regulations were issued a Notification of Inspection Findings (BOF Form 08-22) and were advised of actions they needed to take to correct violations and be in compliance with applicable laws. BOF Field Representatives requested assistance from BOF Special Agents during one gun show at which a firearm dealer was suspected of offering multiple assault weapons for sale, and one additional gun show during which a gun show trader was suspected of offering assault weapons for sale. In both instances, after further investigation, no charges were filed.

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of these violations by the type of licensee that committed them (i.e., gun show producer, firearms dealer, ammunition vendor). Of the 51 violations, 21 (41%) related to firearm dealers, 18 (35%) related to gun show producers, and 12 (24%) related to ammunition vendors.

A total of 43 gun show producers, firearm dealers and ammunition vendors were inspected by BOF. Violations were recorded for 14 (33%) of these licensees, which included five gun show producers, seven firearm dealers and two ammunition vendors. Of the six licensees with the highest number of violations, two were gun show producers, two were ammunition vendors, and three were firearm dealers.

Figure 1: Number of Gun Show Inspection Violations by Licensee Type, 2025

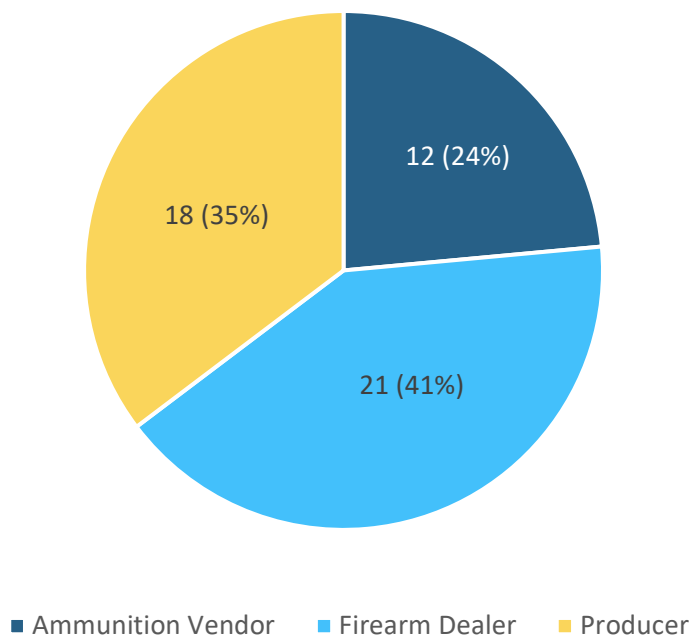


Table 2 shows the top five gun show inspection violation categories along with the number of violations and the percentage they make up within the total number of violations. Together, these top five violation categories make up 50% of all inspection violations from 2025.

Table 2: Top Five Gun Show Inspection Violations, 2025

Violation Type (Corresponding Penal Code or Code of Regulation)	Count	Percentage of Total Violations
Missing/incomplete ammunition Dealer Record of Sale worksheet (did not complete ammo DROS) (Pen. Code, § 30352 & Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4286)	6	11.76%
Photocopies of “Federal Limits Apply” identification and proof of lawful presence documentation were not retained for ammunition purchases (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4045.1)	5	9.80%
Employee(s) do not possess valid Certificate of Eligibility (Pen. Code, § 26915)	5	9.80%
Missing/invalid gun show warning signs (Pen. Code, § 27240)	5	9.80%
Licensee in possession of assault weapons (Pen. Code, § 30605)	5	9.80%

Table 3 demonstrates the top five violation categories for all three licensee types. For ammunition vendors, the top violation category was “Missing/incomplete ammunition Dealer Record of Sale worksheets.” For firearm dealers, the categories with the highest violation counts were “Employee(s) do not possess valid Certificate of Eligibility” and “Licensee in possession of assault weapons.” For gun show producers, the top violation category was “Missing/invalid gun show warning signs.”

Table 3: Top Violation Categories by Licensee Type

Category	Count	Percentage
<i>Ammunition Vendors</i>		
Missing/incomplete ammunition Dealer Record of Sale worksheets (did not complete ammunition DROS) (Pen. Code, § 30352)	6	11.76%
Photocopies of “Federal Limits Apply” identification and proof of lawful presence documentation were not retained for ammunition purchases (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4045.1)	4	7.84%
Ammunition not secured (Pen. Code, § 30350, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4286)	1	1.96%
Vendor does not have a Certificate of Eligibility (Pen. Code, § 30347)	1	1.96%

Category	Count	Percentage
<i>Firearm Dealers¹⁹</i>		
Employee(s) do not possess valid Certificate of Eligibility (Pen. Code, § 26915)	5	9.80%
Licensee in possession of assault weapons (Pen. Code, § 30605)	5	9.80%
All firearms in the gun show inventory could not be confirmed (Pen. Code, § 26805)	4	7.84%
Firearms not secured in a manner to prevent operation (Pen. Code, § 27305)	2	3.92%
<i>Gun Show Producers</i>		
Missing/invalid gun show warning signs (Pen. Code, § 27240)	5	9.80%
Vendors present at gun show without prior notice to DOJ ²⁰ (Pen. Code, § 27220)	3	5.88%
Missing name tags (Pen. Code, § 27325)	3	5.88%
List of employees/other persons working in the display space not provided to/maintained by the producer (Pen. Code, § 27320)	2	3.92%
Producer allowed ineligible vendor(s) to participate in gun show (Pen. Code, § 27245)	2	3.92%

Number of Violations by County

Figure 2 shows the number of violations by county. A total of 51 violations were recorded. Gun shows that occurred in San Bernardino County had 14 recorded violations, the most of any county. Gun shows occurring in Kern and Solano Counties follow San Bernardino County with 12 and 8 violations, respectively. Although the raw counts are useful to illustrate the distribution of violations incurred by gun shows that took place in a particular county, a more accurate measure of violations occurring in gun shows by county would be violations per inspection by county, since some counties had more gun show inspections than others.

Figure 3 shows the number of violations per inspection, by county. Factoring in the number of inspections changes the violation count rankings. When the numbers of inspections are considered, gun shows occurring in Kern, San Bernardino and Solano Counties have the top number of violations with 12, 4.67, and 4 violations, respectively.

19 Firearm dealers had six types of violations with only one violation count for each, so those violations were not listed in Table 3.

20 Gun show producers are required to submit to DOJ a list of firearm dealers and ammunition vendors who will participate at the gun show so DOJ can determine if those prospective vendors have a valid firearm license or ammunition vendor license.

Figure 2: Number of Gun Show Inspection Violations by County, 2025

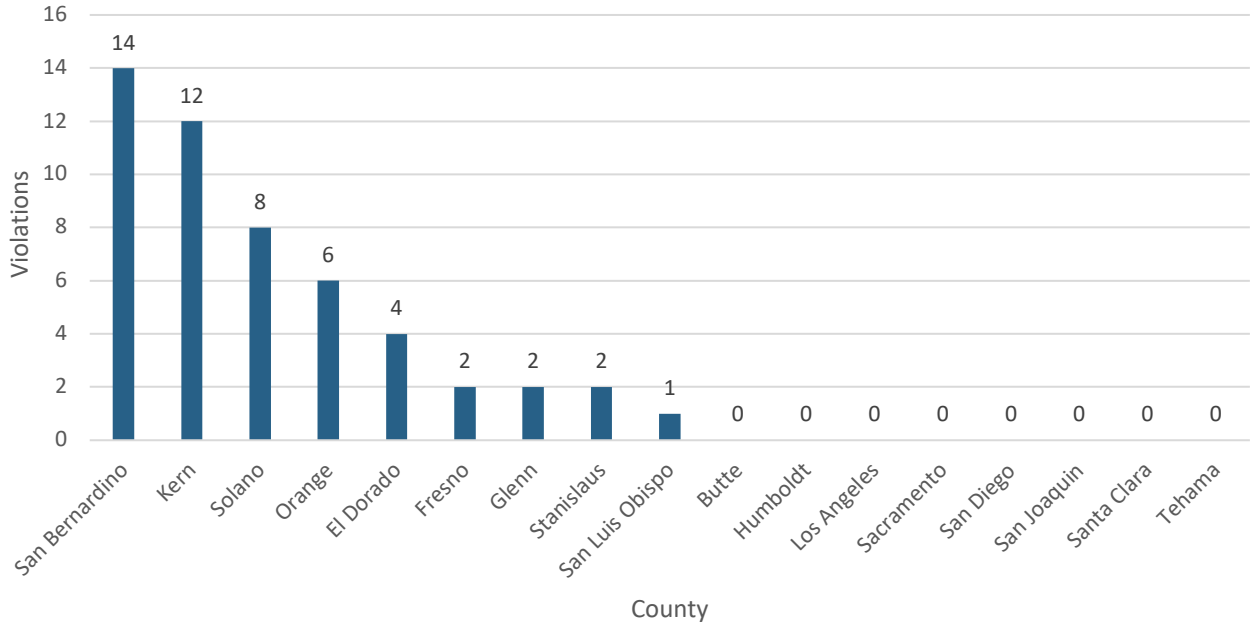
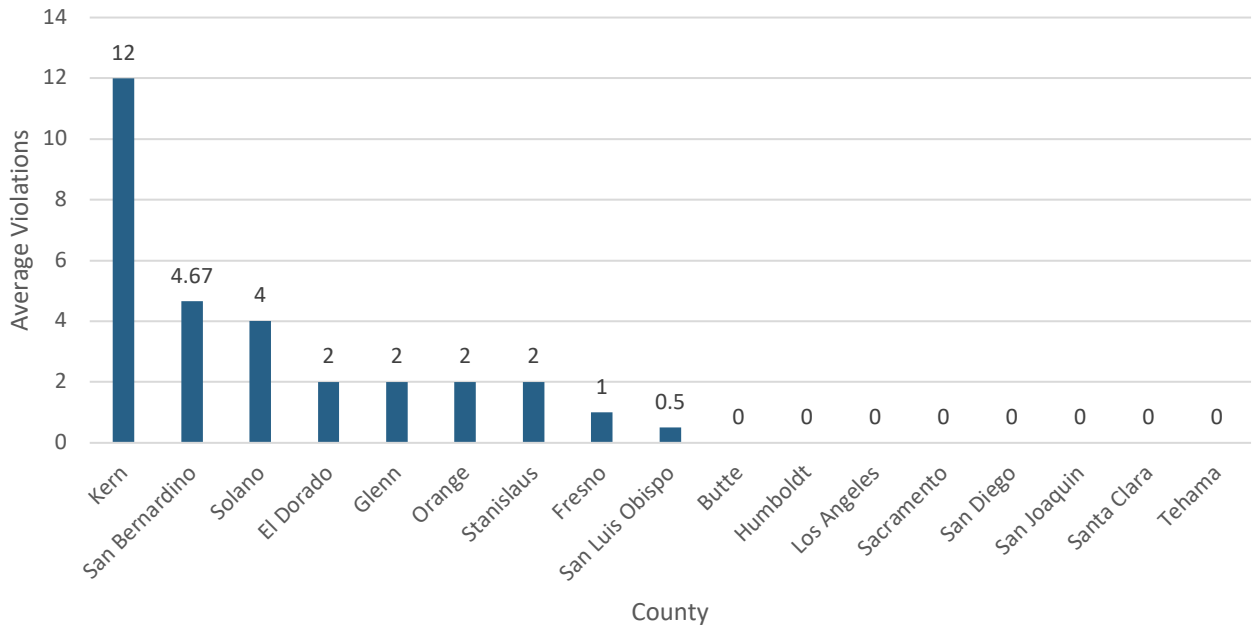


Figure 3: Average Number of Gun Show Inspection Violations per Inspection, by County, 2025



Appendix A: Violation Counts by Type of Violation

Table A1: Number of Violations by Penal Code or Code of Regulation

Violation Description	Count
Missing/incomplete ammunition DROS (did not complete ammo DROS) (Pen. Code, § 30352)	6
Photocopies of “Federal Limits Apply” identification and proof of lawful presence documentation are not retained for ammunition purchases (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4045.1)	5
Employee(s) do not possess valid Certificate of Eligibility (Pen. Code, § 26915)	5
Missing/invalid show warning signs (Pen. Code, § 27240)	5
Licensee in possession of assault weapons (Pen. Code, § 30605)	5
All firearms in the gun show inventory could not be confirmed (Pen. Code, § 26805)	4
Vendors not on submitted list present at event/show (Pen. Code, § 27220)	3
Missing name tags (Pen. Code, § 27325)	3
List of employees/other persons working in the display space not provided to/maintained by the producer (Pen. Code, § 27320)	3
Producer allowed ineligible vendor(s) to participate in gun show (Pen. Code, § 27245)	2
Firearms not secured in a manner to prevent operation (Pen. Code, § 27305)	2
Ammunition not secured (Pen. Code, § 30350 & Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4262)	1
Certified Instructor not administering FSC exam, or administering improperly. Cal. Code Regs., § 4253)	1
Government fees are not posted (Pen. Code, § 26880)	1
Producer failed to follow event security plan (Pen. Code, § 27210)	1
Gun Show Vendors did not certify in writing that they would not sell prohibited weapons or conversion kits, display loaded firearms, commit hate crimes, or display/possess/sell black powder (Pen. Code, § 27305)	1
Possession of both a firearm and ammunition allowed by non-exempt person (Pen. Code, § 27330)	1
Incomplete firearm Dealer Record of Sale (DROS) worksheets (Pen. Code, § 28160)	1
Vendor does not have a Certificate of Eligibility (Pen. Code, § 30347)	1