

# Numbers undercut Biden administration claims on ghost guns



*This undated file photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle shows a homemade firearm that federal agents say was recovered on Feb. 6, 2020, from a home in Edmonds, Wash. Idaho Gov. Brad Little signed legislation Monday, May ... more >*

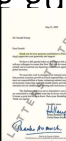
By Jeff Mordock - *The Washington Times* - Tuesday, May 11, 2021

---

Cracking down on so-called ghost guns is part of the Biden administration's

prescription for solving gun violence, but crime stats from major cities and

the Justice Department suggest the do-it-yourself weapons aren't really the problem.



BOOK REVIEW: Letters to Trump

x

Ghost guns, which are made at home from a kit and don't include serial numbers, are the target of a new Justice Department rule that would require the kits to include a traceable serial number.

Democrats, pointing to cities that have reported spikes in the use of ghost guns, have praised the idea, though DIY firearms remain a small percentage of all guns seized by police.



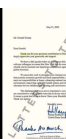
### Feds say scope of 'ecogrief' training was limited; no more than 150 employees took class

In Chicago, for example, only 139 out of the 11,258 firearms seized last year — roughly 1.2% — were ghost guns. That number, however, represents a 93% increase from the 72 ghost guns seized in 2019.

#### WHAT TO READ NEXT...



Philadelphia police seized 95 ghost guns, accounting for 2.2% of the 4,264 guns they confiscated last year. In 2018, Philadelphia police confiscated 13



ghost guns.

## MY TIMES

VIEW ALL ⊕

**Commentary | Inflation Reduction Act's drug price caps scheme will reduce supply of medicines**

**Commentary | Southern Gothic: Alex Murdaugh is an admitted liar and thief, but did he kill his wife and son?**

**Muslim activist outed by mom over ethnicity lies: 'I'm as White as the driven snow and so is she'**

---

Nationwide statistics on the use of ghost guns are hard to come by because the weapons are intentionally difficult to track.

---

**SEE ALSO: Ted Cruz slams Biden administration's focus on ghost guns as 'made-up problem'**

---

A 2019 Justice Department study found that 43% of criminals purchased their weapons on the black market, but none made their weapons at home.

That hasn't kept Democrats from pushing for more ghost gun control.

At a Capitol Hill hearing, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut Democrat, called ghost guns "the fastest-growing gun violence menace in the nation."

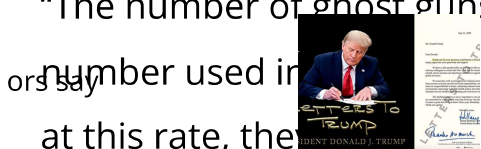
He focused on the overall increases in the use of ghost guns in major cities, rather than the percentage they account for in overall gun seizures.

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...

×

"The number of ghost guns is surging," he said. "The number seized, the number used in crimes, the number manufactured are all skyrocketing and at this rate, they are a mockery of background checks and other



BOOK REVIEW: Letters to Trump

common-sense regulations.”

Proponents of increased regulation on homemade guns argue that taking action now is worthwhile, even if doing so reduces only a sliver of gun crime.

The Justice Department reported that more than 23,000 weapons without serial numbers were seized by law enforcement between 2016 and 2020 and were linked to 325 homicides or attempted homicides.

It’s not clear how many of those weapons didn’t have serial numbers because they were ghost guns. The serial number also can be scraped off of most firearms with a metal file, though it is illegal to do so.

Republicans contend Democrats are overstating the ghost-gun problem for political gain.

“This is a made-up problem and yet here we are having a congressional hearing pretending that so-called ghost guns are a major issue. They aren’t and I look forward to the next hearing of this subcommittee on Civil War replica cannons,” Sen. Ted Cruz, Texas Republican, said at the hearing.

Democrats say citing the percentages of ghost guns used in crimes is not an accurate gauge of the scope of the problem because of the difficulty tracking the weapons. Instead, they argue that Republicans should focus on the increasing number of seized ghost guns.

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...

x

Mr. Cruz said if Democrats wanted to focus on gun crimes, they should

focus on the surge in U.S. cities this year.



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'

Shooting incidents in Chicago, for example, increased in 2020 by over 50% and homicides jumped by 55% compared to 2019 rates. In New York, homicide rates jumped 34% in 2020 compared to 2019.

“If Democrats want to stop gun violence, let’s have a hearing on how the move to defund the police is causing more homicides,” he said. “Let’s have a hearing on how gun-control proposals are making people vulnerable to violent crime and how they failed the big cities.”

• *Jeff Mordock can be reached at [jmordock@washingtontimes.com](mailto:jmordock@washingtontimes.com).*

## MORNING BRIEFING

**Start the day with must-read news,  
delivered straight to your inbox.**

You may

Copyright © 2023 The Washington Times, LLC. [Click here for reprint permission.](#)

**Please read our comment policy before commenting.**

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...

×

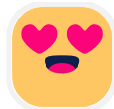
ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'



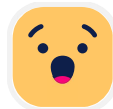
What do you think? 1 react



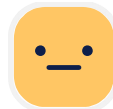
100% Love!



0% LOL



0% Whoa



0% Shrug

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...



ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'

# 1 Comment

Leave a comment

Powered by

## Popular in the community

**Lloyd Austin: \$842 billion budget reflects China as U.S. 'pacing challenge'**  
- Washington Times

45 Comments



**Former Liberty Unive Jerry Falwell Jr. sues s million pension paym**

25 Comments

[Load more articles](#)

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...



ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'

[Discover the best Grand Canyon Tours!](#)

Insticator

DRIVE REVENUE WITH OUR

# Publisher First

TRIVIA & POLLING

REQUEST A DEMO

## SPONSORED STORIES



**"Bionic" Device Amazes Knee Surgeons, Offers**

**Long-term Knee Pain Relief**

Health Insight Journal



ors say

**Say Goodbye to Back Pain: High-tech Device Takes the World by Surprise**

Health Insight Journal

BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'

**Amazon Hates if You Do This, but They Can't Stop You (Try It Now)**

Online Shopping Tools





## American Shoppers Should Think Twice Before Buying from These 2 Stores

Online Shopping Tools

## How to Buy Gold With Your IRA/401(k) Without Penalties

Augusta Precious Metals

## Cardiologist: High Blood Pressure? Do This Tonight

Health Review

## MY TIMES

[VIEW ALL](#) ↻



Lara Trump out as Fox News contributor



Paging Senator Biden: Clean up on aisle 31



Church of England considers abandoning Christianity



TikTok admits collecting Americans' precise GPS data — but says it doesn't anymore



Pentagon has 'multiple options' ready if Iran builds nuclear bomb, top U.S. general says

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...

✕



Biden's plans to cut Medicare Advantage

ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'



Republican women not feeling the love during Women's History Month



Biden should fire Karine Jean-Pierre



Joe Biden mulls third reelection of President Kamala Harris



LOVERRO: Harris already has a building issue in Philly. Buying Commanders will give him a bigger one



Red states flee bipartisan voter roll cleanup group, blame its left-wing election agenda



Deborah Birx makes astonishing admission of anti-Trump pact



Virtue signaling backfire: Endorsement of Biden costs science journal its credibility



Ex-Fox News liberal guest charged with exploiting her mother

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...

x

ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'

Advertisement

---

## WHAT TO READ NEXT...



ors say



BOOK REVIEW: 'Letters to Trump'