About this strategy

Sometimes a simple thing like clarifying and identifying the records that should be reported can go a long way towards improving NICS reporting. While criminal records are straightforward, civil mental health records can be less clear when it comes to disqualification for firearm ownership. By working with the court staff to identify exactly which civil mental health dispositions are disqualifying, states can ensure that the correct records are being reported to NICS.

- **Who it may work for:** States that are unclear on which mental health records are firearm disqualifiers.
- **Costs:** Cost of training and creating a written document with guidelines for reporting.
- **Timeframe for implementing:** Can be implemented quickly, depending on availability of staff for training.

Why this strategy makes a difference

If court staff are not clear on which mental health dispositions need to be submitted to NICS, the state is likely not transferring many disqualifying records. If all court staff are up to speed on which dispositions are disqualifiers, this will lead to an increased number of records being made available to NICS.

Who's Doing It? Florida

Florida received a NARIP grant to improve their NICS reporting and is working with their 67 Clerks of Court to identify civil mental health dispositions that are firearm disqualifiers.

For more information:
Florida
Petrina Herring
petrinaherring@fdle.state.fl.us

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Devon Adams
202-307-0765
Devon.Adams@usdoj.gov
More on NICS here