

#### Washington State Health Care Authority

# Mental Health & Firearms Background Checks

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# Statutory Requirements: Background Checks

- RCW 9.41
  - Pistol and suppressor transfers: 10-day application period
  - Evidence returns: 10-day application period
  - Concealed pistol licenses: 30-day application period
  - Dealer license: 30-day application period



**HCA Firearms** 

Compliance personnel

receive emails with

lists of applicants and

performs data integrity checks

## Mental Health & Firearms Background Checks

Gun Purchase Initiated

compiles a list of up to 20 applicants per form : -First name -Last name -DOB Submits to HCA Firearms Compliance Unit

Law Enforcement Agency (LEA)

HCA Firearms Compliance personnel manually validate software results

HCA Firearms Compliance personnel run names through background check software

Results are returned to law enforcement agency



#### Statutory Requirements: Involuntary Commitments

- RCW 9.41
  - Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment (examples 14-Day, 90 day, 180 day Court Ordered Treatment)
  - Outpatient Less Restrictive Alternative (90-day; 180-day LRA)
  - Forensic Competency Restoration
  - Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity

### Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery's Work

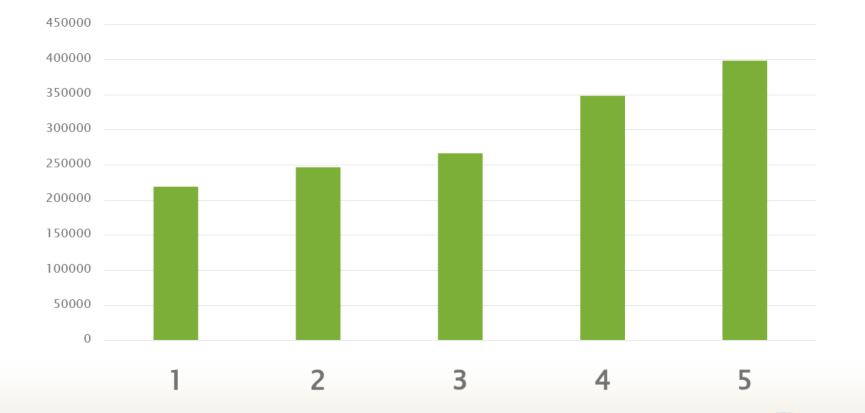
- Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR)
  - 179,500 received MH Services (2017)
  - Approx. 10,000 individuals court ordered to treatment (2017)
- DBHR unit workload
  - 400,000 names checked 2017
    - 33,333 per month
    - 1,300 per day
  - 400 denials per year
    - 33 per month
    - 1 per day







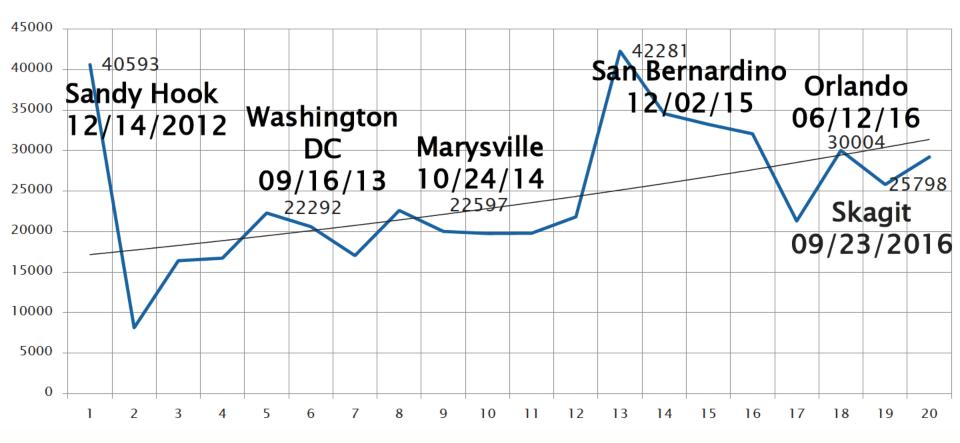
# Yearly Workload





#### The Mass Shooting Factor

Requests for mental health background checks January 2013–October 2016







# Looking Ahead

- Initiative 1639
  - Projected increase of 195,000 mental health background checks per year
- Decision package request to increase DBHR staffing by 1 FTE
  - 1 background check specialist averages 200,000 background checks per year







## **Questions?**

#### **Melodie Pazolt**

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