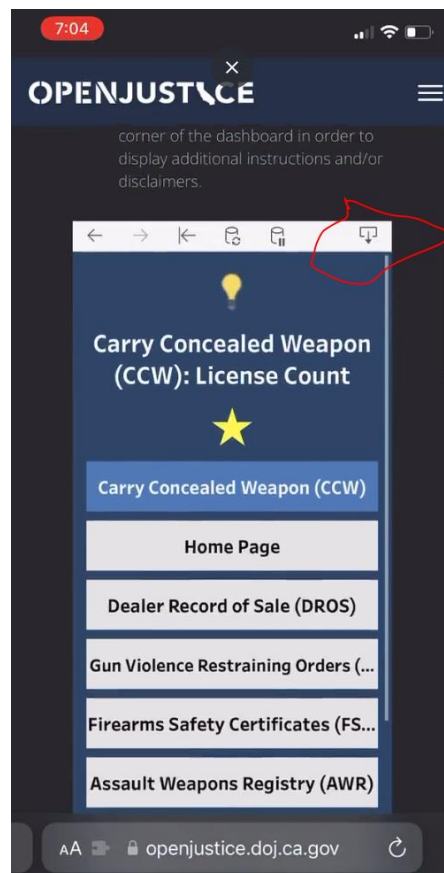


1. On June 27, 2022, the California Attorney General announced that firearms data would be publicly accessible through the California Department of Justice's ("DOJ") 2022 Firearms Dashboard Portal ("the Portal")¹, with the data live immediately following the announcement. The portal was designed to provide an interactive and easily searchable user experience, viewable at <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/>. The purpose of the portal was to facilitate public access to various categories of firearm records including concealed carry weapon permits, gun violence restraining orders, and more, and was meant to increase "transparency" and to increase "public trust."
2. From the moment it launched, anyone was able to download the Portal's underlying data in Excel spreadsheets. For example, if someone clicked on the download icon located at the top right-hand side of the portal (as displayed in the image below), it would bring up a spreadsheet of whatever data had been selected. In the image below, CCW permit holders in Sonoma County were selected for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. From there, the downloaded spreadsheet included full names, addresses, CII numbers, and other information for these CCW permit holders. Including among the individuals who had their private information leak were a number of public officials.



¹ <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-new-firearms-data-increase-transparency-and>

3. In the late evening of June 27, 2022, the Portal was temporarily down, and when it came back up, the download icon was gone. Yet the issue was still not resolved, as data could still be accessed for each individual county by hovering over it and clicking another icon to access the underlying spreadsheet.
4. DOJ would not totally take down the Portal until the morning of June 28, 2022, after it had been leaking data for well over twelve hours, and perhaps much longer. As of the afternoon of June 28, 2022, the Portal's site read "Website temporarily unavailable - Please try again in a few minutes".
5. Independent media² was able to confirm that 244 concealed carry permits issued to judges were leaked. As with the information for everyone included, the files included the home addresses, full names, and dates of birth for all of them. The same was true for seven custodial officers, 63 people with a place of employment permit, and 420 reserve officers. All with home address and personal information made public.
6. Several different categories of information were leaked besides just the CCW data, including: (1) Assault weapons registration data; (2) Firearm Safety Certificate records containing individual's names, driver's license numbers, and dates of birth; and Dealer Record of Sale (DROS) data.
7. Social media posts about the leak began circulating in the late afternoon of June 27, 2022, with several people tagging the Attorney General's verified Twitter account asking for him to respond to the situation. By the morning of June 28, 2022, CRPA had put out a statement condemning the leak and demanding action. By the end of the day on June 28, 2022, CRPA had a landing page to get people information on what was happening with the leak since they were getting inundated with questions.
8. Finally, late in the afternoon on June 28, 2022, the Attorney General put out a short statement stating that "We are investigating an exposure of individuals' personal information connected to the DOJ Firearms Dashboard. Any unauthorized release of personal information is unacceptable. We are working swiftly to address this situation and will provide additional information as soon as possible." On the afternoon of June 29, 2022, the Attorney General released another statement to alert individuals impacted by the exposure of personal information from the dashboard further stating that this "release of personal information is unacceptable" and that his office "immediately launched an investigation into how this occurred."
9. Given the extremely suspect timing of this leak, occurring right after the Supreme Court's ruling in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, and given how long the DOJ delayed in stopping the leak, CRPA put out a statement that upon belief the leak was intentional. The Attorney General and the DOJ, or rogue employees at the DOJ, leaked this sensitive information on purpose as a way to intimidate gun owners and retaliate against them for the ruling.
10. Because of the leak, the sensitive information of hundreds of thousands of California gun owners was exposed for anyone to see. This will undoubtedly lead to many Californians being victimized, ranging from homes targeted for burglary, from vulnerable people who have a CCW

² <https://thereload.com/new-california-ag-website-leaks-massive-trove-of-gun-owner-private-information/>

permit due to the threat posed by a stalker, or being a survivor of domestic violence or rape having their address revealed.

11. The Fresno County Sheriff's Office posted on June 28, 2022 that they had been informed of the leak by the DOJ, and that the DOJ had confirmed the leak included individuals' names, ages, addresses, CII numbers, and license types. However, two things are false about what the DOJ told the Fresno County Sheriff's Department: (1) saying DOJ had "suffered a data breach" when in fact they had included convenient "download" buttons for the data; and (2) stating that they pulled down the dashboard after learning of the breach when in fact they didn't until the next morning.



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

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DOJ Data Breach Exposes Personal Information of California CCW Holders

On Tuesday, the California State Sheriff's Association (CSSA) informed our office that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) had suffered a data breach. This occurred as part of the DOJ's launch of its "2022 Firearms Dashboard Portal." This public site allows access to certain information, however, personal information of Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit holders is not supposed to be visible. This includes, but is not limited to a person's name, age, address, Criminal Identification Index (CII) number and license type (Standard, Judicial, Reserve and Custodial). This pertains to all California CCW holders, including Fresno County residents.

After learning of the breach, the DOJ pulled down the dashboard site along with all related links. However, portions of private information may have been posted on social media websites. It is unknown exactly how much time the information was accessible.

The State Attorney General's Office has stated it is working with urgency to determine the scope of the breach. It plans to contact CCW holders directly to advise them of the breach and will institute a program to reduce any harm or damages to CCW holders that resulted from the breach.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office is urging anyone who learns their identity was compromised as a result of this data breach to please make an online report by visiting <https://www.fresnosheriff.org/report-a-crime-online.html>



CRPA is still working on uncovering how far this breach goes, and we will continue until the people that did this are discovered and justice is done. We are calling on elected officials to demand transparency in the investigation into this leak.

