

# ATF CRIME GUN TRACE ANALYSIS REPORT

## Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

### Introduction

The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a 17-city demonstration project aimed at reducing youth firearms violence. Officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), police chiefs, local prosecutors, and U.S. attorneys are developing information about illegal trafficking of firearms to young people and new methods of reducing the illegal supply of firearms to them. The initiative was developed by ATF and its National Tracing Center, funded by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Enforcement and the National Institute of Justice, and announced by President Clinton on July 8, 1996.

### Purposes of This Report

Since July 1996, participants have tested a new method of developing and providing information about the illegal sources of firearms to youth. Federal and local enforcement officials in each jurisdiction voluntarily agreed to submit information on all recovered crime guns to ATF's National Tracing Center. ATF developed the tools to analyze the information. ATF is publishing this report of its analyses for the following purposes:

**To provide new information about illegal firearms activity by community.** These reports provide an overall view of firearms associated with illegal possession or activity in a jurisdiction. They identify the types of firearms that enforcement agencies most frequently recover, the types of crimes with which these weapons are associated, the time it takes for firearms to move from a federally licensed firearms dealer to recovery by enforcement officials, and the source States of these firearms. This is the first time ATF has developed and published standardized reports on recovered crime guns.

**To identify differences in adult, juvenile, and youth illegal firearms activity.** These reports analyze firearms recoveries by age group, with a focus on young people. The information establishes whether patterns of crime gun acquisition differ by age group. While ATF has previously collected information from enforcement agencies on firearms recovered from juveniles from across the country, this is the first time ATF has been able to provide age-based analysis by local jurisdiction. This analysis provides enforcement officials with a new and important tool for reducing illegal juvenile and youth access to firearms.

**To expand access to firearms-related enforcement information.** These reports share ATF firearms-related enforcement information with other enforcement agencies. The reports thereby provide a new, common foundation for collaboration among ATF, the offices of the U.S. attorney, and local police and prosecutors, as well as other agencies concerned with youth violence. Using this information, police departments and local prosecutors may choose to modify resources devoted to firearms trafficking interdiction, and local task forces may choose to pursue firearms trafficking cases in Federal or State courts.

**To initiate community, State, and national reporting on firearms trafficking.** These reports provide a model for standardized, annual ATF reports on firearms recoveries at the city, State, and national level. State and national reports using firearms recovery information provided by every jurisdiction allow regional and national patterns to be identified.

**To enable enforcement officials to focus their resources where they are likely to have the greatest impact on illegal trafficking to juveniles and violent youth gang members, as well as adult criminals.** Specific investigative information about the illegal sources of crime guns can be obtained by a variety of