

## 2 - General Findings

### 2 - 1 Introduction

This section describes key crime gun patterns based on the analysis of information from 88,570 trace requests made by law enforcement officials in 44 communities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative that have populations greater than 250,000<sup>1</sup>. The 44 jurisdictions over 250,000 comprise two thirds (67 percent) of the 68 U.S. jurisdictions which, according to the 2000 census, have a population over 250,000. The population of these 44 jurisdictions is 39 million persons, which is 80 percent of the 49 million persons living in U.S. cities having over 250,000 inhabitants<sup>2</sup>. While not yet meeting the program's long-term goal of complete national geographic coverage, this sample provides a reasonable basis for analyzing and reporting crime gun trace information.

This section uses information from trace requests and completed traces to describe the relationship between the crime gun possessor's age and:

- the type, manufacturer, caliber, and model of crime guns recovered,
- the results of trace requests,
- the recovery date and location, and
- the date and location of crime gun purchases.

In addition, this section describes the nature of crime guns when exploring time-to-crime, obliterated serial numbers and multiple sale transactions.

**Possessor Age Group.** To show age differences in crime gun information, this report puts the 88,570 trace requests into three age groups—*Juvenile* (Ages 17 & Younger), *Youth* (Ages 18-24), and *Adult* (Ages 25 & Older). The total for all age groups is also included, and some of the analyses also provide information about the trace requests for which age is unknown.

complements the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) *Uniform Crime Reports*, the *National Crime Victimization Survey* of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, ATF's reporting on firearms commerce and firearms trafficking investigations,<sup>3</sup> and other efforts to improve understanding of violent crime in the United States.

**Annual Reports of Criminal Behavior.** This compilation of information from crime gun trace requests initiated during calendar year 2000

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to these 44 communities, the trace requests from three North Carolina communities—Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point—are included in the national findings. These three closely connected communities are administered as one jurisdiction by the YCGII program.

<sup>2</sup> Percentages reported in the text of this section are rounded to the nearest percent.

<sup>3</sup> *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers*, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, June 2000; *Commerce in Firearms in the United States (1999)*, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, February 2000.

## 2 - 2 Age of Possessors

**Possessor's Age.** Information on the age of the crime gun possessor is included in 53,865 (61 percent) of the 88,570 trace requests received from participating jurisdictions. Age of possessors is determined based on the possessor's date of birth and the date that the crime gun was recovered.

**Peak Ages 19 to 21.** As displayed in *Figure 1*, the age of crime gun possessors with the single most frequent number of trace requests (2,930) is 21, followed closely by ages 20 (2,751) and 19 (2,744). There is a dramatic increase in the number of traces from (141) age 13 to (2,569) age 18. More than 18,000 crime guns are recovered from individuals between the ages of 18 and 24, the peak years for being a crime gun possessor. The number of crime gun trace requests drops steadily from (1,942) age 25 to (1,321) age 30, and at age 50, there are only 584 trace requests.<sup>4</sup>

**Juvenile, Youth, and Adult Crime Guns.** As presented in *Table 1*, among the trace requests for which the possessor's age is known, adult possession accounts for more than 59 percent of the trace requests, youth possession accounts for 33 percent, and the juvenile category accounts for 8 percent.

**City Variations.** The age distribution of crime gun possessors can vary considerably from the national averages across cities. In certain cities, firearms were recovered predominantly from adults. For example, adults comprise 83 percent of the gun possessors in

*San Jose, CA*; 77 percent of the gun possessors in *Miami, FL*; 76 percent of the gun possessors in *Tampa, FL*; 73 percent of the gun possessors in *Portland, OR*; and 72 percent of the gun possessors in *Jacksonville, FL* and *Oklahoma City, OK*. In other cities, firearms are most frequently recovered from youth. Youth comprise 58 percent of the gun possessors in *Newark, NJ*; 49 percent of the gun possessors in *Washington, DC*; 47 percent of the gun possessors in *Gary, IN*; and 46 percent of the gun possessors in *Stockton, CA*.

**Age of Firearm-Related Homicide Offenders.** Gun homicides committed by juveniles and youth have declined 53 percent, from 11,657 in 1993 to 6,147 in 1999. Offenders under 25 years of age account for 56 percent of all gun homicides in 1999. Juveniles alone accounted for 11 percent of gun homicides in 1999, the latest year for which detailed information is currently available.<sup>5</sup>

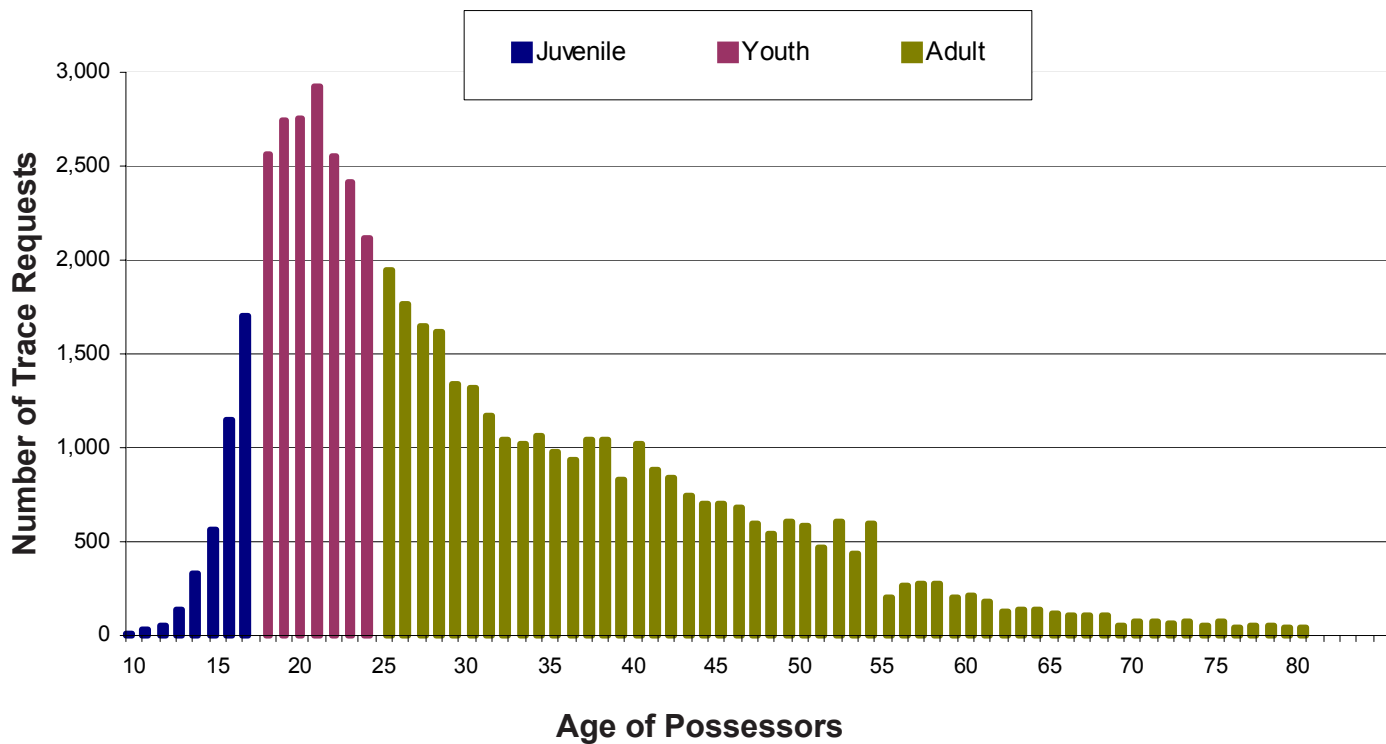
**Age of Violent Offenders.** Information about the age of crime gun possessors closely parallels data gathered on violent crime from other sources. The number of persons arrested for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault peaks at ages 18 or 19. Individuals aged 18 to 20 account for 21 percent of all persons arrested for murder, 15 percent for forcible rape, 22 percent for robbery, and 12 percent for aggravated assault.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> For a detailed listing of the number of trace requests by age, see Appendix B.

<sup>5</sup> James A. Fox and Marianne W. Zawitz, *Homicide Trends in the U.S.*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 4, 2001.

<sup>6</sup> FBI *Uniform Crime Reports 2000*, Table 38, Section IV, page 12.

**Figure 1: Age of Crime Gun Possessor**



**Table 1: Age Group of Crime Gun Possessor**

	Number	Percent
Trace Requests for which Possessor's Age can be Determined	54,241	100.0%
Crime Gun Trace Requests with:		
Juvenile Possessor (ages 17 & younger)	4,112	7.6%
Youth Possessor (ages 18 - 24)	18,085	33.3%
Adult Possessor (ages 25 & older)	32,044	59.1%

## 2 - 3 Firearm Type, Caliber, Manufacturer, and Model

**Trace Request Information.** Trace requests are required to include the type, caliber, manufacturer, and serial number of the crime gun because this information is necessary to trace a firearm from manufacturer and wholesale distributor to the initial retail sale. Information about the particular model of the firearm is not required but is provided consistently in some jurisdictions. (See Appendix C, ATF Firearm Trace Request Form.).

**Firearm Classification in this Report.** Generally, crime guns described in this report are classified by the different kinds of information provided on the ATF trace form. For some of the tables and figures in this report, firearms are placed into two basic groups: *handguns* and *long guns*. Handguns include *semiautomatic pistols*, *revolvers*, and *derringers*. Long guns include *shotguns* and *rifles*.<sup>7</sup>

**Crime Gun Patterns.** Classifying crime guns by type, caliber, manufacturer, and model allows law enforcement to differentiate among firearms. When large numbers of trace requests are analyzed, the patterns in crime gun types emerge. With more comprehensive information, more complete analysis is possible. In this report, patterns are highlighted by focusing on type, caliber, manufacturer, and model.

**Targeting Criminals, Promoting Officer Safety.** Detailed information about crime guns enables law enforcement to target criminal and regulatory resources on the sources of those crime guns. As criminals shift illegal sources, law enforcement officials can target the new sources and reduce future illegal acquisitions. Knowledge of which crime guns criminals are using is also an important consideration for State and local law enforcement in assessing potential departmental safety measures.

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<sup>7</sup>A small number of firearms are accounted for in the *Other* category, not reported here.

## Firearm Type

**Handguns, Especially Semiautomatic Pistols.** As displayed in *Figure 2* and *Table 2*, crime guns are predominantly handguns (77 percent) and, among handguns, mostly semiautomatic pistols, which alone account for half (50 percent) of all crime guns traced.

**Juveniles and Youth with Handguns, Adults with More Long Guns.** Semiautomatic pistols are more prevalent among juveniles (57 percent) and youth (61 percent) than among adults (47 percent). A substantial portion of firearm traces, 22 percent, involve a shotgun or a rifle. Adults are almost twice as likely (26 percent) as juveniles (15 percent) to possess a recovered long gun.

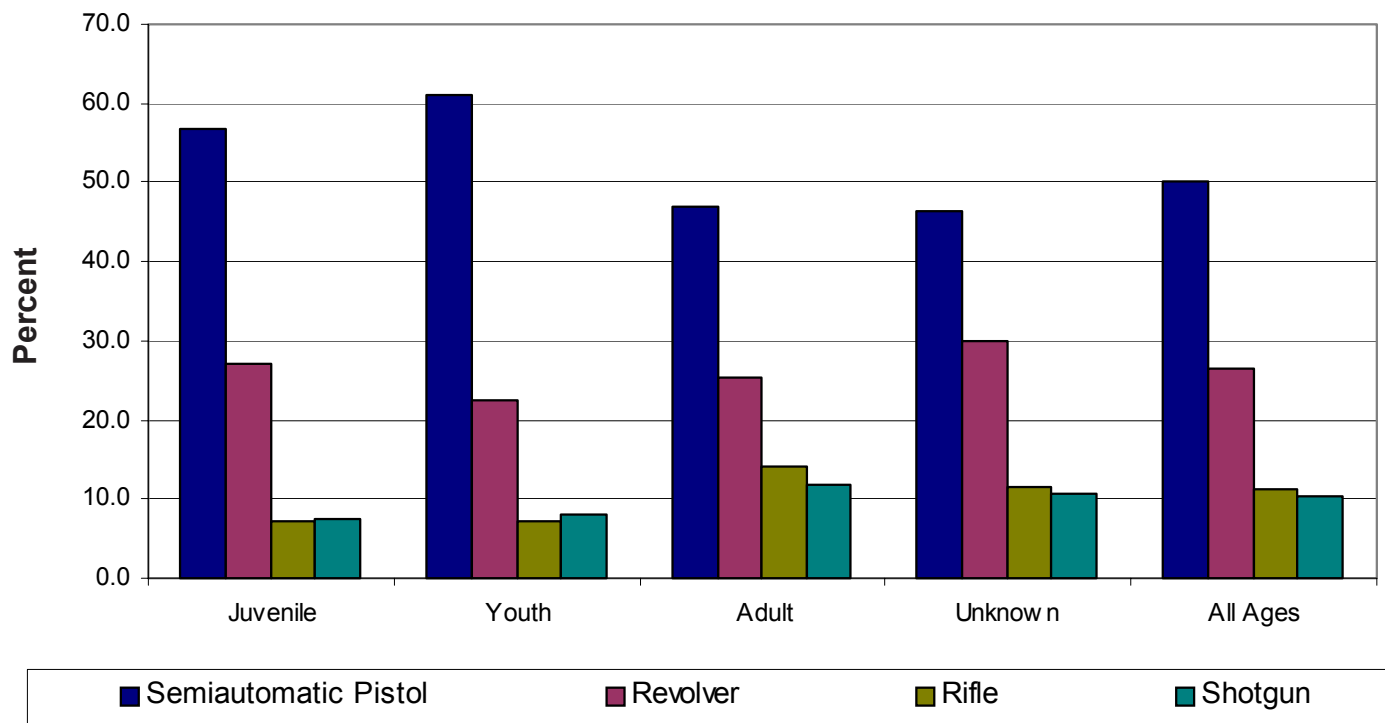
**City Variations.** The distribution of semiautomatic pistols, revolvers, shotguns, and rifles among adult, youth, and juvenile possessors is remarkably stable across participating cities, but there are some important differences in a few cities.

- For example, 94 percent of the firearms submitted for tracing by *Atlanta, GA*, are handguns. Semiautomatic pistols are clearly the weapon of choice in *Atlanta*; 82 percent of youth recoveries, 73 percent of juvenile

recoveries, and 68 percent of adult recoveries in *Atlanta* were semiautomatic pistols.

- Trace requests in *Phoenix, AZ*, and *Philadelphia, PA*, also reveal a high percentage of semiautomatic pistols across all age groups.
- In some cities, there are higher percentages of semiautomatic pistol recoveries in only one age group. For example, 77 percent of the guns recovered from youth in *Gary, IN*, 74 percent of the guns recovered from youth in *Louisville, KY*, and 72 percent of the guns recovered from juveniles in *Portland, OR*, are semiautomatic pistols.
- Revolvers are the most frequently recovered firearms from youth and juveniles in *Jersey City, NJ*, (67 percent) and *Pittsburgh, PA*, (45 percent).
- Long guns are also more frequently recovered from youth and juveniles in *San Jose, CA*; *Salinas, CA*; *San Antonio, TX*; and *Minneapolis, MN*, when compared with participating cities overall.

**Figure 2: Major Gun Types by Age Group of Possessor**



**Table 2: Firearm Type by Age Group of Possessor**

Firearm Type	Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)		Youth (ages 18 - 24)		Adult (ages 25 & older)		Age Unknown		All Ages	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Firearm Types	4,112	100.0	18,085	100.0	32,044	100.0	34,329	100.0	88,570	100.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	2,332	56.7	11,036	61.0	15,032	46.9	15,952	46.5	44,352	50.1
Revolver	1,113	27.1	4,089	22.6	8,094	25.3	10,257	29.9	23,553	26.6
Rifle	297	7.2	1,282	7.1	4,508	14.1	3,907	11.4	9,994	11.3
Shotgun	312	7.6	1,475	8.2	3,810	11.9	3,681	10.7	9,278	10.5
Other	58	1.4	203	1.1	600	1.9	532	1.5	1,393	1.6

## Type and Caliber/Gauge of Firearms

**Most Frequently Traced Handguns and Long Guns by Type and Caliber.** *Table 3* and *Figure 3* rank the most frequent handgun types and caliber for which trace requests were submitted separately of juveniles, youth, adults and all ages combined. *Table 4* and *Figure 4* rank long gun types and caliber in a similar manner.

**Four Main Handguns.** When crime guns are described by type and caliber, they are notably concentrated. Four handgun types and caliber accounted for 60 percent of all handgun trace requests:

- 9mm semiautomatic pistols
- .38 caliber revolvers
- .380 caliber semiautomatic pistols
- .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols

**Youth and 9mm Semiautomatic Pistols.** While the 9mm semiautomatic pistol is the most frequent handgun type among all age groups (23 percent), this is especially so among youth, where this one handgun type accounted for 28 percent of all trace requests.

**Three Main Long Guns.** As shown in *Table 4* and *Figure 4*, there is even greater concentration among long guns recovered as crime guns than there is among handguns. In all age groups combined, three long gun types (12 gauge shotgun, .22 caliber rifle and 7.62mm rifle) account for more than two thirds (12,659) of all long gun trace requests (19,311).

**Juveniles and Youth.** The concentration of the 12 gauge shotgun, .22 caliber rifle and the 7.62mm rifle is only slightly greater within the juvenile (68 percent) and youth (70 percent) age groups than among adults (63 percent).

**Table 3: Top Ten Handguns by Type and Caliber by Age Group of Possessor**

Handgun Type and Caliber	Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)	
	Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	645	18.5
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	533	15.3
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	510	14.6
Revolver .38	459	13.2
Revolver .22	315	9.0
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	234	6.7
Revolver .357	152	4.4
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	147	4.2
Revolver .32	133	3.8
Semiautomatic Pistol .32	115	3.3
Top Ten Handguns	3,243	93.0
All Handguns	3,487	100.0

Handgun Type and Caliber	Youth (ages 18-24)	
	Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	4,289	28.0
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	2,319	15.2
Revolver .38	1,837	12.0
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	1,264	8.3
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	1,123	7.3
Semiautomatic Pistol .40	858	5.6
Revolver .357	849	5.6
Revolver .22	732	4.8
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	635	4.2
Revolver .32	418	2.7
Top Ten Handguns	14,324	93.7
All Handguns	15,293	100.0

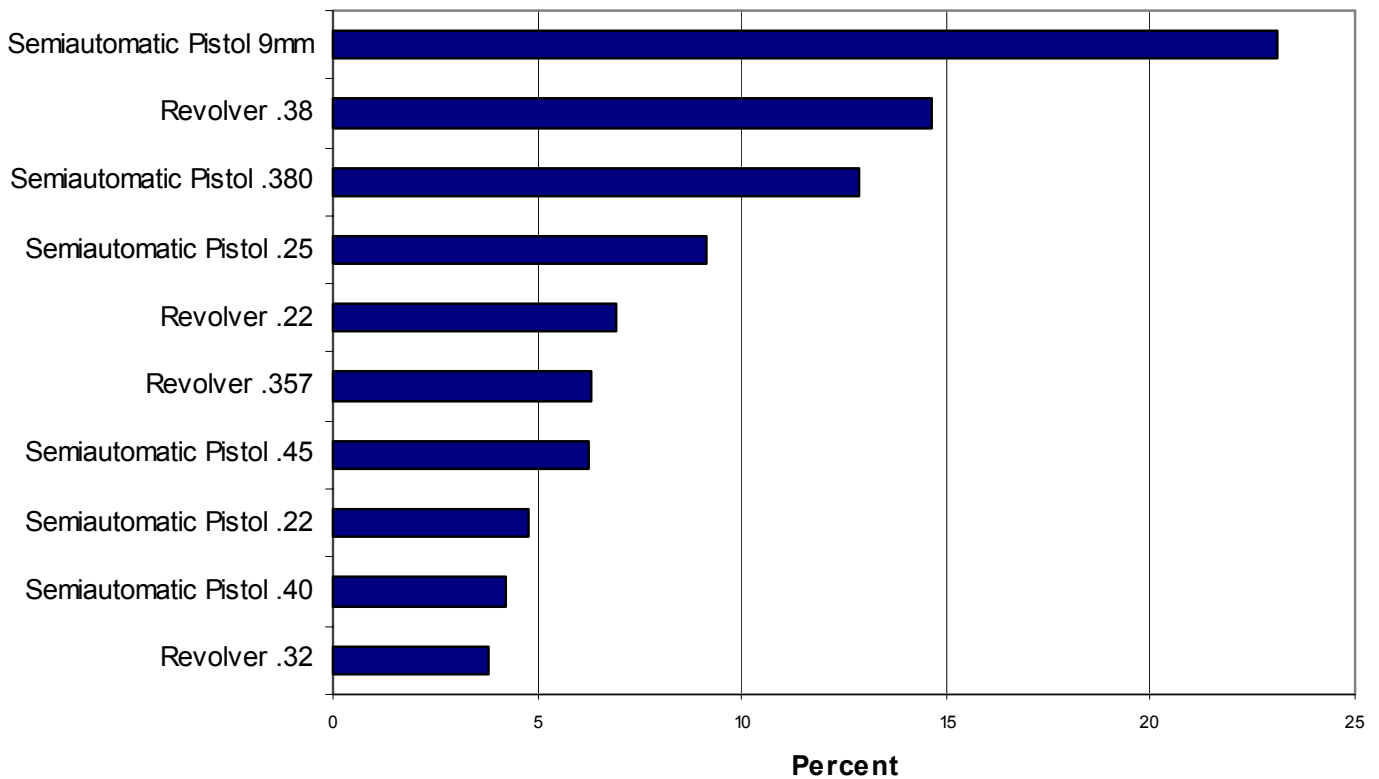
Handgun Type and Caliber	Adult (ages 25 & older)	
	Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	5,471	23.1
Revolver .38	3,506	14.8
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	2,933	12.4
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	1,900	8.0
Revolver .357	1,684	7.1
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	1,632	6.9
Revolver .22	1,555	6.6
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	1,121	4.7
Semiautomatic Pistol .40	1,059	4.5
Revolver .32	660	2.8
Top Ten Handguns	21,521	91.1
All Handguns	23,635	100.0

Handgun Type and Caliber	Age Unknown	
	Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	5,553	20.9
Revolver .38	4,318	16.2
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	3,115	11.7
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	2,644	9.9
Revolver .22	2,158	8.1
Revolver .357	1,671	6.3
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	1,401	5.3
Revolver .32	1,395	5.2
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	1,295	4.9
Semiautomatic Pistol .40	916	3.4
Top Ten Handguns	24,466	91.9
All Handguns	26,612	100.0

**Table 3: Top Ten Handguns by Type and Caliber by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

Handgun Type and Caliber	All Ages	
	Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	15,958	23.1
Revolver .38	10,120	14.7
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	8,900	12.9
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	6,318	9.2
Revolver .22	4,760	6.9
Revolver .357	4,356	6.3
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	4,303	6.2
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	3,285	4.8
Semiautomatic Pistol .40	2,915	4.2
Revolver .32	2,606	3.8
Top Ten Handguns	63,521	92.0
All Handguns	69,027	100.0

**Figure 3: Top Ten Handguns by Type and Caliber for All Ages**





**Table 4: Top Ten Long Guns by Type and Caliber/Gauge by Age Group of Possessor**

Long Gun Type and Caliber	<b>Juvenile</b>	
	(ages 17 & younger)	
	Number	Percent
Shotgun 12 GA	222	36.4
Rifle .22	142	23.3
Rifle 7.62mm	52	8.5
Shotgun 20	47	7.7
Shotgun .410 GA	21	3.4
Shotgun 16 GA	20	3.3
Rifle .30	16	2.6
Rifle 30-30	14	2.3
Rifle 9mm	10	1.6
Rifle .30-06	9	1.5
Top Ten Long Guns	553	90.7
All Long Guns	610	100.0

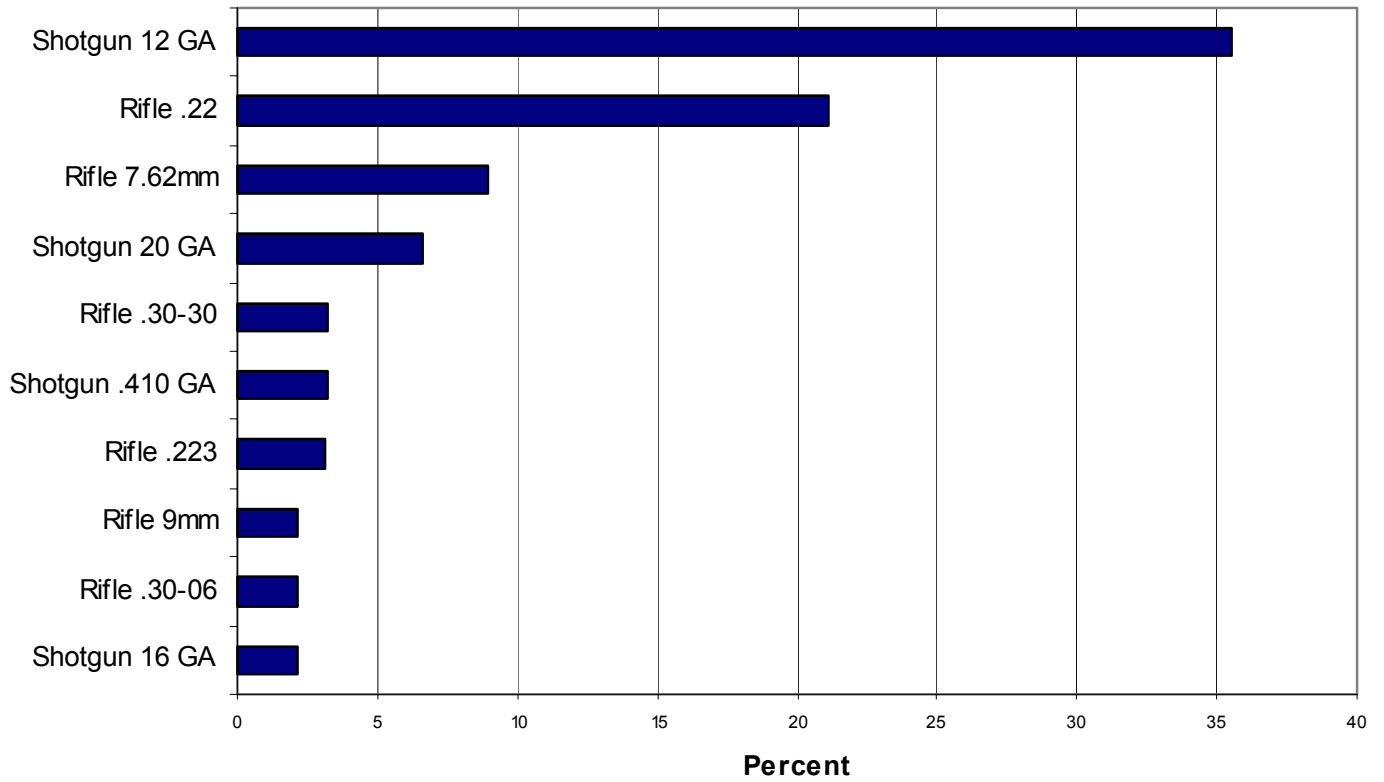
Long Gun Type and Caliber	<b>Youth</b>	
	(ages 18-24)	
	Number	Percent
Shotgun 12 GA	1,134	41.1
Rifle .22	449	16.3
Rifle 7.62mm	340	12.3
Shotgun 20 GA	201	7.3
Rifle 9mm	121	4.4
Rifle .223	89	3.2
Shotgun .410 GA	77	2.8
Rifle .30-30	67	2.4
Shotgun 16 GA	52	1.9
Rifle .30	47	1.7
Top Ten Long Guns	2,577	93.3
All Long Guns	2,761	100.0

Long Gun Type and Caliber	<b>Adult</b>	
	(ages 25 & older)	
	Number	Percent
Shotgun 12 GA	2,840	34.1
Rifle .22	1,718	20.6
Rifle 7.62mm	699	8.4
Shotgun 20 GA	522	6.3
Rifle .30-30	314	3.8
Rifle .223	311	3.7
Shotgun .410 GA	230	2.8
Rifle .30-06	199	2.4
Rifle .30	174	2.1
Shotgun 16 GA	159	1.9
Top Ten Long Guns	7,166	86.0
All Long Guns	8,336	100.0

Long Gun Type and Caliber	<b>Age Unknown</b>	
	Number	Percent
	Shotgun 12 GA	2,658
Rifle .22	1,767	23.2
Rifle 7.62mm	638	8.4
Shotgun 20 GA	507	6.7
Shotgun .410 GA	287	3.8
Rifle .30-30	221	2.9
Rifle .223	193	2.5
Shotgun 16 GA	178	2.3
Rifle .30-06	169	2.2
Rifle 9mm	157	2.1
Top Ten Long Guns	6,775	89.1
All Long Guns	7,604	100.0

Long Gun Type and Caliber	<b>All Ages</b>	
	Number	Percent
Shotgun 12 GA	6,854	35.5
Rifle .22	4,076	21.1
Rifle 7.62mm	1,729	9.0
Shotgun 20 GA	1,277	6.6
Rifle .30-30	616	3.2
Shotgun .410 GA	615	3.2
Rifle .223	599	3.1
Rifle 9mm	412	2.1
Rifle .30-06	410	2.1
Shotgun 16 GA	409	2.1
Top Ten Long Guns	16,997	88.0
All Long Guns	19,311	100.0

**Figure 4: Top Ten Long Guns by Type and Caliber/Gauge for All Ages**



## Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type of Firearms

**Most Frequently Traced Firearms, Handguns, and Long Guns.** *Table 5* ranks frequently traced firearms by manufacturer, caliber/gauge, and type for each age group. *Table 6* lists the top ten most frequent handguns among the trace requests for all age groups combined. *Table 7* is a similar ranking for the top ten long guns.

**Crime Guns Concentrated.** Ten firearms by manufacturer, caliber, and type account for 22 percent (19,743) of all trace requests (88,570). Over 1,500 different firearm variations account for the remaining crime guns (68,827).

**Most Frequently Traced Crime Guns.** Smith & Wesson .38 revolvers (3,418 trace requests) top the list for *all age groups combined* and for *adults*. This same firearm ranks third among *youth* and *juveniles*. The

Lorcin Engineering .380 semiautomatic pistol is the firearm most frequently traced among *juveniles*, the second most frequent among *youth* and the third most frequent among *adults*. The Ruger 9mm semiautomatic pistol is the most frequently traced firearm among *youth* and the second most frequently traced firearm among *adult* and among *all age* categories.

The only long gun in the top 10 traced firearms among *all age groups combined* is the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun (ranked fifth with 1,774 trace requests). The Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun is the fourth most frequently traced firearm among *adults* and the ninth among *youth*. The Remington Arms 12 gauge shotgun, with 484 trace requests, ranks ninth among *adults*.

**Table 5: Top Ten Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor**

Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)					
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns	
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	164	4.0	
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	159	3.9	
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	146	3.6	
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	92	2.2	
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	89	2.2	
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	88	2.1	
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	81	2.0	
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	65	1.6	
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	65	1.6	
RG INDUSTRIES	.22	Revolver	64	1.6	
Top Ten Crime Guns			1,013	24.6	
All Crime Guns			4,112	100.0	

**Table 5: Top Ten Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>				
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber/Gauge</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Guns</b>
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	682	3.8
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	646	3.6
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	585	3.2
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	518	2.9
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	443	2.4
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	407	2.3
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	395	2.2
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	393	2.2
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	357	2.0
HI-POINT	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	356	2.0
Top Ten Crime Guns			4,782	26.4
All Crime Guns			18,085	100.0

<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; older)</b>				
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber/Gauge</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Guns</b>
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	1,234	3.9
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	812	2.5
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	744	2.3
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	718	2.2
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	649	2.0
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	640	2.0
MARLIN	.22	Rifle	545	1.7
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	526	1.6
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	12 GA	Shotgun	484	1.5
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	469	1.5
Top Ten Crime Guns			6,821	21.3
All Crime Guns			32,044	100.0

**Table 5: Top Ten Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>All Ages</b>				
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber/Gauge</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Guns</b>
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	3,418	3.9
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2,368	2.7
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	2,351	2.7
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,885	2.1
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	1,774	2.0
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,696	1.9
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	1,645	1.9
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,576	1.8
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,568	1.8
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,462	1.7
Top Ten Crime Guns			19,743	22.3
All Crime Guns			88,570	100.0

**City variations.** The top 10 firearms are well represented among the most frequently recovered firearms in all participating cities, but the specific mix of firearms in particular cities differs from the national top 10 crime guns. Local law enforcement agencies should be aware that manufacturers and caliber of firearms not listed in the overall top 10 crime guns may comprise an important part of the local illegal gun market for a particular age group within their city. Three firearms were not represented in the overall top 10 recovered crime guns for any age group, but were frequently recovered crime guns in many jurisdictions:

- the North China Industries 7.62mm rifle, a firearm frequently recovered from adults, youth, and/or juveniles in 20 cities (*Albuquerque, NM; Austin, TX; Baton Rouge, LA; Birmingham, AL; Buffalo, NY; Anaheim, Long Beach, and Santa Ana, CA; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Denver and Aurora, CO; Los Angeles, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Minneapolis, MN; Phoenix, AZ; Portland, OR; Richmond, VA; Salinas, CA; Seattle, WA; San Antonio, TX; Stockton, CA; Saint Louis, MO; Tucson, AZ*).
- the Glock G.m.b.H. 9mm semiautomatic pistol, a firearm frequently recovered from adults, youth, and/or juveniles in 13 cities (*Albuquerque, NM; Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Anaheim, Long Beach, and Santa Ana, CA; Denver and Aurora, CO; Las Vegas, NV; Miami, FL; Oakland, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; Seattle, WA; Tampa, FL*).

- the Glock G.m.b.H. .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a firearm frequently recovered from adults, youth, and/or juveniles in 8 cities (*Boston, MA; Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Long Beach, CA; Indianapolis, IN; Las Vegas, NV; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; Nashville, TN; Seattle, WA*).

**Most Frequently Traced Handguns.** As shown in *Table 6*, three handguns manufactured by Smith & Wesson, the .38 caliber and .357 caliber revolvers and the 9mm semiautomatic pistol, rank in the top ten most frequently traced handguns. Two handguns manufactured by Bryco Arms, the .380 caliber and the 9mm semiautomatic pistol, are also included in the top ten most frequently traced handguns.<sup>8</sup>

**Most Frequently Traced Long Guns.** As shown in *Table 7*, the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun represents 9 percent (1,774) of long gun trace requests among all age groups. The imported North China Industries 7.62mm rifle constitutes 6 percent (1,151) of all long gun trace requests and ranks third for long guns among all age groups.

<sup>8</sup> See Section 4-4 for a discussion of manufacturer ranking when the specific model of firearm is considered, in contrast to a ranking of firearms by *manufacturer and caliber*, as here.

**Table 6: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer, Caliber, and Type**

<b>Handguns</b>				
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber/Gauge</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Guns</b>
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	3,418	5.0
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic	2,368	3.4
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic	2,351	3.4
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic	1,885	2.7
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic	1,696	2.5
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	1,645	2.4
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic	1,576	2.3
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic	1,568	2.3
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic	1,462	2.1
TAURUS	.38	Revolver	1,223	1.8
Top Ten Handguns			19,192	27.8
All Handguns			69,027	100.0

**Table 7: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type**

<b>Long Guns</b>				
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber/Gauge</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Guns</b>
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	1,774	9.2
MARLIN	.22	Rifle	1,321	6.8
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	7.62mm	Rifle	1,151	6.0
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	12 GA	Shotgun	1,057	5.5
WINCHESTER	12 GA	Shotgun	849	4.4
SAVAGE	12 GA	Shotgun	641	3.3
REMINGTON ARMS	.22	Rifle	550	2.8
RUGER	.22	Rifle	473	2.4
WINCHESTER	.22	Rifle	438	2.3
MAVERICKARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	12GA	Shotgun	402	2.1
Top Ten Long Guns			8,656	44.8
All Long Guns			19,311	100.0

## Firearm Manufacturer and Model

**Significance of Model Information.** Firearms vary not only by caliber, type, and manufacturer but also by model. Law enforcement utilizes manufacturer, model, and caliber information to focus on major types of crime guns. Model information allows law enforcement to identify the preferences of crime gun possessors. Manufacturers that have been in business for many years have produced numerous models of firearms in certain frequently traced calibers. Other manufacturers are more recently established, out of business, and/or have manufactured only a few models. Therefore, when crime gun information is available by manufacturer only, the role of some models of crime guns may not be apparent. When model information is available, the placement of particular manufacturers' firearms on the list of most frequently traced firearms can change substantially.

Because firearms can be uniquely identified by the manufacturer, firearm type, caliber, and serial number, ATF does not require law enforcement agencies to include model information on trace requests. However, many agencies do regularly record and report model information. Model information was provided on 60,588 trace requests (69 percent of 88,570) among YCGII jurisdictions over 250,000 inhabitants during 2000. *Tables 8 and*

9 report on the characteristics of the trace requests that include model information.

**Handgun Models.** As shown in *Table 8*, the most frequently traced handgun model, overall and in each possessor age group, is the Lorcin Engineering L380 .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol. Similarly, the second most frequently traced handgun in each possessor age group is the Davis Industries P380 .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol. By contrast, while the Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver is the most frequently traced firearm by manufacturer and caliber (*Table 5*), no single model in *Table 8* appears with comparable frequency. When model information is included, the Ruger 9mm semiautomatic pistol that appears in second place on *Table 5* is shown to be two different firearms, the Model P95 and the Model P89, both of which appear in *Table 8*.

The Raven Arms .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols, among the top ten crime guns by manufacturer and caliber (*Table 5*), include the Model MP25, the fourth most frequently traced model. Bryco Arms .380 caliber and 9mm semiautomatic pistols appear on the top ten lists for juveniles and youths (*Table 5*); by model, the Model 9 and Model 38 were among the top ten crime guns for each age group.

**Table 8: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor**

Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	163	6.5
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	87	3.5
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	87	3.5
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	80	3.2
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	54	2.2
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	50	2.0
PHOENIX ARMS CO.	RAVEN	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	50	2.0
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	41	1.6
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	40	1.6
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	39	1.6
Top Ten with Model Information				691	27.6
Total with Model Information				2,505	100.0



**Table 8: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	643	5.5
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	391	3.3
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	348	3.0
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	288	2.5
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	280	2.4
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	269	2.3
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	251	2.1
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	224	1.9
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	216	1.8
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	181	1.5
Top Ten with Model Information				3,091	26.4
Total with Model Information				11,710	100.0

<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; older)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	735	4.3
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	453	2.6
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	319	1.9
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	306	1.8
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	289	1.7
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	275	1.6
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	266	1.5
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	234	1.4
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	230	1.3
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	208	1.2
Top Ten with Model Information				3,315	19.2
Total with Model Information				17,225	100.0

**Table 8: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

All Ages					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	2,334	4.7
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,452	2.9
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,036	2.1
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,035	2.1
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	923	1.9
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	869	1.8
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	819	1.6
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	795	1.6
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	776	1.6
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	671	1.4
Top Ten with Model Information				10,710	21.6
Total with Model Information				49,643	100.0

**Long Gun Models.** As shown in *Table 9*, consistent with manufacturer information shown in *Table 7*, the Mossberg 500 12 gauge shotgun is the most frequently traced long gun for adults and youth and ranks fifth among juveniles. The North China Industries SKS 7.62mm rifle ranks first among juveniles, second among youth, and fourth among adults.

**Officer Safety.** ATF provides officer safety information relating to crime in order to assist State and local law enforcement managers in assessing potential departmental safety measures. *Table 9* shows that for all age groups, the North China

Industries Model SKS 7.62mm caliber rifle is the rifle model most frequently encountered by law enforcement officers. The North China Industries Model MAK90 7.62mm caliber rifle is also encountered in significant numbers, and the Colt Model AR15 .223 caliber rifle is among the long guns most frequently recovered from adult possessors.<sup>9</sup> These high capacity rifles pose an enhanced threat to law enforcement, in part because of their ability to expel projectiles at velocities that are capable of penetrating the type of soft body armor typically worn by the law enforcement officers.

<sup>9</sup>The North China Industries model SKS 7.62 has been barred from importation into the United States since May 1994 when the President banned the importation of munitions from China. (Letter to Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd M. Bentsen from Secretary of State Warren Christopher, May 28, 1994.) The Colt AR-15 is a semiautomatic assault weapon as defined in the Gun Control Act of 1968. 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(30). It is generally unlawful to possess or transfer these firearms. 18 U.S.C. 922(v)(1). This prohibition, however, does not apply to any AR-15 that was lawfully possessed on or before Sept. 13, 1994. 18 U.S.C. 921(v)(2). The North China Industries MAK90 has been barred from importation since May 1994 when the President banned the importation of munitions from China. In addition, in 1998, it was determined that this firearm was not generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes and, therefore, could not be legally imported into the United States. 18 U.S.C. 925(d)(3). *Department of the Treasury Study on the Sporting Suitability of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Weapons*, April 1998, Department of the Treasury.

**Table 9: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor**

<b>Juvenile (ages 17 &amp; younger)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	24	7.3
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	20	6.1
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	19	5.8
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	17	5.2
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	15	4.6
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	12	3.7
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	8	2.4
WINCHESTER	94	.30-30	Rifle	6	1.8
MARLIN	336	.30-30	Rifle	4	1.2
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	11-87	12 GA	Shotgun	4	1.2
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	1100	12 GA	Shotgun	4	1.2
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	20 GA	Shotgun	4	1.2
Top Ten with Model Information				137	41.9
Total with Model Information				327	100.0

<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	201	11.9
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	139	8.2
MAVERICK ARMS	88	12 GA	Shotgun	102	6.0
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	87	5.1
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	87	5.1
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	72	4.2
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	50	2.9
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	42	2.5
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	42	2.5
RUGER	MINI 14	.223	Rifle	33	1.9
Top Ten with Model Information				855	50.4
Total with Model Information				1,696	100.0

**Table 9: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; older)</b>						
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>	
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	390	8.0	
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	267	5.5	
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	246	5.0	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	230	4.7	
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	203	4.2	
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	121	2.5	
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	102	2.1	
WINCHESTER	94	.30-30	Rifle	93	1.9	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	90	1.8	
RUGER	MINI 14	.223	Rifle	76	1.6	
Top Ten with Model Information				1,818	37.3	
Total with Model Information				4,872	100.0	

<b>All Ages</b>						
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Guns</b>	
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	940	8.6	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	642	5.9	
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	563	5.2	
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	562	5.2	
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	434	4.0	
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	348	3.2	
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	250	2.3	
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	224	2.1	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	193	1.8	
WINCHESTER	94	.30-30	Rifle	193	1.8	
Top Ten with Model Information				4,349	39.9	
Total with Model Information				10,888	100.0	

## 2 - 4 Results of Trace Requests

**Traces Initiated.** Of the 88,570 requests for firearm traces from YCGII jurisdictions included in this national report, 77,250 (87 percent) resulted in traces initiated by the ATF National Tracing Center (*Table 10*). The proportion of traces initiated is similar among juvenile, adult and all age groups.

**Purchasers Identified.** As displayed in *Table 10*, as a result of the 77,250 requests for which a trace was initiated, 47,478 purchasers (54 percent of all requests and 61 percent of all initiated traces) were identified. Among juveniles, 59 percent of the initiated traces result in identifying the purchaser. Among youth, the percent increases to 67 percent; among adults, the percent of purchasers identified is 62 percent.

**Reasons Traces Not Initiated and Purchasers Not Identified.** As displayed in *Table 11* and *Figure 5*, the primary reason traces were not initiated is that 7,782 trace requests (9 percent of all trace requests) identified firearms manufactured prior to 1969.

*Table 11* separates the reasons why traces that were initiated did not successfully identify a purchaser into two main categories: Terminated at the Manufacturer/Importer Stage and Terminated at the Wholesale/Retail Dealer Stage. Traces were terminated at the manufacturer or importer stage of the tracing process in 18,181 requests (21 percent of all requests and 24 percent of initiated traces), primarily because of incomplete or inaccurate information about the serial number on 9,572 firearms (11 percent of all requests and 12 percent of all initiated traces). Traces were

terminated at the wholesale or retail dealer stage of the tracing process in 10,091 requests (11 percent of all requests and 13 percent of all initiated traces), primarily because the dealers reported that they had no records on 6,043 firearms (7 percent of all trace requests and 8 percent of all initiated traces). The flow of cases from *Trace Initiated to Purchaser Identified to Purchaser Not Identified* is presented in *Figure 5*.

Since the inception of the YCGII program in 1996, there has been a steady increase in the number of participating jurisdictions, especially among cities with a population over 250,000 (See appendix B). This growth has been accompanied with extensive efforts to enhance the value of tracing data for local and national uses. Existing variations in the procedures for collection of tracing information by participating YCGII jurisdictions led to a concentrated effort by ATF to educate and train law enforcement personnel as to the benefits of comprehensive firearm tracing. ATF provided temporary personnel to assist local jurisdictions in entering and providing quality trace data and using aggregate information about crime gun traces to promote more effective local enforcement strategies. Since April 1999, ATF has trained approximately 7,200 law enforcement officers in firearms identification. An emphasis is placed on the concept of comprehensive firearm tracing as a reliable method to identify individuals or groups that are illegally trafficking firearms to criminals or youths in a particular community.

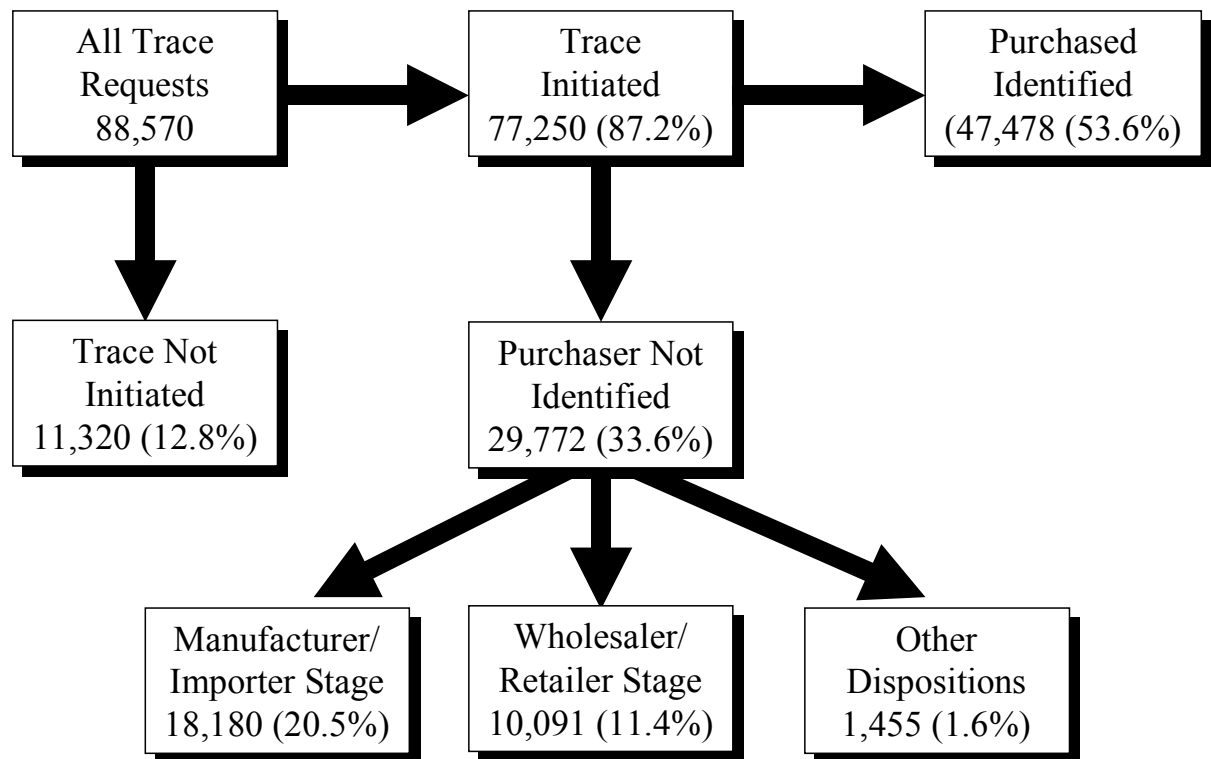
**Table 10: Traces Initiated and Purchasers Identified**

	<b>Number of Crime Gun Trace Requests</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Gun Trace Requests</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Gun Traces Initiated</b>
<b>Juvenile (ages 17 &amp; under)</b>			
Crime Gun Trace Requests	4,112	100.0	
Traces Initiated	3,587	87.2	100.0
Traced to FFL	2,495	60.7	69.6
Purchaser Identified	2,112	51.4	58.9
<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>			
Crime Gun Trace Requests	18,085	100.0	
Traces Initiated	16,296	90.1	100.0
Traced to FFL	12,161	67.2	74.6
Purchaser Identified	10,924	60.4	67.0
<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; over)</b>			
Crime Gun Trace Requests	32,044	100.0	
Traces Initiated	27,873	87.0	100.0
Traced to FFL	20,161	62.9	72.3
Purchaser Identified	17,425	54.4	62.5
<b>All Crime Guns in this Jurisdiction</b>			
Crime Gun Trace Requests	88,570	100.0	
Traces Initiated	77,250	87.2	100.0
Traced to FFL	54,665	61.7	70.8
Purchaser Identified	47,478	53.6	61.5

**Table 11: Reasons Traces Not Initiated and Purchasers Not Identified**

	<b>Number of Crime Gun Trace Requests</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Gun Trace Requests</b>	<b>Percent of Crime Gun Traces Initiated</b>
<b>Reasons Trace Not Initiated</b>			
Firearm Manufactured Before 1969	7,782	8.8	10.1
Request Submitted for Information Purposes Only	3,005	3.4	3.9
Other Reasons	533	0.6	0.7
<b>Reasons Purchaser Not Identified</b>			
<b>Trace Terminated At</b>			
<b>Manufacturer/Importer Stage</b>	18,181	20.5	23.5
Problem with Manufacturer Name	3,115	3.5	4.0
Problem with Importer Name	4,927	5.6	6.4
Problem with Crime Gun Serial Number	9,572	10.8	12.4
Insufficient Information (unspecified)	50	0.1	0.1
Crime Gun Reported Stolen	517	0.6	0.7
<b>Trace Terminated At</b>			
<b>Wholesaler/Retail Dealer Stage</b>	10,091	11.4	13.1
No Response	305	0.3	0.4
Records Not Available	1,314	1.5	1.7
Records on this Crime Gun Not Available	6,043	6.8	7.8
20 Year Record Retention Requirement Expired	2,147	2.4	2.8
Crime Gun Reported Stolen During Inquiry	282	0.3	0.4
<b>Other Dispositions</b>			
Terminated by Law Enforcement	575	0.6	0.7
Disposition Pending	344	0.4	0.4
Special Conditions	536	0.6	0.7

**Figure 5: Traces Initiated and Purchasers Identified**





## 2 - 5 Possessors and Purchasers

**Few Possessors Are Purchasers.** In 63,526 of the trace requests (72 percent of 88,570), a crime gun possessor was identified. In 47,478 requests (53 percent of 88,570), the crime gun purchaser was identified. In 34,847 requests both purchaser and possessor are known, and in 88 percent of those traces (30,775), the possessor and the purchaser are not the same person. The high proportion of crime guns not possessed by their original purchasers suggests the potential importance of a more extensive investigation of the chain of possession of crime guns. There is little variation by firearm type in the proportion of possessors that are also the first purchasers of crime guns.

**Tracing from Purchaser to Possessor.** Transfers of a firearm beyond the initial purchase by a retail customer usually cannot be followed to the criminal possessor using serial numbers and transfer documentation alone. Federal law does not require unlicensed sellers to perform Brady background checks or maintain transfer records for tracing, and firearm owners are not required to keep a record of the serial number of their firearms or to report lost or stolen firearms. Therefore, it is generally impossible for a National Tracing Center (NTC) crime gun trace alone to identify purchasers beyond the initial retail purchaser. If a crime gun is not recovered from its original purchaser, it has been transferred at least once in the secondary market, that is, by someone other than an FFL. These transfers may be lawful or unlawful. The crime gun may have been illegally transferred by a straw purchaser; resold by an unlicensed seller or as a used gun by an FFL; borrowed, traded, or given as a gift; stolen by its criminal possessor; or stolen and trafficked, among other possibilities.

### **Tracking Transfers Beyond First Retail Sale.**

*FFL reporting to the National Tracing Center.*

In 2000, ATF began requiring certain FFLs who failed to cooperate with crime gun traces, as well as those with 10 or more crime gun traces with a time-to-crime of 3 years or less, to report additional information on firearms transactions to the National Tracing Center.

*State documentation.* States may impose additional firearm transfer documentation requirements that law enforcement agencies may use to trace new and previously owned firearms purchased in that State.

*Investigative tracing.* For traces of crime guns recovered from juveniles and traces involving certain crimes, ATF agents, often working with State and local law enforcement officials in YCGII cities, will follow the gun through the chain of possession to an illegal supplier by performing an investigative trace. Investigative tracing uses interviews and other investigative techniques to track the gun through the entire chain of transfers to the criminal possessor. However, investigative tracing is a resource-intensive method that is not practicable for all gun crimes.

## 2 - 6 Time-to-Crime

**Time-to-Crime.** An important consideration in understanding firearms trafficking is the length of time from a firearm's first retail sale by a Federal firearm licensee (FFL) to its recovery by law enforcement as a crime gun. A short time-to-crime can be an indicator of illegal firearms trafficking. Focusing on these firearms alone can produce significant trafficking trends and patterns. Investigating crime guns with short time-to-crime allows law enforcement to seek out sources of crime guns and disrupt the flow of illegal firearms trafficking.

**Limitation on Time-to-Crime Information for Used Crime Guns.** Since a National Tracing Center trace generally extends only to the first retail purchaser, a trace of a gun sold used by an unlicensed seller or FFL usually will not show a fast time-to-crime, even if it was recovered by law enforcement shortly after its most recent transfer. Therefore, the time-to-crime measure as an indicator of trafficking is most appropriate when applied to guns sold new by FFLs.

**Percentage of Traces with Time-to-Crime.** To compute time-to-crime, both the date the firearm was recovered and the date it was purchased from a retail FFL must be known. Sufficient information to compute a time-to-crime was provided for 52 percent (46,019) of the crime gun traces (88,570). These 46,019 traces are analyzed in this section.

**Reporting Median Time-to-Crime.** Throughout this report, the average time-to-crime for specific guns, for age groups, and for other sets of traces is reported by the median. The median is the actual time-to-crime

value of the middle gun in a group of guns rank ordered by their time-to-crime. The median is a particularly useful measure of central tendency when a variable has a small subset of cases with extreme values; such is the case with time-to-crime.

**Short Time-to-Crime.** Crime guns with a very short time-to-crime represent a priority for further investigation as the original transaction may have involved illegal diversion that is continuing. As shown in *Figure 6*, about 15 percent (6,718) of the crime guns recovered in 2000, which a time-to-crime could be computed, have a time-to-crime of 12 months or less. Another 9 percent (4,258) of the recovered crime guns have a time-to-crime of over 1 year and up to 2 years.

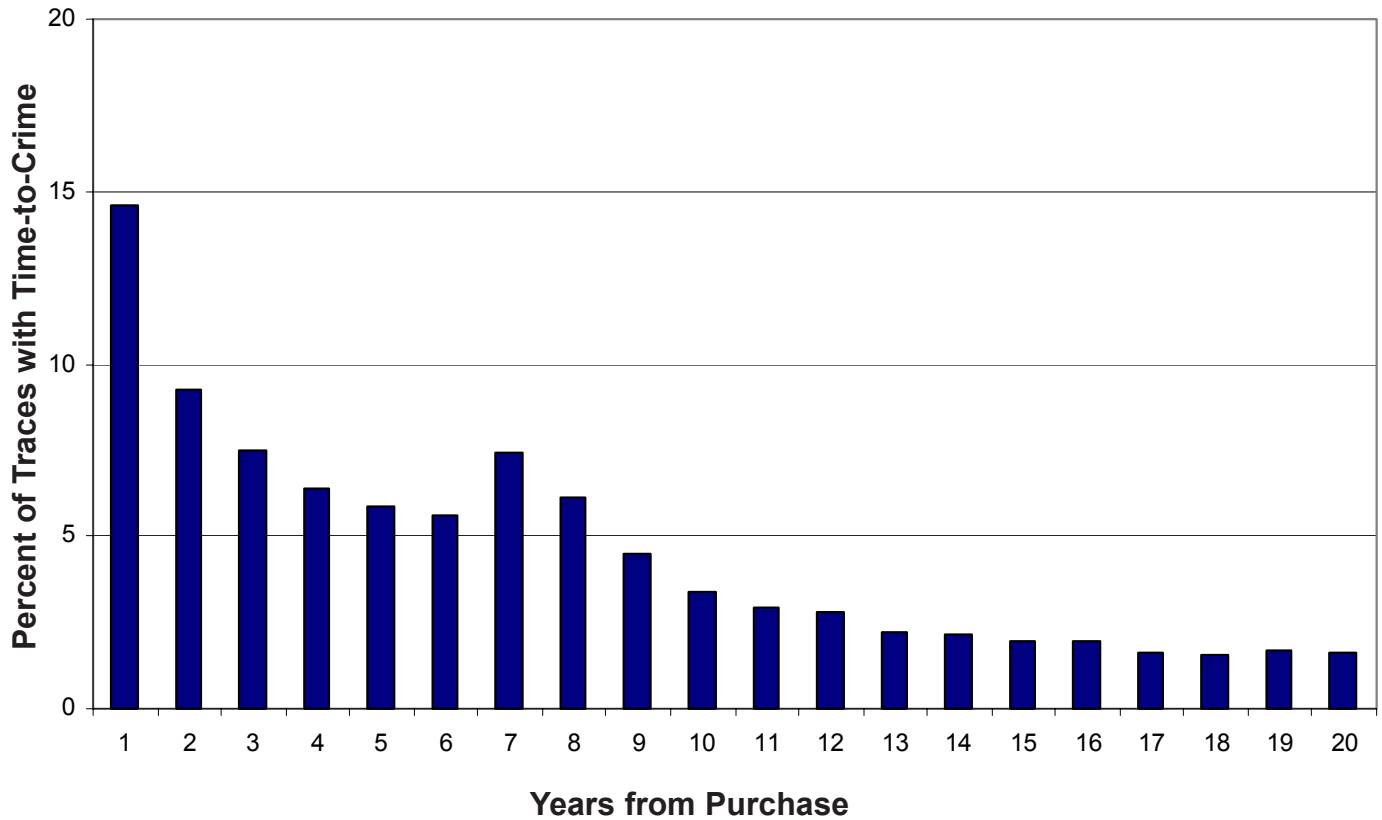
**New Crime Guns.** The illegal market in guns involves new guns, used guns, and stolen guns. *Figure 7* displays the cumulative percent of crime guns by years since purchase and shows that nearly a third (31 percent, 14,422) of recovered crime guns, for which a time-to-crime could be computed (46,019), had been purchased for the first time within 3 years of their recovery.<sup>10</sup> Since these crime guns were all recovered in 2000, nearly one-third of the crime guns with known time-to-crime entered firearm commerce between December 1996 and December 1997.

**Short Time-to-Crime for All Crime Guns.** Half of the crime guns recovered in 2000 had a time-to-crime of 6 years or less. This is a relatively short period of time. Gun owners surveyed in 1994 indicated that they had owned their firearms an average of 13 years.<sup>11</sup>

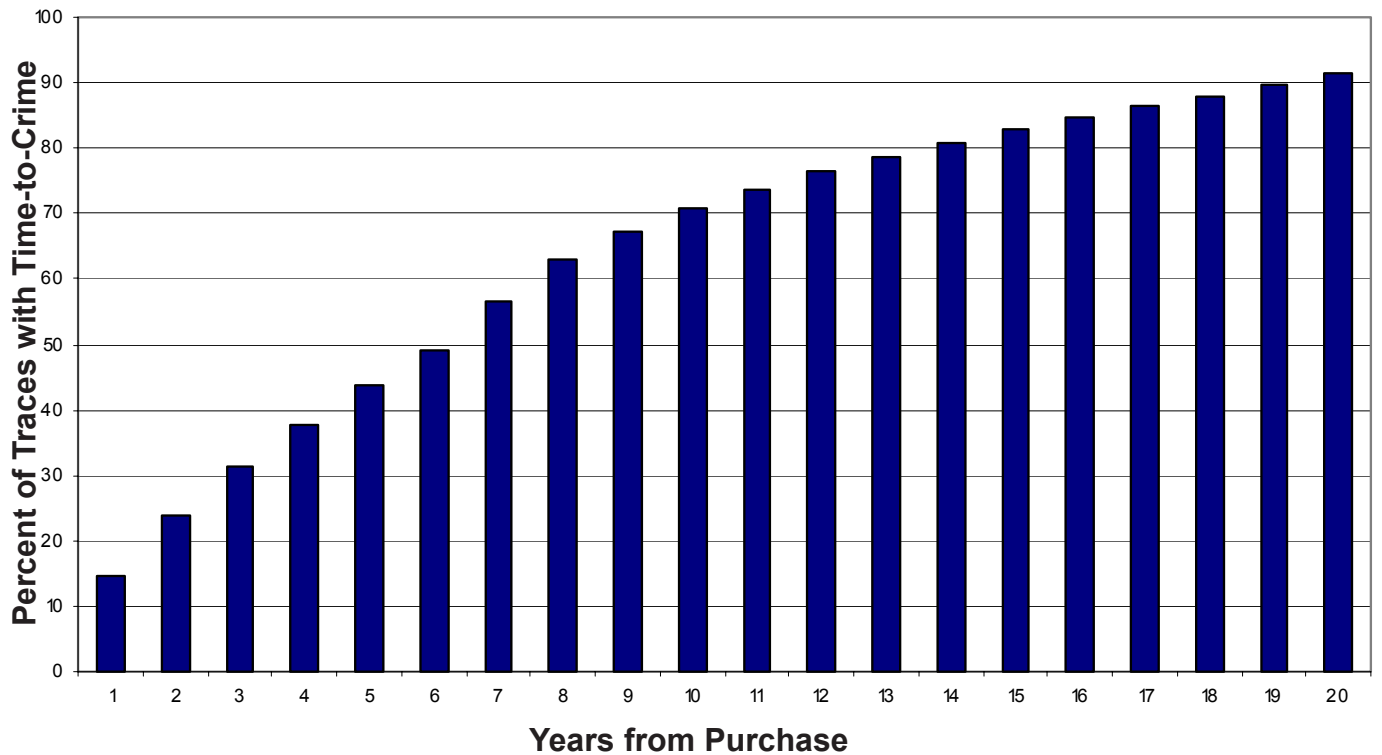
<sup>10</sup> The methodology for these calculations and the numbers and percentages for *Figures 6 and 7* can be found in Appendix B.

<sup>11</sup> Phillip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, *Guns in America*, Police Foundation 1997.

**Figure 6: Percent of Traced Crime Guns by Time-to-Crime**



**Figure 7: Cumulative Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Time-to-Crime**



## Time-to-Crime by Firearm Type

**Median Time-to-Crime by Firearm Type and Age Group.** As shown in *Table 12* and *Figure 8*, while the median time-to-crime for semiautomatic pistols is 4.5 years, for revolvers the median time-to-crime is 12.3 years. As shown in *Table 12* and *Figure 9*, the median time-to-crime for crime guns possessed by youth is 4.5 years, more than two years shorter than for crime guns possessed by juveniles (6.6 years), and a year and a half shorter than for adults (6.0 years). Juveniles tend to possess firearms that have a long time-to-crime. Their median time-to-crime is the longest of all age groups, and this is true if the firearm in their possession is a semiautomatic pistol, a revolver, or a rifle. Revolvers recovered by law enforcement from juveniles have a median time-to-crime of 14 years. The pattern for long guns is different. Among long guns, those recovered from youth have a median time-to-crime of about 5 years; for adults and for juveniles, the median time-to-crime is over 7 years.

**Shortest and Longest Time-to-Crime Guns.** As shown in *Table 12*, semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth have the shortest median time-to-crime, 3.3 years. Thus, half of the semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth in 2000, and for which we were able to determine the time-to-crime, were originally sold

sometime between September 1996 and September 1997. The longest median time-to-crime is observed for revolvers possessed by juveniles, 14 years. Time-to-crime information alone cannot determine whether these recovered semiautomatic pistols were obtained through illegal diversion or purchased new from FFLs by youth crime gun possessors. This is the type of question that law enforcement officials must further investigate. Since nearly 88 percent of all traced crime guns changed hands at least once before recovery by law enforcement, it can be assumed that illegal diversion plays a significant role in youth crime gun acquisition.

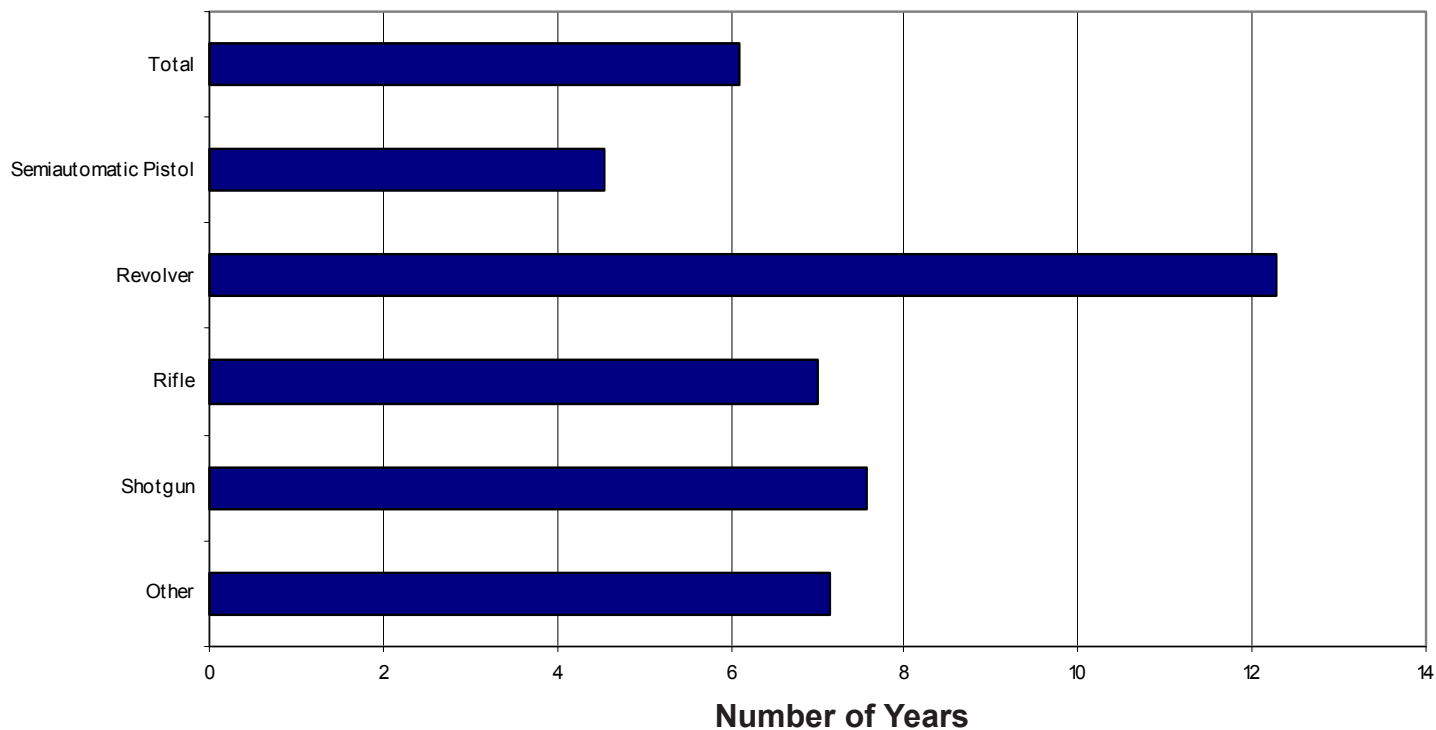
**City variations.** The median time-to-crime for recovered crime guns varied across the YCGII cities. Certain cities have a median time-to-crime that is notably shorter than the YCGII city average of 6.1 years. These cities included *Gary, IN* (2.6 years); *Atlanta, GA* (3.1 years); *Indianapolis, IN* (3.1 years); *Philadelphia, PA* (3.8 years); *Tucson, AZ* (4.0 years) and *Seattle, WA* (4.1 years). Other cities have a median time-to-crime that is much longer than the YCGII city average. These cities include *Stockton, CA* (9.2 years); *San Jose, CA* (9.0 years); *Anaheim, Long Beach, and Santa Ana, CA* (8.8 years); *Los Angeles, CA* (8.0 years) and *Oakland, CA* (8.0 years).

**Table 12: Median Time-to-Crime in Years by Firearm Type and Age Group of Possessor**

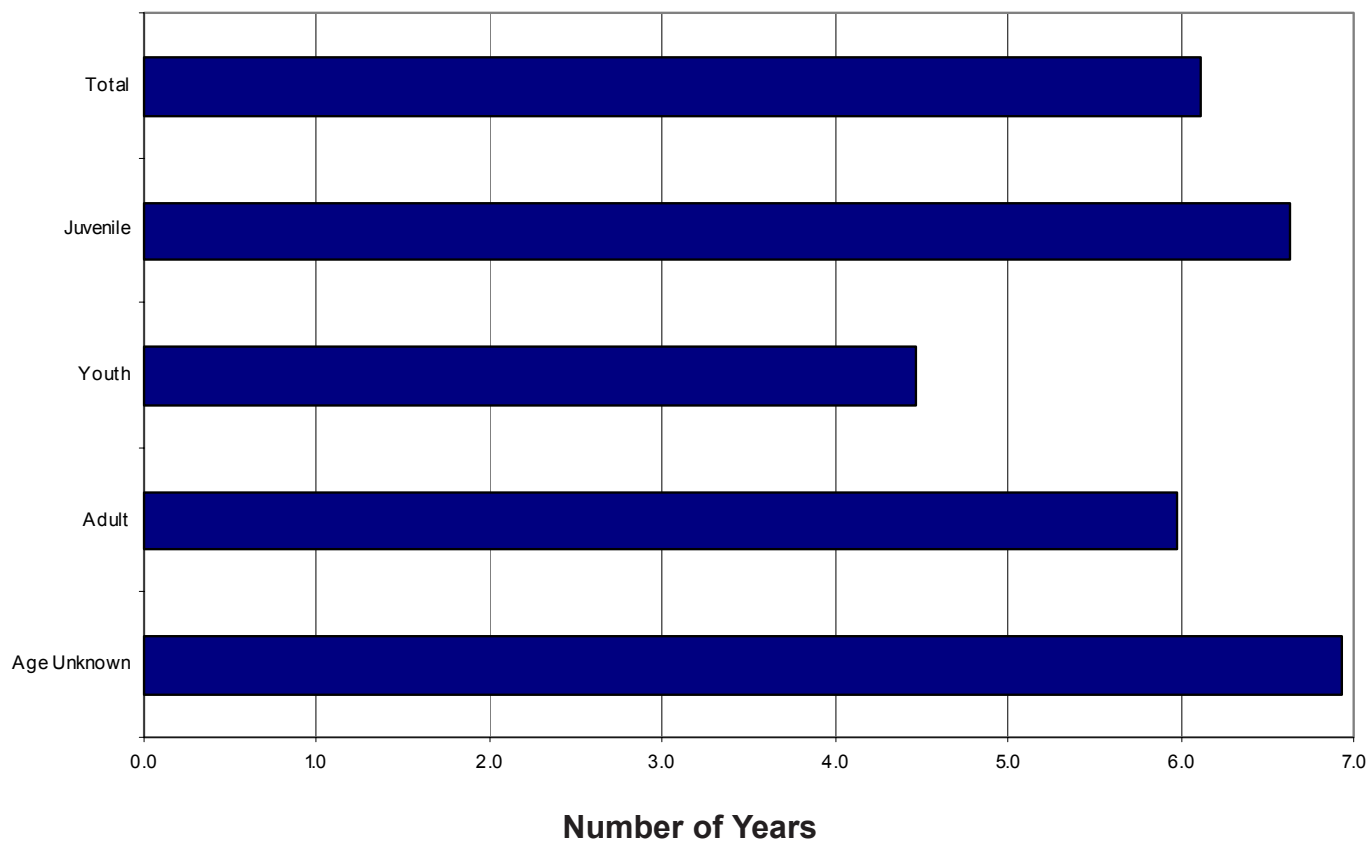
Type of Weapon	Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)	Youth (ages 18 - 24)	Adult (ages 25 & older)	Age Unknown	All Ages
Semiautomatic Pistol	5.7	3.3	4.4	5.6	4.5
Revolver	14.0	11.7	10.9	14.1	12.3
Rifle	7.1	5.1	7.5	7.4	7.0
Shotgun	7.2	5.0	7.9	8.5	7.6
Other	7.0	7.4	6.8	7.9	7.1
Total	6.6	4.5	6.0	6.9	6.1

Based on 46,008 traces for which a time-to-crime could be computed.  
See Appendix B: For details on computing time-to-crime

**Figure 8: Median Time-to-Crime by Firearm Type**



**Figure 9: Median Time-to-Crime by Age Group of Possessor**



## Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Crime Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber and Type

**Short Time-to-Crime Guns.** As shown in *Table 13*, Bryco Arms 9mm semiautomatic pistols have the fastest median time-to-crime for all ages combined at 1.4 years. More than 70 percent (822 of 1,171) of these crime guns have a time-to-crime of 3 years or less and the shortest time-to-crime was 0 days. This same crime gun has the fastest median time-to-crime among juveniles (1.5 years) and the second fastest median time-to-crime among youth (1.1 years). The Bryco Arms .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol has the second fastest median time-to-crime for all ages combined (2.9 years), and is the fastest time-to-crime gun among adult possessors (2.7 years), second fastest time among juveniles (3.4 years), and third fastest among youth (2.0 years).

**Longer Time-to-Crime Guns.** As shown in *Table 13*, among all ages, the Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver had a median time-to-crime of just over 13 years; only 12 percent of the Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolvers have a time-to-crime of 3 years or

less. The Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolver has very similar median time-to-crime, 13 years. Thirteen percent of the Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolvers have a median time-to-crime of 3 years or less. Only 2 percent of the Raven Arms .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols have a median time-to-crime of 3 years or less. Raven Arms stopped manufacturing firearms in 1991.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, many of these firearms are likely to have been re-sold by FFLs and/or transferred by unlicensed persons.

**Long Gun Time-to-Crime.** As shown in *Table 13*, the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, the only long gun among the most frequently traced firearms among all age groups, has a median time-to-crime of 5.4 years; 35 percent of these guns have a time-to-crime of 3 years or less. Among adults, the Marlin .22 rifle has a median time-to-crime of 12.3 years and is the seventh most frequently traced firearm. The Remington Arms shotgun ranks ninth in frequency and has a median time-to-crime of 8.9 years.

**Table 13: Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Crime Guns  
by Age Group of Possessor**

Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)			Number of Crime Guns		Median Time-to-Crime in Years	Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or Less		Fastest Case (in days) <sup>***</sup>
			All	With Time-to-Crime*		Number	Percent**	
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun						
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	65	53	1.5	40	75.5	2
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	92	73	3.4	33	45.2	18
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	89	71	3.6	30	42.3	9
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	164	116	5.4	33	28.4	1
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	88	70	6.2	23	32.9	44
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	81	69	6.5	15	21.7	35
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	159	113	13.0	2	1.8	2
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	65	38	14.6	4	10.5	100
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	146	51	16.8	3	5.9	188
RG INDUSTRIES	.22	Revolver	64	31	21.2	1	3.2	198
Top Ten Crime Guns			1,013	685				
All Crime Guns			4,112	2,062				

\* Time-to-crime can only be calculated when a trace is completed and a recovery date is submitted.

\*\* The denominator used to calculate this result is the total number of trace requests where a time-to-crime was established.

\*\*\* A time-to-crime of 0 days indicates the recovery of a firearm during or immediately following a sale from a Federal firearms licensee.

<sup>12</sup> Fjestad, S. P., *Blue Book of Gun Values*, 2000. 22st ed. p. 1011. Minneapolis, MN: Bluebook Publications.

**Table 13: Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Crime Guns by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>			<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>		<b>Median Time-to-Crime in Years</b>	<b>Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or Less</b>		<b>Fastest Case (in days)***</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>With Time-to-Crime*</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent**</b>	
HI-POINT	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	356	300	1.0	210	70.0	0
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	518	387	1.1	294	76.0	1
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	443	346	2.0	210	60.7	0
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	682	549	2.7	298	54.3	1
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	357	263	3.2	128	48.7	0
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	646	522	3.9	217	41.6	0
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	407	289	4.6	96	33.2	0
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	393	313	6.3	91	29.1	5
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	395	277	11.9	10	3.6	135
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	585	184	13.9	16	8.7	76
Top Ten Crime Guns			4,782	3,430				
All Crime Guns			18,085	10,618				

<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; older)</b>			<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>		<b>Median Time-to-Crime in Years</b>	<b>Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or Less</b>		<b>Fastest Case (in days)***</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>With Time-to-Crime*</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent**</b>	
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	469	337	2.7	180	53.4	3
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	812	662	3.4	303	45.8	1
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	744	578	4.4	203	35.1	6
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	649	461	5.7	140	30.4	1
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	718	492	5.9	164	33.3	1
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	12 GA	Shotgun	484	230	8.9	40	17.4	3
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	1,234	454	12.1	65	14.3	4
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	640	383	12.3	63	16.4	10
MARLIN	.22	Rifle	545	303	12.3	49	16.2	2
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	526	376	12.8	6	1.6	41
Top Ten Crime Guns			6,821	4,276				
All Crime Guns			32,044	16,939				

<b>All Ages</b>			<b>Number of Crime Guns</b>		<b>Median Time-to-Crime in Years</b>	<b>Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or Less</b>		<b>Fastest Case (in days)***</b>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type of Crime Gun</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>With Time-to-Crime*</b>		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent**</b>	
BRYCO ARMS	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,576	1,171	1.4	822	70.2	0
BRYCO ARMS	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,568	1,197	2.9	614	51.3	0
RUGER	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2,368	1,896	3.3	902	47.6	0
LORCIN ENGINEERING	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	2,351	1,825	4.5	645	35.3	0
MOSSBERG	12 GA	Shotgun	1,774	1,196	5.4	419	35.0	0
SMITH & WESSON	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,696	1,203	6.1	350	29.1	0
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,462	1,179	6.3	314	26.6	0
RAVEN ARMS	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,885	1,344	12.8	28	2.1	2
SMITH & WESSON	.357	Revolver	1,645	983	13.0	128	13.0	10
SMITH & WESSON	.38	Revolver	3,418	1,151	13.1	143	12.4	1
Top Ten Crime Guns			19,743	13,145				
All Crime Guns			88,570	46,008				

\* Time-to-crime can only be calculated when a trace is completed and a recovery date is submitted.

\*\* The denominator used to calculate this result is the total number of trace requests where a time-to-crime was established.

\*\*\* A time-to-crime of 0 days indicates the recovery of a firearm during or immediately following a sale from a Federal firearms licensee.

## Time-to-Crime by Manufacturer and Model

**Time-to-Crime Among Handgun Models: Youth and Adult Age Groups.** Youth and adult crime guns are heavily concentrated in the medium and high caliber semiautomatic pistols with relatively short time-to-crime. As shown in *Table 14*, five of the ten most frequently traced crime gun models in both the youth and adult age category have a median time-to-crime of less than 3 years. These short time-to-crime gun models for youth and adults are overwhelmingly 9mm semiautomatic pistols, including the Bryco Arms 9 (median time-to-crime for youth 0.7 and for adults 0.6 years), the Hi-Point C (1.0 and 1.6 years), the Ruger P95 (1.5 and 1.6 years) and the Lorcin Engineering model L9 (1.9 and 2.3 years). The Bryco Arms model 38 handgun also ranks in the top five time-to-crime guns for youth and adults at 1.3 and 3.0 years, respectively.

**Time-to-Crime Among Handgun Models: Juvenile Age Group.** Only two juvenile crime gun models have a median time-to-crime of less than 3 years;

among juveniles, the Hi-Point C model has a median time-to-crime of 1.3 years and the Lorcin Engineering model L9 has a median time-to-crime of 2.5 years. All the other most frequently traced handgun models among juveniles have a median time-to-crime of greater than 5.4 years and four have a median time-to-crime of 11 years or more.

**Time-to-Crime Among Long Gun Models.** As shown in *Table 15*, among all age groups, two long gun models have a median time-to-crime at or below 3 years; the Hi-Point model 995 rifle (1.8 years) and the Maverick Arms model 88 shotgun (3.0 years). The Maverick Arms shotgun also has a median time-to-crime below 3 years for juvenile, youth and adult age groups. The Hi-Point model 995 rifle, has the fastest median time-to-crime among both the juvenile and youth age groups, at 1.3 and 1.7 years respectively.

**Table 14: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor**

Juvenile (ages 17 & younger)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.8	39
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.3	54
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.5	50
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.4	40
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.4	163
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.5	41
PHOENIX ARMS CO.	RAVEN	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.0	50
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.2	87
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.5	80
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	11.6	87
Top Ten Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					691
Total Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					1,595



**Table 14: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

Youth (ages 18-24)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.7	288
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.0	348
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.3	181
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.5	269
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.9	280
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.0	643
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.2	251
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.1	216
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.2	391
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	10.5	224
Top Ten Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					3,091
Total Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					8,050

Adult (ages 25 & older)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.6	230
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.6	275
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.6	289
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.3	266
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	3.0	208
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.5	735
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.3	319
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.2	234
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.2	453
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	11.7	306
Top Ten Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					3,315
Total Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					11,539

**Table 14: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>All Ages</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Number</b>
BRYCO ARMS	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.7	795
HI-POINT	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.5	1,036
RUGER	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.6	776
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.1	869
BRYCO ARMS	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.7	671
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.6	2,334
RUGER	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.0	923
LORCIN ENGINEERING	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.2	819
DAVIS INDUSTRIES	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.3	1,452
RAVEN ARMS	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	11.5	1,035
Top Ten Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					10,710
Total Handguns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					32,551

**Table 15: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor**

<b>Juvenile (ages 17 &amp; younger)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Number</b>
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	1.3	8
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	9mm	Shotgun	3.0	12
MOSSBERG	500	9mm	Shotgun	3.1	15
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	11-87	.380	Shotgun	4.5	4
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	.380	Rifle	6.4	24
MARLIN	60	9mm	Rifle	8.7	20
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	.25	Shotgun	8.9	19
RUGER	10/22	.380	Rifle	10.8	17
MARLIN	336	.25	Rifle	11.7	4
WINCHESTER	94	.25	Rifle	16.3	6
Top Ten Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					129
Total Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					139

**Table 15: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>Youth (ages 18-24)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Number</b>
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	1.7	87
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	2.5	102
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	2.8	201
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	3.0	42
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	5.9	87
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	6.2	42
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	6.4	139
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	6.5	50
RUGER	MINI 14	.223	Rifle	7.9	33
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	12.1	72
Top Ten Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					855
Total Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					943

<b>Adult (ages 25 &amp; older)</b>					
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Number</b>
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	2.9	121
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	4.3	102
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	5.9	390
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	6.3	90
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	6.6	230
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	8.2	267
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	9.5	203
RUGER	MINI 14	.223	Rifle	11.3	76
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	13.2	246
WINCHESTER	94	.30-30	Rifle	19.3	93
Top Ten Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					1,818
Total Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					2,332

**Table 15: Median Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer and Model by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)**

<b>All Ages</b>						
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Caliber</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Number</b>	
HI-POINT	995	9mm	Rifle	1.8	250	
MAVERICK ARMS (EAGLE PASS, TX)	88	12 GA	Shotgun	3.0	348	
WINCHESTER	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	3.8	224	
MOSSBERG	500	12 GA	Shotgun	5.0	940	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	6.3	193	
NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	6.4	642	
REMINGTON ARMS CO.	870	12 GA	Shotgun	7.7	562	
RUGER	10/22	.22	Rifle	8.5	434	
MARLIN	60	.22	Rifle	13.4	563	
WINCHESTER	94	.30-30	Rifle	17.7	193	
Top Ten Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					4,349	
Total Long Guns with Model and Time-to-Crime Information					5,198	

## 2 - 7 Recovery Location and Source Location

**Most Traced Firearms Originate with Local Federal Firearms Licensees.** As shown in *Table 16*, a majority of crime guns among all age groups, from 55.4 percent for juveniles to 62.3 percent for adults, were first purchased from FFLs in the State where the guns were recovered by law enforcement officials. As shown in *Table 17*, more than a third of the crime guns (35 percent) were recovered in the same county as the FFL that originally sold the firearm. Similar percentages of traced firearms come from adjoining counties in the same State (11.9 percent) as from other counties in the same State (11.7 percent). The proportion of purchases in the same State, in adjoining counties and in other counties is similar across all age groups. More than 40 percent (25,279 of 60,643) of crime guns with known originating locations are not first sold in the same State as the State where the firearm was recovered.

**City variations.** Cities vary in their geographic sources of crime guns.

- In seventeen cities, 80 percent or more of their crime guns are first sold by FFLs in the State in which the city is located: *Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Baton Rouge, LA; Birmingham, AL; Cleveland, OH; Gary, IN; Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; Pittsburgh, PA; Phoenix, AZ; Richmond, VA; San Antonio, TX; Stockton, CA; Tampa, FL; and Tucson, AZ.*
- With the exception of *New Orleans, LA*, sixteen of these seventeen cities have at least 50 percent of their in-State traceable crime guns originating from the county in which the recovery city was located. *Phoenix, AZ*, has the highest percentage of in-State crime guns originating from within the same county (88 percent).
- For seven cities, FFLs in the State where the city is located are the source of fewer than half of traced crime guns: *Boston, MA; Camden, NJ; Detroit, MI; Jersey City, NJ; Newark, NJ; New York, NY; and Washington, DC.*
- *Boston, MA; Camden, NJ; Jersey City, NJ; Newark, NJ; and New York, NY*, have a noteworthy number of guns originating both from within their respective States and from southern States such as Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
- Many traceable crime guns recovered in *Detroit, MI*, were first sold by FFLs in Michigan (41 percent); however, a noteworthy percentage of traceable crime guns were also first sold by FFLs in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana (22 percent).
- *Chicago, IL*, is part of both regional and national patterns. Of crime guns recovered in *Chicago*, 10 percent originate in the neighboring State of Indiana. Many guns originate from FFLs in the South, with Mississippi supplying nearly 10 percent. FFLs in Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, and Arkansas supply an additional 10 percent.
- As a result of strict regulations on the sale and possession of firearms in *Washington, DC*, there are no firearms originating from that jurisdiction. FFLs in neighboring Maryland and Virginia are the sources of 59 percent of the traceable crime guns recovered in *Washington, DC*.

**Table 16: Intrastate and Interstate Sources of Crime Guns**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)	<b>Youth</b> (ages 18 - 24)	<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)	<b>All Ages</b>
In-State	1,519	7,760	13,995	35,364
Out-of-State	1,225	5,580	8,486	25,279
Total	2,744	13,340	22,481	60,643

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)	<b>Youth</b> (ages 18 - 24)	<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)	<b>All Ages</b>
In-State	55.4	58.2	62.3	58.3
Out-of-State	44.6	41.8	37.7	41.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table 17: County, State and Interstate Sources of Crime Guns**

<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)		
Source	Total	Percent
Same County-Same State	889	32.4
Adjoining County-Same State	302	11.0
Adjoining County-Other State	43	1.6
Other County-Same State	328	12.0
Other State	1,182	43.1
Total	2,744	100.0

<b>Youth</b> (ages 18-24)		
Source	Total	Percent
Same County-Same State	4,429	33.2
Adjoining County-Same State	1,541	11.6
Adjoining County-Other State	232	1.7
Other County-Same State	1,790	13.4
Other State	5,348	40.1
Total	13,340	100.0

<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)		
Source	Total	Percent
Same County-Same State	8,241	36.7
Adjoining County-Same State	2,815	12.5
Adjoining County-Other State	310	1.4
Other County-Same State	2,939	13.1
Other State	8,176	36.4
Total	22,481	100.0

<b>All Ages</b>		
Source	Total	Percent
Same County-Same State	21,050	34.7
Adjoining County-Same State	7,196	11.9
Adjoining County-Other State	985	1.6
Other County-Same State	7,118	11.7
Other State	24,294	40.1
Total	60,643	100.0

**Distance from Originating Location to Recovery Location.** Another measure of the mix of local, regional, and national transactions is the distance in miles between the recovery location and the originating location. *Table 18* and *Figures 10* and *11* display the number, percent, and cumulative percent of the distances from originating to recovery location for 44,905 traces for which a distance could be calculated. Nearly a third (32 percent) of these traces were recovered within 10 miles and almost half (48 percent) within 25 miles of the originating location. Not all firearms are local; more than one third (34 percent) of the traced firearms originated more than 250 miles from the location where they were recovered, indicating a likelihood of substantial interstate, long distance trafficking of firearms. These patterns are consistent across juvenile, youth, and adult age groups.

**City variations.** Cities varied considerably in the distance between the crime gun recovery locations and the location where the guns were first purchased at FFLs.

In certain cities, the majority of the crime guns were first purchased at FFLs that were 10 miles or less from the crime gun recovery locations. These cities included *Baton Rouge, LA* (70 percent), *Gary, IN* (70 percent), *New Orleans, LA* (67 percent), *Louisville, KY* (64 percent), and *Pittsburgh, PA* (63 percent). In other cities, a majority of crime guns were first purchased at FFLs that were 250 miles or more from the crime gun recovery locations. These cities included *Newark, NJ* (78 percent), *New York, NY* (75 percent), and *Jersey City, NJ* (67 percent).

Many YCGII cities had a large number of guns first purchased at FFLs that were a short distance and a long distance from the crime gun recovery locations. These cities included:

- Twenty-four percent of crime guns recovered in *Camden, NJ*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Camden. Another 43 percent of crime guns recovered in Camden were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Camden.
- Nearly 44 percent of crime guns recovered in *Baltimore, MD*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Baltimore. Another 21 percent of crime guns recovered in

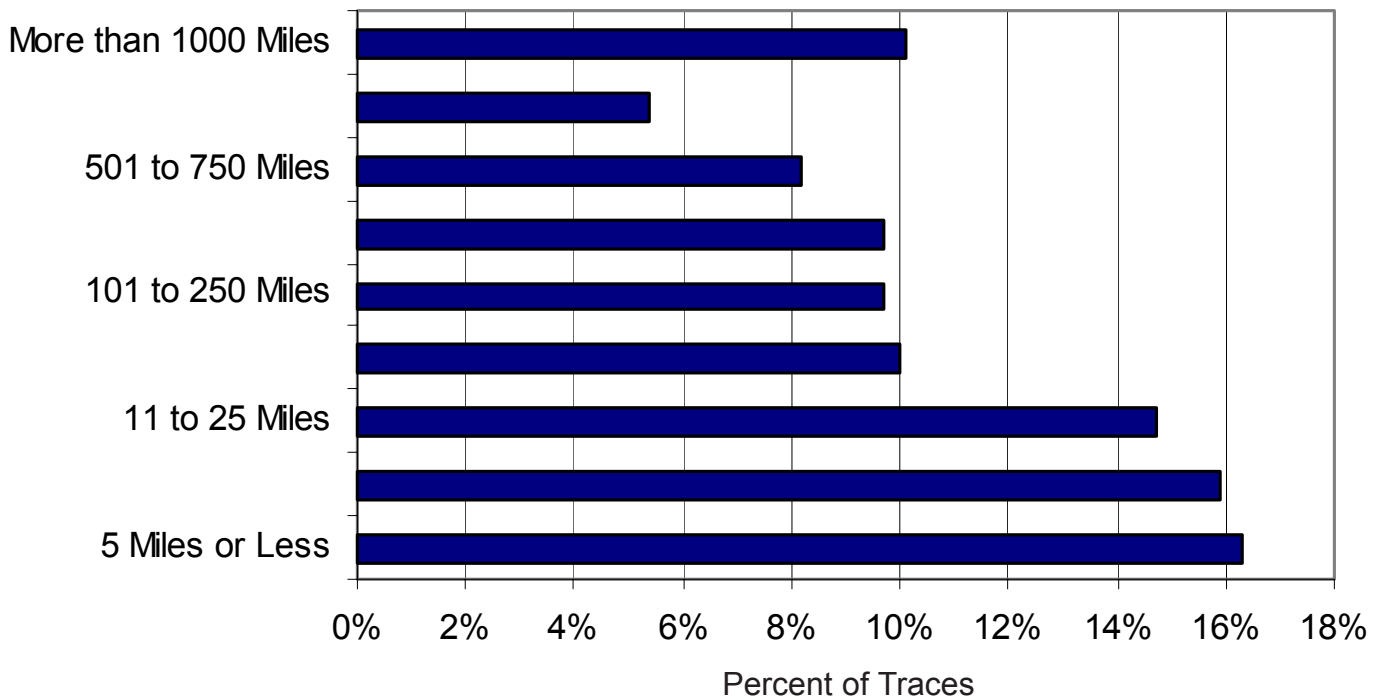
*Baltimore* were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Baltimore.

- Twenty-six percent of crime guns recovered in *Boston, MA*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Boston. Another 37 percent of crime guns recovered in Boston were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Boston.
- Nearly 33 percent of crime guns recovered in *Los Angeles, CA*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Los Angeles. Nearly 22 percent of crime guns recovered in Los Angeles were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Los Angeles.
- Nearly 33 percent of crime guns recovered in *Salinas, CA*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Salinas. Nearly 36 percent of crime guns recovered in Salinas were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Salinas.
- Slightly more than 51 percent of crime guns recovered in *San Jose, CA*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from San Jose. Nearly 27 percent of crime guns recovered in San Jose were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from San Jose.
- Nearly 39 percent of crime guns recovered in *Stockton, CA*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Stockton. Nearly 32 percent of crime guns recovered in Stockton were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Stockton.
- Forty-five percent of crime guns recovered in *Tampa, FL*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Tampa. About 24 percent of crime guns recovered in Tampa were first purchased at FFLs located 250 miles or more from Tampa.
- Almost 24 percent of crime guns recovered in *Washington, DC*, were first purchased at FFLs located 10 miles or less from Washington, DC. Forty-five percent of crime guns recovered in Washington, DC, were first purchased at FFLs located 100 miles or more from Washington, DC.

**Table 18: Miles from Recovery Location to Originating Location**

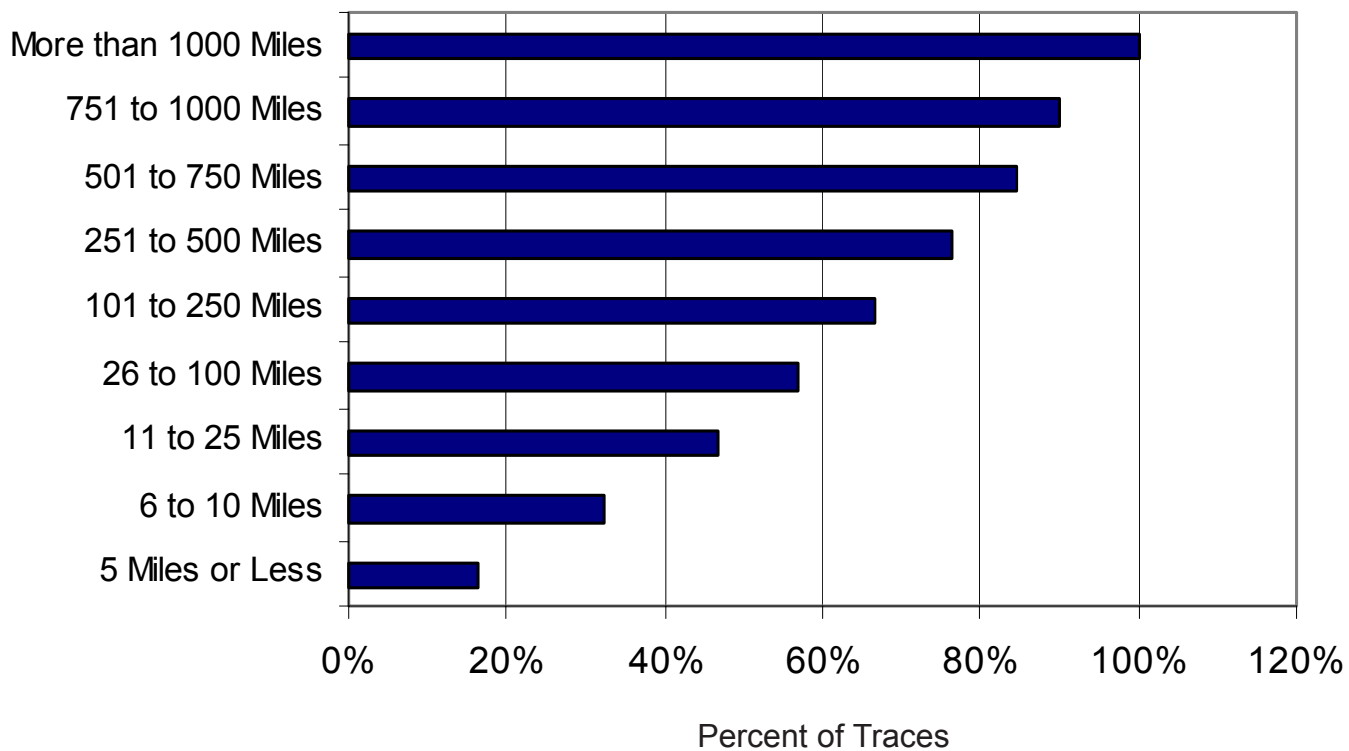
<b>All Ages</b>			
<b>Distance</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
5 Miles or Less	7,298	16.3	16.3
6 to 10 Miles	7,161	15.9	32.2
11 to 25 Miles	6,585	14.7	46.9
26 to 100 Miles	4,500	10.0	56.9
101 to 250 Miles	4,334	9.7	66.5
251 to 500 Miles	4,374	9.7	76.3
501 to 750 Miles	3,665	8.2	84.4
751 to 1000 Miles	2,442	5.4	89.9
More than 1000 Miles	4,546	10.1	100.0
<b>Total (with known distance)</b>	<b>44,905</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Figure 10: Distance to Recovery Location**





**Figure 10: Cumulative Distance to Recovery Location**



## Regional and National Geographic Source Patterns

**Source to Recovery Location.** The State that contains a city is generally its most important source of crime guns. However, many guns move from regional and national sources. Regional trafficking consists of guns moving to a city from neighboring States, while national trafficking involves guns moving from more distant states. *Figure 12* shows the impact of regional and national trafficking patterns on each of the cities.

**Regional Patterns.** Over 20 percent of the crime guns traced to an individual from Memphis, Camden, Las Vegas and St. Louis came from regional sources. All of these cities are located near the borders of their States, decreasing the distance-to-crime for regionally trafficked guns. Washington, DC, which does not allow handgun sales to residents and has city limits bordering two other States is the extreme case of regional trafficking with 58.5 percent of crime guns coming from neighboring States.

**National Patterns.** National trafficking patterns account for 30 percent or more of guns traced from nine cities. The most striking case is that of New York City, where 73.4 percent of crime guns came from national sources including Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Newark and Jersey City, which are located near New York experience strikingly similar national trafficking patterns with 80.2 and 74.5 percent of their crime guns coming from national sources. Other cities on the Eastern shore with high percentages of nationally sourced guns include Washington (38.6 percent) and Camden (50.6 percent). A second trafficking pattern runs from the South to large cities in the Midwest. Chicago has 32.8 percent of crime guns from national

sources and Detroit 44.5 percent. Mississippi, Kentucky and Georgia are important national source areas for Chicago. Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama are significant for Detroit.

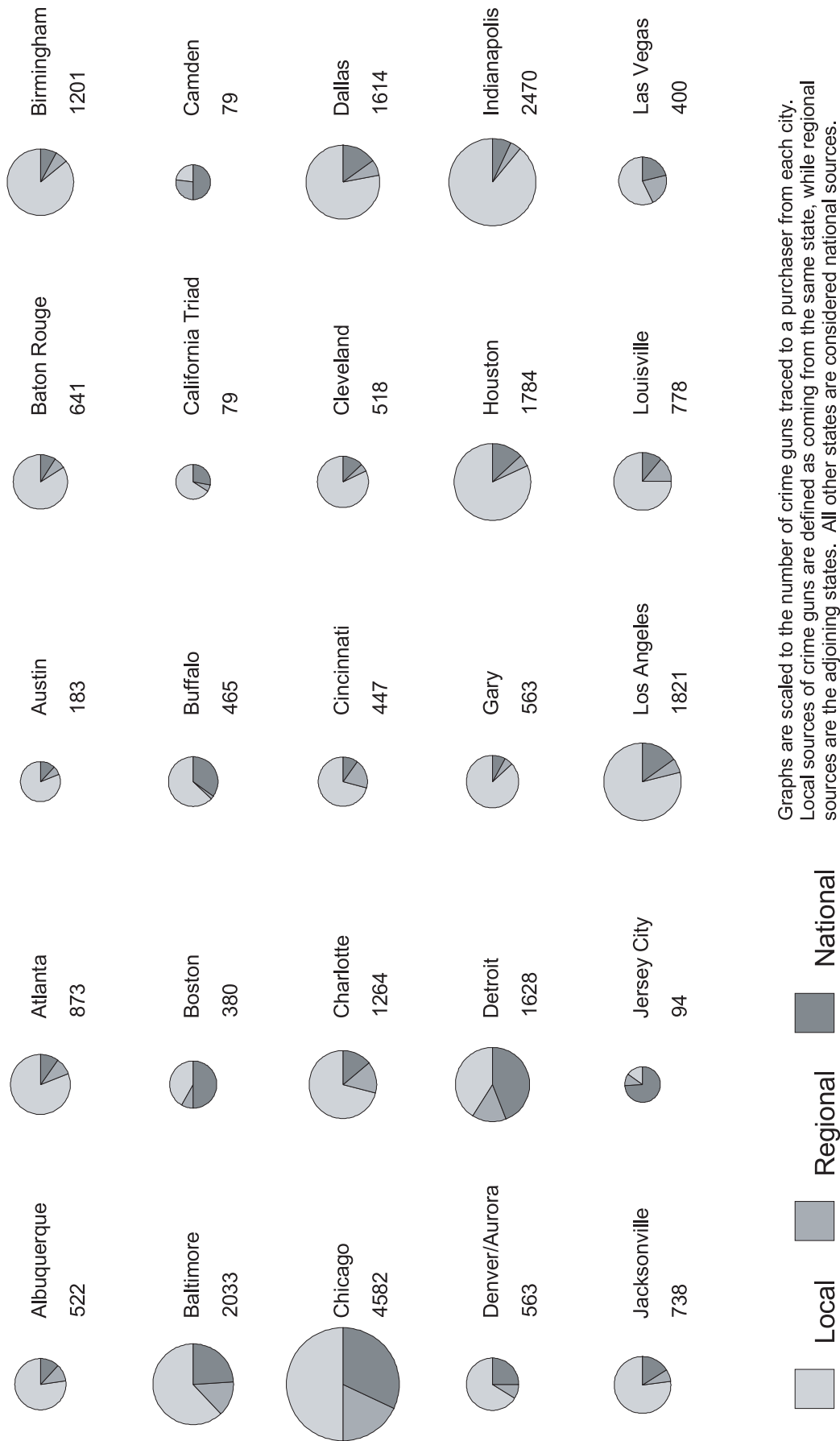
**Concentration of Gun Traces Among Dealers.** Crime guns are not only concentrated by region, state and county but also by the Federal Firearms Licensee where the firearms were originally sold. *Table 19* displays information about the 28,084 traces in YCGII cities over 250,000 that were made to 6,081 active dealers during calendar year 2000. During this year, 10,870 traces were made to 163 active dealers with 25 or more traces. These 163 dealers constitute 2 percent of active dealers with at least one trace but their 10,870 traces are 38 percent of the 28,084 traces to active dealers.

**City variations.** In all jurisdictions, many traceable crime guns were first purchased from a small number of Federally licensed gun dealers. However, the degree of concentration of crime gun traces amongst a small number of licensed gun dealers varies across the YCGII cities. Some cities exhibited a very high concentration of crime gun traces. In *Indianapolis, IN*, 70 percent of traceable crime guns were first purchased at ten Federally licensed gun dealers. In *Gary, IN*, 65 percent of traceable crime guns were first purchased at five Federally licensed gun dealers. In *Milwaukee, WI*, 53 percent of traceable crime guns were first purchased at four Federally licensed gun dealers. In *Pittsburgh, PA*, 53 percent of traceable crime guns were first purchased at seven Federally licensed gun dealers. In *Miami, FL*, 51 percent of traceable crime guns were first purchased at nine Federally licensed gun dealers.

**Table 19: Concentration of Traces Among Active Dealers**

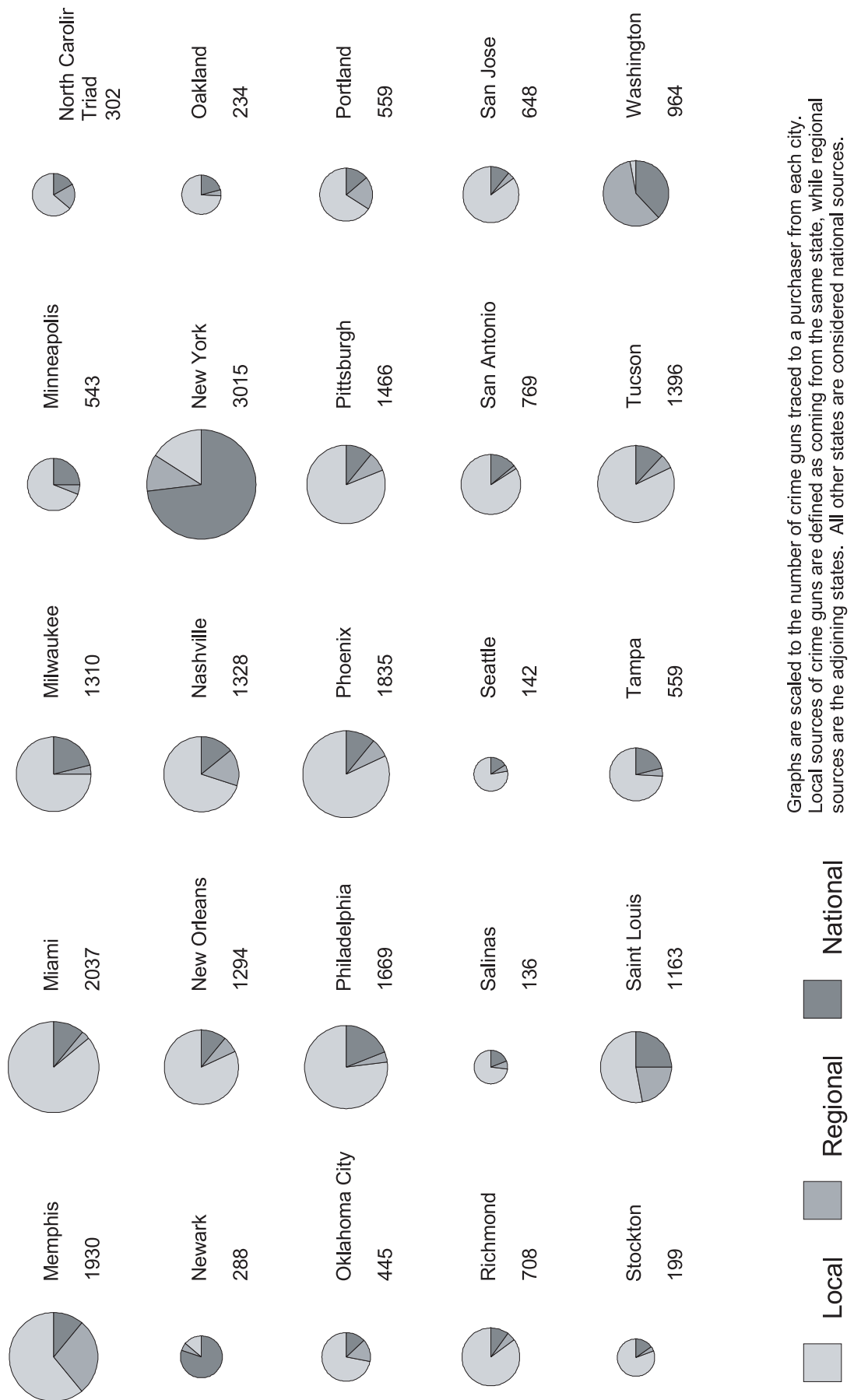
<b>Dealers</b>	<b>Traces</b>		<b>Active Dealers</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
With 25 or More Traces	10,807	38.5	163	2.4
With 10 or More Traces	15,549	55.4	487	7.2
With 5 or More Traces	19,183	68.3	1,054	15.5
With 2 or More Traces	24,318	86.6	3,044	44.7
With 1 or More Traces	28,084	100.0	6,810	100.0

**Figure 12a: Proportion of Crime Guns from Local, Regional and National Sources by City 2000**



Graphs are scaled to the number of crime guns traced to a purchaser from each city. Local sources of crime guns are defined as coming from the same state, while regional sources are the adjoining states. All other states are considered national sources.

**Figure 12b: Proportion of Crime Guns from Local, Regional and National Sources by City 2000 (Continued)**



Graphs are scaled to the number of crime guns traced to a purchaser from each city. Local sources of crime guns are defined as coming from the same state, while regional sources are the adjoining states. All other states are considered national sources.

## 2 - 8 Crime Guns with Obliterated Serial Numbers

**Results of Traces from Eight Cities.** Since tracing of crime guns with obliterated serial numbers is not conducted consistently by law enforcement agencies, this report presents information from eight jurisdictions which submitted requests for at least 85 of their crime guns with obliterated serial numbers: *Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, CA; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and Washington, DC.* No rifles, shotguns, or combination guns were included in this analysis because some older long guns were manufactured without serial numbers. Unique serial numbers were not mandated on all firearms until passage of the Gun Control Act (GCA) in 1968, and it is not always possible to distinguish certain pre-GCA firearms from post-GCA firearms with the information provided.

**Obliteration Is More Common Among Semiautomatic Pistols.** As shown in *Table 20*, in the eight jurisdictions that were analyzed, almost 10 percent of the 28,558 trace requests involve handguns with obliterated or partially obliterated serial numbers. The proportion of handguns with obliterated serial numbers is nearly twice as large for semiautomatic pistols (11.3 percent) as for revolvers (6.3 percent).

**Obliteration Is More Common Among Youth and Juvenile Crime Guns.** As shown in *Table 19*, obliteration is more common among crime guns recovered from youth and juveniles than from adults.

This is true for all handgun types. Almost 13 percent of semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth and 12 percent from juveniles had obliterated serial numbers.

**Tracing Crime Guns with Obliterated Serial Numbers.** The obliteration of the serial number on a crime gun is a key criminal indicator of trafficking, because it shows that someone in the chain of possession assumes that the gun will be used for a crime, may have to be discarded by a criminal, or may be recovered by the police. If an obliterated serial number can be restored by a trained firearms examiner, tracing can proceed, with the possible result of identifying participants in a serious criminal conspiracy. The tracing of guns with obliterated serial numbers is not conducted consistently by law enforcement agencies, however, because not all jurisdictions are aware of the potential to restore and trace guns with obliterated serial numbers, and not all jurisdictions have the resources to do so. *Even if the serial number is not restored, ATF urges law enforcement agencies to submit informational traces so that information on firearm type, possessors, their associates, and recovery locations can be analyzed for trafficking leads.*

**Federal Felony - 5 Years Imprisonment.** Possession of a gun with an obliterated serial number is a Federal felony punishable by 5 years imprisonment. Law enforcement should keep this in mind when debriefing individuals found in possession of guns with obliterated serial numbers.

**Table 20: Crime Guns with Obliterated Serial Numbers for Selected Cities**

**All Handguns for Eight Selected Cities**

	<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)	<b>Youth</b> (ages 18 - 24)	<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)	<b>All Ages</b>
Semiautomatic Pistol	1,007	4,244	4,981	17,874
Revolver	530	1,772	2,676	10,271
Derringer	16	63	143	413
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>28,558</b>

**Handguns with Obliterated Serial Numbers**

	<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)	<b>Youth</b> (ages 18 - 24)	<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)	<b>All Ages</b>
Semiautomatic Pistol	119	549	429	2,027
Revolver	41	126	98	650
Derringer	2	5	3	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2,705</b>

**Percentage of Handguns with Obliterated Serial Numbers**

	<b>Juvenile</b> (ages 17 & younger)	<b>Youth</b> (ages 18 - 24)	<b>Adult</b> (ages 25 & older)	<b>All Ages</b>
Semiautomatic Pistol	11.8	12.9	8.6	11.3
Revolver	7.7	7.1	3.7	6.3
Derringer	12.5	7.9	2.1	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>

## 2 - 9 Multiple Sales

**Multiple Sales Account for Nearly 20 Percent of Traced Handguns.** The National Tracing Center provides information on handguns recovered in crimes that were purchased as part of a multiple sales transaction. For all YCGII jurisdictions combined, multiple sales accounted for 20 percent (650) of all handguns first sold at retail in 2000 and traced in 2000 (3,295).

Among handguns sold and traced in 2000, those with obliterated serial numbers were substantially more likely to have been from a multiple sale (27 percent) than from sales that did not involve multiple handguns (20 percent).

Additional attention will be given to this issue as more data on multiple sales and better data on obliteration become available.

### Link Between Multiple Sales and Obliteration.

As displayed in *Table 21*, among all traced handguns first sold in 2000 (3,295), 52 (1.6 percent) had obliterated serial numbers. The following summarizes handguns sold and traced in 2000:

- Of the 52 handguns having an obliterated serial number, 14 (27 percent) were from multiple sales and 38 (73 percent) were not from multiple sales.
- Of the 3,243 handguns not having an obliterated serial number, 636 (20 percent) were from multiple sales and 2,607 (80 percent) were not from multiple sales.

**Table 21: Multiple Sales and Obliterated Serial Numbers Among Handguns Sold and Traced in 2000**

Multiple Sales	Obliterated and Restored				Total	
	Yes		No		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Yes	14	2.2	636	97.8	650	100.0
No	38	1.4	2,607	98.6	2,645	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>