

Highlights of the *National Report*

This is the fourth year of ATF's *Crime Gun Trace Reports*. This year, a *National Report* provides national findings based on 88,570 crime gun traces recovered and submitted in calendar year 2000. These trace requests came from 46 cities with a population of 250,000 or more participating in ATF's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. Individual *City Reports* provide complete information on the trace results in 50 cities. The *National* and *City Reports* are posted on the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov

Possessors of Crime Guns

- Juvenile.** About 8 percent of crime guns were recovered from juveniles (Ages 17 & Younger).
- Youth.** About 33 percent of crime guns were recovered from youth (Ages 18-24).
- Individuals *21 years of age* were the most frequent possessors of traced crime guns, followed closely by possessors ages 20 and 19.
- Adult.** About 59 percent of crime guns were recovered from adults (Ages 25 & Older).

Indicators of Illegal Diversion

Few Crime Gun Possessors Bought Their Guns Directly from Federally Licensed Gun Dealers. Only about 12 percent of traced crime guns were recovered from possessors who had purchased those firearms from Federal firearms licensees (FFLs). About 88 percent of traced crime guns changed hands at least once before recovery by law enforcement as crime guns. Such transfers may be lawful or unlawful.

Many Crime Guns Had Short Time-to-Crime. Notwithstanding that most crime guns were bought from an FFL by someone other than their criminal possessor, many crime guns were recovered soon after their initial purchase. To the investigator, the short time from retail sale to crime, known as "time-to-crime", suggests illegal diversion or criminal intent associated with the retail purchase from the FFL. The median time-to-crime for crime guns traced was 6.6 years, but law enforcement recovered many crime guns much more rapidly.

- About 15 percent of crime guns were recovered *within 1 year* of their first retail purchase.
- 31 percent of crime guns were recovered *within 3 years* of their first retail purchase.

Many Firearms Offenses Involved New Guns. The concentration of crime guns with a relatively short time-to-crime also indicates that many firearm offenses, including violent offenses with firearms, involve new guns. This is even more so for crime guns possessed by youth.

- Almost a third of crime guns (31 percent) recovered in 2000 were purchased in 1997 or later.
- Half of all semiautomatic pistols recovered from *youth* were purchased in September 1996 or later.
- The median time-to-crime for crime guns possessed by *youth* (4.5) is a year and a half shorter than for *adults* (6.0).

Many Crime Guns Acquired in Multiple Sales. The acquisition of handguns in multiple sales can be an important trafficking indicator. Handguns sold in multiple sales reported to the National Tracing Center accounted for 20 percent of all handguns sold and traced in 2000.

Multiple Sales and Obliteration. Obliteration of a firearm serial number is a trafficking indicator. Among handguns purchased as part of a multiple sale and traced in 2000, 1.6 percent had obliterated serial numbers.

Crime Guns

Firearms traced by law enforcement nationally are for the most part concentrated among a limited number of *types* and *calibers*, and *manufacturers* and *models*. By focusing investigative efforts on the sources of these firearms, especially those with a short time-to-crime, law enforcement can identify and arrest both illegal suppliers of firearms and their illegally armed customers.

Handguns comprised over three-quarters (77 percent) of all traced crime guns.

Four handgun types made up 60 percent of all handguns traced:

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

Semiautomatic pistols accounted for half (50 percent) of all traced crime guns. The *9mm semiautomatic* pistol was the most frequently traced type of crime gun (23 percent), and was especially frequent among youth possessors (28 percent).

Long guns, including shotguns and rifles, accounted for one in five traced crime guns (22 percent).

- The 12 gauge shotgun, .22 caliber rifle and 7.62 rifle account for more than two thirds of all traced long guns.
- Long guns were nearly twice as likely to be recovered from adults (26 percent) as from youths (15 percent) and juveniles (15 percent).

Most Frequently Traced Crime Guns

These guns were the most frequently traced by law enforcement officials for all age groups, by manufacturer, caliber, and type. These 10 firearms accounted for 22 percent (19,743) of all trace requests (88,570).

	Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun
1.	Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver
2.	Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol
3.	Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol
4.	Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol
5.	Mossberg	12 GA	Shotgun
6.	Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol
7.	Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver
8.	Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol
9.	Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol
10.	Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol

Figure A: Most Frequently Traced Crime Guns by Manufacturer, Caliber and Type for All Age Groups



1. SMITH & WESSON .38 Revolver



2. STURM, RUGER & CO. 9mm Semiautomatic Pistol



3. LORCIN ENGINEERING .380 Semiautomatic Pistol



4. RAVEN ARMS .25 Semiautomatic Pistol



5. MOSSBERG, O. F. & SONS 12 GA Shotgun



6. SMITH & WESSON 9mm Semiautomatic Pistol



7. SMITH & WESSON .357 Revolver



8. BRYCO ARMS 9mm Semiautomatic Pistol



9. BRYCO ARMS .380 Semiautomatic Pistol



10. DAVIS INDUSTRIES .380 Semiautomatic Pistol

Crime Guns with the Most Investigative Potential

Short time-to-crime guns have the most immediate investigative potential for law enforcement officials because they are likely to have changed hands less frequently. Time-to-crime varied substantially by firearm type, age of purchaser, and specific model.

Shortest and Longest Median Time-to-Crime by Type. Semiautomatic pistols had the shortest median time-to-crime, 4.5 years. Revolvers had the longest median time-to-crime, 12.3 years.

Shortest Median Time-to-Crime by Manufacturer, Caliber, and Type. The most frequently traced crime guns (by manufacturer, caliber, and type), over half of which were recovered in 3 years or less, were all semiautomatic pistols: Bryco Arms 9mm, Bryco Arms .380 caliber, and Ruger 9mm.

- **Juveniles.** The Bryco Arms 9mm semiautomatic pistol recovered from juveniles had a median time-to-crime of just 1.5 years.
- **Youth.** The Hi-Point 9mm semiautomatic pistol recovered from youths had a median time-to-crime of 1.0 years followed by the Bryco Arms 9mm semiautomatic pistol at 1.1 years.

Time-to-Crime Among Long Gun Models. 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.

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. For all age groups, the North China Industries Model SKS 7.62mm 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. 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.

Geographic Patterns

Crime guns form part of local, regional, and national trafficking patterns.

In-State sources. About 62 percent of crime guns were first purchased from FFLs in the State in which the guns were recovered by law enforcement officials. The source FFLs were within the same counties as the recovery cities for over one third of the crime guns (35 percent), and another 12 percent were in adjacent counties in the same State or a neighboring State.

Regional sources. For traces where a recovery location was provided and distance calculations could be completed (44,905), approximately one third (32 percent) of these crime guns were purchased within 10 miles and almost half (48 percent) within 25 miles of the originating purchase location. More than one third (34 percent) of the traced firearms originated more than 250 miles from the location where they were recovered.

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, NY, where 73.4 percent of crime guns came from national sources including Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Newark and Jersey City, NJ, which

are located near New York, NY, 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, DC (38.6 percent), and Camden, NJ (50.6 percent). A second trafficking pattern runs from the South to large cities in the Midwest. Chicago, IL, has 32.8 percent of crime guns from national sources and Detroit, MI, 44.5 percent. Mississippi, Kentucky and Georgia are important national source areas for Chicago, IL. Kentucky, Georgia and Alabama are significant for Detroit, MI.

