Part V:
Firearm Thefts

Overview

Theft is a significant avenue through which firearms are illegally diverted from lawful commerce and ownership into criminal hands. The primary source of stolen firearms is theft from private citizens vehicles, homes, and persons. A substantially smaller number of firearms are stolen from federal firearms licensees (FFLs) and from carriers during shipment. While more than 95% of stolen guns originate via thefts from private citizens (see Figure BRL-01 below), FFL and commercial shipping thefts are nevertheless a direct source of crime guns. Fortunately, federal regulatory reporting requirements allow ATF to track both theft and recovery data for firearms stolen from FFLs and interstate shipments. In contrast, federal laws and most states do not require private individuals to report the theft of a firearm. As of 2022, only fifteen states -- California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Virginia[1] – require private citizens to report when a firearm is stolen. As a result, while the reported number of firearms stolen annually from individuals is substantial, there is significant underreporting; a 2016 survey by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics indicated that only about 75% of private gun thefts are reported to law enforcement.[2] In addition, no uniform methodology applies to law enforcement reporting when a firearm used in a separate crime is identified as having been stolen from a private citizen. Consequently, data regarding use of stolen private firearms to commit other crimes is incomplete.

FFL Theft and Loss Reporting Requirements

FFLs are required to report any firearm stolen or lost from their inventory within 48 hours of discovery to ATF and to their local law enforcement agency (18 U.S.C. § 923(g)(6)). FFLs must also complete and submit a *Federal Firearms Licensee Firearms Inventory/Firearms in Transit Theft/Loss Report* (ATF Form 3310.11) that provides the details of each incident. FFL theft incidents include robberies, burglaries, or larcenies. FFL robberies refer to all reported thefts involving the taking of property from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence. FFL burglaries refer to all reported incidents involving the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or theft. FFL larcenies are reported theft incidents involving the unlawful taking or carrying away of a firearm from the FFL's inventory. For information on reported FFLs losses (missing inventory) refer to NFCTA – Volume I: Firearms in Commerce.

FFL burglary, robbery, and larceny data analyzed in this section were derived from FFL theft reports submitted to ATF for theft incidents occurring between 2017 and 2021.[3] In July 2018, ATF altered its investigative response policies to ensure that the agency investigates all FFL thefts, whereas ATF investigations were previously only required in incidents involving 10 or more stolen firearms. Though state and local law enforcement agencies typically lead response and investigation efforts, the addition of ATF resources has led to more thorough and efficient investigations of FFL theft incidents. ATF has also taken steps to educate the firearm industry about safety and security measures, publishing recommendations for structural security and inventory protections.[4]

Newly manufactured firearms are typically shipped to a wholesaler for further distribution. After transfer to a wholesaler, firearms generally are re-shipped to retail FFLs for sale to consumers (unlicensed persons). At times, the same firearm may be shipped between FFLs multiple occasions prior to transfer to a consumer. When firearms are stolen or lost from common carriers in interstate shipment, carriers are

encouraged to submit an Interstate Firearms Shipment Theft/Loss Report (ATF Form 3310.6), but they are not required by federal law to file these reports.[5] FFL transferors, however, are required to report the theft or loss of a firearm stolen in-transit within 48 hours after the transferor or sender discovers the theft or loss by completing and submitting a *Federal Firearms Licensee Firearms Inventory/Firearms in Transit Theft/Loss Report* (ATF Form 3310.11). This report provides ATF with the known details of each incident. Data for interstate thefts or losses are derived solely from FFL theft or loss reports submitted to ATF for incidents reported between 2017 and 2021.[6]

Private Firearm Theft Data

ATF does not take reports of firearm thefts from private citizens. Rather, these incidents are reported to state, local, territorial, and tribal LEAs, who are then responsible for entering those reports into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Data on firearm thefts from private citizens analyzed in this section were derived from NCIC gun records[7] from 2017 to 2021.

As noted, firearm thefts from private citizens greatly outnumber firearms stolen from FFLs. As reflected in Figure BRL-01, firearms stolen from private citizens accounted for most stolen crime guns known to LEAs. From 2017 to 2021, there were 1,074,022 firearms reported stolen. About 3% (34,339) were stolen in FFL thefts, 1% (13,145) were stolen in interstate shipments, and almost 96% (1,026,538) were stolen in thefts from private citizens.

Figure FT-01: Firearm Thefts by Type, 2017 – 2021
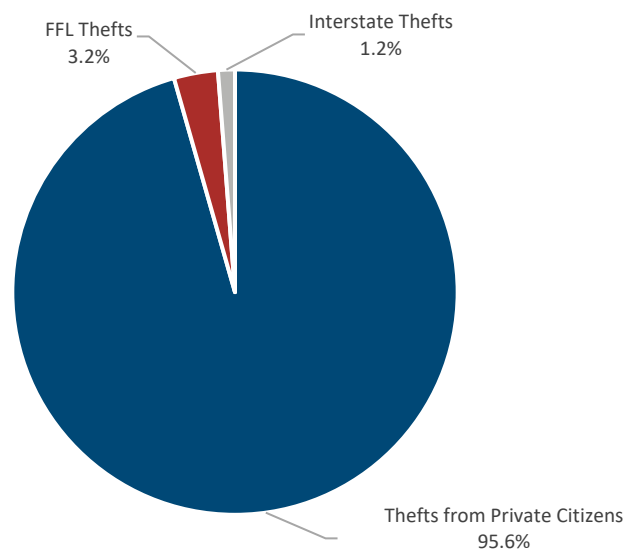
FFL Thefts

FFL Burglaries, Robberies, and Larcenies

FFL thefts include three types of criminal offenses: burglaries, robberies, and larcenies. As shown in Figure BRL-01, about 58% (3,103) of FFL theft incidents during the 2017 to 2021 study period were larcenies, 40% (2,154) were burglaries, and 3% (138) were robberies. However, burglaries involved the theft of more firearms on average than that of larcenies or robberies. Approximately 79% (27,042) of firearms stolen in FFL theft incidents were stolen in burglaries during the study period.

Figure BRL-01: FFL Thefts by Theft Type, 2017 – 2021
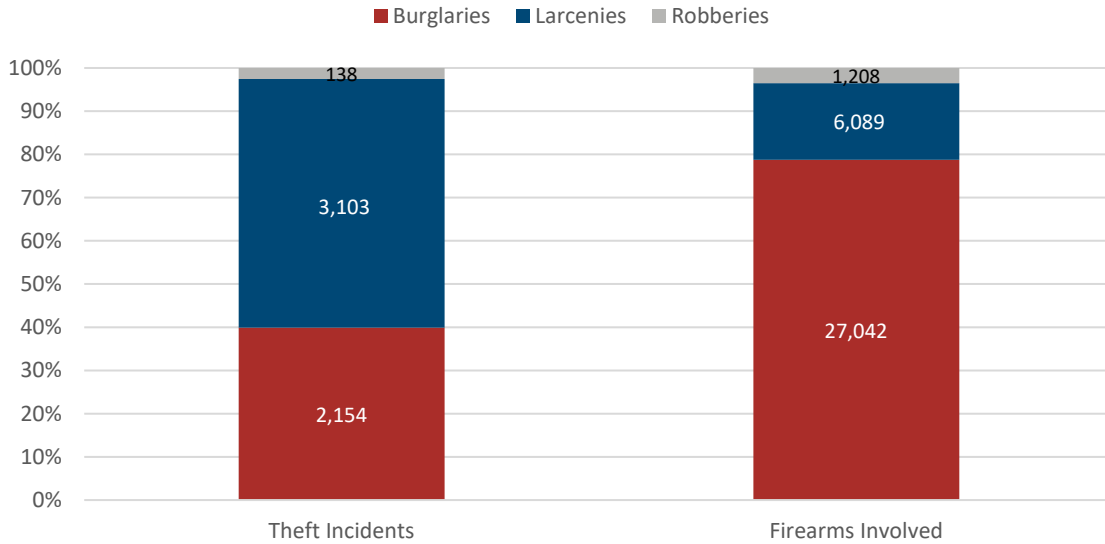
FFL Burglaries

As reflected in Figure BRL-02, the number of firearms stolen in FFL burglary incidents decreased overall across the five-year study period. Between 2017 and 2021, FFL burglary incidents decreased 52%, and the number of firearms stolen in those burglaries decreased 62%. Though FFL burglary incidents and firearms involved increased from 2019 to 2020, the number of burglary incidents decreased by 43% and firearms involved by 51% in 2021 relative to 2020. Throughout the five-year period, the average number of firearms involved in FFL burglaries decreased year-over-year from approximately 13 firearms stolen per incident in 2017 to nearly 11 firearms stolen per incident in 2021.

Figure BRL-02: Number of FFL Burglary Incidents Reported, 2017 – 2021
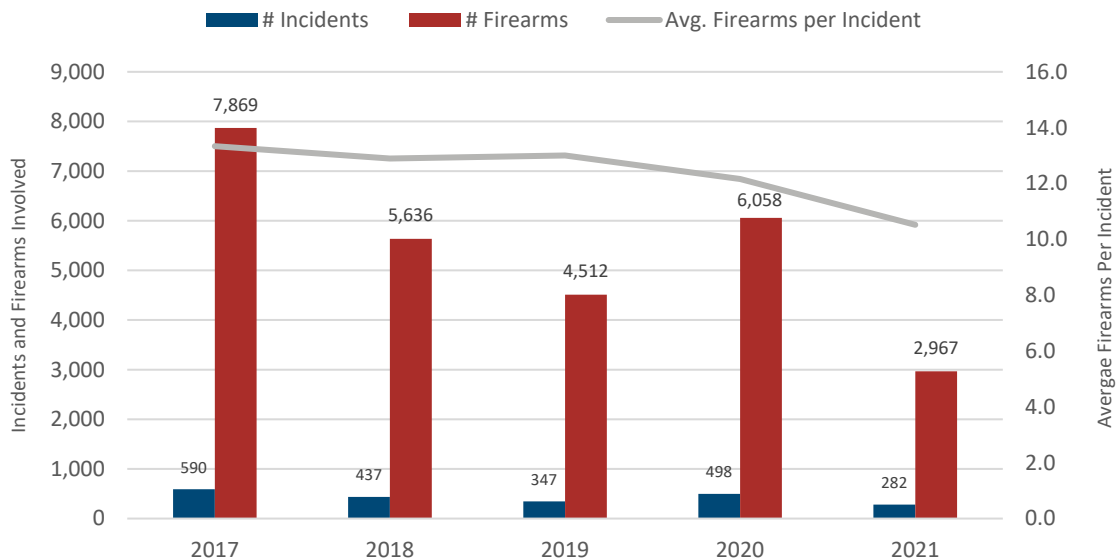
FFL Robberies

From 2017 to 2021, 138 FFL robbery incidents involving 1,208 firearms were reported. As reflected in Figure BRL-03, robbery incidents were relatively rare events that decreased over the five-year study period. Of note, there was a 74% decrease in firearms involved in FFL robbery incidents in 2021 relative to 2020. The average number of firearms stolen per incident remained relatively stable from 2017 through 2019, but drastically increased to 14 firearms per robbery in 2020. The average number decreased again in 2021 to less than four firearms per incident.

Figure BRL-03: Number of FFL Robbery Incidents Reported, 2017 – 2021
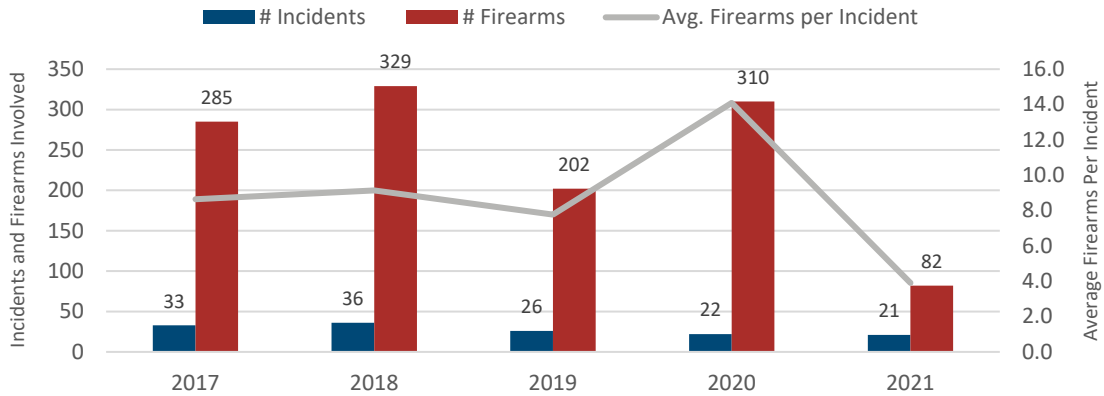
FFL Larcenies

From 2017 to 2021, 3,103 reported FFL larceny incidents involving 6,089 firearms were reported. Larcenies include employee theft, shoplifting, and instances in which persons remove firearms from the FFLs premises and possession without consent and proper payment. As reflected in Figure BRL-04, the number of firearms stolen in FFL larceny incidents decreased overall across the five-year study period. There was a 14% decrease in FFL larceny incidents and a 19% decrease in firearms stolen in these incidents from 2017 to 2021. The average number of firearms stolen per incident remained flat at two firearms per larceny.

Figure BRL-04: Number of FFL Larceny Incidents Reported, 2017 – 2021
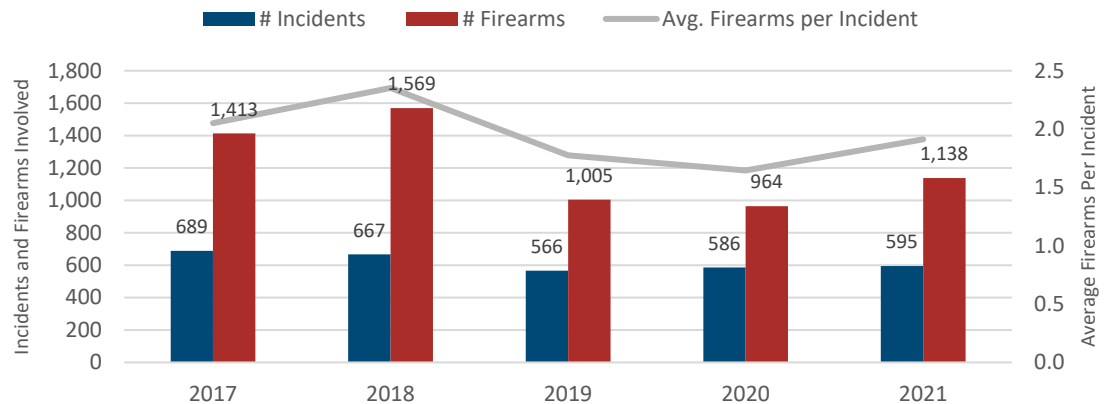
FFL Thefts by FFL Type

Between 2017 and 2021, 5,395 FFL theft incidents were reported, with most occurring among Type 01 - Dealer (60%; 3,216) and Type 02 - Pawnbroker (27%; 1,468) FFLs (Figure BRL-05).

Figure BRL-05: Percentage of FFL Thefts by FFL Type, 2017 – 2021

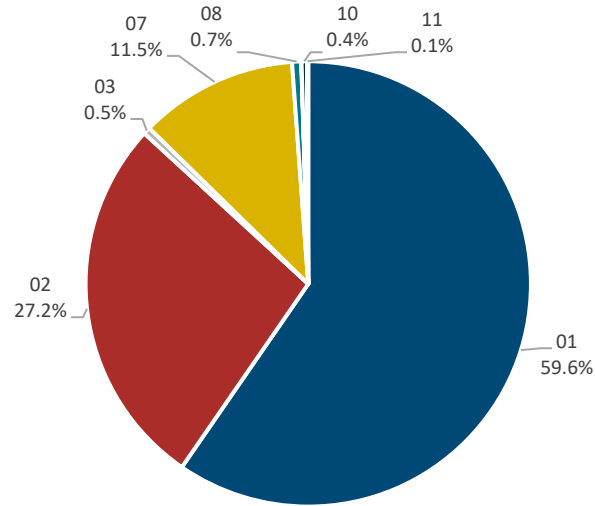While most burglaries and larcenies occurred amongst Type 01 FFLs, robberies were more likely to occur amongst Type 02 -Pawnbroker FFLs (61%). See Table BRL-01 in Appendix BRL – Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny for a complete listing of theft incidents by FFL type between 2017 and 2021.

FFL Theft by Business Premises Type

The FFL business premises type was documented in 4,404 (82%) of the 5,395 theft incidents reported between 2017 and 2021. Most FFL thefts occurred from licensees that operated from a storefront premises (70%) (Figure BRL-06). From 2017 to 2021, 3,100 theft incidents involving 21,585 firearms were reported from FFLs operating from storefronts. FFLs operating from offices accounted for 14% (610 incidents) of thefts and 11% (470 incidents) were reported by FFLs operating from single family dwellings. Thefts from FFLs operating from offices and single-family dwellings were more likely to be larceny type thefts, accounting for 77% (469 out of 610 incidents) of thefts from offices and 79% (370 out of 470 incidents) of thefts from single family dwellings.

Figure BRL-06: Percentage of FFL Thefts by Business Premises Type, 2017 – 2021
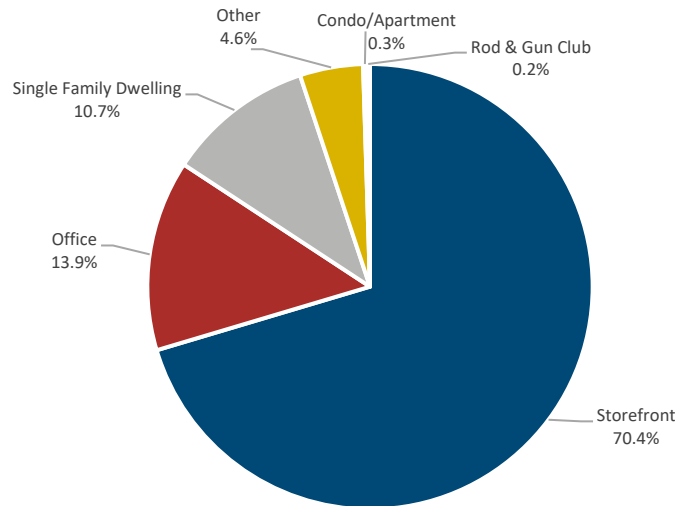
See Table BRL-02 in Appendix BRL – Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny for a complete listing of theft incidents by business premises type between 2017 and 2021.

FFL Thefts by Quantity of Firearms Stolen

The largest percentage of FFL robbery incidents (39%; 54) and largest percentage of FFL larceny incidents (80%; 2,493) involved only one firearm. FFL burglary incidents, however, tended to involve larger quantities of firearms stolen (Table BRL-03). The largest percentage of FFL burglary incidents involved 2-5 firearms (27%; 581), 11-25 firearms (26%; 567), and 6-10 firearms (21%; 442). Burglaries involved an average of 13 firearms per theft incidents while robberies involved an average of nine firearms per incident and larcenies involved an average two of firearms per incident.

Table BRL-03: Quantity Grouping of Firearms Stolen by Theft Type, 2017 – 2021

	Larceny		Burglary		Robbery	
Quantity	**Incidents**	**% Total**	**Incidents**	**% Total**	**Incidents**	**% Total**
1	2,493	80.3%	267	12.4%	54	39.1%
2-5	495	16.0%	581	27.0%	22	15.9%
6-10	53	1.7%	442	20.5%	24	17.4%
11-25	37	1.2%	567	26.3%	25	18.1%
26-50	16	0.5%	219	10.2%	10	7.2%
More than 50	9	0.3%	78	3.6%	3	2.2%
Total	**3,103**	**100.0%**	**2,154**	**100.0%**	**138**	**100.0%**

FFL Thefts by State

As set forth in NFCTA Volume I – Commerce in Firearms, Part IX – Industry Overview, the population share of each FFL type by states remained relatively stable between 2016 and 2020. Based on average yearly FFL population by state, using the 2016 to 2020 populations as a proxy (as set forth in the NFCTA Volume I[8]), Nevada had the highest rate of firearms stolen per FFL between 2017 and 2021 (Table BRL-04a). However, this was largely due to an outlier year in which a single theft accounted for more than

half of the firearms stolen. Specifically, in 2018, 575 firearms were reported stolen, but 323 were associated with one incident in July 2018. The average number of firearms stolen across the remaining four years was 102. Alabama had the second highest rate of firearms stolen per FFL, but the total number of firearms stolen from Alabama decreased steadily from 2017 (588) to 2021 (104). Georgia had the third highest rate of firearms stolen. The number of firearms stolen in FFL thefts in Georgia decreased sharply from 2018 (724) to 2019 (234) but then increased by 91% from 2019 (234) to 2021 (448).

In South Carolina, theft incidents and the number of firearms stolen per incident remained consistent from 2017-2020 with an average 223 firearms stolen in FFL thefts each year. However, the number of firearms reported stolen dramatically decreased in 2021 to only 27 firearms. In New Mexico, there were 247 firearms stolen in FFL thefts in 2020, but the average number of firearms stolen across the remaining four years of this study period was 74. The increase in the number of firearms reported stolen in 2020 was largely due to one incident in June 2020 involving the theft of 152 firearms.

Table BRL-04a: Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts by Theft State (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021

State	Total Firearms Stolen, 2017-2021[9]	Avg Active FFLs per Year, 2016-2020	Rate of Firearms Stolen per Active FFL
Nevada	981	860	1.14
Alabama	1,594	1,665	0.96
Georgia	2,267	2,583	0.88
Mississippi	1,023	1,236	0.83
Delaware	103	151	0.68
New Mexico	544	818	0.67
Maryland	512	786	0.65
South Carolina	919	1,486	0.62
Louisiana	968	1,580	0.61
Arkansas	1,003	1,705	0.59

Table BRL-04 in Appendix BRL – Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny contains a full list of theft states and each state's rate of firearms stolen per active FFL between 2017 and 2021.

Characteristics of Firearms Stolen[10]

Weapon Type

As shown in Table BRL-05a, from 2017-2021, approximately 66% (22,562) of all firearms stolen (34,339) in FFL thefts were pistols; rifles accounted for 16% (5,440) and revolvers accounted for 9% (3,229). The number of firearms stolen declined across each of the top five weapon types during the five-year study period. While there was a decline in the number of pistols stolen, pistols consistently comprised more than 60% of weapon types stolen in FFL thefts. This pattern was consistent across all three types of FFL thefts (Table BRL-05 in Appendix BRL – Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny).

*Table BRL-05a: Weapon Type of Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021*

Weapon Type	Firearms Involved	% Total
Pistol	22,562	65.7%
Rifle	5,440	15.8%
Revolver	3,229	9.4%
Shotgun	1,968	5.7%

Receiver/Frame	595	1.7%
Silencer	322	0.9%
Derringer	143	0.4%
Machinegun	59	0.2%
Combination	14	0.0%
Unknown	5	0.0%
Any Other Weapon	1	0.0%
Destructive Device	1	0.0%
Total	**34,339**	**100.0%**

Caliber

Throughout the five-year study period, 9mm was the dominant caliber of firearms stolen in FFL thefts, accounting for about 35% (11,854) of all firearms involved (34,339) (Figure BRL-07). The second and third most prevalent calibers were .22 and .45, respectively. The dominant calibers associated with FFL thefts remained consistent throughout the study period and across theft types (Table BRL-06 in Appendix BRL – Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny).

Figure BRL-07: Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts by Caliber (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021
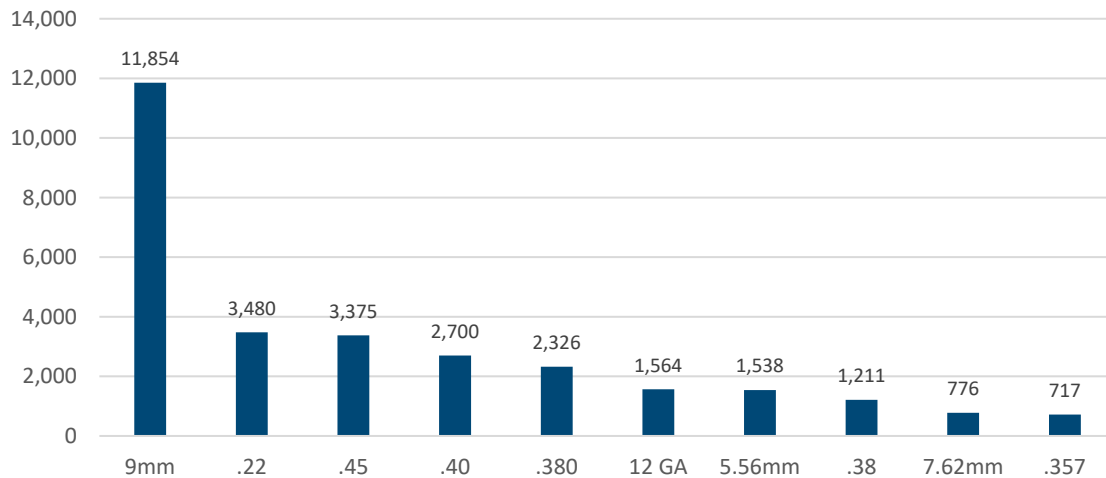
Recoveries of Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts

The following figures and tables include all firearms recovered from 2017 to 2021 that were associated with an FFL theft, regardless of when the associated theft incident occurred. From 2017 to 2021, there were 17,048 firearms recovered[11] that were associated with 5,514 FFL theft incidents.

Time-to-Recovery

Time-to-recovery (TTR) refers to the time between the theft incident and when the firearm was recovered by LEAs. Between 2017 and 2021 the recovery date was recorded on nearly 99% (16,854) of the 17,048 recovered firearms. Of the 16,854 firearms, 45% (7,554) were recovered within 90 days of the theft incident (Figure BRL-08). Another 7% (1,245) were recovered between 91-180 days of the theft, and 10% (1,626) were recovered 181-364 days after the theft incident. Approximately 62% (10,425) of firearms recovered in this period were recovered within one year of the originating FFL theft incident.

Figure BRL-08: Time-to-Recovery of Firearms Recovered from FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021
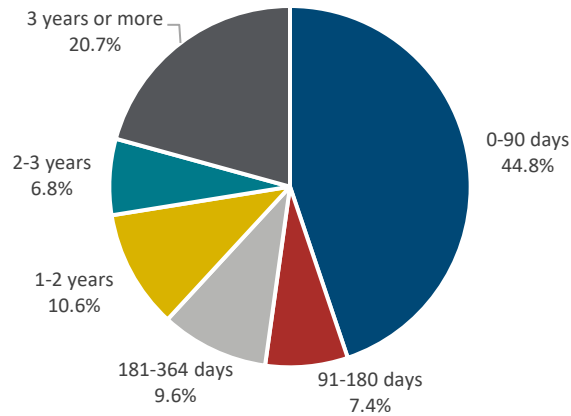
Comparison of Source Location to Recovery Location

Between 2017 and 2021, the state in which the theft occurred, and the state or country of the recovery location was recorded on more than 98% (16,737[12]) of the 17,048 firearms recovered. As reflected in Figure BRL-09, of the 16,737 recoveries, 77% (12,912) were recovered in the same state in which they were stolen.

Figure BRL-09: Source vs Recovery Location of Firearm Recoveries Associated with FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021
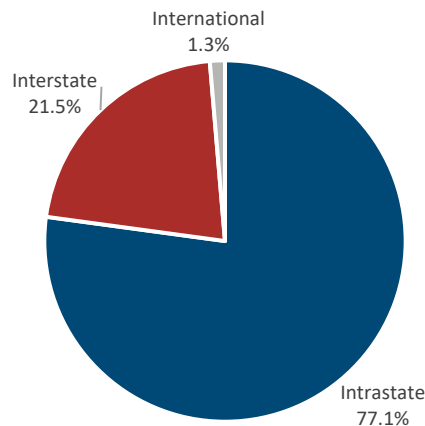
Firearms Recovered by State

Between 2017 and 2021, the state in which the theft occurred, and the state or country of the recovery were recorded on nearly 98% (16,707) of the 17,048 recovered firearms. Table BRL-07a reflects the top ten states from which firearms were stolen and had at least one associated recovery from 2017 to 2021. As shown in this table, most firearms recovered from FFL thefts in these top locations were also recovered in-state. Notably, of the firearms stolen in Nevada (637), about 25% (160) of those recovered were recovered in California (Table BRL-08). Of the firearms stolen from South Carolina and later recovered (556), about 16% (89) were recovered in North Carolina and 7% (38) were recovered in New

York. About 27% (281) of guns stolen from Georgia (1,078) were recovered out-of-state. These recoveries were spread across several different states but most predominantly 5% (57) were recovered in New York and 3% (27) were recovered in New Jersey.

Table BRL-07a: Top Ten States for Theft Recoveries and Recovery Location, 2017 – 2021

Theft State	Total Firearms Recovered	# Unknown Recovery Location	% Unknown Recovery Location	# Known Recovered In-State	% Known Recovered In-State
Texas	1,574	31	2.0%	1,357	87.9%
Georgia	1,097	19	1.7%	797	73.9%
Florida	1,026	38	3.7%	873	88.4%
North Carolina	894	5	0.6%	648	72.9%
Alabama	859	9	1.0%	692	81.4%
Ohio	702	8	1.1%	614	88.5%
Tennessee	647	6	0.9%	542	84.6%
Nevada	639	2	0.3%	465	73.0%
Illinois	586	5	0.9%	518	89.2%
South Carolina	563	7	1.2%	326	58.6%

See Table BRL-07 in Appendix BRL – FFL Burglary, Robbery, and Larceny, for specifics on each state between 2017 and 2021.

Table BRL-08: Top Ten Source States for Thefts and Top Three Ranked Recovery States for Each, 2017 – 2021

Theft State	# of Recoveries with Known Location	% In-State Recoveries	Recovery State #1	% Recovery State #1	Recovery State #2	% Recovery State #2	Recovery State #3	% Recovery State #3
Texas	1,543	87.9%	Louisiana	1.8%	California	1.2%	Multiple	
Georgia	1,078	73.9%	New York	5.3%	New Jersey	2.5%	California	1.8%
Florida	988	88.4%	Georgia	3.8%	Puerto Rico	0.7%	Texas	0.6%
North Carolina	889	72.9%	New Jersey	4.3%	New York	3.6%	South Carolina	3.1%
Alabama	850	81.4%	Georgia	5.5%	Florida	1.9%	New York	1.8%
Ohio	694	88.5%	Michigan	2.0%	Illinois	1.4%	West Virginia	1.2%
Tennessee	641	84.6%	Georgia	3.0%	Illinois	1.9%	Kentucky	1.4%
Nevada	637	73.0%	California	25.1%	Multiple		Multiple	
Illinois	581	89.2%	Missouri	4.1%	Indiana	1.7%	Iowa	0.9%
South Carolina	556	58.6%	North Carolina	16.0%	New York	6.8%	Georgia	5.2%

Distance Between Theft and Recovery Locations

Most firearms stolen in FFL thefts were not only recovered in the same state from which they were stolen, but they were often recovered very close to the theft location. Between 2017 and 2021, the specific street addresses of the theft and of the recovery locations were recorded on more than 60% (10,310) of the 17,048 recovered firearms. As reflected in Figure BRL-10, of the 10,310 recoveries, 34% (3,473) of firearms were recovered within 10 miles of the theft location. Another 20% (2,085) were recovered within 11-25 miles, and 12% (1,211) were recovered within 26-50 miles. About 66% (6,769) of firearms recovered from FFL thefts were recovered within 50 miles of the originating theft location.

Figure BRL-10: Distance between FFL Theft Location and Recovery Location (Miles), 2017 – 2021
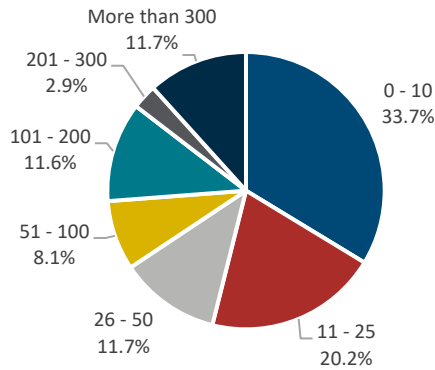
Possessor Age and Gender

Between 2017 and 2021, for the 17,048 recovered firearms stolen from FFLs, 12,153 possessors and their associated ages were identified (LEAs may document more than one possessor per recovered stolen firearm). Of the 12,153 identified possessors, more than 37% (4,547) were 18 to 24 and another 30% (3,643) were 25 to 34 (Figure BRL-11). The age distribution is shown in Figure BRL-12.

Figure BRL-11: Age of the Possessor Associated with Firearms Recovered from FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021
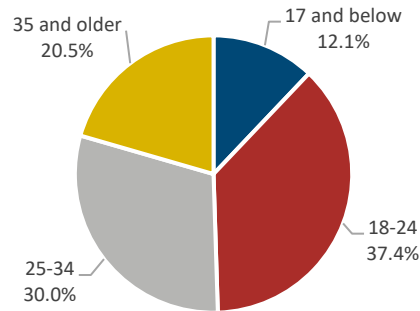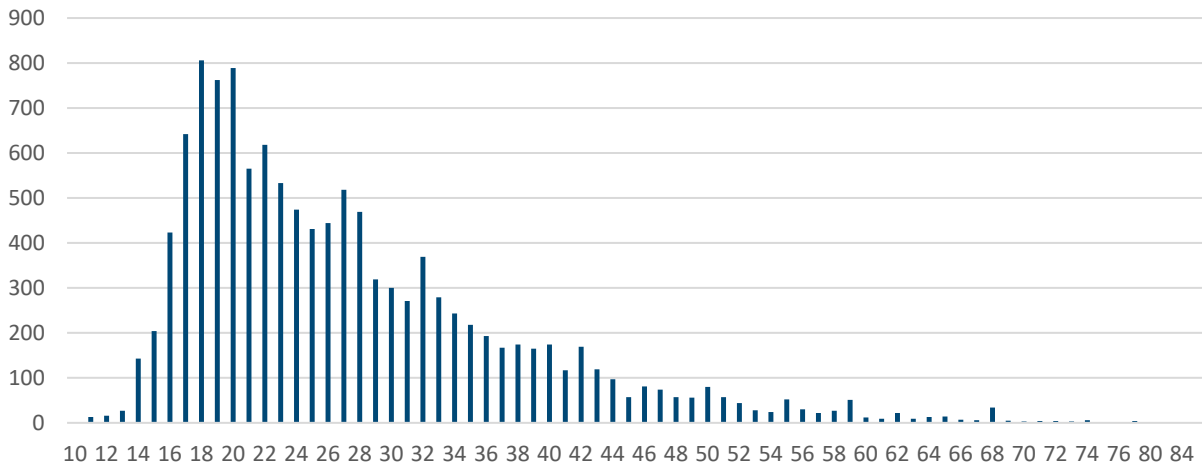

Figure BRL-12: Age Distribution of Possessor for Firearms Recovered from FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021

Between 2017 and 2021, for the 17,048 recovered firearms stolen from FFLs, 11,619 possessors and their associated gender were identified. Of the 11,619 possessors, 93% (10,776) of possessors were male (Figure BRL-13).

Figure BRL-13: Gender of the Possessor Associated with Firearms Recovered from FFL Thefts, 2017 – 2021
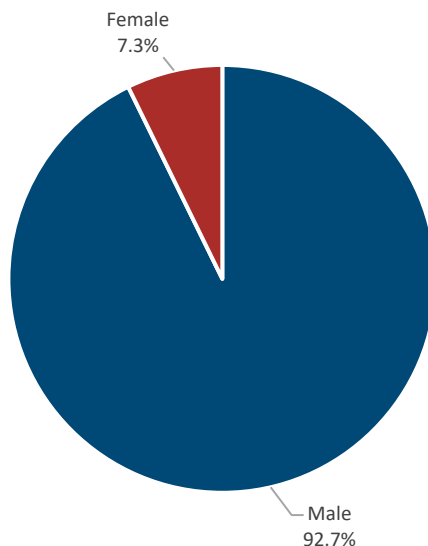
Summary

Between 2017 and 2021, there were 5,395 reported FFL theft incidents resulting in 34,339 firearms stolen. About 58% (3,103) of these incidents were larcenies, 40% (2,154) were burglaries, and 3% (138) were robberies. Most theft incidents occurred among Type 01 – Dealer FFLs, but robberies were more likely to occur among Type 02 -Pawnbroker FFLs. Across all types of firearm thefts, the majority of incidents occurred at storefront premises (70%; 3,100) and involved only one firearm (52%; 2,814). An additional 20% (1,098) involved two to five firearms. The most frequently stolen firearms during the study period were 9mm caliber (35%; 11,854) and most stolen firearms were pistols (66%; 22,562). The types and calibers of stolen firearms acquired through robberies, burglaries, and larcenies tend to follow patterns and trends in lawful firearms commerce that show consumer preferences for pistols in general and more specifically 9mm pistols.

There were 17,048 firearms recovered from 2017 to 2021 that were associated with an FFL theft incident. Firearms stolen in FFL thefts tended to be recovered quickly, with about 45% (7,554) of those firearms recovered within 90 days of the theft incident. Most stolen firearms were also recovered near the original theft location. About 77% (12,912) of stolen firearms were recovered in the same state in which they were stolen and 54% (5,558) were recovered within 25 miles of the original theft location. When stolen firearms were recovered, identified possessors of those firearms were most often men (93%; 10,776) and between the ages of 18 to 34 (67%; 8,190).

Reported Interstate Thefts and Losses[13]

As shown in the NFCTA Volume I – Commerce in Firearms Table M-02 in Appendix M – Manufacturing, from 2016 to 2020, an average of 9,773,518 firearms were produced by licensed manufacturers each year. Generally, after a firearm is manufactured, it is shipped to a licensed wholesaler, then on to a licensed retailer prior to a first retail sale. These exchanges result in multiple interstate

shipments for each firearm. Despite this volume of interstate transport, interstate thefts or losses are rare events. Between 2017 and 2021, an average 2,629 firearms were reported stolen or lost in interstate shipments annually. These losses represented only 0.03% of the volume of newly manufactured firearms entering commerce each year.

As shown in Figure IT-01, from 2017 to 2021, there were 6,008 interstate theft or loss incidents reported involving 13,145 firearms. Theft or loss incidents and firearms stolen or lost increased substantially from 2019 to 2021. There was a 302% increase in theft or loss incidents from 2019 to 2021 and a 284% increase in firearms reported stolen or lost from 2019 to 2021.

Figure IT-01: Number of Reported Interstate Theft or Loss Incidents and Firearms Involved, 2017 – 2021
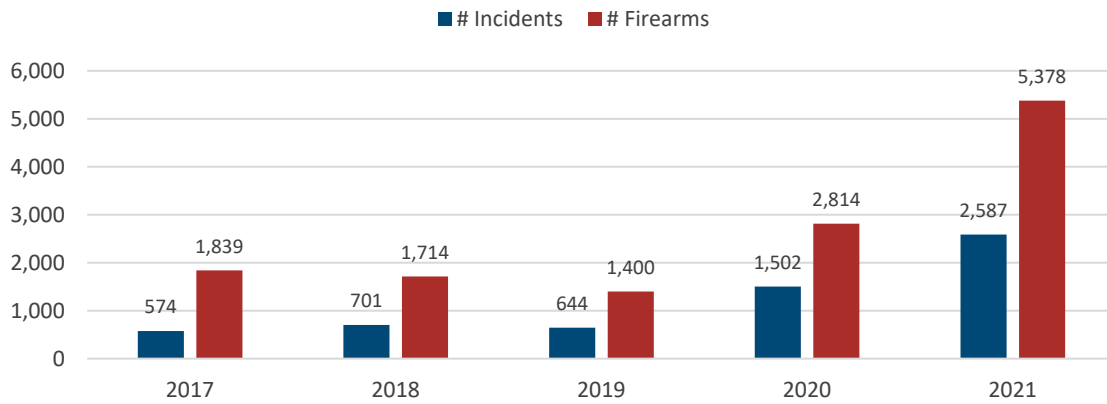
Interstate Theft or Loss Incidents by FFL Type

Of the 6,008 interstate theft or loss incidents, nearly 97% (5,814) documented the license type of the shipper. Interstate theft or loss incidents occurred primarily among Type 01 – Dealer FFLs (Figure IT-02). From 2017 to 2021, 59% (3,445) of theft or loss incidents occurred among Type 01 – Dealer FFLs, 22% (1,292) among Type 07 – Manufacturer FFLs, and 13% (780) among Type 08 – Importer FFLs.

Figure IT-02: Percentage of Interstate Theft or Loss Incidents by FFL Type, 2017 – 2021
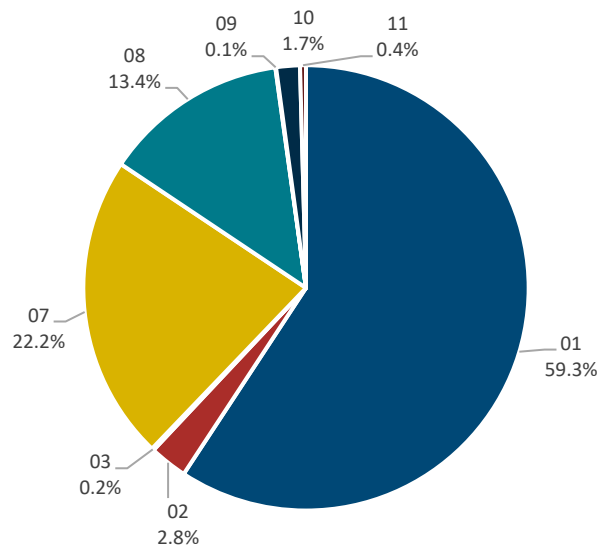
Interstate Thefts or Losses by Quantity of Firearms Stolen or Lost

From 2017 to 2021, 72% (4,330 of 6,008)) of interstate theft or loss incidents involved only one stolen or lost firearm, accounting for 33% (4,330 of 13,145) of all firearms stolen or lost (Figure IT-03). About 22% (1,337) of interstate theft or loss incidents involved two to five stolen or lost firearms, accounting for 26% (3,468) of all firearms stolen or lost. Though only 11 theft or loss incidents (0.2%) involved 50 or more stolen or lost firearms, these incidents accounted for 13% (1,737) of all firearms stolen or lost from 2017 to 2021.

Figure IT-03: Theft or Loss Incidents and Firearms Stolen or Lost by Quantity, 2017 – 2021
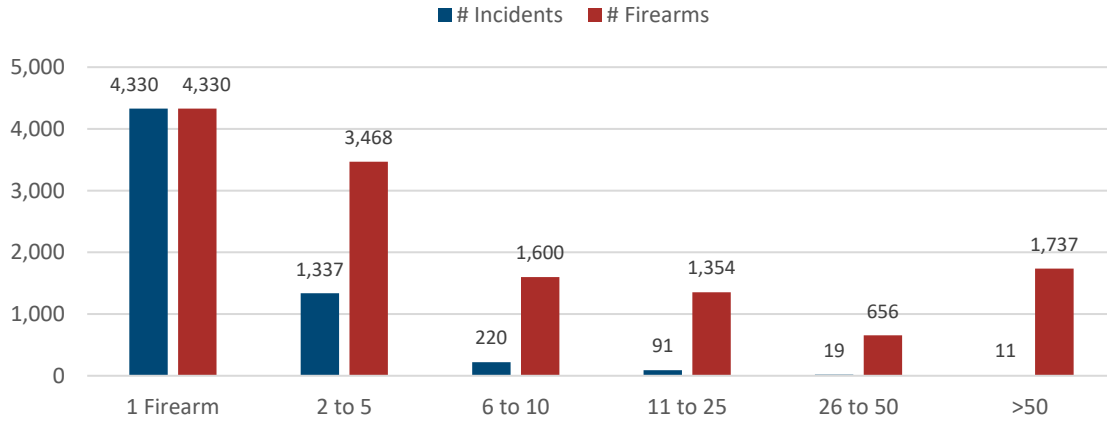
Common Carriers of Interstate Theft or Loss Incidents

As previously stated, FFLs are required to provide the name of the carrier when reporting an interstate theft or loss. ATF works closely with the common carriers and regularly receives support from these carriers in theft or loss investigations. As shown in Figure IT-04, the greatest proportion of reported theft or loss incidents involved FedEx (39%; 2,373), the United Parcel Service (UPS) (39%; 2,318), and the United States Postal Service (USPS) (13%; 799). When the number of firearms per theft or loss incident was considered, FedEx accounted for 37% (4,853), UPS for 37% (4,833), and USPS for 9% (1,245) of all firearms reported stolen or lost.

Figure IT-04: Theft or Loss Incidents by Top Five Common Carriers, 2017 – 2021
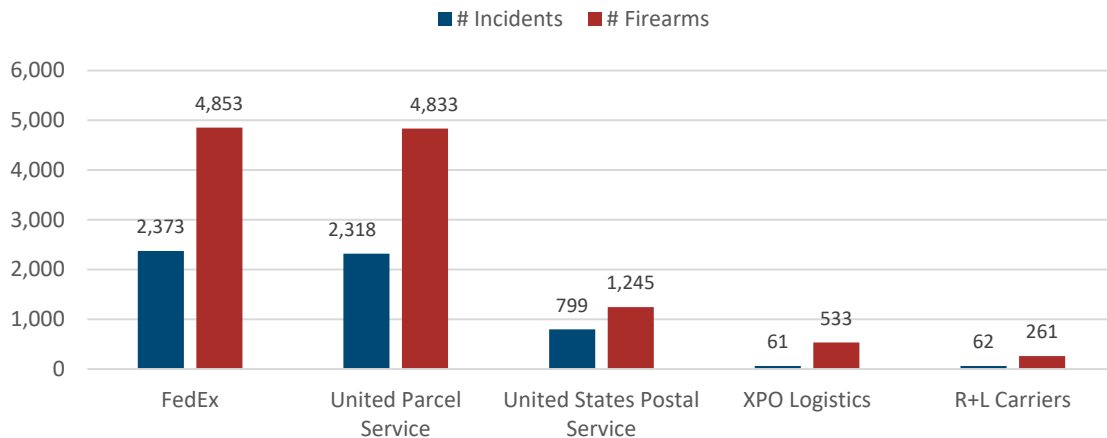
As reflected in Figure IT-05, UPS was the dominant carrier represented in interstate theft or loss incidents from 2017 to 2019 and FedEx was the dominant carrier from 2020 to 2021. UPS, FedEx, and the USPS accounted for more than 91% (5,490) of theft or loss incidents occurring each year from 2017 to 2021.

Figure IT-05: Theft/Loss Incidents by Top Three Common Carriers, 2017 – 2021
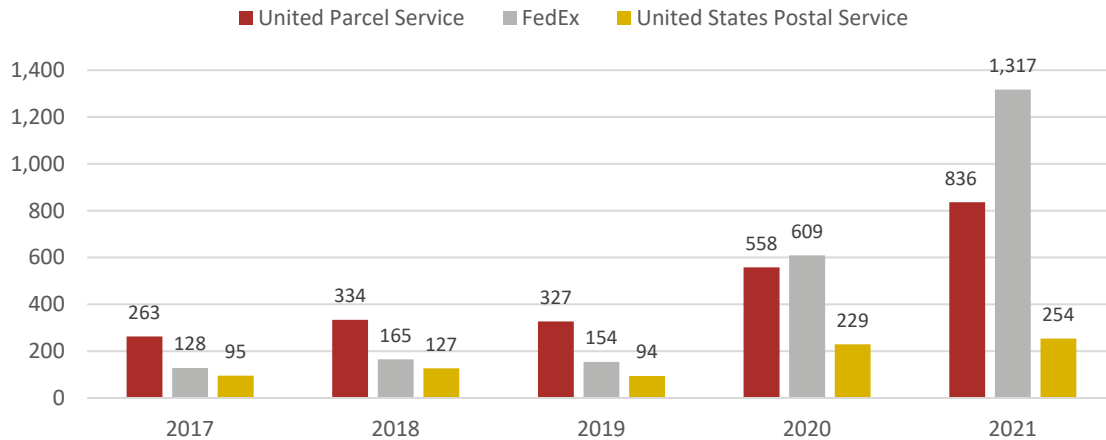
Complementary patterns were present in the sum of firearms involved across these incidents. However, though FedEx accounted for 17% (232) of firearms reported stolen or lost in 2019, it accounted for 38% (1,060) of firearms reported stolen or lost in 2020 and 49% (2,613) of firearms reported stolen or lost in 2021 (Figure IT-06).

Figure IT-06: Firearms Reported Stolen or Lost by Top Three Common Carriers, 2017 – 2021
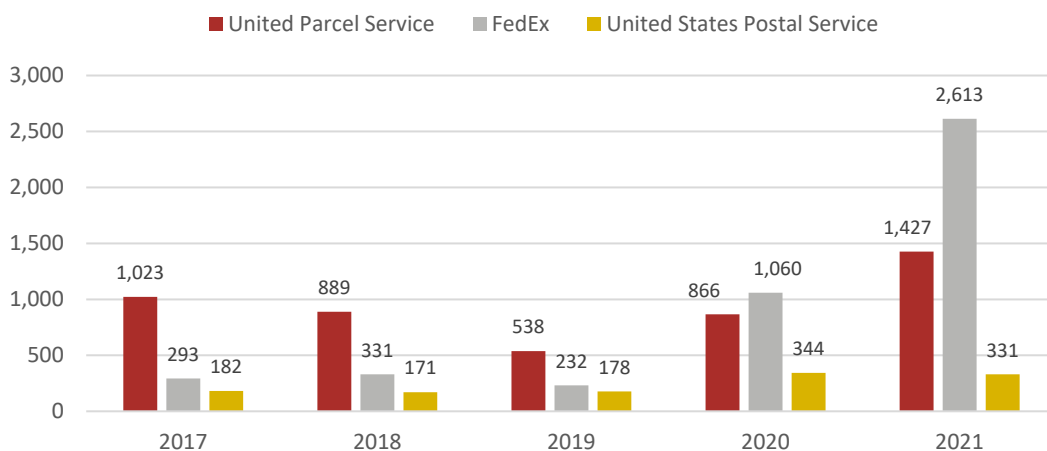
Characteristics of Firearms Stolen

Weapon Type

From 2017 to 2021, 49% (6,452) of firearms reported stolen or lost in interstate shipment were pistols. The second and third most common types were rifles (20%; 2,589) and receiver/frame (11%; 1,481), respectively (Figure IT-07).

Figure IT-07: Percentage of Firearms Stolen or Lost by Weapon Type, 2017 – 2021
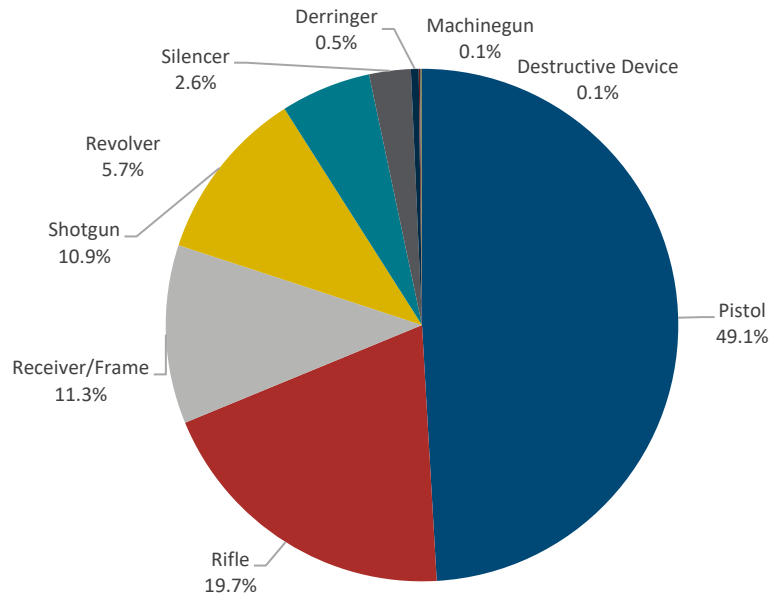
As shown in Table IT-01a, pistols were the most common type of firearm reported stolen or lost in interstate shipment each year. The prevalence of rifles increased over the study period, comprising about 11% (207 of 1,839) of firearms stolen or lost in 2017 but 22% (1,179 of 5,378) of firearms stolen or lost in 2021. The prevalence of receiver/frame types also increased from 3% (62) in 2017 to 10% (544) in 2021.

Table IT-01a: Percentage of Firearms Stolen or Lost by Weapon Type, 2017 – 2021

Weapon Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Pistol	69.1%	57.6%	41.1%	39.7%	46.5%	49.1%
Rifle	11.3%	15.5%	19.1%	23.8%	21.9%	19.7%
Revolver	5.1%	6.1%	7.0%	5.7%	5.4%	5.7%
Shotgun	7.8%	9.0%	9.7%	11.4%	12.7%	10.9%
Receiver/Frame	3.4%	8.8%	19.6%	16.0%	10.1%	11.3%
Silencer	2.0%	2.0%	3.3%	3.2%	2.5%	2.6%
Derringer	1.4%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Machinegun	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Combination	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Destructive Device	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Unknown	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

See Table IT-01 in Appendix IT – Interstate Theft or Loss, for the number of firearms stolen or lost by weapon type between 2017 and 2021.

Caliber

The most prevalent caliber represented among firearms involved in interstate theft or loss incidents from 2017 to 2021 was 9mm (27%; 3,513) (Figure IT-08). The second and third most common calibers were .380 caliber (11%; 1,495) and .22 caliber (10%; 1,303).[14]

Figure IT-08: Firearms Stolen or Lost by Caliber (Top Ten), 2017-2021
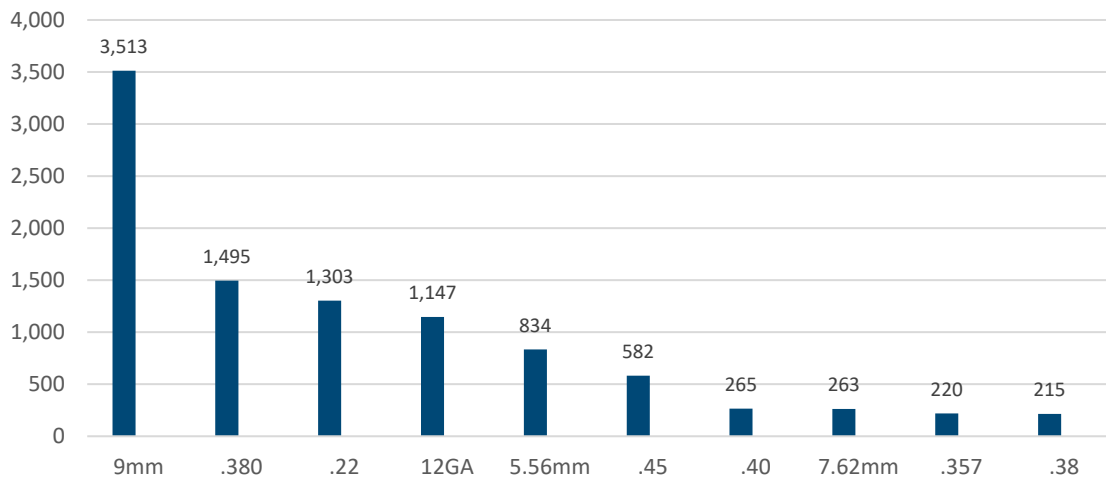
As reflected in Table IT-02a, the dominance of 9mm caliber firearms increased significantly over the five-year study period, from 18% of firearms stolen or lost in 2017 to 33% of firearms stolen or lost in 2021.[15]

Table IT-02a: Percentage of Firearms Stolen or Lost by Caliber (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021

Caliber	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
9mm	18.2%	17.7%	21.4%	28.5%	33.0%	26.7%
.380	38.2%	24.9%	8.1%	2.8%	3.2%	11.4%
.22	7.3%	8.8%	10.6%	9.4%	11.3%	9.9%
12GA	7.0%	6.8%	7.9%	8.5%	10.3%	8.7%
5.56mm	2.3%	3.4%	3.1%	8.0%	8.6%	6.4%
.45	6.5%	7.2%	5.6%	3.3%	3.2%	4.4%
.40	3.2%	3.2%	1.9%	1.1%	1.8%	2.0%
7.62mm	0.9%	1.5%	3.1%	2.9%	1.8%	2.0%
.38	3.5%	1.9%	1.1%	1.3%	1.4%	1.7%

See Table IT-02 in Appendix IT – Interstate Theft or Loss, for the firearms stolen or lost by top ten weapon caliber between 2017 and 2021.

Recoveries of Firearms Stolen or Lost in Interstate Thefts

The following figures and tables include all firearms recovered from 2017 to 2021 that were associated with an interstate theft or loss, regardless of when the associated theft or loss incident occurred. During the study period, there were 3,072 firearms recovered that were associated with interstate theft or loss incidents[16].

Time-to-Recovery

Of the 3,072 firearms that were recovered, the date of the theft or loss and the date of recovery were recorded on 75% (2,290). Approximately 57% (1,306) of the 2,290 reported stolen or lost in interstate shipment and later recovered by an LEA were recovered within 90 days, and another 25% (572) were recovered 90-364 days (Figure IT-09).

Figure IT-09: Percentage of Stolen or Lost Firearms Recovered by Law Enforcement by Time-to-Recovery Grouping, 2017 – 2021
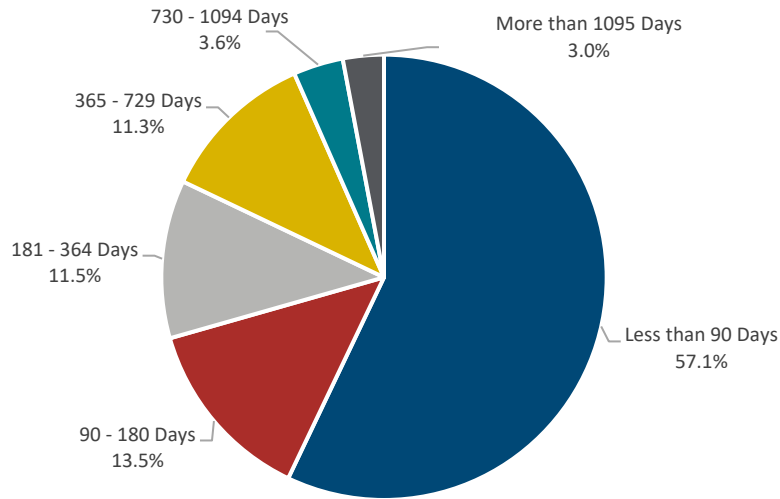
Possessor Age

During the study period, the ages of 1,397 possessors were identified for recovered firearms associated with an interstate theft or loss. The largest percentage of possessors were 18 to 34 years old (65%; 912) (Figure IT-10). About 32% (448) were 35 and older and only 3% (37) of possessors were juveniles (17 and under). Their average age was 32.

Figure IT-10: Possessor Age of Recovered Firearms Associated with Interstate Theft or Loss, 2017 – 2021
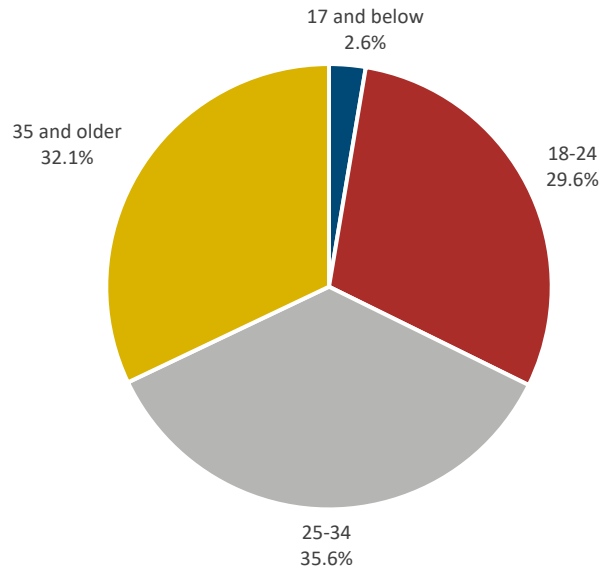
Summary

Between 2017 and 2021, there were 6,008 reported interstate theft or loss incidents involving 13,145 stolen or lost firearms and representing approximately 0.03% of the estimated volume of newly manufactured firearms entering commerce each year. Most reported interstate theft or loss incidents involved Type 01 – Dealer FFLs (59%; 3,445). About 72% (4,330) of incidents involved only one stolen or lost firearm and 91% (5,490) occurred among the three largest common carriers in the U.S. About 49% (6,452) of firearms reported stolen or lost were pistols and the most prevalent caliber of stolen or lost firearms was 9mm (27%; 3,513). These patterns in weapon characteristics mirror trends in general firearms commerce.

During the study period, 3,072 firearms were recovered that were associated with an interstate theft or loss incident. In most instances, firearms were recovered within 90 days of the initial interstate theft or loss report (57%; 1,306). When possessors were identified, they tended to be individuals between the ages of 18 to 34 (65%; 912).

Firearm Thefts from Private Citizens

From 2017 to 2021, LEAs reported 770,642 private theft incidents involving 1,026,538 firearms to the FBI NCIC (Figure PT-01). The number of reported private firearm theft incidents did not change significantly during the study period. Throughout the study period, most of these private theft incidents involved a single firearm.

Figure PT-01: Number of Reported Private Theft Incidents and Firearms Involved, 2017 – 2021
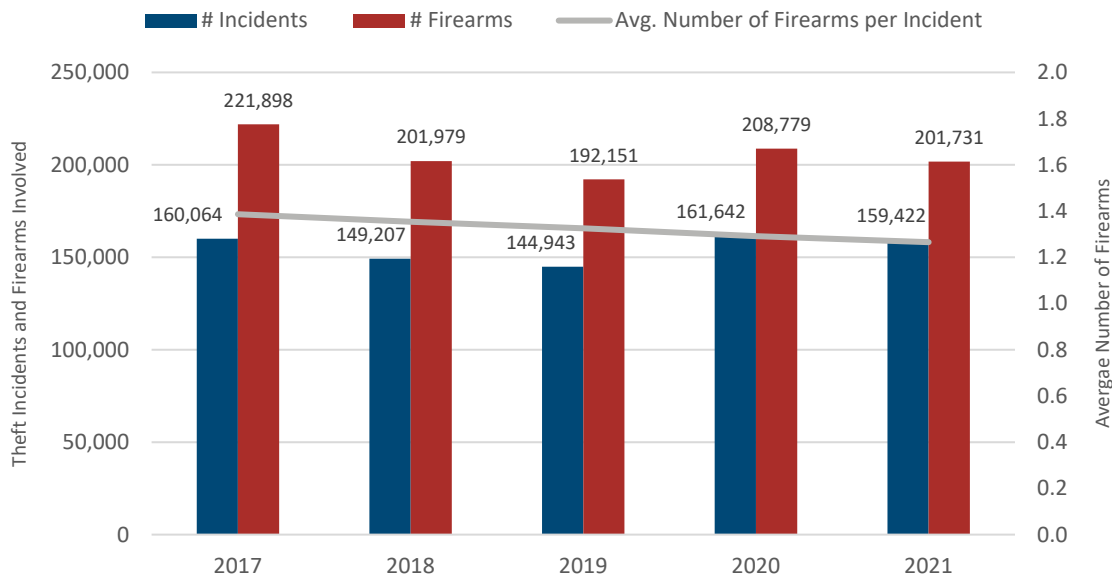
Characteristics of Private Thefts

Most private theft incidents occurred in the South (62%; 480,542); followed by the Midwest (19%; 144,244) (Figure PT-02).[17] The regional patterns of private thefts remained largely unchanged over the study period. See Table PT-01 in Appendix PT – Private Thefts for a detailed list of private theft incidents by region between 2017 and 2021.

Figure PT-02: Percentage of Private Theft Incidents by Region, 2017 – 2021
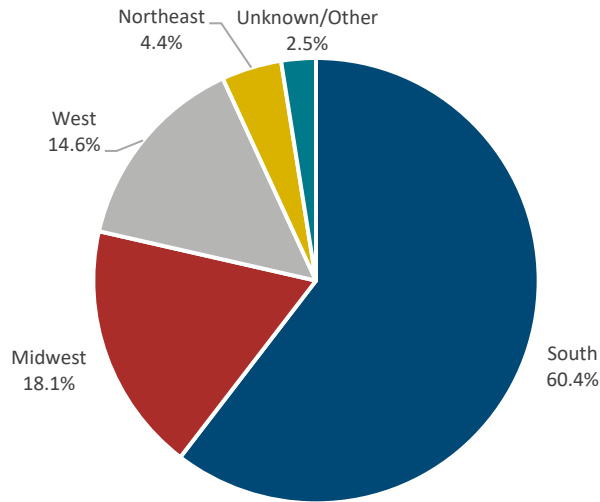
Rates of average number of firearms reported stolen per year per 100,000 population[18] were calculated for the states with the largest number of firearms reported stolen from private citizens (Table PT-02a). Mississippi had the highest rate of firearms reported stolen from private citizens. Alabama and Louisiana had the second and third highest rates, respectively. Notably, eight of the top ten highest rates were in the Southern region of the U.S. Table PT-02 in Appendix PT – Private Thefts contains a listing of all states and annual rates of firearms stolen during the study period.

Table PT-02a: Firearms Stolen from Private Citizens by Theft State (Top Ten Rates), 2017 - 2021

State	Average # of Firearms Stolen in Private Thefts per Year	Annual Rate per 100,000 Population
Mississippi	5,460	185.1
Alabama	8,353	165.7
Louisiana	7,170	155.1
South Carolina	7,825	150.8
Georgia	14,288	132.3
Arkansas	3,989	131.8
Alaska	953	130.0
Missouri	7,270	117.9
Tennessee	8,143	116.7
Oklahoma	4,426	111.0

Characteristics of Firearms Stolen

Weapon Type

Pistols accounted for 71% (729,560) of firearms reported stolen from private citizens between 2017 and 2021 (Figure PT-03). The next most frequently stolen weapon types were rifles (12%; 118,059), revolvers (10%; 99,111), and shotguns (5%; 54,271). Together, these four weapon types accounted for 98% (1,001,001) of all firearms reported stolen from private citizens.

Figure PT-03: Firearms Involved in Private Thefts by Weapon Type, 2017 – 2021
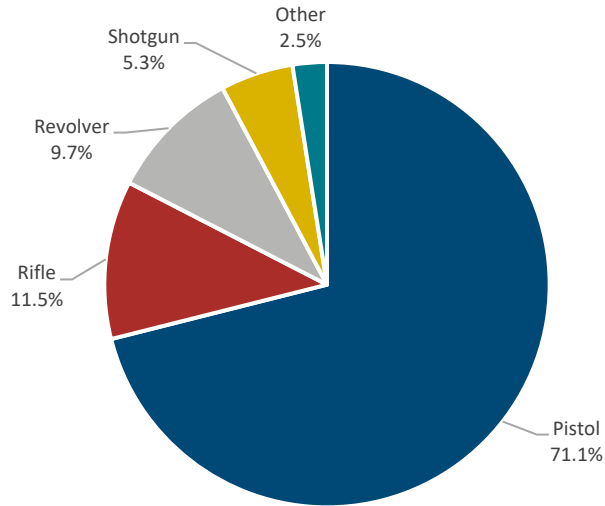
Caliber

Among firearms stolen from private citizens, 9mm was the most prevalent caliber reported (38%; 392,876) (Figure PT-04). The next most frequent calibers were .40 (11%; 109,225), .380 (10%; 100,017), .22 (8%; 84,464), and .45 (8%; 83,598). These five calibers comprised 75% (770,180) of firearms stolen from private citizens from 2017 to 2021.

Figure PT-04: Firearms Involved in Private Thefts by Caliber (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021
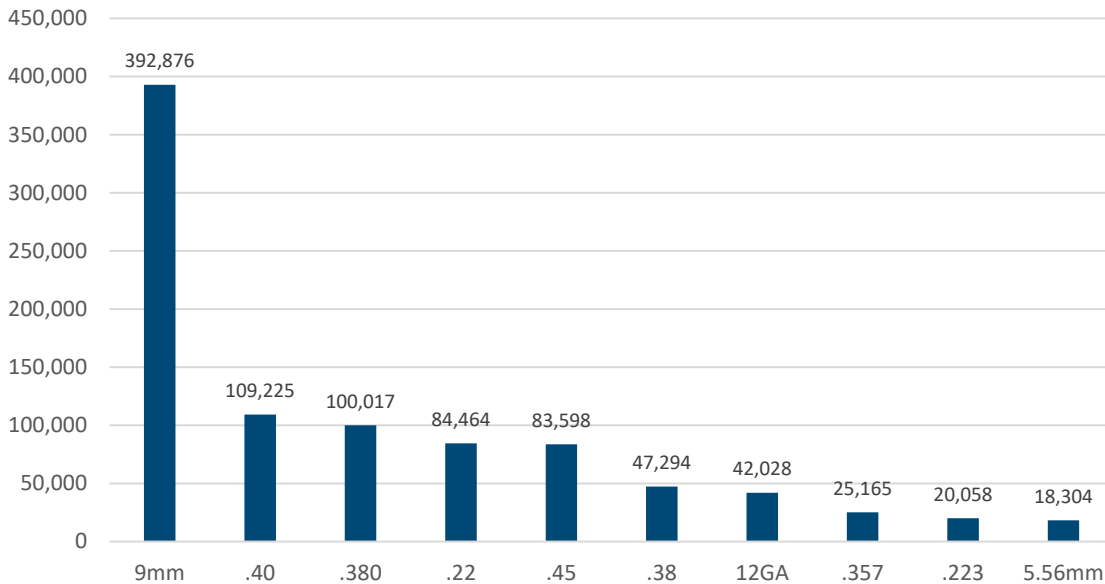
As reflected in Table PT-03, the proportion of 9mm firearms stolen in thefts from private citizens steadily increased from 2017 to 2021 while the proportions of .40, .380, .22, and .45 caliber firearms decreased.

Table PT-03: Percentage of Firearms Involved in Private Thefts by Caliber (Top Five), 2017 – 2021

Caliber	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
9mm	30.3%	33.6%	37.0%	42.6%	48.5%
.40	12.1%	11.2%	10.7%	10.1%	8.9%
.380	10.2%	10.5%	10.3%	9.3%	8.3%
.22	9.5%	8.8%	8.2%	7.6%	6.9%
.45	9.2%	8.7%	8.2%	7.7%	6.9%

Recoveries of Firearms Stolen from Private Citizens

Between 2017 and 2021, LEAs recovered 296,787 firearms previously reported stolen from private citizens.[19] About 92% (271,916) of stolen firearms were recovered in the same state from which they were stolen (Figure PT-05). As shown in Table PT-04a, an overwhelming majority of recovered firearms stolen from the top ten theft states were recovered in the same state from which they were reported stolen.

Figure PT-05: Recovery Location of Firearms Recovered from Private Thefts, 2017 – 2021
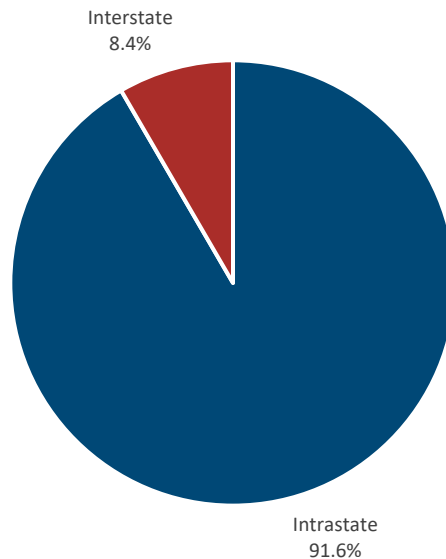
Table PT-04a: Theft State and In-State Recovery Location (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021

Theft State	Total Thefts	% Recovered In-State
Texas	32,282	96.3%
Florida	21,512	95.1%
Georgia	21,192	88.3%
North Carolina	17,379	91.3%
Alabama	12,871	92.1%
Tennessee	12,416	89.5%
South Carolina	12,183	87.5%
Louisiana	11,692	93.4%
Missouri	11,403	90.2%
Kentucky	9,545	89.4%

Table PT-04 in Appendix PT – Private Thefts contains thefts and intrastate recoveries for all states.

Summary

Thefts from private citizens account for nearly 96% (1,026,538) of all firearms reported stolen from 2017 to 2021. About 60% of private theft incidents (480,542) occurred in the South, and Southern states were more likely to have higher rates of private thefts per 100,000 population. About 71% (729,560) of firearms reported stolen from private citizens were pistols and the most prevalent caliber was 9mm (38%; 392,876). From 2017 to 2021, there were 296,787 firearms recovered that were associated with a private theft incident. When firearms are recovered, they tend to be recovered in the state in which they were stolen (92%; 271,916).

Conclusion

ATF and FBI data documented approximately 215,000 guns stolen and reported to LEAs annually during the study period. Most stolen firearms originated from thefts from private citizens' homes and vehicles. A much smaller but noteworthy number of stolen firearms originated from FFL robberies, burglaries, and larcenies as well as from thefts and losses from common carriers in interstate shipments. FFLs are required to report all thefts and losses to ATF. There is no national firearm theft reporting requirement for private citizens. In 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey provided data that citizens reported about 75% of firearm thefts to a LEA that, presumably, reports all thefts to the FBI NCIC.[20] As such, the annual total number of stolen firearms in the U.S. can be estimated at approximately 266,000 per year during the study period.[21]

There are enough firearms stolen on an annual basis to arm all offenders who commit firearm homicides, firearm assaults, and firearm robberies each year.[22] However, less than 5% of surveyed firearm offenders report acquiring their most recent crime gun through theft; firearm offenders frequently report informal acquisitions of firearms from friends, family members, and street sources.[23] Hence, most firearm offenders do not appear to obtain crime guns through direct theft. Instead, stolen firearms play an indirect role in trafficking and diversion to the underground firearm markets used by prohibited persons, juveniles, and other risky individuals seeking firearms. Given the very large scale of firearm thefts in the U.S., it seems likely that stolen firearms are a significant source of firearms to violent criminals. Unfortunately, NCIC and ATF information resources are limited in determining whether recovered crime guns were stolen from private citizens.

Reducing firearm theft would help curtail an important supply line of crime guns to prospective firearm offenders. Local problem-oriented policing initiatives[24] have been effective in controlling a wide range of theft problems, including burglary, thefts from vehicles, and shoplifting.[25] The approach has also been used to analyze and disrupt underground markets for stolen goods.[26] Police departments could apply the problem-oriented approach in specific jurisdictions to address stolen firearms emanating from residential burglaries, vehicle break-ins, "smash-and-grab" theft operations that target licensed dealers, and street fences who transfer stolen firearms to criminals.[27]

APPENDIX BRL – BURGLARY, ROBBERY, & LARCENY

Table BRL-01: Number of FFL Theft Incidents by License Type, 2017 – 2021

| FFL Type | Burglary | | Robbery | | Larceny | |
	Theft Incidents	% Total	Theft Incidents	% Total	Theft Incidents	% Total
01	1,233	57.2%	52	37.7%	1,931	62.2%
02	645	29.9%	84	60.9%	739	23.8%
03	12	0.6%	0	0%	16	0.5%
04	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
05	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
06	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
07	248	11.5%	2	1.4%	370	11.9%
08	9	0.4%	0	0%	27	0.9%
09	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%
10	7	0.3%	0	0%	14	0.5%
11	0	0%	0	0%	5	0.2%
Total	**2,154**	**100.0%**	**138**	**100.0%**	**3,103**	**100.0%**

Table BRL-02: Number of FFL Thefts by Business Premises Type, 2017 – 2021

| Premises Type | Burglary | | Robbery | | Larceny | |
	Theft Incidents	% Total	Theft Incidents	% Total	Theft Incidents	% Total
Store Front	1,442	66.9%	65	47.1%	1,593	51.3%
Office	107	5.0%	34	24.6%	469	15.1%
Single Family Dwelling	97	4.5%	3	2.2%	370	11.9%
Other	68	3.2%	1	0.7%	133	4.3%
Condo/Apartment	7	0.3%	0	0%	5	0.2%
Rod & Gun Club	4	0.2%	0	0%	5	0.2%
Military Base	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	0.0%
Unknown	429	19.9%	35	25.4%	527	17.0%
Total	**2,154**	**100.0%**	**138**	**100.0%**	**3,103**	**100.0%**

Table BRL-04: Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts by Theft State, 2017 – 2021

State	Total Firearms Stolen, 2017-2021	Avg Active FFLs per Year, 2016-2020	Rate of Firearms Stolen per Active FFL
AK	157	740	0.21
AL	1,594	1,665	0.96
AR	1,003	1,705	0.59
AZ	370	2,561	0.14
CA	839	3,184	0.26
CO	1,163	2,312	0.50
CT	39	702	0.06
DC	16	3	5.33
DE	103	151	0.68
FL	1,919	4,480	0.43
GA	2,267	2,583	0.88
HI	16	129	0.12
IA	263	1,615	0.16
ID	126	1,284	0.10
IL	1,102	2,516	0.44
IN	656	1,865	0.35
KS	400	1,426	0.28
KY	740	1,867	0.40
LA	968	1,580	0.61
MA	29	659	0.04
MD	512	786	0.65
ME	172	670	0.26
MI	1,096	2,702	0.41
MN	173	1,798	0.10
MO	1,222	2,897	0.42
MS	1,023	1,236	0.83
MT	134	1,341	0.10
NC	1,717	3,223	0.53
ND	50	545	0.09
NE	77	892	0.09
NH	80	649	0.12
NJ	56	421	0.13
NM	544	818	0.67
NV	981	860	1.14
NY	301	2,170	0.14
OH	1,085	3,222	0.34
OK	692	1,951	0.35
OR	372	1,791	0.21
PA	701	3,251	0.22
RI	2	126	0.02
SC	919	1,486	0.62
SD	215	668	0.32
TN	1,198	2,093	0.57
TX	3,831	8,724	0.44
UT	256	1,285	0.20
VA	807	2,268	0.36
VT	34	391	0.09
WA	605	1,623	0.37
WI	512	1,942	0.26
WV	559	1,165	0.48
WY	63	792	0.08

Table BRL-05: Weapon Type of Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts by Theft Type, 2017 – 2021

FFL BURGLARIES										
	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Weapon Type	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
Pistol	5,076	64.5%	3,808	67.6%	3,029	67.1%	3,798	62.7%	1,885	63.5%
Rifle	1,335	17.0%	918	16.3%	677	15.0%	1,133	18.7%	470	15.8%
Revolver	804	10.2%	537	9.5%	350	7.8%	574	9.5%	246	8.3%
Shotgun	475	6.0%	289	5.1%	257	5.7%	370	6.1%	235	7.9%
Receiver/Frame	98	1.2%	35	0.6%	122	2.7%	60	1.0%	58	2.0%
Silencer	36	0.5%	34	0.6%	60	1.3%	52	0.9%	49	1.7%
Derringer	30	0.4%	10	0.2%	7	0.2%	45	0.7%	13	0.4%
Machinegun	8	0.1%	2	0.0%	8	0.2%	21	0.3%	10	0.3%
Combination	3	0.0%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	5	0.1%	0	0.0%
Unknown	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Any Other Weapon	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Destructive Device	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**7,869**	**100.0%**	**5,636**	**100.0%**	**4,512**	**100.0%**	**6,058**	**100.0%**	**2,967**	**100.0%**

FFL ROBBERIES										
	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Weapon Type	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
Pistol	205	71.9%	239	72.6%	175	86.6%	234	75.5%	67	81.7%
Rifle	44	15.4%	26	7.9%	7	3.5%	10	3.2%	1	1.2%
Revolver	31	10.9%	48	14.6%	18	8.9%	59	19.0%	10	12.2%
Shotgun	4	1.4%	13	4.0%	2	1.0%	3	1.0%	3	3.7%
Receiver/Frame	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%
Silencer	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Derringer	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	1	1.2%
Machinegun	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Combination	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Any Other Weapon	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Destructive Device	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**285**	**100.0%**	**329**	**100.0%**	**202**	**100.0%**	**310**	**100.0%**	**82**	**100.0%**

FFL LARCENIES										
	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
Weapon Type	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
Pistol	873	61.8%	1,101	70.2%	657	65.4%	652	67.6%	763	67.0%
Rifle	230	16.3%	158	10.1%	128	12.7%	145	15.0%	158	13.9%
Revolver	143	10.1%	162	10.3%	109	10.8%	92	9.5%	46	4.0%
Shotgun	67	4.7%	38	2.4%	67	6.7%	32	3.3%	113	9.9%
Receiver/Frame	62	4.4%	76	4.8%	23	2.3%	26	2.7%	33	2.9%
Silencer	25	1.8%	19	1.2%	15	1.5%	11	1.1%	19	1.7%
Derringer	9	0.6%	10	0.6%	4	0.4%	5	0.5%	5	0.4%
Machinegun	4	0.3%	4	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Combination	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Any Other Weapon	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Destructive Device	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	**1,413**	**100.0%**	**1,569**	**100.0%**	**1,005**	**100.0%**	**964**	**100.0%**	**1,138**	**100.0%**

Table BRL-06: Caliber of Firearms Stolen in FFL Thefts by Theft Type (Top Ten Calibers), 2017 – 2021

FFL BURGLARIES

Caliber	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
9mm	2,408	30.6%	1,987	35.3%	1,666	36.9%	1,987	32.8%	1,211	40.8%
.22	754	9.6%	561	10.0%	387	8.6%	767	12.7%	324	10.9%
.45	909	11.6%	607	10.8%	421	9.3%	636	10.5%	217	7.3%
.40	793	10.1%	466	8.3%	344	7.6%	327	5.4%	105	3.5%
.380	546	6.9%	398	7.1%	323	7.2%	355	5.9%	122	4.1%
12 GA	375	4.8%	235	4.2%	196	4.3%	278	4.6%	207	7.0%
5.56mm	375	4.8%	233	4.1%	211	4.7%	269	4.4%	183	6.2%
.38	328	4.2%	203	3.6%	112	2.5%	174	2.9%	67	2.3%
7.62mm	182	2.3%	137	2.4%	103	2.3%	150	2.5%	57	1.9%
.357	182	2.3%	118	2.1%	79	1.8%	139	2.3%	49	1.7%

FFL ROBBERIES

Caliber	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
9mm	100	35.1%	119	36.2%	89	44.1%	119	38.4%	45	54.9%
.22	13	4.6%	31	9.4%	15	7.4%	34	11.0%	8	9.8%
.45	31	10.9%	23	7.0%	19	9.4%	41	13.2%	6	7.3%
.40	39	13.7%	41	12.5%	34	16.8%	33	10.6%	9	11.0%
.380	27	9.5%	34	10.3%	24	11.9%	24	7.7%	4	4.9%
12 GA	2	0.7%	12	3.6%	2	1.0%	3	1.0%	3	3.7%
5.56mm	17	6.0%	9	2.7%	2	1.0%	5	1.6%	0	0.0%
.38	15	5.3%	21	6.4%	8	4.0%	21	6.8%	3	3.7%
7.62mm	3	1.1%	3	0.9%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
.357	9	3.2%	13	4.0%	3	1.5%	8	2.6%	1	1.2%

FFL LARCENIES

Caliber	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total	# Firearms	% Total
9mm	443	31.4%	530	33.8%	328	32.6%	369	38.3%	453	39.8%
.22	126	8.9%	136	8.7%	92	9.2%	78	8.1%	154	13.5%
.45	116	8.2%	134	8.5%	91	9.1%	76	7.9%	48	4.2%
.40	121	8.6%	148	9.4%	103	10.2%	75	7.8%	62	5.4%
.380	116	8.2%	146	9.3%	88	8.8%	52	5.4%	67	5.9%
12 GA	53	3.8%	25	1.6%	46	4.6%	25	2.6%	102	9.0%
5.56mm	59	4.2%	59	3.8%	27	2.7%	43	4.5%	46	4.0%
.38	74	5.2%	75	4.8%	46	4.6%	43	4.5%	21	1.8%
7.62mm	36	2.5%	34	2.2%	19	1.9%	31	3.2%	20	1.8%
.357	36	2.5%	29	1.8%	23	2.3%	17	1.8%	11	1.0%

Table BRL-07: Theft State and Recovery Location, 2017 – 2021

Theft State	Total Firearms Recovered	# Unknown Recovery Location	% Unknown Recovery Location	# Known Recovered In-State	% Known Recovered In-State
AK	71	3	4.2%	61	89.7%
AL	859	9	1.0%	692	81.4%
AR	508	6	1.2%	420	83.7%
AZ	237	5	2.1%	165	71.1%
CA	476	14	2.9%	431	93.3%
CO	517	29	5.6%	434	88.9%
CT	20	0	0.0%	16	80.0%
DC	6	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
DE	43	0	0.0%	31	72.1%
FL	1,026	38	3.7%	873	88.4%
GA	1,097	19	1.7%	797	73.9%
HI	4	0	0.0%	4	100.0%
IA	170	0	0.0%	133	78.2%
ID	63	1	1.6%	45	72.6%
IL	586	5	0.9%	518	89.2%
IN	401	3	0.7%	225	56.5%
KS	192	6	3.1%	132	71.0%
KY	387	19	4.9%	222	60.3%
LA	485	1	0.2%	409	84.5%
MA	36	3	8.3%	17	51.5%
MD	250	0	0.0%	176	70.4%
ME	93	35	37.6%	48	82.8%
MI	450	1	0.2%	422	94.0%
MN	127	1	0.8%	108	85.7%
MO	527	9	1.7%	373	72.0%
MS	448	6	1.3%	254	57.5%
MT	87	2	2.3%	76	89.4%
NC	894	5	0.6%	648	72.9%
ND	26	0	0.0%	16	61.5%
NE	67	1	1.5%	51	77.3%
NH	21	0	0.0%	8	38.1%
NJ	18	0	0.0%	10	55.6%
NM	201	5	2.5%	154	78.6%
NV	639	2	0.3%	465	73.0%
NY	156	11	7.1%	126	86.9%
OH	702	8	1.1%	614	88.5%
OK	269	5	1.9%	199	75.4%
OR	208	3	1.4%	146	71.2%
PA	411	0	0.0%	215	52.3%
RI	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SC	563	7	1.2%	326	58.6%
SD	110	8	7.3%	82	80.4%
TN	647	6	0.9%	542	84.6%
TX	1,574	31	2.0%	1,357	87.9%
UT	128	26	20.3%	80	78.4%
VA	410	2	0.5%	251	61.5%
VT	10	0	0.0%	6	60.0%
WA	352	3	0.9%	288	82.5%
WI	171	0	0.0%	109	63.7%
WV	260	3	1.2%	116	45.1%
WY	30	0	0.0%	10	33.3%

APPENDIX IT – INTERSTATE THEFT OR LOSS

Table IT-01: Firearms Stolen or Lost by Weapon Type, 2017 – 2021

Weapon Type	2017 # Firearms	2017 % Total	2018 # Firearms	2018 % Total	2019 # Firearms	2019 % Total	2020 # Firearms	2020 % Total	2021 # Firearms	2021 % Total	Total # Firearms	Total % Total
Pistol	1,270	69.1%	987	57.6%	576	41.1%	1,116	39.7%	2,503	46.5%	6,452	49.1%
Rifle	207	11.3%	265	15.5%	267	19.1%	671	23.8%	1,179	21.9%	2,589	19.7%
Revolver	93	5.1%	105	6.1%	98	7.0%	160	5.7%	293	5.4%	749	5.7%
Shotgun	143	7.8%	155	9.0%	136	9.7%	320	11.4%	684	12.7%	1,438	10.9%
Receiver/Frame	62	3.4%	150	8.8%	275	19.6%	450	16.0%	544	10.1%	1,481	11.3%
Silencer	36	2.0%	35	2.0%	46	3.3%	91	3.2%	137	2.5%	345	2.6%
Derringer	25	1.4%	13	0.8%	1	0.1%	4	0.1%	21	0.4%	64	0.5%
Machinegun	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	3	0.1%	9	0.1%
Combination	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	5	0.0%
Destructive Device	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	0.2%	11	0.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	2	0.0%
Total	**1,839**	**100.0%**	**1,714**	**100.0%**	**1,400**	**100.0%**	**2,814**	**100.0%**	**5,378**	**100.0%**	**13,145**	**100.0%**

Table IT-02: Firearms Stolen or Lost by Weapon Caliber (Top Ten), 2017 – 2021

Caliber	2017 # Firearms	2017 % Total	2018 # Firearms	2018 % Total	2019 # Firearms	2019 % Total	2020 # Firearms	2020 % Total	2021 # Firearms	2021 % Total	Total # Firearms	Total % Total
9mm	334	18.2%	304	17.7%	299	21.4%	802	28.5%	1774	33.0%	3513	26.7%
.380	702	38.2%	426	24.9%	114	8.1%	79	2.8%	174	3.2%	1495	11.4%
.22	134	7.3%	150	8.8%	149	10.6%	264	9.4%	606	11.3%	1303	9.9%
12GA	128	7.0%	116	6.8%	111	7.9%	238	8.5%	554	10.3%	1147	8.7%
5.56mm	43	2.3%	59	3.4%	43	3.1%	226	8.0%	464	8.6%	835	6.4%
.45	119	6.5%	123	7.2%	79	5.6%	92	3.3%	171	3.2%	584	4.4%
.40	58	3.2%	54	3.2%	26	1.9%	30	1.1%	97	1.8%	265	2.0%
7.62mm	17	0.9%	25	1.5%	43	3.1%	82	2.9%	96	1.8%	263	2.0%
.38	65	3.5%	32	1.9%	16	1.1%	37	1.3%	76	1.4%	226	1.7%

APPENDIX PT – PRIVATE THEFTS

Table PT-01: Number and Percentage of Private Theft Incidents by Region, 2017 – 2021

Region	2017 Incidents	2017 % Total	2018 Incidents	2018 % Total	2019 Incidents	2019 % Total	2020 Incidents	2020 % Total	2021 Incidents	2021 % Total	Total	Total % Total
South	99,145	60.1%	91,886	59.8%	90,010	60.4%	101,473	60.9%	99,825	60.8%	482,339	60.4%
Midwest	29,531	17.9%	27,396	17.8%	26,818	18.0%	31,128	18.7%	30,234	18.4%	145,107	18.2%
West	24,522	14.9%	23,255	15.1%	21,607	14.5%	23,472	14.1%	23,216	14.1%	116,072	14.5%
Northeast	7,601	4.6%	7,106	4.6%	6,582	4.4%	6,569	3.9%	6,961	4.2%	34,819	4.4%
Unknown/Other	4,254	2.6%	3,982	2.6%	4,008	2.7%	3,911	2.3%	3,891	2.4%	20,046	2.5%
Total	**165,053**	**100.0%**	**153,625**	**100.0%**	**149,025**	**100.0%**	**166,553**	**100.0%**	**164,127**	**100.0%**	**798,383**	**100.0%**

Table PT-02: Firearms Stolen from Private Citizens by Theft State and Population, 2017 – 2021

State	Average # of Firearms Stolen in Non-FFL Thefts per Year	Annual Rate per 100,000 Population
AK	953	130.0
AL	8,353	165.7
AR	3,989	131.8
AZ	5,090	70.0
CA	8,509	21.7
CO	3,336	57.4
CT	866	24.0
DC	87	12.9
DE	379	37.8
FL	13,940	64.0
GA	14,288	132.3
HI	174	12.1
IA	1,249	39.1
ID	1,018	53.6
IL	4,265	33.7
IN	5,260	77.3
KS	2,230	76.0
KY	4,684	103.9
LA	7,170	155.1
MA	378	5.4
MD	1,130	18.3
ME	559	40.8
MI	6,462	64.3
MN	1,559	27.3
MO	7,270	117.9
MS	5,460	185.1
MT	980	88.7
NC	10,961	103.9
ND	355	45.8
NE	733	37.3
NH	372	26.8
NJ	629	6.8
NM	2,260	106.8
NV	2,614	83.1
NY	1,766	8.9
OH	6,697	56.8
OK	4,426	111.0
OR	2,423	57.1
PA	5,870	45.3
RI	117	10.7
SC	7,825	150.8
SD	476	53.2
TN	8,143	116.7
TX	25,270	85.6
UT	1,406	42.1
VA	5,224	60.4
VT	253	39.1
WA	4,074	52.6
WI	1,255	21.3
WV	1,730	97.0
WY	374	64.7

1/11/2023

Table PT-04: Theft State and In-State Recovery Location, 2017 – 2021

Theft State	Total Firearms Recovered	Number Recovered In-State	Percent Recovered In-State
AK	1,760	1,725	98.0%
AL	12,871	11,851	92.1%
AR	7,005	6,572	93.8%
AZ	7,877	7,101	90.1%
CA	6,446	6,274	97.3%
CO	4,367	4,075	93.3%
CT	853	816	95.7%
DC	92	66	71.7%
DE	506	455	89.9%
FL	21,512	20,460	95.1%
GA	21,192	18,708	88.3%
HI	120	118	98.3%
IA	2,009	1,706	84.9%
ID	1,614	1,427	88.4%
IL	6,718	6,401	95.3%
IN	8,339	6,906	82.8%
KS	3,237	2,876	88.8%
KY	9,545	8,537	89.4%
LA	11,692	10,919	93.4%
MA	454	416	91.6%
MD	1,445	1,287	89.1%
ME	436	386	88.5%
MI	8,869	8,546	96.4%
MN	2,378	2,275	95.7%
MO	11,403	10,287	90.2%
MS	7,692	6,647	86.4%
MT	1,631	1,484	91.0%
NC	17,379	15,859	91.3%
ND	529	476	90.0%
NE	1,427	1,310	91.8%
NH	632	538	85.1%
NJ	833	795	95.4%
NM	2,974	2,689	90.4%
NV	4,164	3,223	77.4%
NY	1,344	1,287	95.8%
OH	9,037	8,700	96.3%
OK	6,433	5,984	93.0%
OR	3,687	3,249	88.1%
PA	8,358	7,886	94.4%
RI	151	125	82.8%
SC	12,183	10,666	87.5%
SD	817	739	90.5%
TN	12,416	11,113	89.5%
TX	32,282	31,098	96.3%
UT	2,508	2,355	93.9%
VA	7,990	6,914	86.5%
VT	321	244	76.0%
WA	6,367	5,921	93.0%
WI	41	5	12.2%
WV	2,038	1,703	83.6%
WY	647	551	85.2%

ENDNOTES

[1] See, Cal. Penal Code §§ 25250, 25255, 25260, 25270; Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-12-113; Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-202g; Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 1461; Haw. Rev. Stat. § 134-29; 720 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/24-4.1; Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety § 5-146; Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, § 129C; Mich. Comp. Laws § 28.430; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2C:58-19; N.Y. Penal Law § 400.10(1); Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2923.20(A)(5); Or. Rev. Stat. § 166.397 (effective September 25, 2021); 11 R.I. Gen Laws § 11-47-48.1; Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-287.5.

[2] United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics. National Crime Victimization Survey, [United States], 2016: Revised Version. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2020-08-24. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37296.v2

[3] Firearms that were found in the possession of a rightful owner or FFL/carrier, found by another other than the FFL/carrier and were not used in a crime, or were otherwise deemed not stolen are excluded from this dataset.

[4] Learn About Firearms Safety and Security | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (atf.gov)

[5] There is no federal statute requiring common carriers or contract carriers to report the theft or loss of a firearm in transit to the ATF.

[6] Firearms that were found in the possession of the rightful owner or carrier, found by another other than the carrier and were not used in a crime, or were otherwise deemed not stolen are excluded from this dataset.

[7] For NCIC purposes: a) Gun records include those entered, modified, located, or cleared. b) a gun is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by air, carbon dioxide, or the action of an explosive. Included in this definition are antique guns; cannons; machine guns; rifles; shotguns; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; destructive devices such as grenades, mines, missiles, and rockets; and disguised guns such as knife guns, pen guns, belt buckles, and cane guns. BB guns are excluded. This definition is different than the related firearm definitions in 27 C.F.R. §§478.11 and 479.11.

[8] National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment: Firearms in Commerce (atf.gov), The number of active FFLs per year, 2016-2020, by state is found in Table IL-06 in Appendix IL - Inventory Losses.

[9] The number of firearms reported stolen by state is based on the state in which the theft occurred and not the licensed business premises of the FFL. On average, state-by-state totals of firearms reported stolen based on the location of theft occurrence versus firearms reported stolen based on location of licensed FFL business premises differed by only 0.1%.

[10] The manufacturer of the most frequently stolen firearms from FFLs is not included as there is no evidence to support that criminals are selective while committing thefts.

[11] Firearms recovered following an FFL theft are at times not traced because the source of the firearms is already known to the recovering LEA. This accounts for the difference between the number of firearms recovered (17,048) versus the number of firearms traced (11,093) that were associated with an FFL theft.

[12] This includes 30 instances in which the recovery location was known to be in a foreign country, but no further specifics on location were available.

[13] Interstate Thefts and Losses are reported on the same form and are not broken down into separate categories.

[14] ZZ (Unknown) caliber firearms constituted 1,607, or 12%, of firearms reported lost/stolen.

[15] Patterns in interstate theft/loss caliber types largely follow commerce trends. As noted in Volume I of the NFCTA, 9mm pistols have increased in dominance in firearm manufacturing, constituting about 29% of pistols manufactured and distributed in 2010 but 58% of pistols manufactured and distributed into domestic commerce in 2020.

[16] Firearms recovered following a theft or loss from an Interstate shipment are at times not traced because the source of the firearms is already known to the recovering LEA. This accounts for the difference between the number of firearms recovered (3,072) versus the number of firearms traced (2,169) that were associated with a theft or loss from an Interstate shipment.

[17] Each region is comprised of the following states. South: AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV. Midwest: IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI. West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY. Northeast: CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

[18] State Population Totals: 2020-2021 (census.gov)

[19] All recoveries between 2017-2021 are included regardless of when the original theft occurred.

[20] United States. Bureau of Justice Statistics. National Crime Victimization Survey, [United States], 2016: Revised Version. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2020-08-24. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37296.v2

[21] As documented at the beginning of Section V, there were 1,026,538 guns reported stolen to the FBI NCIC between 2017 and 2021. To account for guns stolen from citizens but not reported, this number was multiplied by 1.25 to estimate 1,283,173 total guns stolen from private citizens during the study period. This number was added to 34,339 stolen in all FFL thefts and 13,145 stolen in interstate shipments for a total estimate of 1,330,657 stolen guns. This total was then divided by 5 (years) to produce an estimate of 266,000 guns stolen per year between 2017 and 2021.

[22] Philip J. Cook. 2018. "Gun Theft and Crime." *Journal of Urban Health*, 95 (3): 305–312.

[23] Philip J. Cook. 2018. "Gun Markets." *Annual Review of Criminology,* 1: 359–377; Philip J. Cook, Harold A. Pollack, and Kailey White. 2019. "The Last Link: From Gun Acquisition to Criminal Use." *Journal of Urban Health,* 96 (5): 784–791.

[24] Problem-oriented policing challenges police officers to identify a specific crime problem, analyze the underlying conditions and dynamics that cause crime incidents to recur, implement tailored responses to address these underlying conditions and dynamics, and evaluate the effects of these responses on the targeted crime problem. See Herman Goldstein. 1990. *Problem-Oriented Policing.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

[25] Ronald V. Clarke, ed. 1997. *Situational Crime Prevention: Successful Case Studies*. Second edition. New York: Harrow and Heston; Michael S. Scott and Ronald V. Clarke, eds. 2020. *Problem-Oriented Policing: Successful Case Studies.* New York: Taylor & Francis.

[26] Michael Sutton. 2010. *Stolen Goods Markets*. Problem-Oriented Guides for Police, Problem-Specific Guides Series, No. 57. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

[27] Anthony A. Braga. 2008. *Problem-Oriented Policing and Crime Prevention.* Second edition. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.