

Crime Gun Trace Reports (1999)

National Report



The Youth Crime Gun
Interdiction Initiative

November 2000

Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms





Foreword by the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

ATF established the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 1996 to focus special agent and inspector resources on reducing youth gun violence. To increase our effectiveness, we resolved to equip our investigators and their State and local counterparts with more facts about how violent youth obtained guns. We asked our colleagues in State and local law enforcement to help us systematically "follow the gun" used in crime to help identify violent criminals and their illegal suppliers by tracing all crime guns with the National Tracing Center.

These crime gun traces, which use a gun's serial number to track its transfers from manufacturer to retail purchase, lead law enforcement to sources of illegal diversion, gun traffickers, and violent criminals, and contribute to successful prosecutions. This report provides examples of successful cases against such offenders. In the past, the case an agent made with trace information would likely have been the last case using that information. Every investigator would start a new case relying on new leads. As these *Crime Gun Trace Reports* demonstrate, that era is over in law enforcement. Today, law enforcement officials can and do access, search, and analyze investigative and case information contributed by hundreds of their colleagues, to gain additional investigative leads and strategic perspective.

Recently, we examined our firearms investigative docket and learned that over a quarter of ATF's investigations into the illegal diversion of guns involved felons. This allowed us to confirm what ATF agents and their State and local colleagues have known but not previously documented — there is a sizable illegal market in firearms involving felons, juveniles, and other illegal possessors and traffickers of firearms. It includes corrupt federally licensed dealers who ignore the results of background checks, straw purchasers, unlicensed sellers, thieves, and traffickers in stolen firearms, among others.

Collecting and analyzing information from thousands of crime gun traces supplied by Federal, State, and local law enforcement are helping us gain a more precise picture of that crime gun market and provide investigative and strategic direction to enforcement aimed at gun crime. This year's reports, the third annual publication of *Crime Gun Trace Reports*, include this *National Report* and a series of individual *City Reports*, which provide complete information on the trace results in those cities. These reports are available at www.atf.treas.gov.

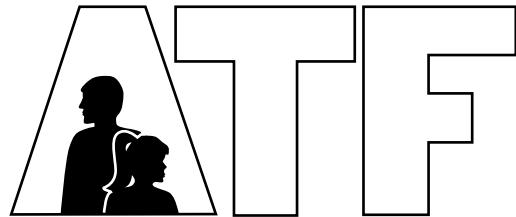
Of great value to law enforcement are the lists of guns that repeatedly show up in crimes and that do so rapidly after purchase, suggesting criminal intent associated with the original transaction. Every city has its own crime guns and patterns, reflecting local conditions, but certain local, regional, and national patterns are evident. This information permits law enforcement officials to tailor investigative strategies to the most violent criminals and juveniles, local "hot spots," and illegal sources of guns. Knowing the changing trends in crime guns is also vital to ensuring officer safety.

Crime gun tracing and its complementary tool, ballistics identification, are rapidly transforming Federal, State, and local firearms enforcement. We cannot completely stop violent criminals from using illegal means to acquire guns, but we can track their methods with greater precision than ever before, intervene to stop trafficking schemes, investigate both illegal suppliers and their criminal buyers, and fully enforce our Nation's firearms laws to deter gun criminals and hold them accountable. We are at the beginning of the new era of using available crime gun and ballistics information to solve and prevent gun crimes. We present this year's *Crime Gun Trace Reports* as an information cornerstone of our efforts to reduce violent crime, disarm the criminal, and better protect our Nation's youth.

Bradley A. Buckles

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Highlights of the National Report

This is the third year of ATF's *Crime Gun Trace Reports*. This year, a *National Report* provides national findings based on 64,637 crime gun traces recovered and submitted in calendar year 1999. These trace requests came from 32 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 36 cities, including all 32 larger cities and four smaller cities. The *National* and *City Reports* are posted on the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov.

Possessors of Crime Guns

Juvenile. About 9 percent of crime guns were recovered from juveniles (ages 17 & under).

Youth. About 34 percent of crime guns were recovered from youth (ages 18-24).

- Individuals *19 years of age* were the most frequent possessors of traced crime guns, followed closely by possessors ages 20 and 18.

Adult. About 57 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 11 percent of traced crime guns were recovered from possessors who had purchased those firearms from Federal firearms licensees (FFLs). About 89 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 5.7 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.
- 32 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 (32 percent) recovered in 1999 were purchased in 1996 or later.
- More than 40 percent of crime guns recovered from youth were purchased in 1996 or later.
- Half of all the semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth were purchased in 1996 or later.

Predominant Role of New Guns in Crime. There are an estimated 215 million firearms in civilian hands in the U.S.¹ The approximately 37 million firearms that first entered the market in the U.S. during 1993-1999² make up only 17 percent of that total stock, but that new flow accounted for more than half of all the crime guns that are the subject of this report. This finding confirms investigators' experience that illegal diversion is a significant aspect of gun crime.

¹ This estimate is based on combining the estimate of 192 million privately-owned firearms obtained in a 1994 survey (Cook and Ludwig, *Guns in America*, Police Foundation, 1997, p. 14) and the approximate 22 million net supply to the domestic market over the 1995-99 period (*Commerce in Firearms in the United States* (1999), Appendix Tables A.1.1-A.1.3, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, February 2000).

² *Commerce in Firearms in the United States* (1999), Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, February 2000.

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 22 percent of all handguns sold and traced in 1999.

- **Multiple Sales and Obliteration.** Obliteration is a trafficking indicator. Among handguns purchased and traced in 1999, those with obliterated serial numbers were 2.3 times more likely than those without obliterated serial numbers to have been acquired in a multiple sale.

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 (78 percent) of all traced crime guns.

- *Four handgun types* made up 62 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 — shotguns and rifles — accounted for one in five traced crime guns (21 percent).

- The *12 gauge shotgun* and the *.22 caliber rifle* accounted for more than half (57 percent) of all traced long guns.
- Long guns were nearly twice as likely to be recovered from adults (24 percent) as from juveniles (13 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 24 percent (15,211) of all trace requests (64,637), while over 1,500 different firearms and 87 calibers accounted for the remaining crime guns (49,426).

	Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun
1.	Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver
2.	Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol
3.	Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol
4.	Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol
5.	Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol
6.	Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver
7.	Mossberg	12 GA	Shotgun
8.	Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol
9.	Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol
10.	Bryco Arms	9mm	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 years. Revolvers had the longest median time-to-crime, about 12 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.** Bryco Arms 9mm and Lorcin Engineering 9mm semiautomatic pistols recovered from juveniles had a median time-to-crime of just 1.6 years.

Shortest Median Time-to-Crime by Specific Model. Sufficient model information was available from nine cities. The shortest median time-to-crime guns (by manufacturer, caliber, type, and specific model) were again all semiautomatic pistols: the Lorcin Engineering L9, the Ruger P95, the Hi-Point C, and the Bryco Arms 48.

- **Youth.** Among youth crime guns, the more powerful Smith & Wesson Sigma .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol had an extremely fast median time-to-crime of 0.8 years.
- **Long Guns.** Models with the shortest median time-to-crime were the Hi-Point Model 995 9mm carbine and the Maverick Model 88 12 gauge shotgun, 1.2 and 1.6 years median time-to-crime, respectively.

Officer Safety

ATF is providing officer safety information related to crime guns for the first time this year in order to assist State and local law enforcement managers in assessing potential departmental safety measures. Trace information on crime gun models from nine cities indicates that the North China Industries SKS 7.62mm rifle, North China Industries MAK90 7.62mm rifle, and the Colt AR15 .223 caliber rifle are encountered more frequently by law enforcement officers than similar rifles. These rifles, as well as most other rifles, will 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 average police officer.

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 a quarter of the crime guns (26 percent), and another 9 percent were in adjacent counties in the same State or a neighboring State.

Regional sources. In the following 16 cities, the crime guns were originally purchased in significant numbers at FFLs in States in the region in which the city is located: *Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; New York, NY; Memphis, TN; St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; New Orleans, LA; Dallas, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; Los Angeles, CA; Tucson, AZ; Cincinnati, OH; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Detroit, MI; and Washington, DC.*

National patterns. Two large national patterns have emerged. The most significant interstate pattern is a south-north pattern along the East Coast, with crime guns first purchased from FFLs in the South, and recovered by law enforcement in *Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; and New York, NY*. There is also a central south-north pattern, with guns first sold by FFLs in the South being recovered in *Memphis, TN; St. Louis, MO; and especially Chicago, IL*.

1 — Introduction

This is the third year of ATF's publication of the National Tracing Center (NTC)'s *Crime Gun Trace Reports*. The reports provide extensive analyses of crime gun traces submitted in calendar year 1999 by law enforcement officials in selected cities throughout the country participating in ATF's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. The analysis of a large number of individual traces from many similar jurisdictions helps identify consistent crime gun patterns that may not be apparent from information in a single trace or traces from a single jurisdiction or State. With information about patterns and trends, more violent criminals can be arrested more efficiently, more focused regulatory enforcement can be undertaken, and more gun crime and violence can be prevented.

Two Report Formats. Crime gun tracing as a law enforcement tool has grown sufficiently to provide the 2000 *Crime Gun Trace Reports* in two formats:

- The *National Report* provides national analysis based on findings from crime gun traces in 32 of the 79 cities in the U.S. with populations of 250,000 or more. These cities comprise 67 percent of the population of cities of this size.
- The 36 separate *City Reports* provide detailed information on the trace results in the 32 large cities and four cities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000. To provide a national context for local information, the *City Reports* also contain the *National Report*.

Information for Law Enforcement, the Firearms Industry, and the Public. The *Crime Gun Trace Reports* have three audiences. They provide crime gun information to the *Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies* that submit trace requests, boosting their information resources for arresting gun criminals, responding to gun violence, and establishing a benchmark for crime gun measurements. They inform *federally licensed firearms dealers* of crime gun patterns, allowing them to build sounder and safer businesses. They inform the *public, Congress, and State and local authorities*, building cooperation by communicating what ATF agents, inspectors, and State and local law enforcement investigating violent criminals see in their everyday enforcement operations.

Reinforcing Law Enforcement Collaboration. As a result of the collaboration of thousands of law enforcement and regulatory personnel and

the FFLs that routinely respond to the National Tracing Center's inquiries, the *Crime Gun Trace Reports* provide an overview of crime guns throughout the country in significantly greater detail than previously available. ATF's primary operational focus is on the Federal offender. By reporting trace information in standardized form, ATF intends to enable State and local law enforcement officials and FFLs, as well as other Federal officials, to evaluate the information independently and to gain perspective on their local circumstances in order to adjust enforcement and preventive strategies accordingly.

How Law Enforcement Can Use this Report. Local law enforcement executives and Federal, State, and local prosecutors and investigators can make many uses of these reports. They furnish information relating to the following questions, among others: 1. *How many crime guns are being recovered from different age groups of offenders?* 2. *What kinds of guns are being recovered in my area?* 3. *What types of crimes are associated with these recovered crime guns?* 4. *Are the source areas in the county or State, or from out of State?* 5. *What types of guns are moving the fastest from the retail seller to recovery in crime?* 6. *Which guns may pose a special hazard to law enforcement officers?*

Using this information, law enforcement managers can decide what aspects of the firearms market deserve priority focus, by age group, by source area, or by type of crime, or any combination of these. Once these priorities are determined, information about specific crime guns and offenders can be obtained using all available investigative resources, including debriefing of arrestees, undercover and confi-

dential informant operatives; Project Online LEAD; Brady background check denial information; stolen firearms information; and special analyses by the Crime Gun Analysis Branch and equivalent analytic services in local police departments.

The combination of strategic information such as provided in these reports and investigative information will allow Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers to make the best use of available resources. Based on these factors, ATF and local law enforcement may decide to undertake criminal prosecution against traffickers, including felons, straw purchasers, firearms thieves, and unlicensed dealers, or regulatory actions against Federal firearms licensees.

Contents of the Reports. The *National* and *City Reports* include information about:

- **Highlights:** The *National* and *City Reports* each contain sections with highlights of the findings in the reports, focused on crime gun information relevant to law enforcement officials;
- **Possessors:** the age group and crimes of the crime gun possessors;

- **Crime guns:** the types, manufacturers, calibers, and, in some cities, models of the most frequently traced crime guns, including the most frequently traced crime guns for each city;
- **Gun trafficking indicators:** the time-to-crime and geographic sources of crime guns, multiple sales information, and percentage of crime guns with obliterated serial numbers;
- **Enforcement information:** successful Federal, State, and local investigations of the illegal diversion of firearms;
- **Information for law enforcement executives:** information and responses to frequently asked questions about crime gun tracing and related enforcement operations;
- **Crime gun tracing information:** number of traces submitted, degree of completeness of information provided, disposition of traces, and current and future developments in crime gun tracing; and
- **Technical information:** back-up information about the analysis, figures, and tables in the reports.

Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative Cities

Atlanta	Georgia	Miami	Florida
Baltimore	Maryland	Milwaukee	Wisconsin
Birmingham	Alabama	Minneapolis	Minnesota
Boston	Massachusetts	New Orleans	Louisiana
Bridgeport*	Connecticut	New York	New York
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	North Carolina	Oakland	California
Chicago	Illinois	Omaha	Nebraska
Cincinnati	Ohio	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Cleveland	Ohio	Phoenix	Arizona
Dallas	Texas	Portland	Oregon
Denver/Aurora	Colorado	Richmond*	Virginia
Detroit	Michigan	Salinas**	California
Gary*	Indiana	San Antonio	Texas
Houston	Texas	San Jose	California
Jersey City*	New Jersey	Seattle**	Washington
Las Vegas	Nevada	St. Louis	Missouri
Los Angeles	California	Tampa	Florida
Louisville	Kentucky	Tucson	Arizona
Memphis	Tennessee	Washington	District of Columbia

* City reports were compiled for four cities with populations smaller than 250,000, but trace requests from these cities were not included in most of the tables in the national report. Gary, Indiana and Jersey City, New Jersey were included in the national analysis of the occurrence of specific firearm models because these cities supplied unusually complete data.

** Salinas and Seattle traced too few guns during 1999 to be included in the national report. A small number of trace requests from Seattle were included in the analysis of specific firearm models because this information was unusually complete on the traces submitted by Seattle.

The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

The annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports* began in 1997 as part of ATF's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII), a youth-focused firearms enforcement program that is a component of ATF's overall firearms enforcement program, the Integrated Violence Reduction Strategy. For this reason, YCGII is referred to throughout this report.

Participating jurisdictions. While many law enforcement agencies trace some crime guns, agencies participating in YCGII commit to instituting comprehensive tracing of all crime guns, providing the maximum investigative leads for law enforcement officials, and permitting optimal strategic analysis. These cities receive special support from ATF. All 36 cities with *City Reports* participate in YCGII. As more law enforcement agencies acquire crime gun tracing as an investigative tool, or implement State comprehensive crime gun tracing laws, ATF expects to include trace information from these jurisdictions in the annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports*.

National Tracing Center and Crime Gun Analysis Branch: field support. The National Tracing Division staff conducts traces, analyzes the results, provides case leads, crime gun mapping, and jurisdictional analysis for ATF agents and inspectors and for other law enforcement agencies, and prepares the *Crime Gun Trace Reports*. The YCGII staff at the National Tracing Center provides trace support for all ATF firearms enforcement programs and locally based gun enforcement initiatives. A national update on crime gun tracing is included in the *National Report*, and city information in each *City Report*.

In the field: investigations, inspections, trace support, and training. In the field, YCGII is an enforcement collaboration among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, and ATF agents and inspectors. The primary role of the YCGII field staff is to conduct criminal investigations and regulatory inspections. YCGII also provides joint training in tracing, serial number restoration, and gun enforcement investigative methods to ATF agents and their State and local partners. YCGII staff also assist local law enforcement agencies to establish crime gun tracing, with technical support and training.

YCGII's special focus on juvenile and youth gun crime. As the *National Report* shows, juveniles (ages 17 and under) accounted for 9 percent of traced crime guns, and youth (ages 18-24) accounted for 34 percent of traced crime guns. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s *Supplemental Homicide Reports* show that gun homicides committed by juveniles and youth have declined 41 percent, from 11,657 in 1993 to 6,863 in 1998, but they still accounted for 57 percent of all gun homicides in 1998. ATF agents and inspectors participating in YCGII have a special responsibility for developing investigative information and carrying out enforcement actions involving juveniles and youth. Because juveniles are prohibited from acquiring and possessing handguns without parental involvement, some form of illegal diversion is almost always implicated in an investigation involving a juvenile's possession of a handgun, making crime handgun tracing especially critical. The *Crime Gun Trace Reports*, therefore, focus throughout on the variations in the crime guns and sources of illegal supply to juveniles, youth, and adults.

Following the Gun to Successful Firearms Enforcement

Crime gun tracing. Crime gun tracing is a law enforcement tool developed by ATF to investigate violations of the Nation's firearms laws. A crime gun trace identifies the Federal firearms licensee (FFL) who is the original retail seller of the firearm and the firearm's retail purchaser by tracking the manufacturer, caliber, and serial number on transfer documentation from the manufacturer or importer through the wholesaler to the retail seller and first purchaser. *A crime gun trace alone does not mean that an FFL or firearm purchaser has committed an unlawful act. Crime gun trace information is used in combination with other investigative facts in regulatory and criminal enforcement.* Crime gun tracing has three primary purposes:

- **Identifying individual armed criminals for prosecution.** Like a fingerprint or other identifying evidence, a crime gun trace is used in individual cases to link a firearm offender to his or her weapon, or identify the illegal supplier of a firearm to the criminal, juvenile, or other person prohibited from possessing a firearm. Such investigative work is conducted by local officials and by ATF.
- **Proactive local investigative and strategic analysis to target armed violent criminals and gun traffickers for prosecution.** When officials in a jurisdiction trace all recovered crime guns, law enforcement officials are able to detect patterns in the buying and selling of crime guns in their areas (pattern and trend analysis). This information combined with other indicators leads to the arrest of additional traffickers and armed felons and to regulatory enforcement actions against Federal firearms licensees violating the firearms laws and trafficking illegally. Analysis and mapping of local crime gun patterns is done by ATF at the Crime Gun Analysis Branch and in the field and by State and local law enforcement officials with access to ATF's Online LEAD crime gun information system, or using State firearms information systems.
- **Crime Gun Trace Reports to assist law enforcement officials in placing local crime guns in a regional and national strategic enforcement context.** Analysis of all available comprehensive trace information, locally and nationally, informs Federal, State, and local authorities of the source and market areas for crime guns, and other regional patterns. This information enables ATF to target criminal and regulatory resources, and assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials to develop national, regional, and local strategic responses to gun crime. ATF is uniquely qualified to conduct such analysis because it is the repository for crime gun traces and related information from all jurisdictions that trace crime guns.

Ballistics identification in relation to crime gun tracing. Many agencies are now using both crime gun tracing and ballistics identification to support firearm investigations. An expended cartridge or bullet may be recovered in addition to or in the absence of a crime gun. Once entered in an imaging database, the recovered cartridge or bullet can be matched to previously entered ballistics images to identify repeat uses of the same firearm. Currently, ballistics images also can provide the basis for a crime gun trace only if the firearm with which they are associated has been previously traced and a cartridge or bullet from that firearm entered into a local database of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network. Ballistics Imaging technology does not automatically submit the crime gun to be traced through the National Tracing Center. In the future, expansion of the crime gun tracing system to include trace information derived from ballistics images as well as recovered firearms will allow additional firearms crimes to be solved and a more complete understanding of how violent offenders and prohibited persons illegally obtain firearms.

2 — General Findings

2–1 Introduction

This chapter presents seven sections of analysis of crime gun information submitted by participating jurisdictions. It contains tables and figures that describe: *first*, characteristics of crime gun possessors; *second*, the relationship between crime gun purchasers and crime gun possessors; *third*, the types of crime guns possessed, by type, caliber, manufacturer, and model; *fourth*, the relationships between possessor's age, weapon type, and the speed with which crime guns move from first retail sale to criminal use and recovery by law enforcement; *fifth*, the geographic sources of traced firearms; *sixth*, the number of crime guns with obliterated serial numbers; and *seventh*, information about multiple sales and crime guns.

Following the Gun to the Criminal and the Criminal Supplier. This section of the report provides an overview of key crime gun patterns, based on the collection and analysis of thousands of traces, to assist law enforcement officials at the Federal, State, and local levels in assessing the local crime gun problem and deciding how best to deploy limited criminal and regulatory enforcement resources against gun criminals.

National Findings. These general findings are based on 64,637 crime gun trace requests from the 32 jurisdictions participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative that have a population of 250,000 inhabitants or more. These jurisdictions comprise 48 percent of the 67 U.S. jurisdictions with a population over 250,000; the population of these 32 jurisdictions is more than two-thirds of the 47 million persons living in U.S. cities having over 250,000 inhabitants. While not yet meeting the program's long-term goal of complete national geographic coverage, this sample provides a reasonable basis for national analyses of crime

gun trace information. To give perspective on the national findings, variations among cities are highlighted throughout.

Presentation by Possessor Age Group. To show age differences in crime gun information, this report puts the 64,637 trace requests into three age groups—*juveniles* (ages 17 & under), *youth* (ages 18-24), and *adults* (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.

Annual Reports. For the first time, ATF is presenting these findings on a calendar year basis. This comprehensive crime gun trace information from a large number of jurisdictions 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 investigations,³ and other efforts to improve understanding of violent crime in the United States.

³ *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 Age Information. Information on the age of the crime gun possessor was included in 40,730 (63 percent) of the 64,637 trace requests received from participating jurisdictions.

Ages 18 to 20. As displayed in *Figure 1*, the single most frequent age of crime gun possessors was 19, followed closely by ages 20 and 18. There was a significant increase in the number of traces from 131 at age 13 to 2,204 at age 19. Each year, more than 14,000 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 1,699 at age 24 to 895 for possessors at age 30, and at the age of 50, there were only 298 trace requests.⁴

Juvenile, Youth, and Adult Crime Guns. As presented in *Table 1*, among the trace requests for which the possessor's age was known, adult possession accounted for almost 57 percent of the trace requests, youth possession accounted for 34 percent, and the juvenile category accounted for over 9 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 comprised 82 percent of gun possessors in *San Jose, CA*; 72 percent of the gun possessors in *Miami, FL*; 71 percent of the gun possessors in *Houston, TX*; and 70 percent of the gun possessors in *Cleveland, OH* and *Phoenix, AZ*. In other cities,

firearms were most frequently recovered from youth. Youth comprised 48 percent of the gun possessors in *Jersey City, NJ*; 47 percent of the gun possessors in *Washington, DC* and *Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC*; and 46 percent of the gun possessors in *Boston, MA*.

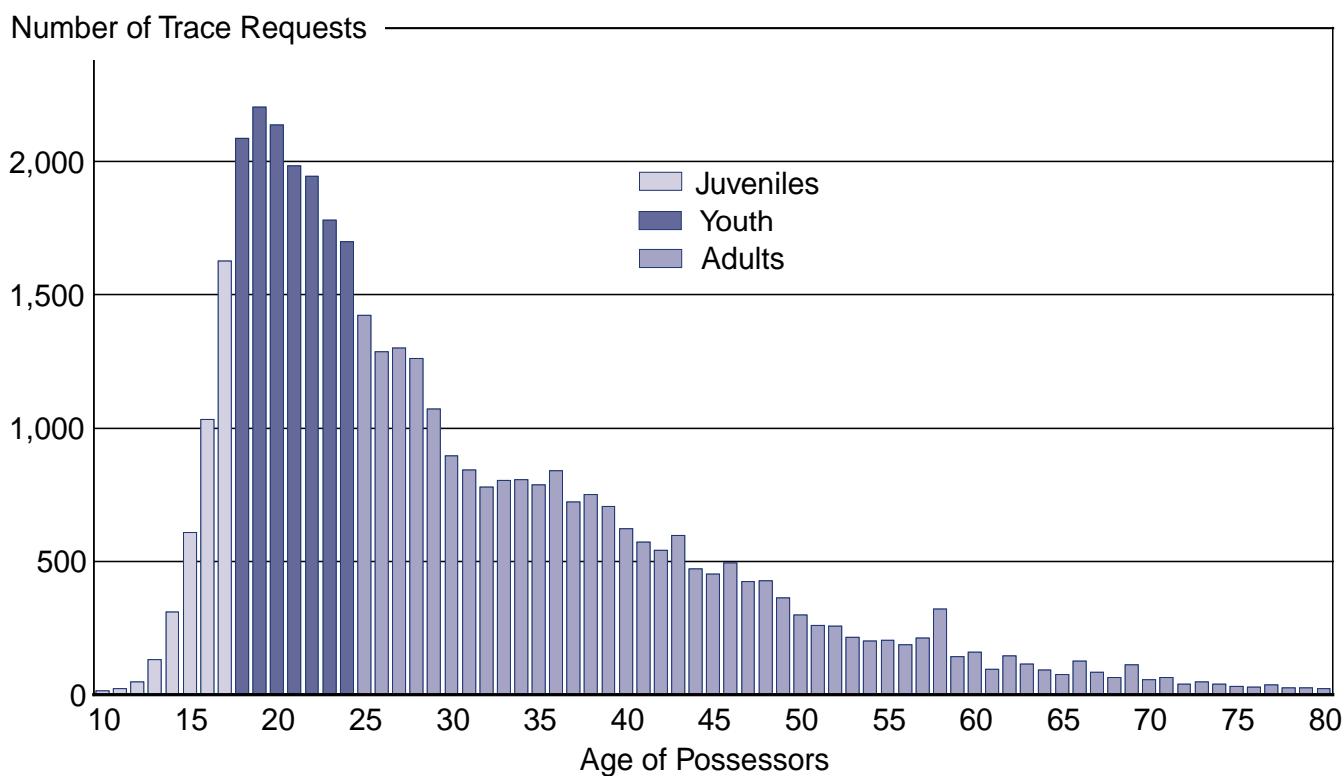
Juvenile and Youth Crime Guns Remain a Problem. The FBI's *Supplemental Homicide Reports* show that gun homicides committed by juveniles and youth have declined 41 percent, from 11,657 in 1993 to 6,863 in 1998. They remain a significant problem, however, accounting for 57 percent of all gun homicides in 1998 for which the age of the offender is known. Juveniles alone accounted for 12 percent of these homicides in 1998.⁵

Parallel with Violent Crime Data. While ATF crime gun tracing is not complete, crime gun information closely parallels data gathered on violent crime from other sources. In 1998, according to the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reports*, for those offenders where an age is known, individuals 18 years of age were arrested more frequently than persons of any other age for murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Individuals 19 years of age were the next most likely to be arrested for murder, rape, and aggravated assault, and individuals 20 years of age were ranked third for murder and aggravated assault. Individuals ages 18 to 20 accounted for 30 percent of all persons arrested for murder, 14 percent for forcible rape, 22 percent for robbery, and 12 percent for aggravated assault.⁶

⁴ For a detailed listing of the number of trace requests by age, see Appendix B, Technical Note 6.

⁵ James A. Fox and Marianne W. Zawitz, *Homicide Trends in the U.S.*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, February 1, 2000, pg 87.

⁶ FBI *Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, Table 38, p. 220.

Figure 1: Age of Crime Gun Possessor

This graph is based on 40,635 trace requests that indicate the possessor's age. Possessors younger than 10 and older than 80 are not included in this graph.

Table 1: Age Group of Crime Gun Possessor

Trace Requests for which Possessor's Age can be Determined	40,730	100.0%
Crime Gun Trace Requests with:		
Juvenile Possessor (Ages 17 & Under)	3,790	9.3%
Youth Possessor (Ages 18-24)	13,838	34.0%
Adult Possessor (Ages 25 & Older)	23,102	56.7%

2–3 When the Crime Gun Purchaser Is the Crime Gun Possessor

Most Crime Guns Are Not Possessed by Their First Purchasers. In about 89 percent (19,196 of 21,594) of the trace requests where the crime gun possessor and the purchaser are known, they are not the same individuals. There is little variation by firearm type. This shows the importance of a full investigation of the chain of possession of crime guns.

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 transferred by a straw purchaser; re-sold 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.

Investigative Methods for Tracking the Chain of Transfers from Retail Sale to the Crime Gun Possessor. *FFL reporting to the NTC.* ATF, in 2000, 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 certain firearms transaction information to the NTC to permit crime gun tracing. *State documentation.* States may impose additional firearm transfer documentation requirements that law enforcement agencies may use to trace firearms purchased in-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. Investigative tracing is a resource-intensive investigative method that is not practicable for all gun crimes.

2–4 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 point of sale. Information about the particular *model* of the firearm is not required but is provided consistently in some jurisdictions and is proving useful. (See Appendix C, ATF Firearm Trace Request Form.)

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*. All other firearms are accounted for in an “*Other*” category.

Patterns in Types of Crime Guns. 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, different patterns are highlighted by focusing separately on type, caliber, manufacturer, and model.

Targeting Criminals, Protecting 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 deter and make more difficult criminal acquisition. Knowledge of what crime guns criminals are using is also an important consideration for State and local law enforcement in assessing potential departmental safety measures.

Firearm Type

Handguns, Especially Semiautomatic Pistols.

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

Juveniles and Youth with Handguns, Adults with More Long Guns.

The dominance of handguns and semiautomatic pistols is especially present among juveniles and youth. Semiautomatic pistols are more prevalent among juveniles (57 percent) and youth (60 percent) than among adults (47 percent). A substantial portion of firearm traces, 21 percent, involves a shotgun or a rifle, but juveniles or youth infrequently possess these long guns. Adults are nearly twice as likely (24 percent) as juveniles (13 percent) to possess a recovered long gun.

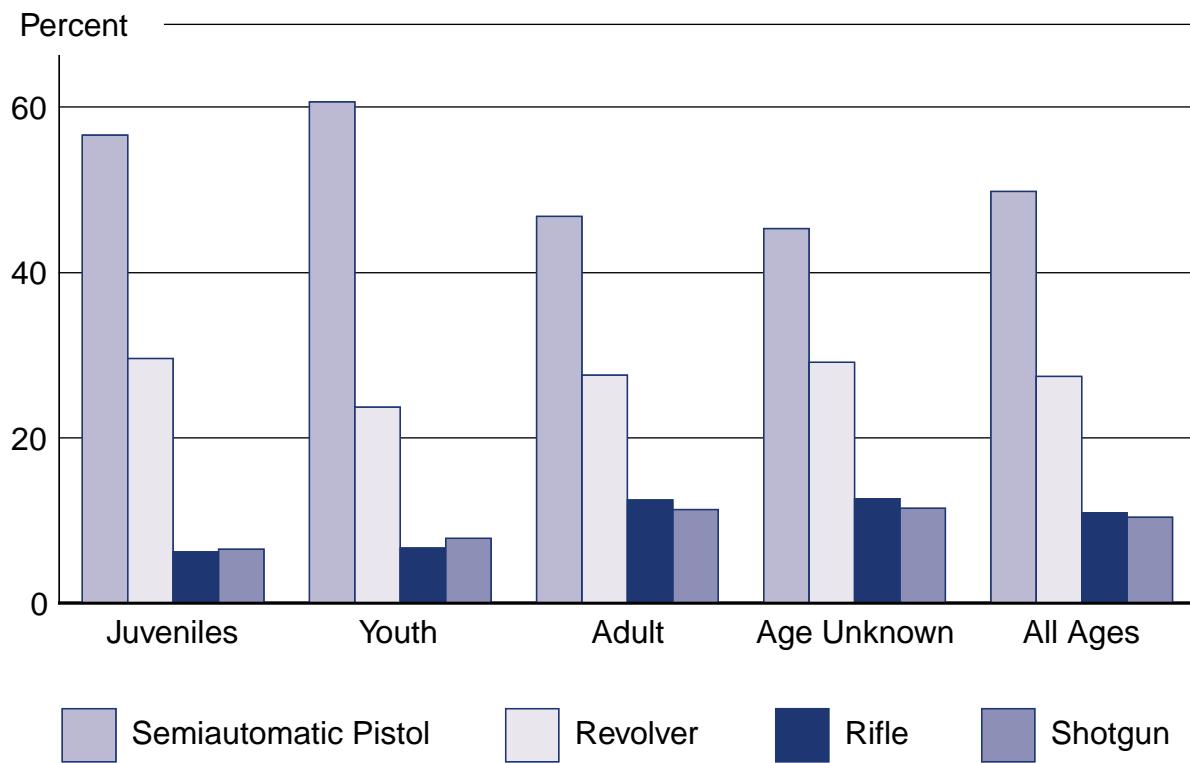
Unknown Age Group Resembles Adults.

When the age of the crime gun possessor is unknown, the distribution of firearm types among trace requests is similar to the distribution among crime guns recovered from adults; semiautomatic pistols are the most common crime gun but a substantial proportion of long guns is also found.

City Variations. The distribution of semiautomatic pistols, revolvers, shotguns, and rifles among adult, youth, and juvenile possessors was remarkably stable across participating

cities, but there were some important differences in a few cities.

- For example, 97 percent of the firearms submitted for tracing by the *Atlanta, GA* Police Department were handguns. Semiautomatic pistols were clearly the weapon of choice in Atlanta; 79 percent of youth recoveries, 72 percent of juvenile recoveries, and 69 percent of adult recoveries in Atlanta were semiautomatic pistols.
- Trace requests in *Phoenix, AZ* and *Philadelphia, PA* also revealed a high percentage of semiautomatic pistol recoveries across all age groups.
- In some cities, there were higher percentages of semiautomatic pistol recoveries in only one age group. For example, 67 percent of guns recovered from youth in *Milwaukee, WI* and 61 percent of guns recovered from youth in *Portland, OR* were semiautomatic pistols.
- Revolvers were the most frequently recovered firearms from juveniles in *Houston, TX* (40 percent) and in *Tampa, FL* (47 percent).
- Long guns were also more frequently recovered from youth and juveniles in *San Jose, CA*; *Houston, TX*; and *San Antonio, TX* 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	Juveniles (ages 17 & under)		Youth (ages 18-24)		Adult (ages 25 & over)		Age Unknown		All Ages	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Firearm Types	3,790	100.0	13,838	100.0	23,102	100.0	23,907	100.0	64,637	100.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	2,149	56.7	8,351	60.3	10,777	46.6	10,814	45.2	32,091	49.6
Revolver	1,119	29.5	3,296	23.8	6,385	27.6	6,941	29.0	17,741	27.4
Rifle	231	6.1	938	6.8	2,902	12.6	3,023	12.6	7,094	11.0
Shotgun	246	6.5	1,092	7.9	2,626	11.4	2,764	11.6	6,728	10.4
Other	45	1.2	161	1.2	412	1.8	365	1.5	983	1.5

Type and Caliber/Gauge of Firearms

Most Frequently Traced Handguns and Long Guns by Type and Caliber.

Table 3 and Figure 3 rank handgun types and calibers for which the most trace requests were submitted for individual age groups and all ages combined. Table 4 and Figure 4 rank long gun types and calibers by the most frequent to the tenth most frequent for all age groups.

Four Main Handguns. When crime guns are described by type and caliber, they are notably concentrated. As shown in *Table 3*, four handgun types and calibers accounted for 62 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.

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

Handgun Type and Caliber		Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	
		Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol	9mm	629	19.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.380	528	16.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.25	483	14.6
Revolver	.38	457	13.8
Revolver	.22	272	8.2
Semiautomatic Pistol	.22	216	6.5
Revolver	.32	186	5.6
Revolver	.357	151	4.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.45	112	3.4
Semiautomatic Pistol	.32	92	2.8
All Handguns		3,308	100.0

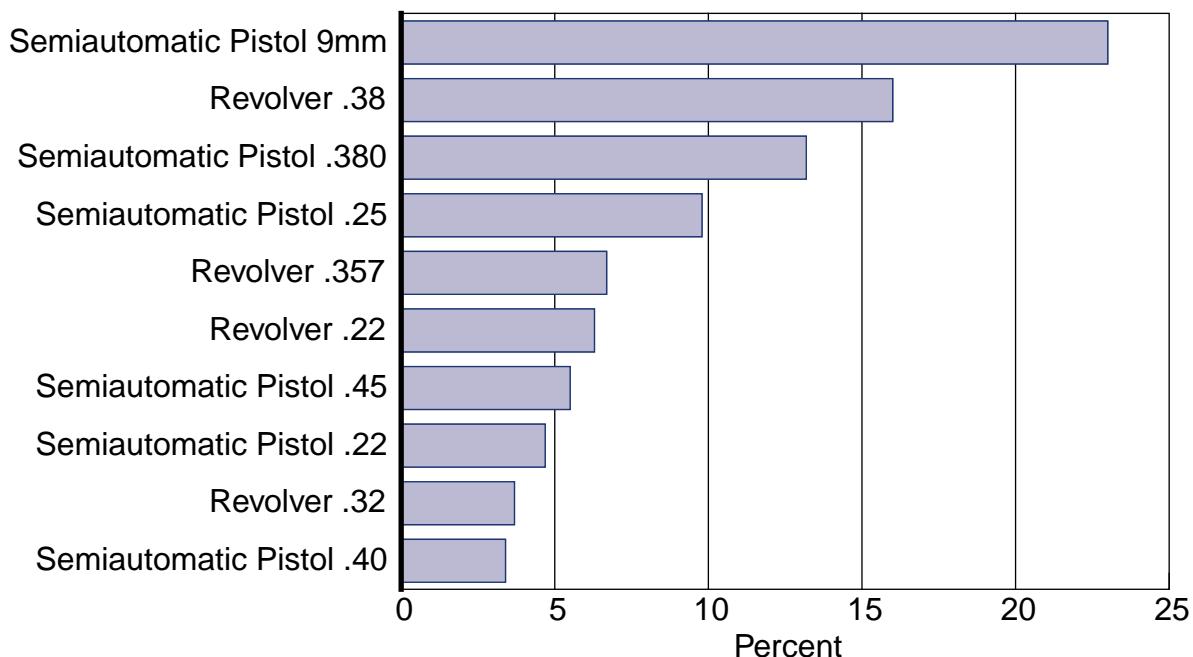
Handgun Type and Caliber		Youth (ages 18-24)	
		Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol	9mm	3,260	27.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.380	1,780	15.1
Revolver	.38	1,499	12.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	.25	1,124	9.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	.45	771	6.5
Revolver	.357	713	6.0
Revolver	.22	575	4.9
Semiautomatic Pistol	.22	532	4.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	.40	477	4.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.32	316	2.7
All Handguns		11,791	100.0

Handgun Type and Caliber		Adult (ages 25 & over)	
		Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol	9mm	3,976	22.7
Revolver	.38	2,903	16.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.380	2,212	12.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.25	1,570	9.0
Revolver	.357	1,334	7.6
Revolver	.22	1,076	6.1
Semiautomatic Pistol	.45	983	5.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.22	739	4.2
Semiautomatic Pistol	.32	631	3.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	.40	625	3.6
All Handguns		17,526	100.0

Handgun Type and Caliber		Age Unknown	
		Number	Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol	9mm	3,815	21.2
Revolver	.38	3,249	18.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.380	2,164	12.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.25	1,764	9.8
Revolver	.22	1,289	7.2
Revolver	.357	1,213	6.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	.45	904	5.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	.22	876	4.9
Revolver	.32	745	4.1
Semiautomatic Pistol	.40	545	3.0
All Handguns		18,024	100.0

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

Handgun Type and Caliber	All Ages		
	Number	Percent	
Semiautomatic Pistol 9mm	11,680	23.0	
Revolver .38	8,108	16.0	
Semiautomatic Pistol .380	6,684	13.2	
Semiautomatic Pistol .25	4,941	9.8	
Revolver .357	3,411	6.7	
Revolver .22	3,212	6.3	
Semiautomatic Pistol .45	2,770	5.5	
Semiautomatic Pistol .22	2,363	4.7	
Revolver .32	1,878	3.7	
Semiautomatic Pistol .40	1,699	3.4	
All Handguns	50,676	100.0	

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

Type and Caliber/Gauge of Firearms (Continued)

Two Main Long Guns. As shown in *Table 4* and *Figure 4*, there is even greater concentration among long guns recovered as crime guns than among handguns. Two long gun types, the 12 gauge shotgun and the .22 caliber rifle, accounted for 12 percent of all trace requests and more than 57 percent of all long gun trace requests.

Juveniles and Youth. The concentration of the 12 gauge shotgun and .22 caliber rifle is greater within the juvenile (66 percent) and youth (61 percent) age groups than among adults (56 percent).

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

Long Gun Type and Caliber/Gauge		Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	
		Number	Percent
Shotgun	12 GA	187	39.2
Rifle	.22	129	27.0
Shotgun	20 GA	39	8.2
Rifle	7.62mm	28	5.9
Shotgun	.410 GA	14	2.9
Rifle	9mm	10	2.1
Rifle	.223	7	1.5
Rifle	.30-30	7	1.5
Rifle	.30	7	1.5
Shotgun	16 GA	6	1.3
All Long Guns		477	100.0

Long Gun Type and Caliber/Gauge		Youth (ages 18-24)	
		Number	Percent
Shotgun	12 GA	856	42.2
Rifle	.22	374	18.4
Rifle	7.62mm	262	12.9
Shotgun	20 GA	143	7.0
Rifle	9mm	72	3.5
Rifle	.223	55	2.7
Shotgun	.410 GA	51	2.5
Rifle	.30-30	45	2.2
Rifle	.30	35	1.7
Shotgun	16 GA	32	1.6
All Long Guns		2,030	100.0

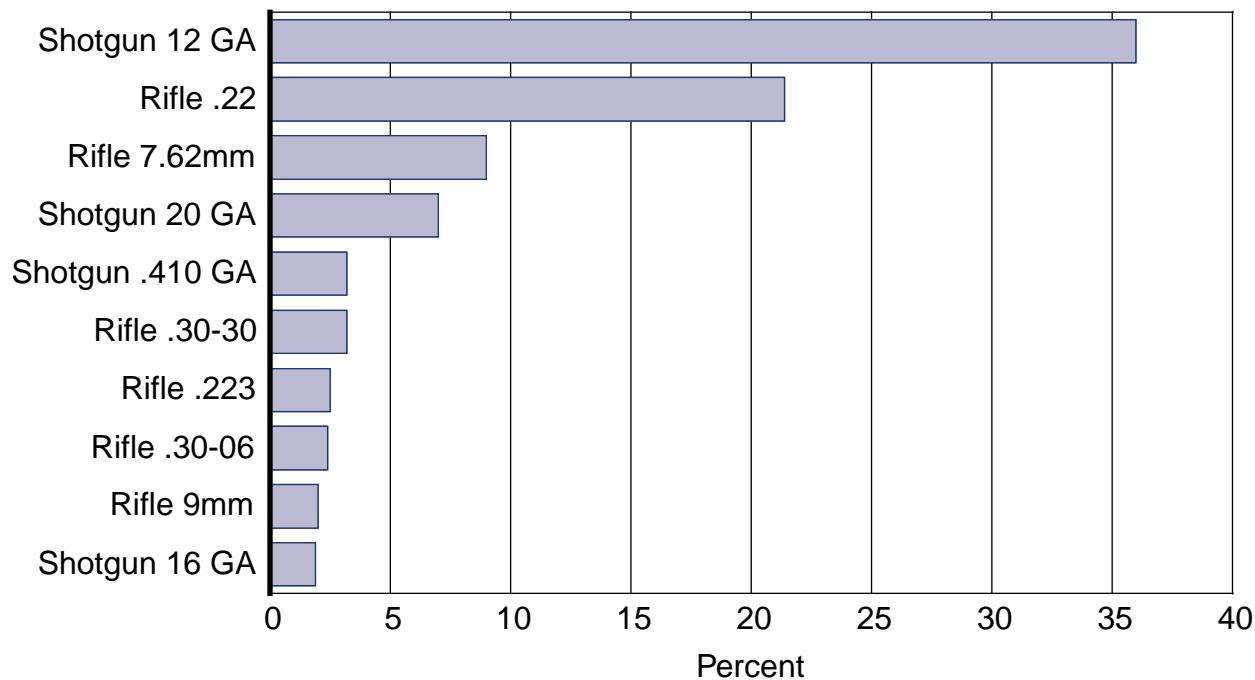
Long Gun Type and Caliber/Gauge		Adult (ages 25 & over)	
		Number	Percent
Shotgun	12 GA	1,938	35.1
Rifle	.22	1,128	20.4
Rifle	7.62mm	468	8.5
Shotgun	20 GA	367	6.6
Rifle	.30-30	207	3.7
Shotgun	.410 GA	181	3.3
Rifle	.30-06	161	2.9
Rifle	.223	138	2.5
Shotgun	16 GA	111	2.0
Rifle	.30	106	1.9
All Long Guns		5,528	100.0

Long Gun Type and Caliber/Gauge		Age Unknown	
		Number	Percent
Shotgun	12 GA	2,000	34.6
Rifle	.22	1,330	23.0
Rifle	7.62mm	486	8.4
Shotgun	20 GA	413	7.1
Shotgun	.410 GA	202	3.5
Rifle	.30-30	185	3.2
Rifle	.223	139	2.4
Rifle	.30-06	138	2.4
Shotgun	16 GA	120	2.1
Rifle	.30	104	1.8
All Long Guns		5,787	100.0

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

Long Gun Type and Caliber/Gauge	All Ages		
	Number	Percent	
Shotgun 12 GA	4,981	36.0	
Rifle .22	2,961	21.4	
Rifle 7.62mm	1,244	9.0	
Shotgun 20 GA	962	7.0	
Shotgun .410 GA	448	3.2	
Rifle .30-30	444	3.2	
Rifle .223	339	2.5	
Rifle .30-06	327	2.4	
Rifle 9mm	279	2.0	
Shotgun 16 GA	269	1.9	
All Long Guns	13,822	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* ranks revolvers and semiautomatic pistols for all age groups by the frequency with which they occur in firearm trace requests and *Table 7* ranks shotguns and rifles.

Crime Guns Concentrated. Ten firearms by manufacturer, caliber, and type accounted for 24 percent (15,211) of all trace requests (64,637). Over 1,500 different firearms and 87 calibers accounted for the remaining crime guns (49,426).

Most Frequently Traced Crime Guns. Smith & Wesson .38 revolvers (2,968 trace requests) top the list for *all age groups combined* and ranked in the top three crime guns traced in each age group. Among *juveniles* and *youth*, the Lorcin Engineering .380 semiautomatic pistol was the firearm most frequently traced. Among *adults* and *all age groups combined*, this same firearm is the second most frequently listed. The only long gun in the top 10 traced firearms among *all age groups combined* was the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun (1,287 trace requests). Among *adults*, the Marlin .22 caliber rifle ranked ninth (370 trace requests).

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

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)				
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	165	4.4
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	160	4.2
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	138	3.6
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	92	2.4
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	90	2.4
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	87	2.3
Lorcin Engineering	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	79	2.1
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	67	1.8
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	64	1.7
Lorcin Engineering	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	57	1.5

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

Youth (ages 18-24)				
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	541	3.9
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	520	3.8
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	504	3.6
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	349	2.5
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	329	2.4
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	321	2.3
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	318	2.3
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	303	2.2
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	270	2.0
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	255	1.8

Adult (ages 25 & over)				
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	1,007	4.4
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	619	2.7
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	573	2.5
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	508	2.2
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	499	2.2
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	498	2.2
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	465	2.0
Taurus	.38	Revolver	406	1.8
Marlin	.22	Rifle	370	1.6
Rossi	.38	Revolver	368	1.6

All Ages				
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	2,968	4.6
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,911	3.0
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,636	2.5
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,394	2.2
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,376	2.1
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	1,335	2.1
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	1,287	2.0
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,134	1.8
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,107	1.7
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,063	1.6

Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type of Firearms (Continued)

City Variations. The top 10 firearms were well represented among the most frequently recovered firearms in all participating cities, but the specific mix of firearms in a particular city could differ from the national top 10 crime guns. Local law enforcement agencies should be aware that manufacturers and calibers 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 12 cities (*Birmingham, AL; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Dallas, TX; Detroit, MI; Gary, IN; Jersey City, NJ; New Orleans, LA; Portland, OR; Tucson, AZ; Richmond, VA; San Antonio, TX; and St. Louis, MO*);
- the Glock G.m.b.H. 9mm semiautomatic pistol, a firearm frequently recovered from adults, youth, and/or juveniles in 10 cities (*Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; Denver/Aurora, CO; Gary, IN; Los Angeles, CA; Louisville, KY; Las Vegas, NV; Miami, FL; Philadelphia, PA; and Phoenix, AZ*); and
- the Hi-Point 9mm semiautomatic pistol, a firearm frequently recovered from adults, youth, and/or juveniles in seven cities (*Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Cincinnati, OH; Cleveland, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Tampa, FL; and Tucson, AZ*).

Most Frequently Traced Handguns. As shown in *Table 6*, 10 handguns by manufacturer, type, and caliber accounted for 29 percent (14,918) of handgun trace requests (50,676). Three handguns manufactured by Smith & Wesson, the .38 caliber and .357 caliber revolvers and the 9mm semiautomatic pistol, ranked in the top 10 most frequently traced handguns. Two handguns manufactured by Bryco Arms, the .380 caliber and the 9mm semiautomatic pistol, are also included in the top 10 most frequently traced handguns.⁷

Most Frequently Traced Long Guns. As shown in *Table 7*, 10 long guns accounted for 45 percent (6,240) of all long gun trace requests (13,822). Among all age groups, the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun represented 9 percent of long gun trace requests. The imported North China Industries 7.62mm rifle constituted 6 percent (873) of all long gun trace requests, the third most frequent trace requests for long guns among all age groups.

⁷ 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.

Manufacturer, Caliber/Gauge, and Type of Firearms (Continued)

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

Handguns				
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	2,968	5.9
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,911	3.8
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,636	3.2
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,394	2.8
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,376	2.7
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	1,335	2.6
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,134	2.2
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,107	2.2
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,063	2.1
Taurus	.38	Revolver	994	2.0
All Handguns			50,676	100.0

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

Long Guns				
Manufacturer	Caliber/Gauge	Type of Crime Gun	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Mossberg	12 GA	Shotgun	1,287	9.3
Marlin	.22	Rifle	907	6.6
North China Industries	7.62mm	Rifle	873	6.3
Remington Arms	12 GA	Shotgun	705	5.1
Winchester	12 GA	Shotgun	639	4.6
Savage	12 GA	Shotgun	448	3.2
Remington Arms	.22	Rifle	396	2.9
Ruger	.22	Rifle	360	2.6
Winchester	.22	Rifle	338	2.4
Maverick Arms	12 GA	Shotgun	287	2.1
All Long Guns			13,822	100.0

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

New Specificity. Information on the specific models of crime guns is being provided for the first time this year. *Tables 8a and 8b* specify traced handguns and long guns by manufacturer's model, based on data from nine cities where traces reported the model at least 75 percent of the time: *Atlanta, GA; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Gary, IN; Jersey City, NJ; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; Omaha, NE; Richmond, VA; and Seattle, WA.*

Significance of Model Information. Manufacturer and caliber information focus law enforcement on the major types of crime guns. Model information allows law enforcement to identify crime guns with greater specificity. 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 gun 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.

Handgun Models. As shown in *Table 8a*, the most frequently traced handgun model overall

and in each possessor age group is the Lorcin Engineering L380 .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol. The second most frequently traced handgun is the Lorcin Engineering L9 9mm semiautomatic pistol. By contrast, while the Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver was the most frequently traced firearm by manufacturer and caliber (*Table 5*), no single model appears with comparable frequency. When model information is included, the Ruger 9mm semiautomatic pistol that appeared in third place on *Table 5* is shown to be two different weapons, the Model P95 and the Model P89, among the most frequently traced handgun models. Raven Arms .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols, among the top 10 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 appeared on the top 10 lists for juveniles and youths (*Table 5*); by model, the Model 9, Model 38, and Model 48 were among the top 10 youth crime guns, with the latter also a most frequently traced crime gun among juveniles and overall. Among youth, nine of the top 10 crime guns are 9mm or .380 caliber, with the exception of the Smith & Wesson Sigma .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol. By model, an addition to the top 10 for all age groups is the Hi-Point C 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

Table 8a: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber, and Type by Age Group of Possessor, for Selected Cities

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns	
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	23	7.0	
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	11	3.4	
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	9	2.8	
Lorcin Engineering	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	7	2.1	
Charter Arms	Undercover	.38	Revolver	6	1.8	
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	6	1.8	
Smith & Wesson	36	.38	Revolver	6	1.8	
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	5	1.5	
Bryco Arms	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	5	1.5	
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	5	1.5	
Total with Model Information					327	100.0

**Table 8a: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber, and Type
by Age Group of Possessor, for Selected Cities (Continued)**

Youth (ages 18-24)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	96	5.4
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	65	3.7
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	49	2.8
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	36	2.0
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	34	1.9
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	33	1.9
Bryco Arms	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	29	1.6
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	28	1.6
Bryco Arms	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	27	1.5
Smith & Wesson	Sigma	.40	Semiautomatic Pistol	26	1.5
Total with Model Information					1,775 100.0

Adult (ages 25 & over)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	142	5.0
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	74	2.6
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	62	2.2
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	59	2.1
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	48	1.7
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	41	1.4
Taurus	85	.38	Revolver	37	1.3
Rossi	M68	.38	Revolver	33	1.2
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	32	1.1
Glock G.m.b.H.	22	.40	Semiautomatic Pistol	31	1.1
Total with Model Information					2,854 100.0

All Ages					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	411	5.1
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	199	2.5
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	167	2.1
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	158	1.9
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	153	1.9
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	128	1.6
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	105	1.3
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	98	1.2
Taurus	85	.38	Revolver	93	1.1
Lorcin Engineering	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	90	1.1
Total with Model Information					8,106 100.0

Long Gun Models. As shown in *Table 8b*, consistent with manufacturer information shown in *Table 7*, the Marlin 60 .22 caliber rifle was the most frequently traced long gun for adults, followed by the Mossberg 500 12 gauge shotgun. Also included on the adult list was the Colt AR15 .223 caliber rifle. Among *youth*, the North China Industries SKS 7.62mm rifle led the list, followed by the Mossberg 500 12 gauge shotgun, and the very similar Maverick Arms 88 12 gauge shotgun. Also on the list: the Remington 870 12 gauge shotgun; the North China Industries MAK90 rifle and SKS 7.62mm rifle; and the Hi-Point 995 9mm rifle.

Officer Safety. ATF is providing officer safety information relating to crime guns for the first time this year in order to assist State and local

law enforcement managers in assessing potential departmental safety measures. *Table 8b* 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.⁸ These rifles, as well as most other rifles, will 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 average police officer.

Table 8b: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor, for Selected Cities

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)						Percent of Guns
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Number		
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	8		19.5
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	5		12.2
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	4		9.8
Ithaca Gun Company	37	12 GA	Shotgun	2		4.9
Total with Model Information					327	100.0

⁸ 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 8b: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor, for Selected Cities (Continued)

Youth (ages 18-24)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	33	13.3
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	28	11.3
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	15	6.0
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	13	5.2
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	11	4.4
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	10	4.0
Winchester	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	6	2.4
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	4	1.6
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	4	1.6
Universal Firearms	M1	.30	Rifle	4	1.6
Total with Model Information				248	100.0

Adult (ages 25 & over)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	33	6.2
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	32	6.0
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	22	4.1
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	18	3.4
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	12	2.2
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	11	2.1
Winchester	94	.30-30	Rifle	11	2.1
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	10	1.9
Colt	AR15	.223	Rifle	9	1.7
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	9	1.7
Total with Model Information				536	100.0

All Ages					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Number	Percent of Guns
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	105	6.5
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	97	6.0
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	68	4.2
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	66	4.1
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	49	3.0
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	41	2.5
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	34	2.1
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	31	1.9
Winchester	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	29	1.8
Winchester	94	.30-30	Rifle	20	1.2
Total with Model Information				1,609	100.0

2-5 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 an NTC 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 clearest 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 50 percent (32,573) of the crime gun traces (64,637). These 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 when all of the guns in

that group have been sorted in order by 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 as the case with time-to-crime.

Many New Crime Guns. The illegal market in guns involves new guns, used guns, and stolen guns. *Figure 5* displays the cumulative percent of crime guns by years since purchase, and shows that nearly a third (32 percent, 10,275) of recovered crime guns for which a time-to-crime could be computed (32,597) had been purchased for the first time within 3 years of their recovery. Since these crime guns were all recovered in 1999, nearly one-third of the crime guns with known time-to-crime entered firearm commerce in 1996 or later.

Many Very Short Time-to-Crime Guns. Crime guns with 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 (4,791) of the crime guns recovered in 1999 for which a time-to-crime could be computed had a time-to-crime of 12 months or less. Another 9 percent (2,930) of the recovered crime guns had a time-to-crime of over 1 year and up to 2 years.⁹

Relatively Short Time-to-Crime for All Crime Guns. As shown in *Figure 5*, half of the crime guns recovered in 1999 had a time-to-crime of 5.7 years or less.¹⁰ This is a relatively short period of time. Gun owners surveyed in 1994 indicated that they had owned their firearm an average of 13 years.¹¹

⁹ The exact numbers and percents for *Figures 5 and 6* can be found in Appendix B, Technical Note 7. Additional time-to-crime estimates are included in Appendix B, Technical Note 8.

¹⁰ Calculation of time-to-crime in years is based on an initial calculation of the number of days between purchase date and recovery date. Days-to-crime is converted to years by dividing by 365.25, and rounded to one decimal point.

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

Figure 5: Cumulative Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Time-to-Crime

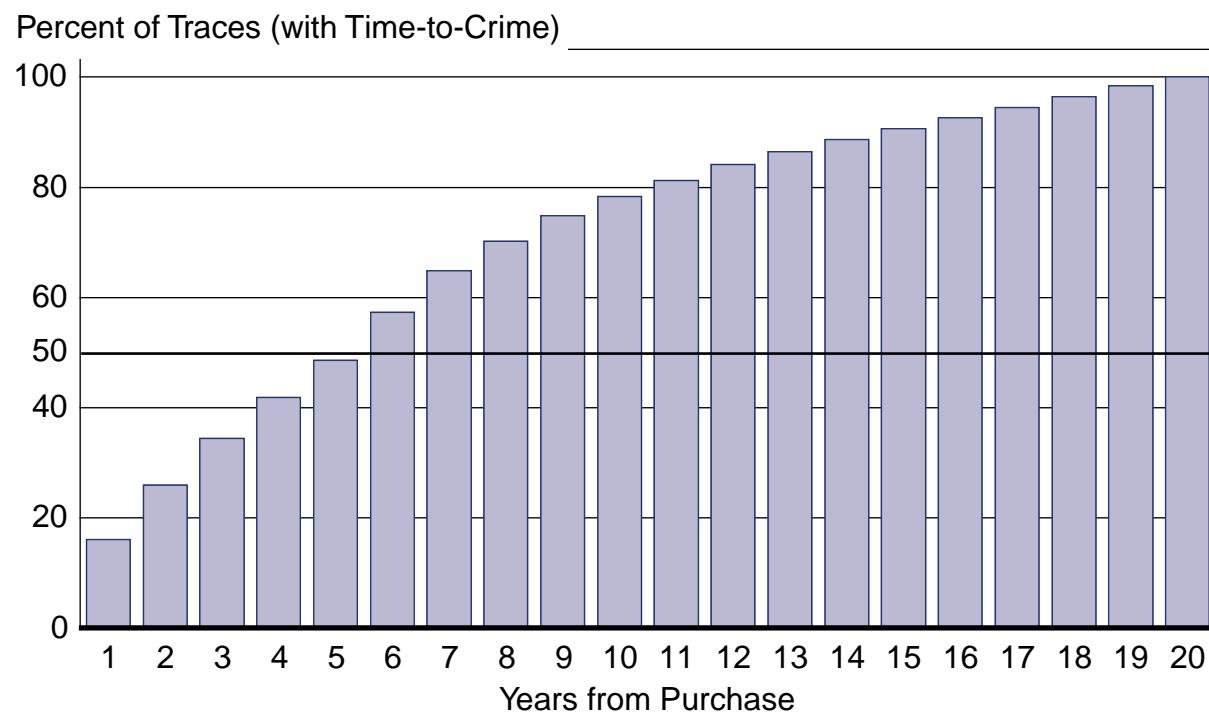
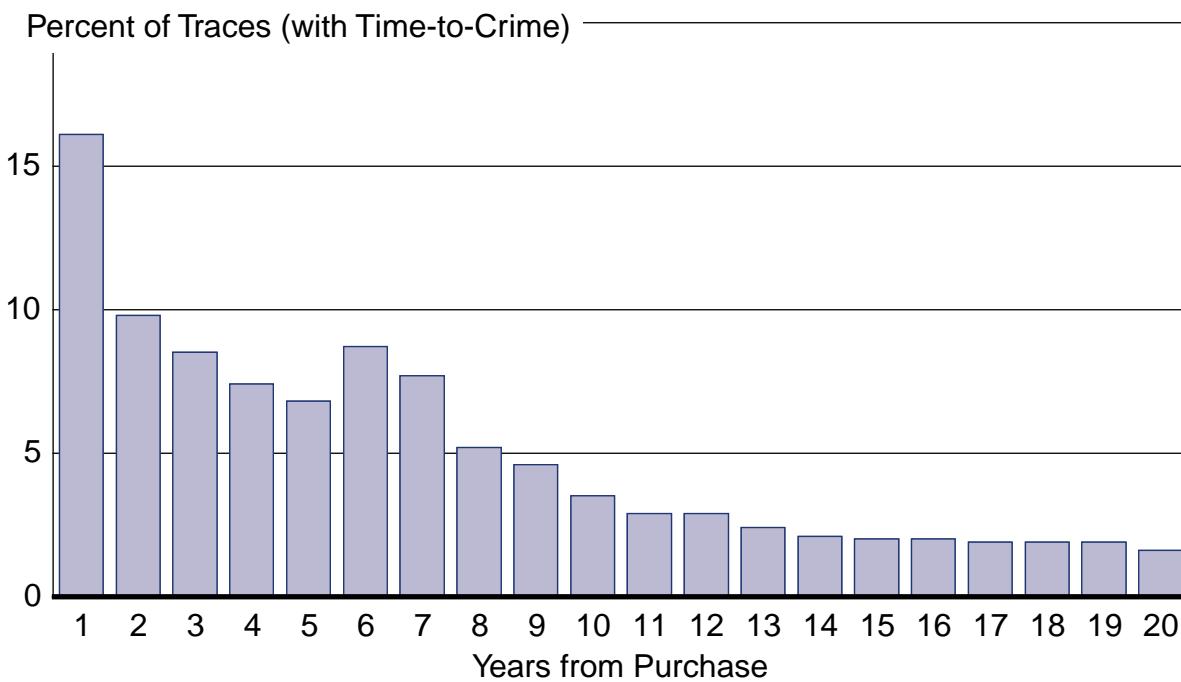


Figure 6: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Time-to-Crime



Time-to-Crime by Firearm Type and Age Group of Possessor

Variation by Firearm Type and Age Group.

Time-to-crime varies with the type of firearm and the age of the possessor.

Semiautomatic Pistols in Contrast to Revolvers. As shown in *Table 9* and *Figure 7*, while the median time-to-crime for semiautomatic pistols (21,095) is 4.3 years, for revolvers (7,912) the median time-to-crime is 11.7 years.

Juvenile, Youth, and Adult Crime Guns

Contrasted. As shown in *Table 9*, the median time-to-crime for crime guns possessed by *youth* is 4.8 years, a year and a half shorter than for crime guns possessed by *juveniles* (6.3 years), and a little less than a year shorter than for *adults* (5.6 years).

Juveniles. As shown in *Table 9* and *Figure 8*, 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 more than 15 years. An exception to the pattern is that the small number of shotguns and "Other" firearms possessed by juveniles have a shorter time-to-crime than other age groups.

Shortest and Longest Time-to-Crime Guns.

As shown in *Table 9*, semiautomatic pistols

recovered from youth have the shortest median time-to-crime, 3.6 years (5,620 traces). Thus, half of the semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth in 1999 were sold in 1995 or later. The longest median time-to-crime is observed for revolvers possessed by juveniles, 15.3 years (433 traces). 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 89 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 had a median time-to-crime that was notably shorter than the YCGII city average of 5.7 years. These cities included *Gary, IN* (2.9 years); *Atlanta, GA* (3.2 years); *Portland, OR* (3.2 years); *St. Louis, MO* (3.2 years); and *Milwaukee, WI* (3.6 years). Other cities had a median time-to-crime that was much longer than the YCGII city average. These cities included *New York, NY* (7.2 years); *Oakland, CA* (7.3 years); *Boston, MA* (7.6 years); *Jersey City, NJ* (7.8 years); and *San Jose, CA* (8.9 years).

Table 9: Median Time-to-Crime in Years by Firearm Type and Age Group of Possessor

Type of Weapon	Juvenile (Ages 17 & Under)	Youth (Ages 18-24)	Adult (Ages 25 & Older)	Age Unknown	All Ages
Semiautomatic Pistol	5.2	3.6	4.3	4.8	4.3
Revolver	15.3	11.6	10.6	12.4	11.7
Rifle	8.6	5.7	7.1	7.9	7.0
Shotgun	6.0	5.8	7.6	8.0	7.1
Other	5.1	7.4	6.0	7.0	6.3
Total	6.3	4.8	5.6	6.1	5.7

Figure 7: Median Time-to-Crime by Firearm Type

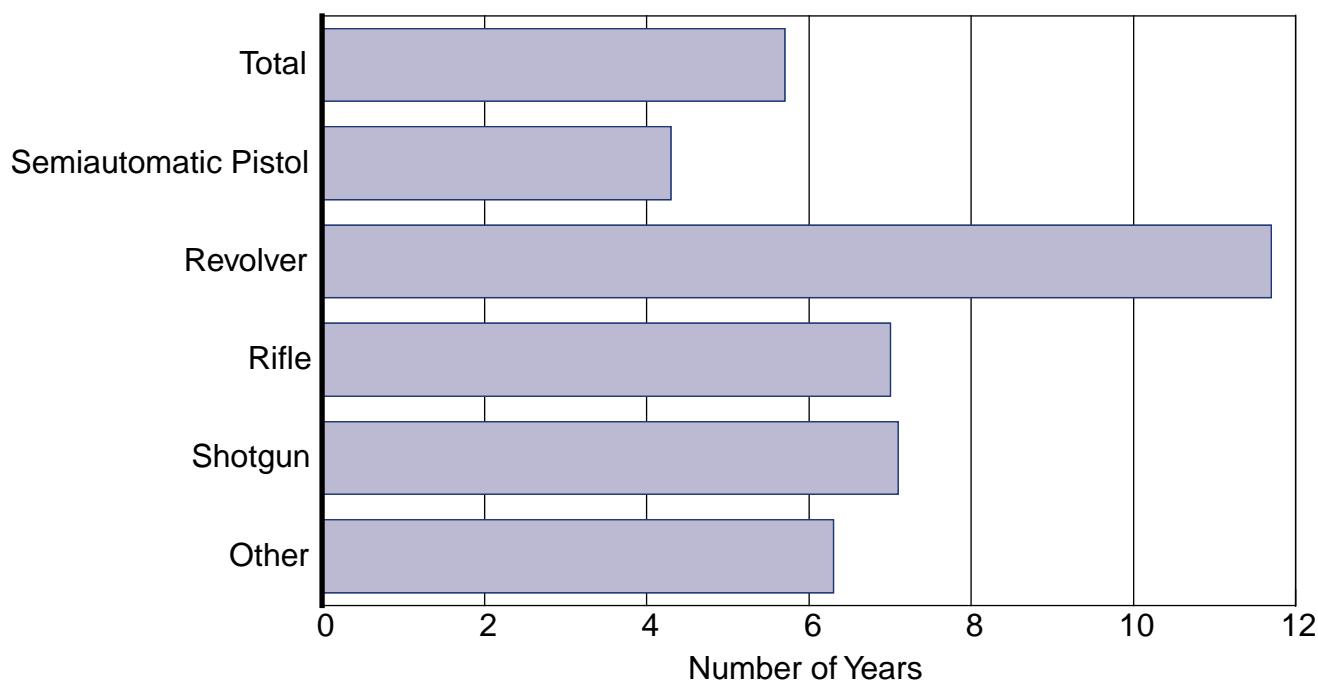
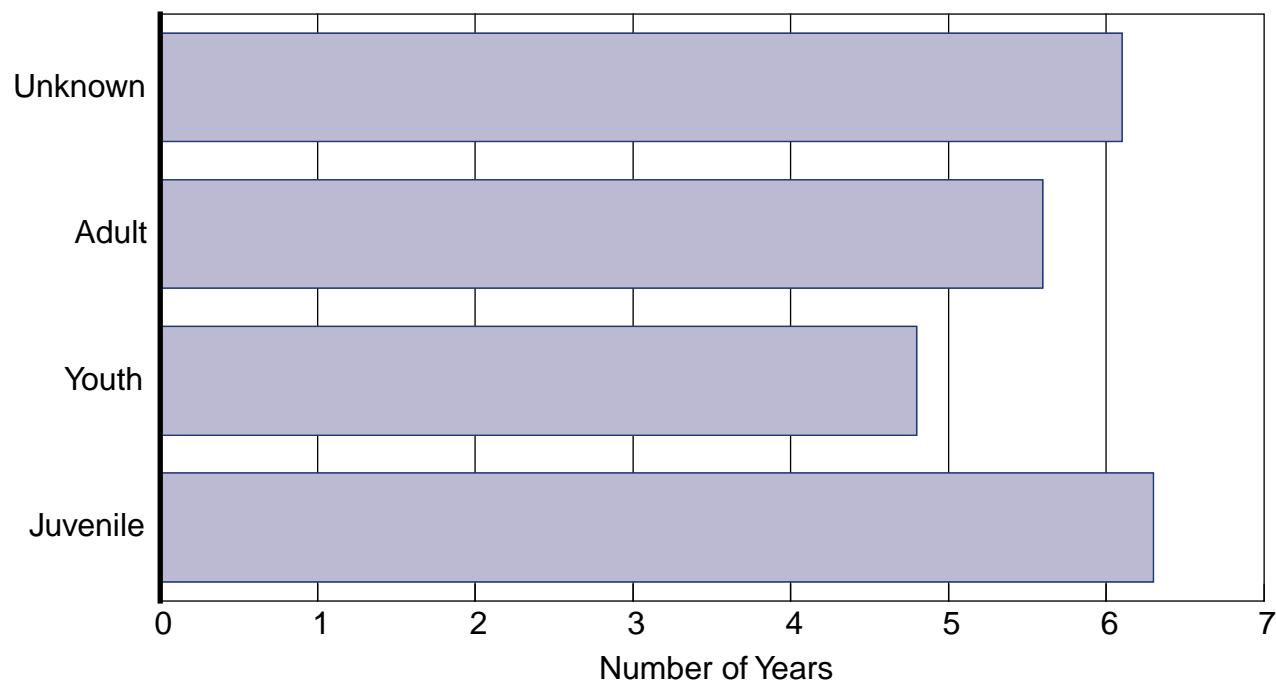


Figure 8: Median Time-to-Crime by Age Group of Possessor



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

Time-to-Crime Varies Significantly Among Crime Guns.

As shown in *Table 10*, there are significant differences in time-to-crime among crime guns classified by manufacturer.

Short Time-to-Crime Guns. As shown in *Table 10*, Bryco Arms 9mm semiautomatic pistols had the fastest median time-to-crime for all ages combined, just over 1.5 years, and 68 percent (526 of 770) had a time-to-crime of 3 years or less; the shortest time-to-crime was 0 days. Bryco Arms .380 caliber semiautomatic pistols had a slightly longer time-to-crime of 2.5 years; 54 percent (499 of 917) of these crime guns had a time-to-crime of 3 years or less. Other firearms with relatively fast median time-to-crime include the Ruger 9mm semiautomatic pistol, median time-to-crime of nearly 3 years; and the Lorcin Engineering .380 semiautomatic pistol, median time-to-crime of 3.5 years.

Longer Time-to-Crime Guns. As shown in *Table 10*, the Smith & Wesson .38 caliber re-

volver had a median time-to-crime of just over 13 years; only 10 percent of the Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolvers had a median time-to-crime of 3 years or less. The Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolver had a median time-to-crime of just over 12 years, and the Smith & Wesson 9mm semiautomatic pistol had a median time-to-crime of just over 4.5 years. Only 2 percent of the Raven Arms .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols had a median time-to-crime of 3 years or less. In the case of this firearm, long time-to-crime can be correlated to its production history; Raven Arms stopped manufacturing firearms in 1991.¹² Therefore, many of these firearms were likely to have been re-sold as used by FFLs and/or transferred by unlicensed persons.

Long Gun Time-to-Crime. As shown in *Table 10*, the Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, the only long gun among the most frequently traced firearms, had a median time-to-crime of 5.5 years; 32 percent of these guns had a time-to-crime of 3 years or less.

Table 10: Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Crime Guns by Age Group of Possessor

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)			Number of Crime Guns		Median Time-to-Crime in Years	Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or less		Fastest Case (in days)***
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun	All	With Time-to-Crime*		Number	Percent**	
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	165	118	3.5	50	42.4	1
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	160	47	15.3	3	6.4	231
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	138	110	12.1	5	4.5	31
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	92	75	6.0	11	14.7	59
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	90	69	2.8	38	55.1	2
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	87	63	1.6	41	65.1	5
Lorcin Engineering	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	79	53	6.2	16	30.2	9
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	67	42	6.1	13	31.0	71
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	64	41	4.0	14	34.1	7
Lorcin Engineering	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	57	43	1.6	31	72.1	12

* 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.

¹² Fjestad, S. P., *Blue Book of Gun Values*, 2000. 21st ed. p. 1011. Minneapolis, MN: Bluebook Publications.

Table 10: Time-to-Crime for Top Ten Crime Guns by Age Group of Possessor (Continued)

Youth (ages 18-24)			Number of Crime Guns		Median Time-to-Crime in Years	Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or less		Fastest Case (in days)***
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun	All	With Time-to-Crime*		Number	Percent**	
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	541	430	3.6	186	43.3	3
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	520	393	2.2	234	59.5	1
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	504	168	13.1	16	9.5	38
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	349	237	4.3	92	38.8	1
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	329	234	1.2	167	71.4	2
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	321	255	2.0	148	58.0	0
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	318	248	5.2	83	33.5	1
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	303	217	12.2	6	2.8	238
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	270	145	13.4	17	11.7	9
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	255	172	4.3	71	41.3	0

Adult (ages 25 & over)			Number of Crime Guns		Median Time-to-Crime in Years	Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or less		Fastest Case (in days)***
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun	All	With Time-to-Crime*		Number	Percent**	
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	1,007	351	12.6	45	12.8	2
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	619	526	3.7	224	42.6	0
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	573	478	3.3	223	46.7	4
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	508	326	11.9	52	16.0	6
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	499	327	5.9	84	25.7	13
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	498	355	5.0	114	32.1	7
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	465	331	11.0	2	0.6	44
Taurus	.38	Revolver	406	266	6.0	74	27.8	2
Marlin	.22	Rifle	370	198	12.4	31	15.7	12
Rossi	.38	Revolver	368	251	6.2	62	24.7	21

All Ages			Number of Crime Guns		Median Time-to-Crime in Years	Time-to-Crime of 3 Years or less		Fastest Case (in days)***
Manufacturer	Caliber	Type of Crime Gun	All	With Time-to-Crime*		Number	Percent**	
Smith & Wesson	.38	Revolver	2,968	960	13.1	101	10.5	2
Lorcin Engineering	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,911	1,522	3.5	667	43.8	0
Ruger	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,636	1,303	2.9	658	50.5	1
Raven Arms	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,394	991	11.6	19	1.9	1
Smith & Wesson	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,376	942	4.6	324	34.4	1
Smith & Wesson	.357	Revolver	1,335	802	12.1	115	14.3	6
Mossberg	12GA	Shotgun	1,287	837	5.5	265	31.7	0
Bryco Arms	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,134	917	2.5	499	54.4	0
Davis Industries	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,107	876	5.6	232	26.5	0
Bryco Arms	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1,063	770	1.6	526	68.3	0

* 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.

Manufacturer, Model, Caliber/Gauge, Type of Firearms, and Time-to-Crime

Limited Model Information. *Table 11a* shows time-to-crime for the most frequently traced firearms by specific model. Traces are analyzed from nine cities: *Atlanta, GA; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Gary, IN; Jersey City, NJ; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; Omaha, NE; Richmond, VA; and Seattle, WA*. Models vary greatly in their time-to-crime.

Short Time-to-Crime Youth Handgun Models. Youth crime guns are heavily concentrated in the medium and high caliber semiautomatic pistols with relatively short time-to-crime. As shown in *Table 11a*, 7 of the 10 most frequently traced youth crime gun models have a median time-to-crime of less than 2 years. These short time-to-crime gun models are overwhelmingly 9mm and .380 caliber semiautomatic pistols, including the Lorcin Engineering L9 (0.6 year), the Ruger P95 (1.1 years), the Hi-Point C (0.8 year), the Bryco Arms 9 (0.5 year), the Bryco Arms 48 (0.5 year), and the Bryco Arms 38 (1.5 years). In addition, the more powerful Smith & Wesson Sigma .40 caliber semiautomatic has an extremely fast median time-to-crime of 0.8 years. Due to their short time-to-crime, many of these guns that were seized from a youth who did not purchase them have the potential to provide valuable trafficking leads.

Mixed Time-to-Crime for Adult Handgun Models. As shown in *Table 11a*, the most frequently traced adult crime guns are a more varied mix of firearms with typically a longer median time-to-crime. The Lorcin Engineering L9 (1 year), the Ruger P95 (1 year), and the Hi-Point C (1.2 years) have a time-to-crime of less than 2 years. The other medium caliber semiautomatic pistols, including the Ruger P89 (3.9 years), the Lorcin Engineering L380 (3.1 years), and the Davis Industries P380 (5.8 years) all have a longer time-to-crime. The list also includes the Raven Arms MP25 with a 10.9 year median time-to-crime, and the Taurus 85 and Rossi M68 with a median time-to-crime of 6.4 and 3.6 years, respectively. The Glock G.m.b.H. 22 has a significantly longer time-to-crime (2.9 years) than its counterpart on the youth list, the Smith & Wesson Sigma (0.8 years).

Mixed Time-to-Crime for Juvenile Handgun Models. Juveniles resemble adults more than youths in the models of handgun that they possess, but juvenile crime guns tended to have a longer time-to-crime than adult crime guns. As shown in *Table 11a*, the most frequently traced juvenile crime guns included fewer medium caliber, short time-to-crime semiautomatic pistols than the youth list, and included more small caliber weapons, and more revolvers with a longer time-to-crime. Several of the medium caliber semiautomatic pistols, including the Lorcin Engineering L380, (3.1 years) and the Lorcin Engineering L9 (1.5 years) have a median time-to-crime that is longer than in the youth and adult categories. There are two .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols, the Raven Arms MP25 (8.6 years) and the Lorcin Engineering L25. (6.3 years). The list also contains a pair of .38 caliber revolvers, the Charter Arms Undercover (18.2 years) and the Smith & Wesson 36 (16.6 years). Those with a shorter median time-to-crime, the Bryco Arms 9 semiautomatic pistol (0.2 year), the Bryco Arms 48, (1.1 years) and the Hi-Point C semiautomatic pistol (2.2 years), also tend to have a short time-to-crime in other age categories.

Time-to-Crime Among Long Gun Models. As shown in *Table 11b*, the long gun models for adults with the shortest median time-to-crime and, therefore, greatest investigative potential are the Hi-Point 995 rifle and the Maverick 88 shotgun, 1.2 and 2.0 years time-to-crime, respectively. Adults and youth are similar in their involvement with long guns, though youth long guns have somewhat shorter time-to-crime. Among the shortest time-to-crime youth models, the Winchester 1300 shotgun had a median time-to-crime of 0.2 years, and the Mossberg 500 shotgun had a median time-to-crime of 3.9 years. Long gun models most frequently recovered from adults or youth include rifles that are primarily sporting designs, the Marlin 60, the Ruger 10/22, and the Winchester 94, with a median time-to-crime of greater than 10 years.

Table 11a: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber, and Type by Age Group of Possessor with Median Time-to-Crime, for Selected Cities

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number	
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	3.1	23	
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	8.6	11	
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.4	9	
Lorcin Engineering	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.3	7	
Charter Arms	Undercover	.380	Revolver	18.2	6	
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.5	6	
Smith & Wesson	36	.38	Revolver	16.6	6	
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.1	5	
Bryco Arms	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.2	5	
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.2	5	

Youth (ages 18-24)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number	
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.6	96	
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.6	65	
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.1	49	
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	6.0	36	
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.8	34	
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.4	33	
Bryco Arms	9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.5	29	
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.5	28	
Bryco Arms	38	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.5	27	
Smith & Wesson	Sigma	.40	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.8	26	

Adult (ages 25 & over)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number	
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	3.1	142	
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	3.9	74	
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	10.9	62	
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.0	59	
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.8	48	
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.0	41	
Taurus	85	.38	Revolver	6.4	37	
Rossi	M68	.38	Revolver	3.6	33	
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.2	32	
Glock G.m.b.H.	22	.40	Semiautomatic Pistol	2.9	31	

Table 11a: Top Ten Handguns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber, and Type by Age Group of Possessor with Median Time-to-Crime, for Selected Cities (Continued)

All Ages						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Median	Number	
Lorcin Engineering	L380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	3.0	411	
Lorcin Engineering	L9	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.9	199	
Ruger	P89	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	4.3	167	
Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	10.3	158	
Davis Industries	P380	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.8	153	
Ruger	P95	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.0	128	
Hi-Point	C	9mm	Semiautomatic Pistol	1.6	105	
Bryco Arms	48	.380	Semiautomatic Pistol	0.9	98	
Taurus	85	.38	Revolver	6.2	93	
Lorcin Engineering	L25	.25	Semiautomatic Pistol	5.5	90	

Table 11b: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor with Median Time-to-Crime, for Selected Cities

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Median	Number	
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	4.8	8	
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	2.3	5	
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	4.6	4	

Youth (ages 18-24)						
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Median	Number	
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	5.1	33	
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	3.9	28	
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	1.3	15	
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	6.6	13	
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	4.7	11	
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	0.9	10	
Winchester	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	0.2	6	
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	4.5	4	
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	6.0	4	

Table 11b: Top Ten Long Guns by Manufacturer, Model, Caliber/Gauge, and Type by Age Group of Possessor with Median Time-to-Crime, for Selected Cities (Continued)

Adult (ages 25 & over)					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Median	Number
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	10.3	33
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	8.4	32
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	5.8	22
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	4.6	18
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	11.5	12
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	1.2	11
Winchester	94	30-30	Rifle	17.1	11
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	2.0	10
Colt	AR15	.223	Rifle	6.3	9
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	4.6	9

All Ages					
Manufacturer	Model	Caliber/Gauge	Type	Median	Number
Mossberg	500	12 GA	Shotgun	5.0	105
North China Industries	SKS	7.62mm	Rifle	4.9	97
Remington Arms	870	12 GA	Shotgun	6.7	68
Marlin	60	.22	Rifle	9.5	66
Maverick Arms	88	12 GA	Shotgun	1.6	49
Ruger	10/22	.22	Rifle	10.8	41
Hi-Point	995	9mm	Rifle	1.0	34
North China Industries	MAK90	7.62mm	Rifle	5.1	31
Winchester	1300	12 GA	Shotgun	3.3	29
Winchester	94	30-30	Rifle	18.0	20

2–6 Geographic Sources of Traced Firearms

Most Crime Guns Originally Purchased from Local Federal Firearms Licensees. As shown in *Table 12*, about 62 percent of crime guns were first purchased from FFLs in the State in which the guns were recovered by law enforcement officials.

Differences Among Age Groups with Crime Gun Geographic Sources. As *Table 12* shows, while in-State crime guns predominated for all age groups, this is more so for adult crime gun possessors than for youth or juveniles.

Youth Crime Gun Geographic Sources. As shown in *Table 12*, more youth crime guns (40 percent) than adult crime guns (34 percent) were first purchased from out-of-State FFLs.

Many In-State Crime Guns Come from Nearby Counties. As shown in *Table 13*, the source FFLs were within the same counties as the recovery cities for over a quarter of the crime guns (26 percent), nearly 11 percent of source FFLs were in adjacent counties in the same State or a neighboring State (9 percent).

Juvenile Crime Gun Geographic Sources. Crime guns recovered from juveniles were more likely (46.8 percent) than guns recovered from youth or adults to come from out-of-State FFLs.

City Variations. Cities vary significantly in the geographic sources of crime guns.

- Six cities had 80 percent or more of their traceable crime guns first sold by FFLs in the State in which the city was located: *Birmingham, AL; Gary, IN; Houston, TX; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; and San Antonio, TX*.
- Four of these six cities (*Birmingham, AL; Gary, IN; Houston, TX; and Miami, FL*) had at least 40 percent of their in-State traceable crime guns originated from the

county in which the recovery city was located. *Houston, TX* had the highest percentage of in-State crime guns originating from the same county (69 percent).

- For five cities, FFLs in the State where the city is located were the source of fewer than half of traced crime guns: *Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Jersey City, NJ; Las Vegas, NV; and New York City, NY*.
- *Boston, MA; Jersey City, NJ; and New York City, NY* had 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 of the traceable crime guns recovered in *Detroit, MI* were first sold at FFLs in Michigan (47 percent); however, a noteworthy percentage of traceable crime guns were also first sold at FFLs in Ohio (12 percent).
- *Chicago, IL* is part of both regional and national patterns. Of guns recovered in *Chicago*, 9 percent were first sold by FFLs in the neighboring State of Indiana. Many guns originated with FFLs in the South, with Mississippi supplying 8 percent. FFLs in Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, and Arkansas supplied an additional 8 percent.
- *Las Vegas, NV* had a notable number of guns from California FFLs (23 percent). Under half (49 percent) of the firearms were purchased from FFLs in Nevada.
- As a result of strict regulations on the sale and possession of firearms in *Washington DC*, FFLs in Maryland and Virginia were the sources of 55 percent of the traceable crime guns recovered in Washington, DC.

Table 12: Intrastate and Interstate Sources of Crime Guns

Number	Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	Youth (ages 18-24)	Adult (ages 25 & over)	All Ages
In-State	1,199	5,422	9,808	24,504
Out-of-State	1,056	3,646	5,013	15,293
Total	2,255	9,068	14,821	39,797

Percent	Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	Youth (ages 18-24)	Adult (ages 25 & over)	All Ages
In-State	53.2	59.8	66.2	61.6
Out-of-State	46.8	40.2	33.8	38.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 13: County, State, and Interstate Sources of Crime Guns

Juvenile (ages 17 & under)		
Source	Total	Percent
Within Same County	528	23.4
Adjoining County	145	6.4
Other County-Same State	526	23.3
Adjoining County-Other State	43	1.9
Other County-Other State	1,013	44.9
Total with Known Source	2,255	100.0

Adult (ages 25 & over)		
Source	Total	Percent
Within Same County	4,245	28.6
Adjoining County	1,404	9.5
Other County-Same State	4,159	28.1
Adjoining County-Other State	238	1.6
Other County-Other State	4,775	32.2
Total with Known Source	14,821	100.0

Youth (ages 18-24)		
Source	Total	Percent
Within Same County	2,421	26.7
Adjoining County	814	9.0
Other County-Same State	2,187	24.1
Adjoining County-Other State	148	1.6
Other County-Other State	3,498	38.6
Total with Known Source	9,068	100.0

All Ages		
Source	Total	Percent
Within Same County	10,305	25.9
Adjoining County	3,561	8.9
Other County-Same State	10,638	26.7
Adjoining County-Other State	649	1.6
Other County-Other State	14,644	36.8
Total with Known Source	39,797	100.0

Regional and National Geographic Source Patterns

Source to Recovery Patterns. The State that contains a city is generally its most important source of crime guns. Many guns move from regional and national sources, however. Figures A and B show the relative contribution of these sources. Regional trafficking consists of guns moving to a city from a neighboring State, while national trafficking involves guns moving from more distant States.

Regional Patterns. Figure 9 shows that in 16 of the cities, the crime guns were originally purchased in significant numbers at FFLs in States in the region in which the city is located: Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; New York, NY; St. Louis, MO; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Portland, OR; Tucson, AZ; Cincinnati, OH; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Detroit, MI; and Washington, DC.

Figure 9
Regional Trafficking Patterns, 1999
Number of Recovered Crime Guns Traced to
Federal Firearms Licensees in Neighboring States, for Each Recovery City

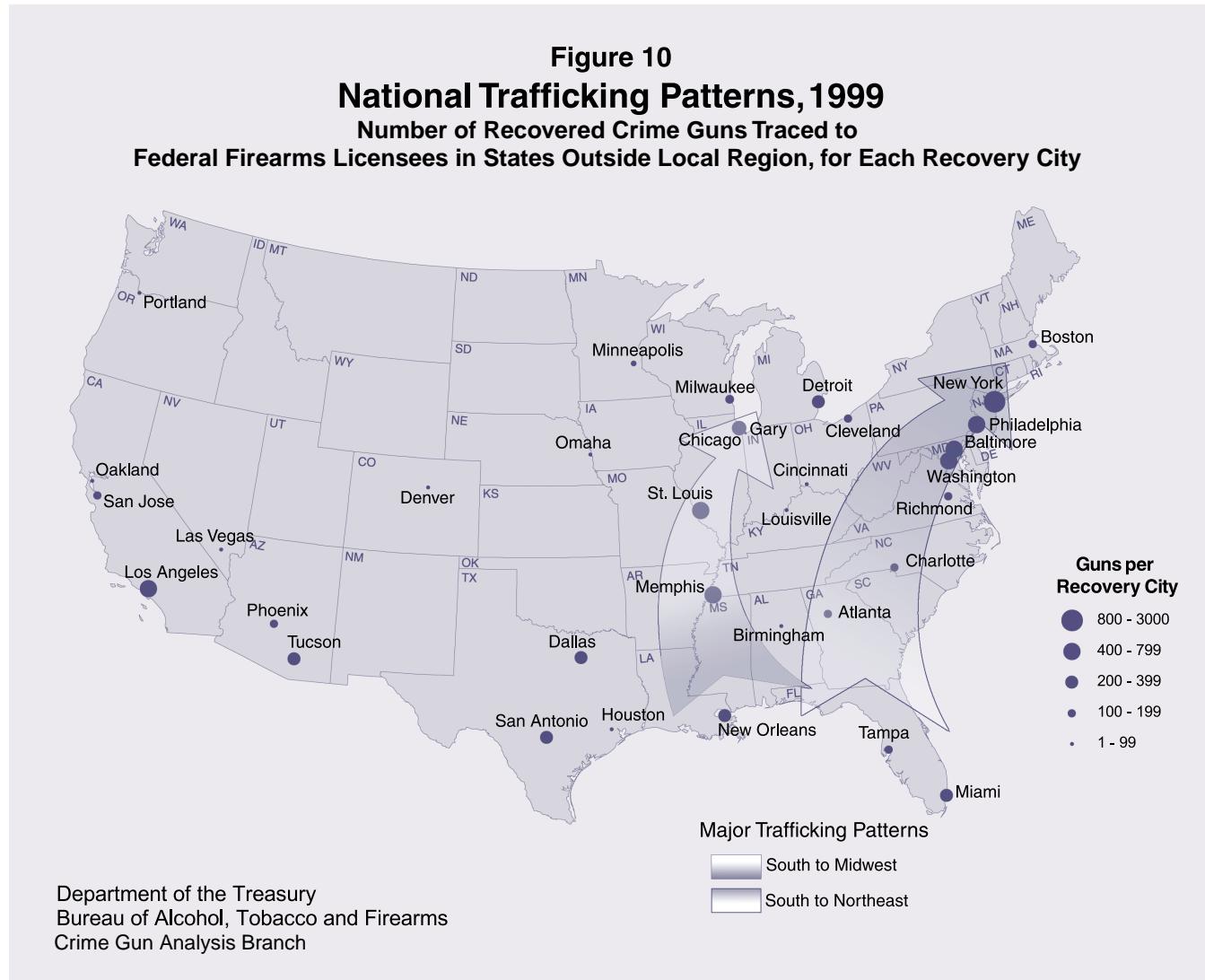


Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Crime Gun Analysis Branch

Regional and National Geographic Source Patterns (Continued)

Two National Patterns. Figure 10 illustrates that some cities form part of larger national patterns. The most important interstate pattern is a south-north pattern along the East Coast, of crime guns first purchased at FFLs in the South, and recovered by law enforcement

in Washington, DC; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; and New York, NY. There is also a central south-north pattern, with guns first sold by FFLs in the South being recovered in Memphis, TN; St. Louis, MO; and especially Chicago, IL.



2–7 Crime Guns with Obliterated Serial Numbers

Results of Traces from Eleven Cities. Since tracing of crime guns with obliterated serial numbers is not conducted consistently by law enforcement agencies, this report presents information from 11 cities which submitted requests for at least 85 of their crime guns with obliterated serial numbers: *Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Los Angeles, CA; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; St. Louis, MO; 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.

Characteristics of Crime Guns with Obliterated Serial Numbers. As shown in *Table 14*, in the 11 cities that were analyzed, 9 percent of semiautomatic pistols and nearly 5 percent of revolvers traced had obliterated serial numbers. Only a handful of derringers (29 of 519) had their serial numbers obliterated.

Obliteration Is Far More Common Among Youth and Juvenile Crime Guns. As shown in *Table 14*, obliteration is more common among crime guns recovered from youth and juveniles than from adults. Ten percent of semiautomatic pistols recovered from youth and juveniles had obliterated serial numbers. There is little varia-

tion by possessor's age in the percentage of revolvers with 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 result of possibly identifying participants in a serious criminal conspiracy. The tracing of guns with obliterated serial numbers is not conducted consistently by law enforcement agencies, however; 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 itself 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 14: Obliterated Serial Number Firearms, for Selected Cities**All Handguns for Eleven Selected Cities**

	Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	Youth (ages 18-24)	Adult (ages 25 & over)	All Ages
Semiautomatic Pistol	1,612	5,489	6,472	20,262
Revolver	866	2,365	3,838	11,791
Derringer	30	93	212	519
Total	2,508	7,947	10,522	32,572

Handguns with Obliterated Serial Numbers

	Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	Youth (ages 18-24)	Adult (ages 25 & over)	All Ages
Semiautomatic Pistol	164	565	381	1,827
Revolver	45	133	166	553
Derringer	0	9	3	29
Total	209	707	550	2,409

Percentage of Handguns Having Obliterated Serial Numbers

	Juvenile (ages 17 & under)	Youth (ages 18-24)	Adult (ages 25 & over)	All Ages
Semiautomatic Pistol	10.2	10.3	5.9	9.0
Revolver	5.2	5.6	4.3	4.7
Derringer	0.0	9.7	1.4	5.6
Total	8.3	8.9	5.2	6.8

2-8 Multiple Sales

Multiple Sales Behind 22 Percent of Traced Handguns.

National Tracing Center processing of multiple sales report data, with the potential for use in combination with the Firearms Tracing System, was implemented in late 1998. This is the first year ATF has been able to provide specific data on handguns recovered in crime that were first sold in multiple sales. For all 32 cities combined, multiple sales handguns accounted for 22 percent (525) of all handguns first sold at retail in 1999 and traced in 1999 (2,378).

Link Between Multiple Sales and Obliteration.

Among all traced handguns, those originally purchased in multiple sales transactions

were particularly likely to have obliterated serial numbers. Multiple sales handguns made up 51 percent (18) of all traced handguns with obliterated serial numbers that were first sold at retail in 1999 and were the subject of a trace request that same year (35). This means that, among handguns both sold and traced in 1999, those recovered and traced with obliterated serial numbers were 2.3 times as likely to have been from a multiple sale (51 percent) as were all handguns together (22 percent). Additional attention will be given to this issue as more data on multiple sales and better data on obliteration becomes available.

3 — Enforcement Information

The trace information collected and analyzed in the annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports* is used in Federal, State, and local investigations of the illegal diversion of firearms, particularly involving felons, youth offenders, and juveniles. During the period 1996-1998, approximately 60 percent of ATF's firearms trafficking investigations involved crime gun tracing and 68 percent involved State and local law enforcement agencies.¹³

Recent Investigations Involving Trafficked Firearms.

During the first 2 quarters of Fiscal Year 2000, ATF's 23 Field Divisions initiated 874 illegal firearms trafficking investigations, involving 231 youth and juvenile firearms possessors, 161 youth and juvenile firearms traffickers, 54 youth and juvenile straw purchasers, and 11 youth and juvenile firearms burglars. Nearly 40 percent (348) of these investigations have been forwarded by ATF agents to Federal, State, and local prosecutors for prosecution. These 348 investigations yielded a total of 460 defendants, including 205 illegal firearms possessors, 133 illegal firearms traffickers, 101 straw purchasers, 16 corrupt licensed dealers, and 11 firearms burglars. ATF agents estimated that some 14,600 firearms were trafficked in these 874 firearms trafficking investigations. Because 60 percent of the investigations are still in progress, it is likely that the ATF agents will uncover higher numbers of trafficked firearms as their investigations develop further. Based on previous analysis, ATF has found that nearly a quarter of its trafficking investigations involve convicted felons illegally buying, selling, or possessing firearms. During the first 2 quarters of Fiscal Year 2000, ATF agents also initiated 242 investigations into *prohibited persons in possession of firearms* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922(g)).

The Illegal Market in Firearms. Trace information and analysis of cases are contributing to a more precise picture of the structure of the illegal firearms market that supplies guns to criminals, unauthorized juveniles, and other prohibited persons. This section describes aspects of the illegal market illuminated by crime gun tracing and cases developed as part

of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, the youth-focused component of ATF's firearms enforcement program.

Trafficking and Illegal Diversion of Firearms.

Virtually all crime guns start off as legally owned firearms. For this reason, the term "firearms trafficking," in contrast to the common reference to drug trafficking, refers to the illegal diversion of a legal product from lawful commerce into unlawful commerce, often for profit. ATF also uses the term "diversion." A broader term than trafficking, diversion encompasses any movement of firearms from the legal to illegal marketplace through an illegal method or for an illegal purpose. For example, a criminal who steals a firearm from a Federal firearms licensee (FFL) for his own personal use is participating in the illegal diversion of firearms, but he is not a trafficker. Thus, while the theft of firearms may involve a criminal stealing one or more firearms for his own use, or may involve subsequent trafficking, addressing stolen firearms is an important part of a firearms trafficking strategy because theft constitutes one means of the illegal supply of firearms.

Types of Trafficking. Firearms trafficking includes:

- **Trafficking in new firearms,** interstate and intrastate, including by federally licensed firearms dealers, large-scale straw purchasers or straw purchasing rings, or small-scale straw purchasers from gun stores, gun shows, or other premises;
- **Trafficking in secondhand firearms,** interstate and intrastate, including by licensed firearms dealers, including pawnbrokers; large-scale straw purchasers or

¹³ *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers*, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, June 2000.

- straw purchasing rings; or small-scale straw purchasers, unlicensed sellers, including at gun shows, flea markets, or through newspaper ads, gun magazines, the Internet, and personal associations, and bartering and trading within criminal networks; and
- **Trafficking in new and secondhand stolen firearms**, involving guns stolen from federally licensed dealers, including pawnbrokers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and importers, theft from common carriers, home invasions, and vehicle theft.

Case Examples

Trafficking in New and Secondhand Firearms by Corrupt Federal Firearms Licensee.

St. Louis, Missouri. ATF analyses of firearms trace data revealed that hundreds of crime guns were traced to Marshal's Gun Shop, a Federal firearms licensee. From January 1988 though March 1999, approximately 611 crime guns were traced back to Marshal's. Although some were secondhand guns, most were new. They included Mossberg 12 gauge shotguns, Davis Industries .380 and 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistols, Lorcin Engineering .380 caliber semiautomatic pistols, Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolvers, Ruger 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistols, Glock G.m.b.H. .40 and .45 caliber semiautomatic pistols, Maverick Arms 12 gauge shotguns, and North China Industries 7.62x39mm caliber rifles.

Many of these guns were recovered from youth under the age of 24 and in different States. Over 200 were sold through straw purchases to convicted felons, gang members, youth, and juveniles. Several of the trafficked firearms were subsequently recovered in a variety of crimes, including drug violations, unlawful use of a weapon, homicides, robberies, and assaults.

On August 5, 1999, the 69-year-old owner of the gun store pled guilty to violations of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (m), *knowingly making false entries in required records*, and was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment and 3 years' supervised

release. The two employees pled guilty to violations of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (m) in Spring 1999 and were sentenced to 3 years' supervised release.

Interstate Trafficking by Large-Scale Straw Purchaser Buying from an Unlicensed Gun Show Dealer.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This investigation began on May 8, 1998, as a result of a request by the Philadelphia School Board Investigations Unit to trace two firearms recovered on school grounds. In the early morning hours of December 14, 1997, Philadelphia Police Officers arrested two 18-year-old males for discharging firearms in the schoolyard of William Penn High School. Both firearms had the serial numbers obliterated. The Philadelphia Police Firearms Identification Unit was able to restore the serial numbers of the firearms. ATF then initiated a trace of the firearms and determined that an individual residing in Greensboro, North Carolina, purchased both firearms just 48 hours prior to their recovery.

During the course of the investigation, which involved both crime gun tracing and Project LEAD, ATF uncovered a trafficking conspiracy. The individuals trafficked an estimated 50-70 firearms purchased from an unlicensed dealer at gun shows. In addition to these recoveries, three additional firearms with obliterated serial numbers purchased by the Philadelphia defendant were recovered by the Philadelphia Police in firearms offenses. The defendants from whom the firearms were recovered were ages 19, 24, and 25. One additional firearm was recovered by the New York City Police Department.

By infiltrating the organization, an undercover operative was able to purchase approximately 24 firearms from this organization. The type of firearms included: 15 Lorcin Engineering 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistols, three Intratec 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistols, one Glock G.m.b.H. .357 SIG caliber semiautomatic pistol, one Llama .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, one Bryco Arms 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, one Hi-Point 9mm caliber rifle, and two North China Industries 7.62x39mm caliber rifles. All of the undercover purchases took place in Philadelphia. All but two of the purchased firearms had serial numbers obliterated.

On March 2, 1999, a resident of West Philadelphia and the purchaser of the firearms from Greensboro, North Carolina, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Philadelphia for *conspiring to engage in the business of dealing in firearms without a license, aiding and abetting, and receiving firearms while under indictment.*

On March 10, 1999, the Philadelphia Firearms Trafficking Task Force arrested them both for firearms violations. On April 23, 1999, the Philadelphia defendant pled guilty to *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371), *engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license* (18 USC 922 (a)(1)(A)), *aiding and abetting* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 2), and *unlawful interstate shipment of firearms* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (n)). On September 24, 1999, he was sentenced to 46 months' incarceration, 3 years' supervised release, \$500 fine, and 100 hours of community service. On July 28, 1999, the North Carolina defendant pled guilty to *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371), *engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (a)(1)(A)), and *aiding and abetting* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 2). He was sentenced on October 29, 1999, to 24 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, a \$500 fine, and a \$200 special assessment fee.

In-State Trafficking in New Firearms by Small-Scale Family Member Straw Purchaser for Juvenile Gang Offenders. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Between 1997 and 1998, guns recovered in various crimes and police actions were traced and entered into Project LEAD. The incidents included a search warrant for drugs, a search warrant for a suspect in a shooting, and recovery of a gun when a suspect pursued by police discarded the weapon. In partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department, ATF reviewed the Multiple Sales Database and found that these firearms were purchased as part of multiple sales. ATF subsequently examined the business records of the FFL where the guns were purchased. In February 1999, a 21-year-old made a multiple purchase of three handguns from the FFL and ordered four more handguns. After he took delivery of the four handguns, he was interviewed. He admitted that he had solicited his

uncle to straw purchase handguns for himself and his cousin when they were underage. The uncle had straw purchased 11 handguns for his nephews, both at the time under the age of 21 and members of street gangs. The new firearms included Keltec Industries Inc. 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistols, a Heritage Manufacturing 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Tanfoglio .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Star .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Taurus .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, a Lorcin Engineering .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Haskell .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Tanfoglio 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Tanfoglio .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, and a Bryco Arms 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol. The cousin was a member of the Black Gangster Disciples and wanted firearms to continue a "gang war" with members of the Vice Lords. The cousin, while armed with one of the firearms acquired by his uncle, was killed by members of the Vice Lords.

The 21-year-old defendant pled guilty to *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371) and to *falsifying ATF Form 4473* (18 U.S.C. 922 (a)(6)) and cooperated with the Government. In September 1999, he was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment and 3 years' supervised release. The uncle, who had no prior criminal record, was found guilty of *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371) and *falsifying ATF Form 4473* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (a)(6)) for his straw purchase activities. In October 1999, he was sentenced to 37 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, and fined \$1,000.

Trafficking in New and Secondhand Firearms by Unlicensed Seller and Convicted Felon through Magazines and Gun Shows. Louisville, Kentucky. ATF regulatory inspectors examined an FFL's multiple sales and business records and found that certain individuals had acquired 70 firearms in 2 years. NCIC and Project LEAD searches showed that 11 of the 70 firearms had been recovered by the Louisville Police Department or traced. These firearms, some of which were recovered in the possession of youth, included semiautomatic pistols such as the Raven Arms .25 caliber, the Ruger 9mm caliber, the Davis Industries .32 caliber, the Colt .380 caliber, as well as .38 caliber revolvers made by Smith & Wesson.

In March 1997, ATF initiated a case against a convicted felon and another individual. The investigation showed that they had purchased the new and secondhand firearms from nearby FFLs and resold the firearms in-State and out-of-State at gun shows and through a local trade publication, the "Bargain Mart." At times, the men placed up to 20 ads offering firearms for sale every week. ATF agents executed two search warrants in June 1997 at the defendants' residences and seized approximately 64 firearms.

One defendant pled guilty to *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371), *engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (a)(1)(A)), and *sale of a firearm to a prohibited person* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (d)). In February 1999, he was sentenced to 6 months' home incarceration and 3 years' probation. He received a downward departure of seven levels in his sentence as a result of the cooperation he provided to the Government. The second defendant pled guilty to *conspiracy* (18 U.S.C. Sec. 371), *engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license* (18 U.S.C. 922 (a)(1)(A)), and *felon in possession* (922 (g)). On August 28, 1998, he was sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment and 3 years' supervised release.

In-State and Interstate Trafficking in Firearms Stolen by Juvenile and Adult from Residences. *Cincinnati, Ohio.* In November 1998, a juvenile and an adult stole 15 firearms from a residence in Fairfield, Ohio. With the help of three other juveniles, the firearms were sold to an individual who was subsequently arrested for receiving stolen property. This individual admitted selling at least 13 of the firearms to individuals in Cincinnati and other areas of Ohio as well as West Virginia. Most of the stolen firearms have been recovered and subsequently traced by ATF. Further investigation conducted by the Fairfield, Ohio Police Department and ATF revealed that the juveniles had been involved in many home burglaries, some of which involved the theft of additional firearms.

The stolen firearms included: a North China Industries SKS 7.62x39mm caliber rifle, a North China Industries MAK- 90 7.62x39mm

caliber rifle, a Sears, Robuck & Company, JC Higgins brandname .30-06 caliber rifle, a Remington .35 caliber rifle, a Remington 16 gauge shotgun, a Mossberg .410 gauge shotgun, a Savage/Stevens .22 caliber rifle, a Savage/Stevens 16 gauge shotgun, a WW II Japanese 7.7mm military rifle, an unidentified Marakov type 9x18mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver, a Smith & Wesson .32 caliber revolver, a Taurus .357 caliber revolver, a Ruger .22 caliber pistol, and a Harrington & Richardson, Inc. .32 caliber revolver. The juveniles, as well as the adult who participated in the theft of the 15 firearms, were all prosecuted in State Court. In September 1999, the individual who trafficked the firearms to Ohio and West Virginia pled guilty in Federal Court to a violation of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (a)(5), *illegal transportation of firearms*. In January 2000, he was sentenced to 180 days' home incarceration and 3 years' probation.

Interstate Bartering and Trading New and Secondhand Firearms Stolen from Federally Licensed Fierarms Dealer for Drugs. *Cincinnati, Ohio.* In April 1999, Cincinnati police officers stopped a vehicle and arrested four individuals from Kentucky and two Cincinnati residents. The four individuals aged 16, 18, 21, and 27, were transporting 26 handguns. The recovered firearms were run through NCIC records by Kentucky State Police, which revealed these new and secondhand guns had been stolen 2 days earlier from a federally licensed gun dealer in Flemingsburg, Kentucky. A 23-year-old co-conspirator was subsequently arrested and it was learned that the individuals were transporting the guns from Kentucky into Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of trading them for drugs.

The handguns recovered in their vehicle were: an IMI .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Smith & Wesson .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Sig Sauer 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Smith & Wesson 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Smith & Wesson .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol, an FEG .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Llama 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Bersa .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, an Auto Ordnance .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Ruger 9mm

caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Beretta .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, an FEG .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, an Accu-Tek .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Charter Arms .22 caliber revolver, a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver, a Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolver, a Taurus .357 caliber revolver, a Rossi .38 caliber revolver, a Colt .357 caliber revolver; a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver, an AMT .40 caliber pistol, a Smith & Wesson 9mm caliber semiautomatic pistol, a Smith & Wesson .357 caliber revolver, a Smith & Wesson

.38 caliber revolver, and a Colt .44 Magnum caliber revolver. Three of the four co-defendants from Kentucky pled guilty to carrying concealed weapons and possession of stolen property in the Court of Common Pleas, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. Their sentences ranged from 18 months to 7 years. The 23-year-old co-conspirator pled guilty in Federal Court to violations of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922 (u), *theft from an FFL*, and 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2, *aiding and abetting*. He received 18 months' incarceration.

4 — Information for Law Enforcement Executives

This section answers frequently asked questions from law enforcement executives about the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, comprehensive tracing, and ATF's firearms enforcement programs.

What is a crime gun trace?

A crime gun trace by ATF's National Tracing Center (NTC) seeks to identify the Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) who first came in contact with the firearm, i.e. manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, and the individual who first purchased the firearm from the retail dealer.

In addition, for certain FFLs, the NTC may also be able to provide trace information for firearms re-sold as used guns and subsequently recovered by law enforcement. Finally, ATF special agents and their State and local counterparts sometimes conduct investigative traces which seek to identify the complete chain of possessors from initial retail purchase to recovery by law enforcement.

What is the investigative value of a crime gun trace?

A firearms trace acts as an avenue to obtain additional investigative leads which may tie the suspect to the firearm itself, and to other crimes otherwise unknown if the gun had not been traced. *The appearance of an FFL or a first purchaser in association with a crime gun or in association with multiple crime guns does not show that either the FFL or first purchaser has committed unlawful acts. Rather, such information may provide a starting point for further and more detailed investigations.*

How does my agency submit a crime gun trace request to the NTC?

Traces can be submitted by fax (1-800-578-7223). In emergencies, trace requests can be made by telephone (1-800-788-7133). Trace forms can be obtained by calling the ATF Distribution Center (703-455-7801), by calling your local ATF office, or through the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov.

Will my department be charged for an NTC trace?

The NTC will trace any and all crime guns submitted for tracing at no charge.

What is *comprehensive* crime gun tracing?

Comprehensive crime gun tracing occurs when law enforcement authorities in a given jurisdiction routinely submit the serial number, manufacturer, model, caliber, and weapon type of all firearms recovered in their jurisdiction to ATF's NTC.

For more complete analysis, law enforcement authorities may submit information on the possessor of the firearm (when there is a possessor), associate (any individual who may be associated with the possessor at the time of recovery), and recovery date and address.

What is the investigative value to my department of comprehensive crime gun tracing?

Large numbers of traces can be analyzed to develop proactive leads to gun traffickers, armed offenders, and illegal possessors of firearms. When the NTC compiles comprehensive crime gun trace information for a law enforcement agency, it can furnish information relating to the following questions: *1. What kinds of guns are being recovered in my area? 2. What types of crimes are associated with these recovered crime guns? 3. Who are the dealers that are the source of crime guns recovered in my area? 4. Who are the individuals supplying firearms to the criminals and juveniles in my area? 5. Where are the recovery locations? 6. Are the source areas in the county or the State, or from out-of-State? 7. Where should my resources be concentrated to stem the flow of firearms to my streets?*

With this information, a department working with ATF can maximize enforcement leads to illegal suppliers and their violent customers and establish enforcement strategy to reduce juveniles' and criminals' illegal access to guns. Firearms tracing can also lead to improved officer safety, since it can alert officers to crime gun activity at a specific address, or by a particular individual.

What is the best method of comprehensive trace submission?

The Electronic Trace Submission System (ETSS) is a stand-alone database that enables ATF Field Offices and other law enforcement organizations to capture firearm trace related data. This data is then exported from ETSS and the Batch File is then transferred electronically to the NTC for processing. Agencies with only a few hundred traces a year can use fax or mail submission or request ETSS from ATF.

How much does comprehensive tracing cost?

ETSS is currently available to all ATF Field Offices and can be downloaded at ATF from the NTC page on the ATF Intraweb at no charge. Upon request, police departments can upload ETSS by CD-ROM. The largest cost to the department is likely to be the cost of entering trace information in person hours.

What assistance in establishing comprehensive tracing is available from ATF?

Comprehensive crime gun tracing is free to the requesting jurisdiction. The NTC will also work with police departments to establish the easiest methods for them to trace firearms. The Crime Gun Analysis Branch (CGAB) will conduct a full assessment of a city's capability for comprehensive tracing and recommend the steps needed to achieve this goal, including providing funding to improve the city's crime gun data collection process. ATF will also provide the city with a detailed plan of action highlighting specific activities that each party would perform. ATF anticipates providing tracing equipment and training assistance to 250 law enforcement agencies next year, in addition to 12 new cities for the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative. ATF also provides

training directly and in conjunction with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Will my law enforcement agency receive responses to trace requests directly?

After a firearm is submitted for tracing, the trace report containing the results of the trace is returned to the requester.

How long does a trace response take?

A routine firearm trace averages 10 and one half business days.

Are there special provisions for urgent traces?

Urgent traces, which must adhere to certain criteria, are completed within 24 hours. Criteria for an urgent trace include: assaults, bank robbery, kidnapping, murder/suicide, rape/sex crimes, terrorist act or threat, undercover investigation, high profile, needed for court, needed to hold a suspect in custody, or issuance of a search warrant.

Are trace responses on paper or electronic?

Currently, Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies can submit trace requests electronically, but can only receive trace responses on paper. The NTC is developing an Electronic Trace Return (ETR) to provide ATF field offices and law enforcement agencies with electronic trace results in addition to printed trace reports. In addition, the NTC will respond to law enforcement organization requests for an extract of a jurisdiction's trace information and provide it on disk.

Can investigators search available crime gun trace information for investigative leads?

ATF developed Online LEAD, a firearms trafficking information system, to enable investigators to search for criminal patterns in trace information. It has proven to be a powerful tool in the hands of field investigators. By analyzing the raw data contained in firearms trace and multiple sales records, Online LEAD generates a wealth of investigative leads. For example, ATF and other law enforcement agencies can identify firearms traffickers by researching both the sources of firearms and their destinations. For individual jurisdictions, the value of Online LEAD depends

on law enforcement agencies tracing crime guns comprehensively.

Do State and local law enforcement agencies have access to Online LEAD?

Yes. Online LEAD is located at ATF field offices and is readily available to local task forces. The Online LEAD crime gun information system allows ATF agents and inspectors to access crime gun trace and multiple sales data directly from their desktop computers using the ATF Intraweb. The data in the Online LEAD system is updated automatically every 24 hours.

Do all crime gun traces result in identification of purchasers, and if not, why submit all recovered firearms for tracing?

Currently over 50 percent of traces from participating cities result in the identification of a purchaser, and many of these are relatively recent gun buyers. Even without purchaser results, most crime gun traces result in useful information. With gun dealer but not purchaser information, traces can reveal concentrations of crime guns flowing from particular dealers, and provide information on the source States and counties of these firearms, thus helping local law enforcement officials understand whether crime guns they recover have crossed jurisdictional lines. Other information supplied, such as possessor, associate, and recovery information, will allow comprehensive crime gun analysis for your jurisdiction.

Can ATF's CGAB assist my agency in specific investigations?

The CGAB, located at the National Tracing Center, can provide information useful for officer safety precautions when conducting search warrants, to assist in an investigation, hold a suspect, or acquire a search warrant. Your agency can request analysis of crime gun trace data in your jurisdiction by fax (304-274-4159), email (CrimeGunAnalysisBranch@trac.atf.treas.gov), or telephone (1-800-788-7133 x498). The CGAB can provide assistance by running an individual suspect's name and/or address through the Firearms Tracing System (FTS) to determine whether any firearms have been recovered at a particular address in connection with warrant service, or if an individual at that address has

purchased multiple firearms or been involved in crime gun traces.

Can the CGAB assist my agency in using all of this jurisdiction's crime gun trace information for strategic purposes?

Analysis of crime gun trace data in your jurisdiction can be provided through the CGAB and Online LEAD. The CGAB can analyze your crime gun trace and related multiple sales information to help identify problems in your jurisdiction. A trace study can be conducted to identify trends and patterns in crimes involving firearms. The CGAB can provide leads and proactive referrals on individuals who may be suspected of straw purchasing or firearms trafficking in your jurisdiction.

Does the NTC provide crime gun mapping?

The CGAB can map crime gun recovery locations on a map of your jurisdiction demonstrating trends and patterns with areas of high amounts of crime gun recovery locations. Mapping of crime gun recovery locations can be provided most effectively when a jurisdiction is tracing comprehensively and when complete recovery address information is supplied.

What does ATF view as best practices in using crime gun tracing as an investigative tool?

Best practices include first ensuring that you are maximizing ATF as a resource by requesting traces through the NTC on all recovered firearms; ensuring that possessors of recovered firearms are interviewed to determine their sources; and ensuring that ATF is the central recipient of all firearms-related information. You should also use other statistical data as shown in the annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports* and, where possible, develop a gun unit dedicated to investigating firearms offenses and developing strategies based on the analysis, including working with ATF in the conduct of joint firearms trafficking investigations.

How does the FTS relate to the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN)?

Crime gun tracing and ballistics identification are both gun crime investigative tools. Tracing can be conducted when the crime gun itself is

recovered. If only a cartridge or bullet is recovered, this image can be analyzed so that it can be tied with previously identified shooters or firearms. Increasingly, departments are using both tools to assist in solving gun crimes. Ballistics Imaging technology does not automatically submit the crime gun to be traced through the National Tracing Center. Over time, ATF plans to integrate crime gun and ballistics information into one searchable database.

How will comprehensive crime gun tracing help reduce youth gun violence?

Comprehensive crime gun tracing will provide an information platform for developing the best local investigative strategies. One of the findings of the *Crime Gun Trace Reports* is that a large proportion of youth crime guns are quite new and most likely deliberately and illegally trafficked. Many crime guns were first sold at retail in-State. The long held presumption that guns used in crimes were all borrowed from home, stolen, or trafficked across State lines appears to be incorrect. Comprehensive crime gun tracing and trace analysis can support both trafficking investigations aimed at these sources of newer firearms and the deployment of traditional criminal investigation techniques (debriefings, confidential informants, turning of arrestees, etc.) aimed at sources of new and older firearms. Because juveniles have less access to the firearms market than adults, a strategy that targets their illegal supply can be especially productive.

How does tracing relate to a strategy of deterring and incarcerating persons illegally possessing, carrying, or using firearms?

Local law enforcement authorities are actively searching to find the best mix of local enforcement operations. ATF is providing new assistance to that effort by working to institute comprehensive tracing and ballistics identification capabilities and use these tools to support gun crime investigations. These tools are providing new opportunities to attack gun criminals and the illegal gun market, which includes many felons acting as gun traffickers. At the Federal level, ATF believes that a balance between attacking the illegal supply of firearms to prohibited persons, including juveniles and adult felons, and deterring and incarcerating armed violent offenders, is necessary to reduce violent crime. ATF's comprehensive tracing and trace analysis are part of the Boston Gun Project and Ceasefire, New Jersey's Project LISA, Richmond's Exile, and numerous other violence reduction and law enforcement strategies.

What are common types of illegal diversion?

Corrupt Federal firearms licensees, unlicensed sellers, straw purchasers, thieves, and traffickers in stolen guns, all contribute to the illegal market in guns. For more information, see *Following the Gun: Enforcing Federal Laws Against Firearms Traffickers*, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, June 2000 at www.atf.treas.gov.

5 — Progress and Plans: The Strategic Use of Crime Gun Information

This section describes the progress made in comprehensive crime gun tracing during the past year. Crime gun tracing is voluntary for most law enforcement agencies. Through the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) and other firearms enforcement programs, ATF in 1996 began a concerted effort to work with other law enforcement organizations to maximize the utility of this critical investigative tool. To develop and encourage crime gun tracing, ATF continues to strive to improve the tracing process, the quantity, quality, and delivery of crime gun information, and related investigative services to ATF agents and their State and local partners.

5-1 Level and Quality of Crime Gun Tracing

Number of Crime Guns Traced. The number of firearm traces submitted to the National Tracing Center (NTC) increased from 197,537 traces in 1998 to 206,070 traces in 1999, a 4 percent increase. Law enforcement officials in the 38 participating YCGII cities submitted approximately 66,787 crime gun trace requests between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999, 32 percent of the total number of crime gun trace requests submitted to the NTC during this period. The 12 new YCGII cities submitted 11,885 trace requests.

Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing. Police departments that join the YCGII make a commitment to trace *all* crime guns recovered in their jurisdictions in order to maximize investigative leads and permit analysis of local crime gun patterns by age group. While other law enforcement agencies are making similar commitments and meeting them successfully, the annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports* currently include only YCGII cities. ATF makes a special effort to ensure the accuracy of the information collected for these reports. While the NTC cannot determine definitively whether all recovered crime guns are being traced, an evaluation can be made based on the number of trace requests, the tracing infrastructure in the law enforcement agencies, and on information obtained from local officials. On this basis, the NTC determined that during 1999, 24 of the 38 cities participating in YCGII were tracing comprehensively. These cities were *Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH;*

Cleveland, OH; Dallas, TX; Gary, IN; Jersey City, NJ; Memphis, TN; Miami, FL; Milwaukee, WI; Minneapolis, MN; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; Richmond, VA; San Antonio, TX; San Jose, CA; St. Louis, MO; Tampa, FL; Tucson, AZ; and Washington, DC. Of the remaining 14 cities, 12 cities provided a sufficiently substantial number of traces for a city-based analysis, and two cities submitted insufficient trace requests to complete a *City Report* but were included in the *National Report*. In each *City Report*, *Table H* reports each city's number of trace submissions.

State Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing Laws.

Four States recently have enacted firearms tracing laws: California (California Penal Code section 11108.3 (1998)), Connecticut (Connecticut General Statute, sec. 54-36n (1998)), North Carolina (114-10. Division of Criminal Statistics, Session Laws 1999-225, s. 1(1999)) and Illinois (720 ICLS 5/24-8 (1998)) (juvenile crime guns only). Maryland is instituting Statewide comprehensive tracing by Executive Order 01.01.1998.20. Comprehensive tracing has been achieved in New Jersey through the initiative of law enforcement authorities. ATF is working with appropriate authorities in these States to assist in implementing their tracing laws.

Number of Completed Traces. The NTC is continually improving its ability to diagnose the reasons for missing crime gun trace information to learn what type of crime gun information is most consistently missing or inaccurately reported, and to determine whether the failure to match serial numbers is due to oblit-

eration, faulty recording, incorrect Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) records, or data mismanagement. This effort is shown in *Tables I and J* of the *City Reports*, and summarized nationally here.

Increased FFL identification rate. For trace requests where the NTC initiated a trace, the NTC identified Federal firearms licensees for 75 percent (44,369) of crime guns. This represents an improvement over the 66 percent rate reported in 1998's *Crime Gun Trace Reports*.

Obstacles to identifying purchasers. As in 1998, the NTC identified retail purchasers for over half (52 percent, 35,006) of the crime guns. Where a trace was initiated by the NTC, purchasers were not identified for several reasons, including:

- problem with crime gun serial number (13 percent)
- records on this crime gun unavailable (7 percent)
- problem with importer name (7 percent)
- problem with manufacturer name (4 percent)
- records not available (1 percent)
- expiration of 20-year record retention requirement (1 percent).

Uninitiated traces. The NTC did not initiate a trace for about a tenth (11 percent, 7,513) of the trace requests, for several reasons, including:

- firearms manufactured before 1969 and not traceable through Out-of-Business records (9 percent)
- trace request submitted for informational purposes only (2 percent)
- other reasons (0.5 percent)

The initiation of 90 percent of the trace requests from YCGII jurisdictions is an improvement over prior years and this improvement is attributable, in part, to a policy instituted by the NTC in 1999 of initiating traces on all crime gun trace requests, including older firearms that were previously untraced.

Other limitations. With sufficient information about the crime gun, the NTC can identify the first retail purchaser of crime guns. In most cases, it cannot identify retail purchasers of crime guns re-sold by FFLs as used guns, or of crime guns acquired as used guns from unlicensed sellers. As a result of the structure of the firearms laws, an NTC trace usually stops at the first retail purchase of the firearm recovered by law enforcement.

5-2 Investigative Support for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Trace Analysis, Mapping, and Investigative Support.

The NTC Crime Gun Analysis Branch (CGAB) has been increasingly active in responding to requests from law enforcement agencies for assistance in developing strategic overviews of the local crime gun problem and in law enforcement investigations and regulatory inspections. In 1999, the CGAB completed over 30 crime gun mapping requests, including 10 YCGII cities; 130 requests for crime gun trace information; 650 requests for queries of the Firearms Tracing System (FTS) concerning individuals; 600 requests for queries concerning FFLs; 230 proactive referrals to investigators on suspected firearms traffickers; 20 presentations in 1999 on crime gun trace analysis through crime gun mapping and Online LEAD to YCGII cities, and prepared the *Crime Gun Trace Reports*.

Field Resource: Online LEAD. Online LEAD is the current version of Project LEAD, ATF's crime gun trafficking information system. In 1999, the number of ATF investigators using Online LEAD increased from less than 100 to approximately 1,400 users. In November 1999, Online LEAD was deployed to all ATF field offices to enable ATF agents, inspectors, and local task force officers to access crime gun trace and related multiple sales information directly from their desktop computers using the ATF Intranet, with over 200 users from YCGII cities receiving access. ATF investigators in all locations can now access not only local but all nationwide crime gun information, facilitating

regional and interstate investigations. Also in 1999, the NTC added a number of enhancements to make the system more user friendly, including additional information fields and queries aimed at the local investigator.

New Features in the Crime Gun Trace Reports. This year's reports are provided on a calendar year basis for the first time. ATF is presenting a *National Report* for the first time, based on traces from a significant number of cities with a population of 250,000 or more. Other significant improvements include the addition of: analysis of models of crime guns for nine cities that provided adequate information (*National Report*); new information relevant to officer safety (*National and City Reports*) and on crime guns purchased in multiple sales (*National Report*); maps showing crime gun sources (*National and City Reports*); reporting on instances where the purchaser is the crime gun possessor (*City Reports, Table A*); median time-to-crime (*City Reports, Table E*); county level geographic source information (*City Reports, Table G*); trace completion rates for possessor age, recovery location, manufacturer, and importer (*City Reports, Table H*); and additional analysis of reasons for lack of trace completion (*City Reports, Table J*).

Training: Firearms Tracing and Illegal Trafficking Investigations. In 1999, ATF developed a training CD-ROM to help train Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers participating in YCGII in firearms identification and tracing procedures. ATF field agents learned how to use the YCGII Instructor CD-ROM and then delivered it locally. Because of the important role of firearms trafficking investigations in the reduction of violent crime, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, in a program funded by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, in 1999 continued to provide training at the NTC for police departments interested in starting comprehensive crime gun tracing and trafficking enforcement programs.

Training: Restoration of Obliterated Serial Numbers. ATF continues to work with police departments and law enforcement laboratories to restore obliterated serial numbers on crime

guns and to develop local coordinated enforcement efforts to trace and proactively target leads derived from recovered crime guns with obliterated serial numbers. ATF has developed a 3-day session of instructional and hands-on training for State and local investigators and firearm examiners covering the importance of restoring obliterated serial numbers and tracing those firearms. Thirteen schools were held in fiscal year 2000, five in YCGII cities.

5-3 Improvements in the Tracing Process and Tracing Support for State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Currently, a routine firearm trace takes an average of 10 and a half business days to complete. Urgent traces are completed within 24 hours. In 1999, ATF continued to take steps to shorten the time it takes to complete a routine trace, and facilitate law enforcement agencies' ability to submit and receive trace information.

The Transition to Paperless Tracing. The NTC supports the receipt of batches of trace requests via electronic file transfer from Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies. This firearms tracing process was designed specifically for those agencies which are already utilizing some type of automated system, i.e., property, incident, or ballistics database. The process simply involves the user extracting the data the NTC requires to initiate a firearms trace, creating a formatted data file, and then sending that "batch" of data via a modem to the NTC. This system was designed to decrease the turnaround time for routine traces, report the trace results faster, cut down on the number of errors, and offer a user-friendly alternative to manual trace request submission.

In 1999, the NTC made ETSS available to all ATF Field Offices by downloading the software from the NTC page on the ATF Intraweb. Upon request, law enforcement agencies can upload ETSS by CD-ROM. Currently 62 State and local law enforcement agencies, including agencies in 35 of the 38 YCGII cities, have ETSS access.

Access 2000: Firearms Industry Cooperation. Access 2000 is an ATF produced system that allows a manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler to download a subset of their firearms data into a stand-alone personal computer. ATF tracers can then dial up and query on a specific serial number in order to obtain a disposition on the firearm. Access 2000 also allows 24-hour access to manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler records and is, therefore, particularly useful for urgent traces. The system speeds the trace process from 1 to 3 days by eliminating the step of calling or faxing the manufacturer, importer, or wholesaler and waiting for the results of the crime gun's disposition, while also reducing firearms industry trace-related costs. In 1999, use of Access 2000 increased from 6 to 10 manufacturers and/or wholesalers, and now includes 9 manufacturers: Beretta U.S.A. Corp., H&R 1871 Inc., Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Heckler & Koch, Marlin, Mossberg, Colt, and Glock G.m.b.H.; and two major wholesalers: RSR Wholesale Guns and Davidson's Supply Company.

Multiple Sales Records and Crime Gun Tracing. The NTC continues to use multiple sales records to speed crime gun tracing. FFLs are required by law to report multiple sales transactions of handguns and to forward those records to the NTC. To facilitate crime gun tracing, the NTC began maintaining multiple sales information in a Multiple Sales Database linked to the FTS. When a crime gun trace request is received, the serial number is entered into the FTS. If the serial number entered matches a serial number in the Multiple Sales Database, the crime gun trace request can be closed immediately with the multiple sales purchaser information without time-consuming telephone calls to FFLs. In 1999, approximately 3 percent of 1999 YCGII traces were completed with purchaser information from a multiple sales transaction. Because the Multiple Sales Database was established in November 1998, and there may be a delay of several years before a crime gun is traced, the NTC anticipates resolving more traces through the multiple sales database in the future.

Out-of-Business Records Imaging and Crime Gun Tracing. The NTC is also using FFL Out-of-Business records to speed crime gun tracing. When an FFL discontinues business, the FFL is required by law to forward business records within 30 days to the Out-of-Business Records Center (OBRC) located at the NTC. OBRC receives and microfilms the acquisition and disposition records and ATF Form 4473's from all firearm transactions completed by FFLs who have discontinued business. OBRC processed records for 6,356 FFLs from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999. In this time period, over 8 percent of all crime gun traces were completed with information from an out-of-business dealer. To speed and increase traces completed through out-of-business records, the NTC is shifting from a microfilm to an imaging system that can link firearm serial numbers to the FTS. When a crime gun serial number is entered into the FTS, the serial number automatically will be checked against the Out-of-Business records as well as the Multiple Sales Database and previously entered crime gun trace information. If there is a match on the imaged serial number, NTC personnel can immediately pull it from the microfilmed Out-of-Business records to complete the firearm disposition to either an FFL or a final retail purchaser. The NTC expects this improvement to speed tracing and enable the completion of additional older crime gun traces, including used firearms re-sold by out-of-business FFLs.

5-4 Future Developments

Investigative Tracing for Juvenile Crime Guns. ATF is instituting a new investigative policy requiring special agents in all YCGII cities to conduct investigative traces on all crime guns recovered from juveniles and youth up to age 21. Investigative traces are traces that go beyond the first retail purchaser through the chain of possession until the crime gun reaches the crime gun possessor. After its initial retail purchase, a crime gun may be transferred repeatedly before being used in a crime. For instance, it may be re-sold by an unlicensed seller, stolen, and then re-sold to an

FFL, and re-sold again. In an investigative trace, special agents attempt to track the full chain of possession to determine how the juvenile obtained the firearms, to build a case against any illegal suppliers. Analysis of juvenile investigative trace information will increase our understanding of how juveniles obtain crime guns.

Support for Additional Law Enforcement Agencies. ATF plans to provide comprehensive tracing support and trace analysis reporting through YCGII to all cities with populations of 250,000 or more and to other jurisdictions with special firearms crime problems. Twelve new cities will be added in 2000. ATF plans to assign additional agents to YCGII sites to follow up on investigative leads. ATF also plans to provide tracing software and training to 250 additional law enforcement agencies.

Electronic Trace Returns (ETR). To reduce trace response time, the NTC in 1999 began development of ETR to provide ATF field offices and law enforcement agencies with electronic trace results in addition to printed trace reports. Currently, Federal, State, and local law enforcement can submit trace requests electronically, but can only receive individual trace responses via a hard copy on paper. (Upon request by law enforcement agencies, the NTC will extract all of a jurisdiction's trace requests from the Firearms Tracing System and provide them on disk.) ETR will apply only to those sites submitting trace request data electronically. ETR is expected to be available by the end of 2000 and will reduce routine trace response time by 2 to 3 days.

Expanded Access 2000. To speed tracing, ATF will dedicate additional resources to sign up more manufacturers, importers, and wholesalers to respond to NTC trace queries electronically through Access 2000, allowing 24-hour access to FFL records. ATF expects an additional 7 to 10 manufactures, importers and wholesalers to join the system by October 2001.

Firearms Identification Guide. To address the problem of unsuccessful traces due to faulty information on the trace request form, the NTC

is developing a CD-ROM that will train the law enforcement community in firearms identification. The CD will contain graphic illustrations, historical data, and specifications on the 100 most frequently traced firearms. The CD is intended to be a stand-alone training aid that can be utilized by everyone from entry level personnel to senior investigators to crime laboratories. The CD can also be used to print hard copy material for handouts and presentations.

Improved Electronic Trace Submission. ETSS Version 2.6, which will be released in the beginning of fiscal year 2001, will afford the users with the capability to link the database to their local server. This will allow ETSS to be installed on numerous machines while at the same time capturing all trace request data in one centralized database. A user's guide for Version 2.6 will be provided.

Regional Crime Gun Centers. To ensure comprehensive crime gun tracing, and to support coordinated investigations that follow a crime gun's history, ATF is planning to increase the number of regional crime gun centers. Equipped with the best information hardware and software, a crime gun center is used by ATF and State and local investigators and analysts to develop investigative leads on armed criminals and gun traffickers and develop local and regional trend and pattern analysis and crime gun mapping to assist in local violence reduction strategies. The New York Crime Gun Center, the first, has sent over 340 viable leads to investigators in over 20 States, many of them resulting in firearms violations investigations and arrests of firearms traffickers. Two additional centers are underway in Chicago and Washington, DC. ATF is reviewing this project to establish models that can be replicated based on the demographics of particular areas, and looks to greatly expand this concept.

Used Crime Gun Trace Information. The NTC in 2000 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 certain firearms transaction information to the

NTC to permit crime gun tracing. For those FFLs, the NTC is now able to trace certain firearms sold used by FFLs that were recovered in crime. This information will be incorporated into crime gun tracing reporting in the future.

Ballistics Identification and Crime Gun Tracing. Many State and local law enforcement agencies have installed ballistics imaging systems as part of the growing National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network

(NIBIN). In some cases, an image of the cartridge case or the bullet can be linked to a serial number and permit a crime gun trace. Such traces are not yet included systematically in the Firearms Tracing System or the annual *Crime Gun Trace Reports*. As this information becomes available, ATF will make related crime gun and ballistics information available in an integrated and accessible investigative information system as well as in related reports.