

Gun Crime in the Age Group 18-20

A Report by:

**The Department of the Treasury
and
The Department of Justice**

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In 1996, 34,040 people in the United States were killed with guns. Of those deaths, 18,166 were suicides, 14,037 were homicides, 1,134 were unintentional shootings, and 413 deaths were of unknown intent. (National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.) This report focuses primarily on firearms homicides and other gun crime in the age group 18 to 20.

Current Law on Firearms Possession by Young People

Current federal minimum age regulations relating to firearms vary by type of gun and means of access. The Gun Control Act of 1968 made it unlawful for federal firearms dealers to sell handguns to persons under 21. The Youth Handgun Safety Act of 1994 generally prohibited transfers of handguns to and possession of handguns by anyone under 18. Exceptions include official military use, and the following activities with the written consent of the parent or guardian: employment, ranching, farming, target practice, hunting and handgun safety instruction. Persons between the ages of 18 and 21 may still acquire handguns from non-licensed sellers.

There is no federal age restriction on possession of long guns (including rifles and shotguns). While licensed dealers may only sell rifles and shotguns to persons aged 18 and older, there is no age restriction on the transfer of shotguns and rifles by non-licensed sellers.

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 banned the possession of semiautomatic assault weapons manufactured after passage of the law. Under the law, assault weapons are defined either by specific make and model or by specific features. Assault weapons can be pistols, rifles, or shotguns. A person of any age may acquire an assault rifle or assault shotgun manufactured before 1994 from a non-licensed seller, and as of age 18, a person may buy assault rifles and assault shotguns manufactured before 1994 from licensed dealers. Pistols classified as semiautomatic assault weapons that are grandfathered are subject to the same restrictions as other handguns. There are no age restrictions on transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices (more than 10 rounds); thus a person of any age may purchase such devices manufactured before 1994.

Age Restrictions in The Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act of 1999

The Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act of 1999 would raise the minimum age for possession of a handgun from 18 to 21 and bar all handgun transfers to anyone in that age group, with exceptions for employment, hunting, farming, target practice, and for safety instruction. The legislation would also raise the minimum age to possess an assault rifle from 18 to 21, and bar assault rifle transfers by anyone to anyone in that age group, without exception. The same is true for large capacity magazine feeding devices.

Murder and Violent Crime Arrests in the 18 to 20 Age Range

In 1997, the most frequent age for arrest for murder was 18, accounting for 8 percent of all arrests for murder. The second most frequent age for murder was 19, accounting for 8 percent of those arrests, and the third most frequent age for arrest for murder was 20, accounting for 7 percent. Eighteen to 20 year olds comprised 22 percent of all those arrested for murder. Similarly, the most frequent age for arrest for violent crime was 18, accounting for 5 percent of all violent crime

arrests. Eighteen to 20 year olds comprised 14 percent, or one in seven, of all of those arrested for violent crime. (FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Table 38, 1997).

Criminal Use of Firearms in the 18 to 20 Age Range

In 1997, 18, 19 and 20 year olds ranked first, second, and third in the number of gun homicides committed. Of all gun homicides where an offender was identified, 24 percent were committed by 18 to 20 year olds. (Figure 1). This is consistent with the historical pattern of gun homicides over the past 10 years.

Among murderers, 18 to 20 year olds were more likely to use a firearm than adults 21 and over. More specifically, in 1997, 74 percent of the homicides committed by 18 to 20 year old offenders involved firearms. In contrast, only 61 percent of homicides committed by offenders 21 or over involved firearms. (Table 1). The under-21 offender age groups showed a significant shift toward the use of firearms in committing homicides by the mid-1980's. By the 1990's, these offender groups were using firearms to commit homicides more than 70 percent of the time. Although the proportion of 18 to 20 year olds who use firearms to commit homicides has declined since the 1994 peak, it remains higher than levels recorded before 1990. (Figure 2). Similarly, in non-lethal crimes, including assault, rape, and robbery, 18 to 20 year old offenders were more likely to use guns than both younger and older offender age groups. For non-lethal crimes of violence from 1992 to 1997, in cases where the weapon and age of offender were identified, 15 percent of 18 to 20 year old offenders used a firearm, in contrast to 10 percent of adult offenders, and 5 percent of offenders 17 and under. (Table 2).

Youth Gun Acquisition Through the Illegal Market

Young offenders can and do obtain firearms illegally. The complexity of the firearms market poses a challenge for law enforcement officials seeking to develop strategies to attack the illegal market that supplies criminals and juveniles. The firearms market includes federal firearms licensees (FFLs); unregulated sellers and private transferors in what is known as the secondary market; and the illegal market. The illegal market involves transfers both from FFLs and from unregulated transferors. Gun violence is also facilitated when firearms are inadequately secured by FFLs, common carriers, and gun owners, especially parents with children at home.

Recent Law Enforcement Information on the Illegal Market in Firearms

During the past six years, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), working with law enforcement agencies around the country, academic researchers, and the Department of Justice, has significantly increased efforts to determine how felons and other prohibited persons, including juveniles and youth offenders, obtain firearms. Better information enables ATF and State and local law enforcement officials to deploy regulatory and criminal investigative resources more effectively against illegal traffickers.

ATF has encouraged all law enforcement agencies to submit crime guns for tracing by the National Tracing Center (NTC). An NTC trace can identify the FFL that sold the crime gun as a new gun, and the purchaser of the crime gun. This information can assist law enforcement officials in identifying illegal traffickers. ATF has worked with law enforcement officials in an increasing number of jurisdictions to trace *all* recovered crime guns as part of an effort to obtain better investigative and strategic information about how the illegal market in firearms operates locally.

When crime guns are traced comprehensively, and this information is analyzed, patterns in the illegal supply can be discerned and illegal sources of supply can be better targeted by law enforcement officials. Crime gun traces by federal, state and local officials grew from about 55,000 traces in 1993, to over 197,000 traces in 1998, a 258 percent increase. Efforts to trace crime guns comprehensively by jurisdiction and analyze the results to support investigations and arrests of illegal traffickers in firearms are now underway in 37 cities through the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII). The Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act of 1999 increases this program to 75 cities over the next four years.

The Structure of the Illegal Market in Firearms

Information derived from analyses of crime gun traces and investigative information confirms what survey evidence also shows: while some juveniles and criminals steal guns for their own use, many underage gun users obtain firearms through illegal diversion from retail sources, and from purveyors of stolen guns.¹ While it used to be assumed that there were two primary sources of illegally supplied firearms — older guns that were stolen, primarily by criminals and juveniles stealing the guns for their own use, and new guns that were trafficked, primarily across state lines in bulk — it has become clear that there are many more. These include interstate and intrastate trafficking in *new* firearms, *used* firearms, and in new and used *stolen* firearms.

Trafficking in *new and used firearms* involves licensed firearms dealers, including pawnbrokers; large scale straw purchasers and straw purchasing rings; small scale straw purchasers, e.g. buying one or a few guns; private sellers, including unlicensed sellers at gun shows and flea markets, or those who sell through want ads, gun magazines, the Internet, and personal associations; and bartering and trading within criminal networks. Trafficking in *stolen firearms*, both new and used, involves theft from licensed gun dealers, including pawnbrokers; organized fencing of stolen guns; theft from common carriers; theft from households and automobiles; bartering and trading within criminal networks; and theft from manufacturers. Law enforcement must address all of these channels in order to prevent juveniles and other prohibited persons from obtaining firearms.

Crime Gun Trace Information Involving 18 to 20 Year Olds in Selected Cities

Crime gun trace data show that reducing illegal trafficking is essential for reducing firearms violence in the 18 to 20 age group. For the 27 cities where law enforcement officials submitted all recovered crime guns for tracing through the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative from August 1997 through July 1998, the most frequent age of crime gun possession was 19, and the second most frequent was 18. Approximately 15 percent of crime guns were recovered from 18 to 20 year olds. (Figure 3).

Handguns comprised 85 percent of the crime guns known to be recovered from 18 to 20 year olds in the 27 cities. Semiautomatic pistols accounted for 59 percent of all the crime guns known to be recovered from this age group. (Table 3). Eighteen to 20 year old crime gun possessors were

¹ See e.g. "Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples," Sheley, Joseph F. and Wright, James D., Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, p. 6, December 1993, (12 percent of surveyed juvenile inmates and 2 percent of surveyed high school students reported stealing their most recent handgun).

involved in crimes of violence, drug crimes, and in possessing these guns illegally. Crimes of violence--including homicide, rape, assault, and robbery--and narcotics crimes accounted for 28 percent of the crime gun traces for this age group in the 27 cities. (Table 4).

On average, of the crime guns that were recovered and traced from the 27 cities, an estimated 43 percent moved from the shelf of an FFL to recovery by law enforcement within three years, a time period ATF considers an indicator of potential illegal trafficking. This estimate includes only potential trafficking in new guns, not potential trafficking in used and stolen firearms.² (Table 5). Analysis of ATF's recent illegal trafficking investigations involving juveniles and youth shows that over half of them involved used guns, and 35 percent involved trafficking in stolen firearms. (Table 7). Finally, crime guns recovered from 18 to 20 year olds are often concentrated among a relatively few kinds of firearms, and nine of the top ten most frequently traced crime guns in the 27 cities were handguns. (Table 6).

The Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act of 1999: Provisions to Reduce Youth Gun Violence

The significant role that 18 to 20 year olds have in gun crime and violence in our Nation demands that we make changes in the legal regulation of their access to guns. A further benefit to restricting possession of firearms by 18 to 20 year olds will be to decrease the likelihood that younger family members, friends, and classmates will be able to obtain guns illegally.

Raising the age at which young people can legally obtain unauthorized access to guns is not by itself enough to reduce the level of gun violence among 18 to 20 year olds. There must be a vigorous attack on the illegal supply of guns to youth, as well as deterrence of illegal youth acquisition of guns: appropriate punishment of those who transfer guns illegally, and of young persons who violate laws prohibiting firearms possession or who commit crimes with guns. Different methods of regulatory and criminal enforcement are needed to reduce the various illegal channels of supply to 18 to 20 year olds, and punishments must be appropriate for both underage criminal firearms users and adult felons. The Youth Crime Gun Enforcement Act of 1999 contains a number of provisions that will address these issues. It will:

- Raise the age for possession of handguns from 18 to 21;
- Prohibit possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines by persons under the age of 21;
- Require background checks and crime gun tracing records for all firearms sales at gun shows;
- Increase penalties for those who engage in the business of dealing in firearms without a license;
- Increase the punishment for serious recordkeeping violations by FFLs;
- Provide new administrative remedies, including license suspension and civil monetary penalties, for FFLs who violate federal firearms laws;
- Increase penalties for transactions involving firearms with obliterated serial numbers;

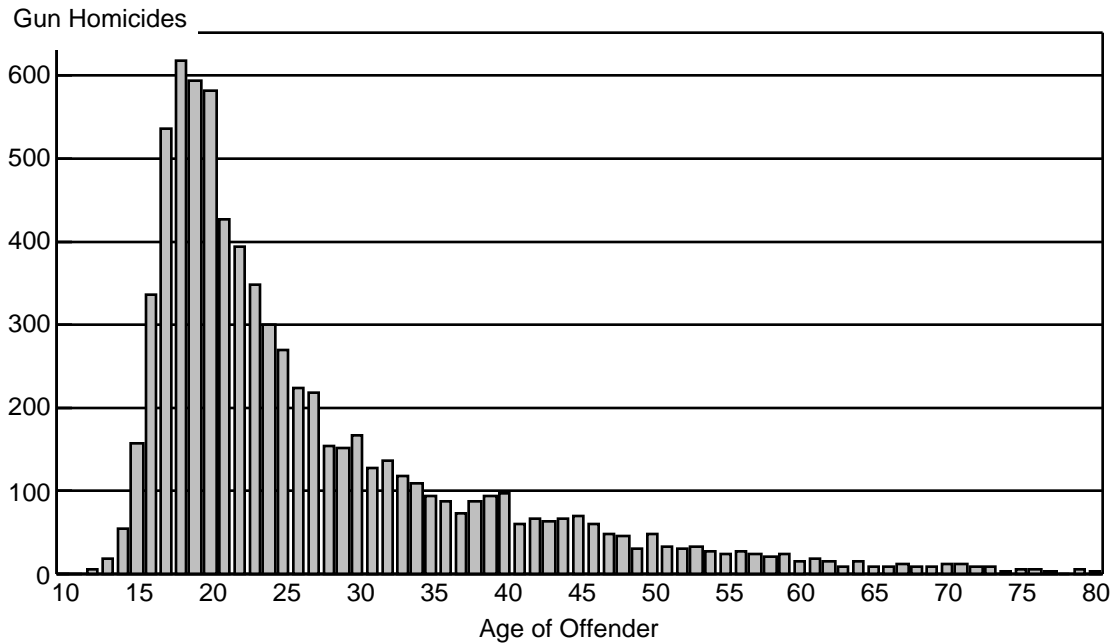
² For a full discussion of the methodologies used to arrive at the estimate of the percentage of crime guns moving from FFL shelf to recovery by law enforcement officials within a three year time period, see *Crime Gun Trace Analysis Reports: The Illegal Youth Firearms Markets in 27 Communities*, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, p. 9 and Technical Notes A1-A3, February 1999.

- Limit individuals to one handgun purchase a month, with certain exceptions;
- Criminalize the transfer of a firearm by one who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the firearm will be used to commit a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime;
- Enable used guns to be traced by requiring FFLs to report information about firearms that are acquired from nonlicensees for resale (without including names or identifying information about firearms purchasers);
- Require FFLs to securely store their firearms inventories;
- Impose responsibility upon common carriers to report the theft or loss of a firearm;
- Prohibit possession of firearms by persons adjudicated delinquent as juveniles for serious drug offenses or violent felonies;
- Increase the penalty for possession of firearms by persons under 21;
- Include serious juvenile drug trafficking offenses as Armed Career Criminal Act predicates;
- Add a number of gang-related firearms offenses to the RICO statute;
- Increase the number of cities participating in comprehensive crime gun tracing and firearms law enforcement through the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

Adoption of these measures will greatly assist in curbing gun violence by the Nation's young people.

Gun Homicide Offenders by Age Group

Figure 1



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1997, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1997, 18, 19, and 20 year olds ranked first, second, and third in the number of gun homicides committed. For each of these ages, the number of homicides exceeded the number for any ages older or younger than 18 to 20. Of all gun homicides where an offender was identified, 24 percent were committed by 18 to 20 years olds. This is consistent with the historical pattern of gun homicides over the past 10 years.

Homicide Offenders by Type of Weapon and Age Group

Table 1

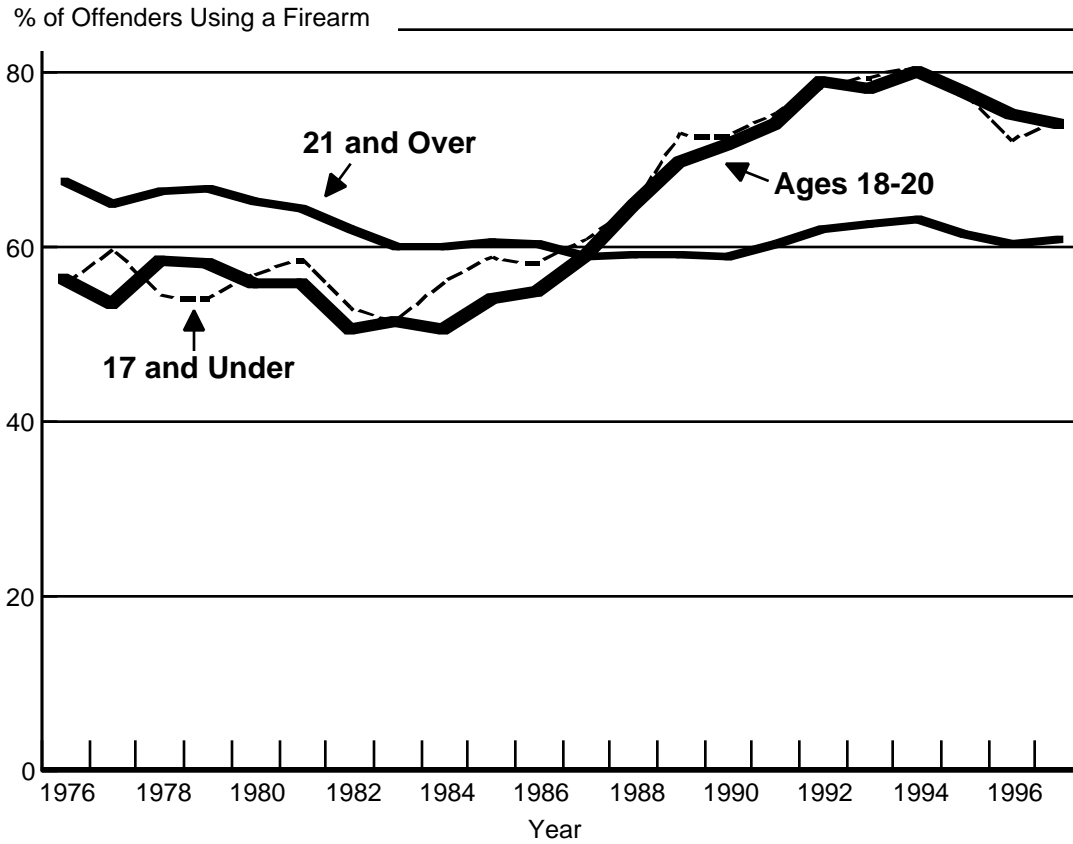
Type of Weapon	Age of Offender			Percent Total
	Percent 17 and Under	Percent 18-20	Percent 21 and Over	
Gun	74.6	74.0	61.0	65.5
Other Weapon	23.3	23.8	35.1	31.2
Unknown Weapon	2.1	2.2	3.9	3.3
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total # of Homicide Offenders	1,487	2,420	7,723	11,630

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1997, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Among murderers, 18 to 20 year olds, as well as those 17 and under, were more likely to use a firearm than adults. More specifically, in 1997, about three quarters of the homicides committed by 18 to 20 year old offenders, and by offenders 17 and under, involved firearms. In contrast, only about three fifths of homicides committed by offenders 21 or over during 1997 involved firearms.

Percentage of Homicide Offenders Using a Firearm by Age Group for the Years 1976-1997

Figure 2



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Reports, 1976-1997, special tabulation prepared by Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The under-21 offender age groups showed a significant shift toward the greater use of firearms in committing homicides by the mid-1980's. By the 1990's, these offender groups were using firearms to commit homicides more than 70 percent of the time. Although the proportion of 18 to 20 year olds who use firearms to commit homicides has declined since the 1994 peak, it remains higher than levels recorded before 1990.

Non-Lethal Crimes of Violence by Type of Weapon and Offender Age Group

Table 2

Type of weapon	Age of Offender		
	Percent 17 and Under	Percent 18-20	Percent 21 and Over
Firearm	5.0	14.8	10.0
Knife	6.9	9.4	7.2
Other Weapon	8.0	10.3	8.8
No Weapon	80.1	65.5	74.4
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total # of Victimitizations	12,449,485	5,505,453	30,971,671

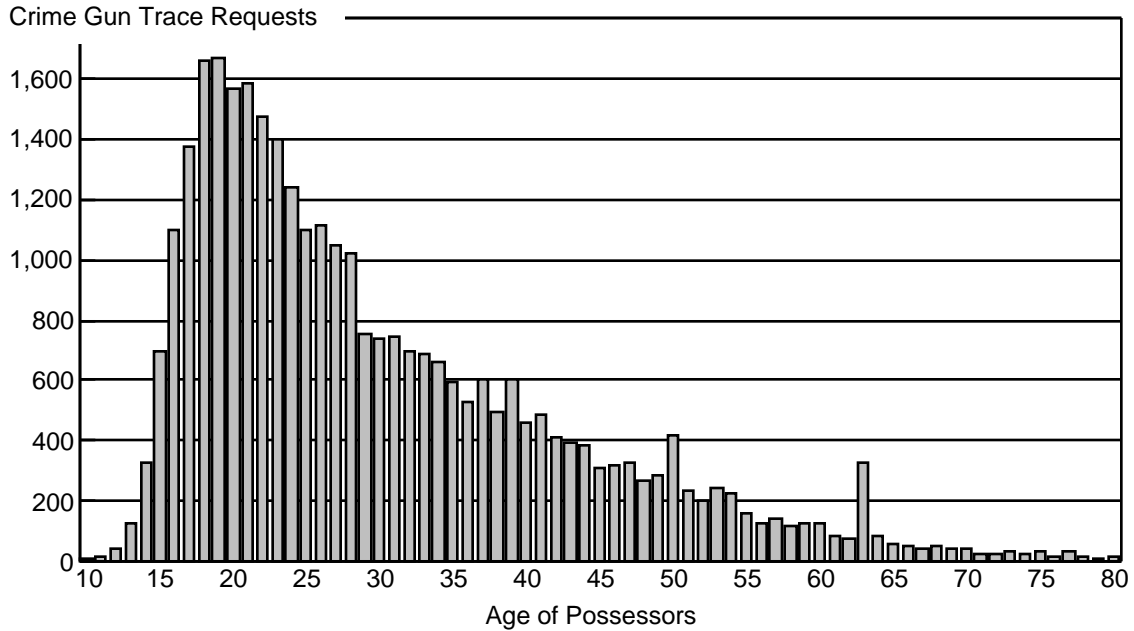
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992-1997, special tabulation.

In non-lethal crimes, including assault, rape, and robbery, 18 to 20 year old offenders were more likely to use guns than both younger and older age groups. From 1992 to 1997, in cases where the weapon and age of offender were identified, 15 percent of 18 to 20 year old offenders used a firearm, in contrast to 10 percent of adult offenders, and 5 percent of offenders 17 and under.

Crime Gun Possession by Age in Selected Cities

Figure 3

Based on trace requests submitted August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998 from 27 cities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative*



Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, *Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative 27 Communities Report*, 1999. For a discussion of trace analysis methodology, see pp. 7-9 and Technical Notes.

For 27 cities where law enforcement officials submitted all recovered crime guns for tracing, the most frequent age of crime gun possession was 19 (5 percent) and the second most frequent was 18 (5 percent). Approximately 15 percent of crime guns were recovered from 18 to 20 year olds.

*The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a firearms law enforcement program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Law enforcement agencies in cities participating with ATF in the program trace all recovered crime guns with ATF's National Tracing Center to determine the last known seller and purchaser of the firearm. This information is used by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to determine patterns of crime gun supply, and to investigate illegal sources of firearms and arrest firearms offenders. The most recent available data is from 27 cities that submitted traces during the period August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998. The participating cities were: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Boston, Massachusetts; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gary, Indiana; Houston, Texas; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C.

Type of Crime Guns Recovered From the 18 to 20 Age Group in Selected Cities

Table 3

Based on trace requests submitted August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998 from 27 cities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative*

Type of Weapon	Memphis Percent	San Antonio Percent	St. Louis Percent	Philadelphia Percent	Tucson Percent	27 Cities Percent
Semiautomatic Pistol	54.5	51.1	33.5	62.0	66.7	58.9
Revolver and other						
Handgun	28.8	19.5	35.5	26.8	14.4	26.1
Long Gun	16.5	29.5	30.2	11.2	19.0	14.9
Other	.3	0.0	.8	0.0	0.0	.1
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total # of Cases	400	190	245	508	201	4,888

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, 1999, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. For a discussion of trace analysis methodology, see *Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative 27 Communities Report*, 1999, pp. 7-9 and Technical Notes.

Handguns (including semiautomatic pistols) comprised 85 percent of the crime guns known to be recovered from 18 to 20 year olds in 27 cities where law enforcement officials submitted all recovered crime guns for tracing. Semiautomatic pistols clearly predominate, accounting for 59 percent of all the firearms known to be recovered from 18 to 20 year olds in these cities. Information for five geographically diverse cities among the 27 cities are provided to show local variations.

*The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a firearms law enforcement program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Law enforcement agencies in cities participating with ATF in the program trace all recovered crime guns with ATF's National Tracing Center to determine the last known seller and purchaser of the firearm. This information is used by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to determine patterns of crime gun supply, and to investigate illegal sources of firearms and arrest firearms offenders. The most recent available data is from 27 cities that submitted traces during the period August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998. The participating cities were: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Boston, Massachusetts; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gary, Indiana; Houston, Texas; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C.

Type of Crime Associated with Crime Guns Recovered From the 18 to 20 Age Group in Selected Cities

Table 4

Based on trace requests submitted August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998 from 27 cities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative*

Type of Crime	Memphis Percent	San Antonio Percent	St. Louis Percent	Philadelphia Percent	Tucson Percent	27 Cities Percent
Crimes of Violence	9.7	13.1	12.6	24.4	24.3	15.3
Firearms Offense	84.0	43.7	53.9	52.3	45.8	66.1
Narcotics	2.3	25.8	29.8	19.9	18.9	12.7
Property/Fraud	3.0	10.5	3.3	3.0	6.5	3.4
Other	1.0	6.9	.4	.4	4.5	2.5
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total # of Cases	400	190	245	508	201	4,888

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, 1999, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. For a discussion of trace analysis methodology, see *Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative 27 Communities Report*, 1999, pp. 7-9 and Technical Notes.

Eighteen to 20 year old crime gun possessors were involved in crimes of violence, drug crimes, and in carrying these guns illegally. Crimes of violence, including homicide, rape, assault, and robbery, and narcotics crimes accounted for 28 percent of the crime gun traces for this age group in 27 cities where law enforcement officials submitted all recovered crime guns for tracing. Information from five geographically diverse cities is provided to show local variations.

*The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a firearms law enforcement program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Law enforcement agencies in cities participating with ATF in the program trace all recovered crime guns with ATF's National Tracing Center to determine the last known seller and purchaser of the firearm. This information is used by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to determine patterns of crime gun supply, and to investigate illegal sources of firearms and arrest firearms offenders. The most recent available data is from 27 cities that submitted traces during the period August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998. The participating cities were: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Boston, Massachusetts; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gary, Indiana; Houston, Texas; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C.

Time-to-Crime for Crime Guns Recovered From the 18 to 20 Age Group in Selected Cities

Table 5

Based on trace requests submitted August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998 from 27 cities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative*

	Memphis Percent	San Antonio Percent	St. Louis Percent	Philadelphia Percent	Tucson Percent	27 Cities Percent
3 years or under	43.8	38.0	32.3	44.3	68.3	43.3
Over 3 years	56.2	62.0	67.7	55.7	31.7	56.7
Total Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total # of Cases	162	100	62	183	126	2,036

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, 1999, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. For a discussion of the methodologies used to analyze time-to-crime, see *Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative 27 Communities Report*, 1999, pp. 7-9 and Technical Notes A1-A3.

Time-to-crime is the time it takes for a gun to move from the shelf of a federally licensed firearms dealer to recovery by a law enforcement official in connection with a crime. ATF considers a time-to-crime of three years or less an indicator of potential illegal firearms trafficking that can be investigated by law enforcement to identify an illegal source of supply. On average, of the traced crime guns recovered from 18 to 20 year olds in 27 cities, 43 percent were fast time-to-crime guns.

*The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a firearms law enforcement program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Law enforcement agencies in cities participating with ATF in the program trace all recovered crime guns with ATF's National Tracing Center to determine the last known seller and purchaser of the firearm. This information is used by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to determine patterns of crime gun supply, and to investigate illegal sources of firearms and arrest firearms offenders. The most recent available data is from 27 cities that submitted traces during the period August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998. The participating cities were: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Boston, Massachusetts; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gary, Indiana; Houston, Texas; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C.

Most Frequent Crime Gun Trace Requests by Type, Manufacturer, and Caliber of Firearm for the 18 to 20 Age Group in Selected Cities

This table depicts the most frequently recovered and traced crime guns by firearm type, manufacturer, and caliber recovered from 18 to 20 year olds in 27 cities, and in five geographically diverse cities from among those 27 cities. This report does not distinguish among models of firearms of the same type, manufacturer and caliber. For instance, all .38 caliber revolvers manufactured by Smith and Wesson are considered as a group. Recovered crime guns are often concentrated among relatively few kinds of firearms. This information facilitates strategic enforcement against illegal traffickers of particular kinds of firearms. To the extent that youth acquisition is being fueled by illegal trafficking, preventing such trafficking would inhibit youth acquisition of the handguns, rifles, and shotguns identified below.

Table 6

Based on trace requests submitted August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998 from 27 cities participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative*

27 Cities

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Semiautomatic Pistol	Lorcin	.380		214	4.4
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.38		189	3.9
Semiautomatic Pistol	Raven	.25		164	3.4
Semiautomatic Pistol	Davis	.380		141	2.9
Semiautomatic Pistol	Ruger	9mm		135	2.8
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	.380		103	2.1
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	9mm		91	1.9
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.357		87	1.8
Semiautomatic Pistol	Smith & Wesson	9mm		83	1.7
Shotgun	Mossberg	12GA		82	1.7
Summary for top weapons:			10	1,289	26.4
All other weapons:			538	3,599	73.6

Memphis, Tennessee

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Semiautomatic Pistol	Lorcin	.380		23	5.8
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.357		14	3.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Davis	.380		13	3.3
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.38		13	3.3
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	.380		12	3.0
Revolver	Rossi	.38		11	2.8
Revolver	RG Industries	.22		10	2.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Ruger	9mm		10	2.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Raven	.25		10	2.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Smith & Wesson	.38		9	2.3
Summary for top weapons:			10	125	31.3
All other weapons:			143	275	68.8

San Antonio, Texas

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Rifle	Norinco	7.62mm		9	4.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	Lorcin	.380		9	4.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	Raven	.25		9	4.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	.9mm		8	4.2
Shotgun	Mossberg	12GA		7	3.7
Semiautomatic Pistol	Ruger	9mm		7	3.7
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.38		5	2.6
Rifle	Marlin	.22		4	2.1
Semiautomatic Pistol	Glock	9mm		4	2.1
Revolver	Colt	.357		4	2.1
Summary for top weapons:			10	66	34.7
All other weapons:			93	124	65.3

St. Louis, Missouri

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.38		20	8.2
Rifle	Norinco	7.62		7	2.9
Shotgun	Mossberg	12GA		7	2.9
Semiautomatic Pistol	Davis	.380		6	2.4
Rifle	Winchester	.22		6	2.4
Rifle	Marlin	.22		6	2.4
Semiautomatic Pistol	Lorcin	.380		6	2.4
Semiautomatic Pistol	Ravin	.25		6	2.4
Revolver	Rohm	.22		4	1.6
Revolver	Rossi	.38		4	1.6
Summary for top weapons:			10	72	29.4
All other weapons:			116	173	70.6

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	9mm		21	4.1
Revolver	Smith & Wesson	.38		20	3.9
Semiautomatic Pistol	Ruger	9mm		18	3.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Lorcin	.380		18	3.5
Semiautomatic Pistol	Bryco	.380		13	2.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	Raven	.25		13	2.6
Semiautomatic Pistol	Glock	9mm		11	2.2
Semiautomatic Pistol	Smith & Wesson	.40		10	2.0
Semiautomatic Pistol	Davis	.380		9	1.8
Revolver	Harrington & Richardson	.32		9	1.8
Summary for top weapons:			10	142	28.0
All other weapons:			170	366	72.0

Tucson, Arizona

Type of Crime Gun	Manufacturer	Caliber	Number of Kinds of Crime Guns	Number of Crime Guns	Percent of Crime Guns
Semiautomatic Piston	Ruger	9mm		10	5.0
Semiautomatic Piston	Lorcin	.380		8	4.0
Shotgun	Mossberg	12GA		8	4.0
Semiautomatic Piston	Norino	9mm		7	3.5
Semiautomatic Piston	Bryco	9mm		7	3.5
Semiautomatic Piston	Smith & Wesson	9mm		7	3.5
Rifle	Norinco	7.62		6	3.0
Semiautomatic Piston	Glock	9mm		6	3.0
Semiautomatic Piston	Hi-Point	9mm		6	3.0
Semiautomatic Piston	Lorcin	.25		5	2.5
Summary for top weapons:			10	70	34.8
All other weapons:			80	131	65.2

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, special tabulation prepared by Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts. For a discussion of trace analysis methodology, see *Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative 27 Communities Report*, 1999, pp. 7-9 and Technical Notes.

*The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is a firearms law enforcement program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Law enforcement agencies in cities participating with ATF in the program trace all recovered crime guns with ATF's National Tracing Center to determine the last known seller and purchaser of the firearm. This information is used by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to determine patterns of crime gun supply, and to investigate illegal sources of firearms and arrest firearms offenders. The most recent available data is from 27 cities that submitted traces during the period August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998. The participating cities were: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Birmingham, Alabama; Boston, Massachusetts; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gary, Indiana; Houston, Texas; Inglewood, California; Jersey City, New Jersey; Los Angeles, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Richmond, Virginia; Salinas, California; San Antonio, Texas; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tucson, Arizona; Washington, D.C.

Involvement of Used Guns in ATF Illegal Trafficking Investigations Involving Juveniles and Youth

Table 7

Based on an analysis of 648 ATF illegal trafficking investigations involving youth (ages 18-24) and/or juveniles (ages 17 and under) conducted by all 23 ATF field divisions after the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative* commenced in July 1996.

Note: Since more than one type of firearm can be recovered in an investigation, an investigation can be included in more than one category.

Type of firearm	Number of Investigations	Percent of Investigations
New guns	507	78.2%
Used guns	357	55.1%
Stolen guns	227	35.0%
Unknown	8	1.2%
Stolen firearms:		
New guns	136	61.2%
Used guns	182	80.2%
Mutually exclusive categories for new and used firearms:		
New guns only	283	43.6%
New and used guns	224	34.5%
Used guns only	133	20.5%
Unknown	8	1.2%

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), National Tracing Center, Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, *Performance Report* for the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, Table 7, p. 16, February 1999. For a discussion of methodology, see p. 22.

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