
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(AS USED IN THIS REPORT)

Acquisition/disposition log: A log or bound book maintained by all FFLs which records the receipt (*date and source*) and disposition (*date and transferee*) of all firearms as well as a complete description of the firearm(s).

Crime Gun: Is any firearm that is illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected to have been used in a crime.

Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL): A person, partnership, or business entity holding a valid license issued by ATF under the authority of Title 18 USC chapter 44, that allows them to engage in the business of dealing (*and/or manufacturing, importing, repairing, or pawnbrokering*) firearms. All FFLs are required by law to keep records of their firearms transactions.

Firearm: Any weapon (*including a starter gun*) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. In this report, starter guns (*blanks*) are separated from firearms for statistical purposes.

Firearms Tracing: The tracking of a recovered crime gun's history from its source (*either the manufacturer or importer*) through the series of transactions (*e.g., through wholesaler to retail dealer*) to the individual who purchased the firearm from the retailer.

Firearms Transaction Record/ATF Form 4473: The standard form, maintained by all FFLs, which is completed to document the transfer of a firearm(s) to an unlicensed individual. The form must be completed by both the purchaser (*transferee*) and the FFL. It contains full identifying information concerning the purchaser, the firearm, the date of transfer, and the FFL's license number.

Gun: A weapon or a facsimile of a weapon that shoots a projectile at a high velocity in a flat trajectory.

Market Area: An area where the effect or combination of effects of restrictive firearms laws and a ready market for illicit firearms sales and possession attract firearms from source areas.

Source Area: An area where firearms are sold that has been identified and the source for firearms recoveries by law enforcement. Source areas often have laws, sales environments and/or a proximity to Market areas that make them desirable for the acquisition of firearms for resale in the market areas.

Straw Purchase: The acquisition of a firearm(s) from a Federally licensed firearms dealer(FFL) by an individual (*the "straw"*) done for the purpose of concealing the identity of the true intended receiver of the firearm(s).

Time to Crime: Also referred to as street age, it is the period of time between a firearm's acquisition from an FFL and law enforcement's recovery of that firearm during use, or suspected use, in a crime.