

# **Part IX.**

# **SUMMARY**

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Operation Gun Tip was remarkable in the volume of firearms recovered in the span of just seven days. The program recovered 2,912 guns from the streets of a city that has significant restrictions on the possession of firearms.

More than 75% of the guns recovered (2,200) were handguns. The majority of these were revolvers (1,486). The guns were recovered at an average rate of 415 guns per day.

Many of the guns recovered are those that are normally recovered in standard police enforcement programs. Included in the recoveries were many firearms that are among the most frequently recovered in crimes and traced in America.

Because a large number of the recovered firearms were manufactured before the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, they could not be successfully traced. The rate of fully successful traces for the firearms for which trace results were received at the time of the study was approximately 17%. None of these firearms were traced back to a police department.

The successfully traced firearms had an average street age of 15.49 years. They were traced back to 44 states and Canada. The dealer responsible for the most traced firearms had been a licensed dealer in operation in the District of Columbia until approximately 11 years ago. All of the firearms traced back to that dealer had been sold before 1977.

The 1999 Gun Buy-Back program was responsible for the recovery of 63 firearms that had the serial numbers obliterated. Also as a result of the program, 45 guns that had been reported stolen were recovered and the reporting agencies notified.

More information on firearms tracing and the District of Columbia can be found on the ATF WebSite under the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative and Operation Ceasefire at [www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov).