

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

This publication of crime gun data for calendar year 2000 marks the fourth annual compilation of firearms trace analyses since the inception of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 1996. As the number of communities involved has increased from the original 17 to 55, so has the value of this information as a relevant tool for law enforcement. With this knowledge, communities have formulated sound gun enforcement strategies for proactive use in firearms investigations. This is a direct result of the strong partnerships our agents have forged with every participating agency. Any level of success is impossible without this valued cooperation.

This report analyzing calendar year 2000 gun traces was delayed as a result of our redirection of a portion of our law enforcement resources after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. ATF agents, inspectors, and support staff joined thousands of other Federal, State and local law enforcement personnel across the country to pursue every available lead. At our National Tracing Center, a majority of the staff was dedicated to reviewing and analyzing massive amounts of related information.

The information in this report clearly demonstrates our commitment to this program, to our partnerships, and to the protection of our citizens. The enforcement approach embodied in YCGII provides each community the opportunity and ability to customize their efforts to address their own gun problems, trends, sources, and investigations. As we have seen, violence against Americans can take many forms. With strong partnerships, continued vigilance, and the use of the information at hand, we can continue to challenge those who would criminally use an illegally obtained firearm.



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