

ATF CRIME GUN TRACE ANALYSIS REPORT

Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

Introduction

This section describes the Initiative and this year's Report, and lists the participating communities.

The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII). Part of ATF's nationwide illegal firearms trafficking program, the YCGII is an evolving collaboration among Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to reduce youth gun violence. The collaboration is strengthening law enforcement of existing Federal and State firearms laws by providing the most complete and systematic knowledge available of firearms recovered by law enforcement agencies. Participants are using that information to initiate law enforcement operations against criminals illegally transferring firearms to juveniles, to adult criminals and other prohibited persons. Specifically, the YCGII collaboration is:

- Instituting comprehensive crime gun tracing in participating police departments, and assisting the departments to automate crime gun tracing;
- Using ATF's National Tracing Center to trace the firearms recovered by law enforcement officials and to enter that trace information into Project LEAD, an information system for illegal firearms trafficking data;
- Providing law enforcement officials access to investigative and analytical information about the nature and sources of crime guns recovered in their jurisdiction;
- Assisting in the development of criminal cases that enforce existing firearms laws and disrupt the illegal supply of firearms to juveniles and adult criminals;
- Using crime gun analysis to focus ATF's regulatory compliance activities in support of illegal trafficking prevention.

The 1998 YCGII Report. This Report provides general and detailed information about the findings derived from crime gun traces submitted by the 27 participating jurisdictions.

Part 1 of this report begins by describing the *Terms Used in this Report* and the *Trace Analysis Provided in This Report*. Next, the Report presents *General Findings: Local Illegal Firearms Markets*, which are based on the trace information collected from all the program's jurisdictions, and describes the different *Methods of Illegal Transfer of Firearms to Juveniles and Other Prohibited Persons*. It then provides an explanation of different *Enforcement Opportunities for Preventing Trafficking in Firearms* as well as an *Update: Comprehensive Community Crime Gun Tracing*. The Report goes on to describe *Local Law Enforcement Initiatives* associated with the YCGII and *Future Developments* regarding ATF's efforts to enforce firearms laws and report crime gun trace information. Finally, Part I presents a new section which provides *Information for Law Enforcement Executives*.

Part II of this Report presents uniform statistical reports that provide an overview of the crime guns that law enforcement officials in each of the participating jurisdictions recovered and submitted for tracing. Each report includes:

- number of crime guns recovered;
- number of crime guns that can be associated with particular age groups;
- types of crime guns recovered;
- most frequently traced crime guns, by type, manufacturer, and caliber;

- crime types associated with firearms that law enforcement officials recover;
- number of crime gun traces resulting in a first seller or buyer being identified, or the reasons why the first transaction could not be identified;
- how quickly the most frequently traced crime guns move from first retail sale by Federally Licensed Firearms Dealer to law enforcement recovery;
- most frequent source states for traced crime guns;
- number of recovered crime guns with obliterated serial numbers (new table).

The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative communities are:

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.