

TREASURY



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS • 1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. • 20220 • (202) 622-2960

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:15 A.M. EDT
July 19, 1997

Contact: Beth Weaver
(202) 622-2960

TREASURY ANNOUNCES 17-CITY YOUTH CRIME GUN TRACING RESULTS

The Department of the Treasury announced the initial results from the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII), an innovative pilot program that has traced more than 37,000 crime guns from 17 cities.

The collaborative pilot program among federal, state and local law enforcement responds to a July 8, 1996 directive from President Clinton to Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno to implement a program to identify and reduce the illegal supply of firearms to young people. YCGII was developed in response to the tripling of the juvenile firearms homicide rate from 1985-1994.

"The Brady Law has been successful in stopping felons from buying handguns at the point of purchase. Now we must turn our attention to illegal gun markets operating through the back door," said Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin.

The report shows that a quarter of the youth crime guns recovered by law enforcement in the 17 cities are moving rapidly from retail sale to the point of recovery. ATF investigative experience shows that this rapid "time-to-crime" often signals illegal diversion.

"With the high level of youth gun violence in this country, law enforcement must develop new strategies to disrupt the illegal gun supply to kids," said Raymond W. Kelly, Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement. "This report shows us that gun traffickers are involved in supplying guns to young people -- they are not just being stolen by kids. We in law enforcement spend more time chasing stolen cars than illegal gun traffickers -- that has to change."

The YCGII report findings include:

- 4 out of 10 crime guns recovered by police are from youth (18-24) and juveniles (17 and under).
- 8 out of 10 crime guns recovered from youth and juveniles are handguns.
- The weapon of choice for persons under 24 years of age is a semiautomatic pistol--60% of crime guns recovered from young people.

RR-1829

For press releases, speeches, public schedules and official biographies, call our 24-hour fax line at (202) 622-2040



- Crime guns used by juveniles and youth are concentrated among a relatively small number of makes and calibers.
- In 12 of 17 sites, the majority of crime guns successfully traced come from retail sources within the State.
- A high percentage of crime guns with obliterated serial numbers were originally purchased as part of a multiple sale by a federally licensed firearms dealer and then illegally trafficked.

The 17 cities included in the YCGII report are Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport (CT), Cleveland, Inglewood (CA), Jersey City, Memphis, Milwaukee, New York, Richmond, St. Louis, Salinas (CA), San Antonio, Seattle, and Washington, DC.

The President announced the addition of ten new YCGII cities during his radio address, Saturday morning. In order to expand the initiative to include these cities, \$11 million in funding has been allocated. The \$11 million has been allocated as follows:

- **Rapid High Volume Crime Gun Tracing**
This provides 67 contract personnel to conduct firearms traces received from the 17 pilot cities and the ten new cities. It also provides the level of personnel required to trace 90% of all current trace requests received at the National Tracing Center (NTC).
- **NTC Crime Gun Automation**
This provides funding for software engineered to implement automated trace requests to search for criminal investigative leads. In addition, the necessary technical personnel will be provided for preparing and publishing the community-specific trace reports.
- **City Tracing Technical Support**
Provides hardware, software, and technical support to both the original 17 cities and the ten new cities to allow the efficient submission of firearms trace requests to the NTC and analysis of the resultant trace data.
- **Firearms Trafficking Training**
Provides funding for the development and implementation of a comprehensive firearms trafficking course for all ATF, state, and local law enforcement participating in the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.

The Report on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is available through the Public Affairs Office of the Department of the Treasury (202) 622-2960 or via the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov after 10:05 a.m. EDT Saturday, July 19.