## PART III: Crime Gun Tracing Updates and New Analysis

#### **Traces Received by the National Tracing Center**

The core mission of ATF's National Tracing Center (NTC) Division is to accurately and efficiently conduct crime gun tracing and provide investigative leads for international, federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The NTC is only authorized to trace a firearm for LEAs conducting bona fide criminal investigations. The firearm must either have been used, or suspected of having been used, in a crime. Crime gun tracing provides critical information to assist domestic and international law enforcement agencies in investigating and solving crimes involving firearms.

The NTC strives to facilitate tracing of all recovered crime guns, improve the accuracy and efficiency through technology, and improve the number and quality of investigative leads it provides to LEAs to assist in solving firearm related crimes. The NTC is available to process crime gun trace requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to directly conducting traces, the NTC also promotes crime gun tracing and supports LEA investigations through supporting programs.

ATF processes crime gun trace requests for thousands of domestic and international LEAs each year. Between 2017 (420,225) and 2021 (564,229), the number of traces processed increased by more than 34 percent.<sup>1</sup> Traces have since increased 10% to 622,732 in 2022 and an additional 5% to 654,064 in 2023.<sup>2</sup> The statistical data provided is based on all trace requests received between 2022 and 2023 regardless of when the crime gun was recovered.

#### **Out-of-Business Records**

Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) that discontinue business are required under the Gun Control Act (GCA) (<u>18 U.S.C. §923(g)(4)</u>) to submit their firearm transaction records to the ATF Out of Business (OOB) Records Center within 30 days (<u>27 C.F.R. § 478.127</u>). These OOB records are maintained by the NTC for use in deriving disposition information in response to crime gun trace requests. As reflected in Table CGT-01, OOB records are a critical resource in completing traces for law enforcement. Of the 1,276,796 trace requests submitted to the NTC from 2022 to 2023, 46% were completed using OOB records.

				% of All Traces
			Traces Completed	Completed with OOB
_	Year	Trace Requests	with OOB Records	Records
	2022	622,732	283,884	45.6%
	2023	654,064	303,752	46.4%
	Total	1,276,796	587,636	46.0%

#### Table CGT-01: Traces Completed Using OOB Records

# Crime Guns Recovered and Traced Within the United States and Its Territories

The trace numbers in Figure CGT-01 for 2017 through 2021 are the same as the statistics presented in NFCTA Volume II, which was limited to firearms with a recovery date from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2021.<sup>3</sup> ATF's Firearms Tracing System (FTS) is a dynamic, administrative system designed for law enforcement purposes. As such, crime gun records are constantly being updated and information reported from the system is subject to change. LEAs submitted for tracing a total of 2,959,257 crime guns recovered between 2017 and 2023.<sup>4</sup> NFCTA Volume II reported that trace requests increased 36% from 2017 (337,903) to 2021 (460,024).<sup>5</sup> Updated trace data reflecting firearms recovered in 2022 and 2023 and traced by July 1, 2024, shows that trace requests increased an additional 13% from 2021 (460,024) to 2022 (521,559) before decreasing 1% in 2023 (515,121) (Figure CGT-01). Overall trace requests increased 52% from 2017 to 2023.





#### Types of Traced Crime Guns

Between 2017 and 2021, pistols were the most frequently traced crime gun, accounting for 68% of traced crime guns.<sup>6</sup> The percentage of traced pistols increased by about 12 percentage points from 2017 (62%) to 2021 (75%), representing a 20% increase in share of pistols. Following 2021, the percentage of pistols has remained nearly the same at 74% (769,498) of traced crime guns (Table CGT-02).

Firearm Type	Number	Percent
Pistol	769,498	74.2%
Rifle	111,825	10.8%
Revolver	76,640	7.4%
Shotgun	55,070	5.3%
Receiver/Frame	4,793	0.5%
Other / Unknown	18,854	1.8%

In 2022 to 2023, the caliber and make of traced crime guns remained relatively stable. More than 60% of traced pistols were 9mm (463,942 of 769,498) (see Table CGT-03 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing) and nearly 26% of rifles were .22 caliber (28,818 of 111,825) (see Table CGT-04 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing). The Glock 9mm pistol was the most frequently traced crime gun by make, type, and caliber from 2022 to 2023, accounting for nearly 12% (119,483 of 1,036,680) of all crime guns traced during this period (see Table CGT-05 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing).

#### **Traced to Purchaser**

NFCTA Volume II noted that the percentage of crime gun traces in which a purchaser was identified increased by nearly five percentage points from 2017 to 2021.<sup>7</sup> Nearly 75% of crime guns were traced to purchaser in 2017 and nearly 80% of crime guns were traced to a purchaser in 2021. The percentage of crime guns traced to a purchaser has remained relatively stable through 2023 (Table CGT-06).

Table CGT-06: Number and Percentage of Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser by Year

Year	Crime Guns Traced to Purchaser	Total Trace Requests	Percent Traced to Purchaser
2017	252,345	337,903	74.7%
2018	269,363	354,195	76.0%
2019	278,313	365,937	76.1%
2020	317,339	404,518	78.4%
2021	365,501	460,024	79.5%
2022	413,618	521,559	79.3%
2023	411,207	515,121	79.8%

#### Crime Gun Traces by FFL Type

Between 2017 and 2023, there were 2,294,719 crime guns traced to a known purchaser and an FFL type was also known. About 99% (2,271,320 of 2,294,719) of these firearms were acquired from Type 01 (dealer), Type 02 (pawnbroker), or Type 07 (manufacturer) FFLs. As reflected by Table CGT-07, from 2017 to 2023, most crime guns traced to a purchaser were acquired from a Type 01 FFL. Type 01 FFLs transferred 69% (1,582,291) of the crime guns between 2017 and 2023. Type 02 FFLs transferred 23% (525,256) and Type 07 FFLs transferred 7% (163,773) of the crime guns traced to a purchaser between 2017 and 2023. Type 08, 10, 11, 09, and 03 FFLs transferred less than 1% (23,399) of crime guns traced to a purchaser between 2017 and 2023.

FFL Type	Number of Traces	Percent
01	1,582,291	69.0%
02	525,256	22.9%
07	163,773	7.1%
08	15,898	0.7%
10	3,406	0.1%
11	2,137	0.1%
09	1,288	0.1%
03	670	0.0%
Total	2,294,719	100%

Figure CGT-02 reflects the annual number of crime guns acquired from Type 01, 02, and 07 FFLs and traced to a purchaser between 2017 and 2023. The number of crime guns traced to a purchaser acquired from a Type 01 FFL increased by 46% from 2017 (186,894) to 2023 (272,778). The number of crime guns traced to a purchaser acquired from a Type 02 FFL increased by 95% from 2017 (48,857) to 2023 (95,269). The number of crime guns traced to a purchaser acquired to a purchaser acquired from a Type 02 FFL increased by 95% from 2017 (48,857) to 2023 (95,269). The number of crime guns traced to a purchaser acquired from a Type 07 FFL increased by 217% from 2017 (11,702) to 2023 (37,125).



Figure CGT-02: Traced Crime Guns Acquired from Type 01, 02, and 07 FFLs

Between 2017 and 2023, nearly all crime gun traces in which a purchaser was identified, were acquired from Type 01, 02, and 07 FFLs. As reflected in Figure CGT-03 and Figure CFT-04, the annual percentage of traced crime guns acquired from Type 01 FFLs declined by eight percentage points from 75% in 2017 to 67% in 2023 (an 11% decrease in share of traced crime guns). The yearly percentage of traced crime guns sold by Type 02 FFLs increased by nearly four percentage points from almost 20% in 2017 to 23% in 2023 (n 19% increase in share of traced crime guns). The yearly percentage of traced crime guns sold by Type 07 FFLs increased by more than four percentage points from about 5% in 2017 to 9% in 2023 (an 94% increase in share of traced crime guns). These patterns generally follow annual changes in the number of types of active FFLs over time. As described in Part I – Firearm Commerce Updates and New Analysis, the number of active Type 01 FFLs decreased by slightly more than 13% from 65,622 in 2017 to 56,872 in 2023. In contrast, the number of active Type 07 FFLs increased by almost 54% from 14,603 in 2017 to 22,439 in 2023.

01 -02 -07 100.0% 90.0% 80.0% 74.8% 72.1% 70.7% 70.0% 68.0% 67.1% 66.9% 66.6% 60.0% 50.0% 40.0% 30.0% 24.3% 23.9% 23.5% 22.6% 21.9% 19.6% 23.3% 20.0% 8.0% 8.6% 10.0% 6.7% 5.1% 9.1% 4.7% 0.0% 2022 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2023

Figure CGT-03: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns Traced to a Purchaser and Acquired from Type 01, 02, and 07 FFLs

Figure CGT-04: Total Percent Change in Traced Crime Guns Acquired from Type 01, 02, and 07 FFLs, 2017 – 2023



#### Crime Gun Traces Associated with Multiple Sale Transactions

Slightly less than 9% (127,460) of the 1,482,861 crime guns traced to a purchaser from 2017 to 2021 were part of a multiple sale transaction. Traces involving multiple sale transactions increased steadily over this five-year period.<sup>8</sup> Nearly 8% of crime guns traced to a purchaser in 2017 were part of a multiple sale. Since 2021, the share of traces associated with multiple sale transactions has remained relatively stable. Nearly 10% of crime guns traced to a purchaser in 2022 (40,606 of 413,618) and in 2023 (39,094 of 411,207) were part of a multiple sale transaction. The yearly number of crime guns traced to a purchaser that were part of a multiple sale transaction increased 102% from 2017 (19,307) to 2023 (39,094) as reflected in Figure CGT-05 and Table CGT-08.



Figure CGT-05: Traced Crime Guns Associated with a Multiple Sale Transaction by Year

Table CGT-08: Traced Crime Guns Associated with a Multiple Sale Transaction

Year	Traces Associated with Multiple Sale Transactions	Total Traces to a Purchaser	% Associated with Multiple Sale Transaction
2017	19,307	252,345	7.7%
2018	21,470	269,363	8.0%
2019	22,919	278,313	8.2%
2020	27,288	317,339	8.6%
2021	36,476	365,501	10.0%
2022	40,606	413,618	9.8%
2023	39,094	411,207	9.5%

#### Purchaser Age and Gender

Between 2017 and 2023, 96% (2,219,905 of 2,307,686) of crime guns were traced to a purchaser where the purchaser's age was known. The percentages of traced crime guns purchased by individuals in aggregated age groupings were generally stable through 2019 (Figure CGT-06). The percentage of traced crime guns purchased by youths ages 18 to 24 increased by three percentage points from 2019 (21%) to 2021 (24%), and the percentage of traced crime guns purchased by young adults ages 25 to 34 increased by two percentage points from 2019 (33%) to 2021 (35%). The percentage of trace guns purchased by adults ages 35 and older decreased by five percentage points from 2019 (47%) to 2021 (42%). Since these shifts, the percentage of traced crime guns purchased by individuals in the three age groupings remained relatively stable from 2021 through 2023.



Figure CGT-06: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser Age Group

See Table CGT-09 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a complete listing of purchaser age group by year between 2017 and 2023.

Between 2017 and 2023, 94% (2,176,261 of 2,307,686) of crime guns were traced to a purchaser where the gender of the purchaser was known. From 2017 through 2023, males purchased the largest share of traced crime guns overall, but the percentage of traced crime guns purchased by females increased by five percentage points from 2017 (17%) to 2021 (22%), representing a 31% increase in the share of traced crime guns purchased by females. This increase remained stable in 2022 and 2023, with females purchasing 22% of traced crime guns each of these years (Figure CGT-07).



Figure CGT-07: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser Gender

See Table CGT-10 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a complete listing of purchaser gender by year between 2017 and 2023.

#### **Possessor Age and Gender**

Between 2017 and 2023, the age of the possessor was known for 84% (1,932,500 of 2,307,686) of crime guns traced to a purchaser. The percentages of traced crime guns possessed by individuals in these four age groupings were generally stable through 2019 (Figure CGT-08). However, the percentage possessed by youths ages 18 to 24 increased by three percentage points from 2019 (22%) to 2021 (25%), before decreasing to 23% in 2023. The percentage possessed by adults ages 35 and older declined by five percentage points from 2019 (43%) to 2021 (38%) but then increased back to 43% in 2023.





See Table CGT-11 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a complete listing of possessor age group by year between 2017 and 2023.

Between 2017 and 2023, the gender of the possessor was known for 74% (1,701,619 of 2,307,686) of crime guns traced to a purchaser. Males possessed most of the traced crime guns from 2017 to 2023 and as reflected in Figure CGT-09, this overwhelming majority remained relatively stable through the study period.





See Table CGT-12 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a complete listing of possessor gender by year between 2017 and 2023.

#### Purchaser and Possessor Relationship

As reflected in Table CGT-13, nearly 56% (460,173) of traced crime guns from 2022 to 2023 had a different purchaser than possessor. More than 31% (258,694) were recovered without a known possessor associated with the crime gun, and only about 13% (105,956) had the same purchaser and possessor.

	2017-2021		2022-2	2023
Purchaser and Possessor Relationship	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Purchaser and possessor are different	866,120	58.4%	460,173	55.8%
Purchaser known, possessor unknown	435,833	29.4%	258,694	31.4%
Purchaser and possessor are the same	180,749	12.2%	105,956	12.8%
Total	1,482,702	100%	824,823	100%

Table CGT-13: Number and Percent of Traced Crime Guns by Purchaser and Possessor Relationship

#### Time-To-Crime Trends

Figure CGT-10 presents the annual percentage of traced crime guns in designated time-to-crime (TTC) groupings. TTC refers to the length of time between the date of a firearm's last known purchase from an FFL to the date of its recovery by law enforcement as a crime gun. ATF investigative experience indicates TTC of less than three years can be an indicator of illegal firearm trafficking.<sup>9</sup> TTC was calculated for nearly all firearms (2,302,647 of 2,307,686) traced to a purchaser from 2017 to 2023.

The percentage of traces with a TTC less than one year increased by 12 percentage points from 2019 (20%) to 2021 (32%) but then decreased back to the 2019 level in 2023 (20%). The percentage of traces with a TTC of less than three years also increased 12 percentage points from 2019 (42%) to 2021 (54%) before decreasing in 2023 (49%).



Figure CGT-10: Percentage of Traced Crime Guns by TTC Category and Year

See Table CGT-14 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a complete listing of traced crime guns by time-to-crime category and year between 2017 and 2023.

Figure CGT-11 presents the annual median TTC from 2017 to 2023. Median TTC decreased 50% from 2017 (4.2 years) to 2021 (2.1 years). Median TTC increased 5% from 2021 (2.1 years) to 2022 (2.2 years) and increased 32% from 2022 (2.2 years) to 2023 (2.9 years).





#### Source to Recovery Location and TTC of Traced Crime Guns

From 2017 to 2023, nearly all crime guns traced to a purchaser had a known TTC and source-recovery location (2,299,364 of 2,307,686). More than 72% (1,644,900) were recovered in the same state from which they were sourced; 28% (634,463) were recovered in a different state.

The TTC for intrastate recoveries is notably shorter than the TTC for interstate recoveries, and TTC by source and recovery location was relatively stable over time (Table CGT-15). From 2022 to 2023, the median TTC for intrastate recoveries was 2.1 years, and the median TTC for interstate recoveries was four years. More than 26% of traced crime guns recovered intrastate had a TTC of one year or less while only nearly 13% of traced crime guns recovered interstate were recovered within three years or less while about 38% of traced crime guns recovered interstate were recovered within three years or less.

	2017-2021			2022-2023				
	Intrastate		Interstate		Intrastate		Interstate	
TTC Grouping	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 1 year	307,440	28.9%	58,968	14.3%	157,677	26.3%	28,065	12.6%
Less than 3 years	547,440	51.4%	132,230	32.1%	340,112	56.7%	84,932	38.2%
All Traces	1,064,941	100.0%	411,982	100.0%	599,959	100.0%	222,481	100.0%

Table CGT-15: TTC for Intrastate vs. Interstate Crime Gun Recoveries

#### Type of Crime Gun and TTC

From 2022 to 2023, there were 662,810 pistols, 74,327 rifles, 34,360 shotguns, and 47,282 revolvers traced to a purchaser with a TTC calculated. Pistols had a much shorter median TTC (2.3 years) relative to rifles (4.3 years), shotguns (7.0 years), and revolvers (8.8 years). As reflected in Figure CGT-12, 25% (162,108) of pistols were recovered within one year of purchase, as were 18% (13,621) of rifles, 13% (4,568) of shotguns, and 10% (4,854) of revolvers. Similarly, 56% (370,179) of pistols were recovered within three years of purchase, as were 41% (30,638) of rifles, 32% (11,016) of shotguns, and 25% (11,836) of revolvers. The TTC differences by crime gun types for 2022 to 2023 traces reported here were essentially the same as the patterns reported for TTC by crime gun types for 2017 to 2021 crime gun traces in NFCTA Volume II.<sup>10</sup>



#### Figure CGT-12: Firearm Type and TTC, 2022 – 2023

#### Type of FFL and TTC

For the period 2022 to 2023, recovered crime guns that were traced to a purchaser and had a known TTC, were transferred by the following FFL types: 547,764 at Type 01, 191,669 at a Type 02, and 72,211 at Type 07. Traced crime guns transferred by a Type 07 FFL had a much shorter median TTC (1.7 years) relative to Type 02 (2.1 years), and Type 01 (2.9 years). As reflected in Figure CGT-13, 31% (22,154) of traced crime guns transferred by a Type 07 FFLs were recovered within one year of purchase, as were 28% (52,979) by Type 02 FFLs, and 20% (109,194) by Type 01 FFLs. Similarly, 68% (48,710) of traced crime guns transferred by Type 07 FFLs were recovered within three years of purchase, as were 212,047) by Type 02 FFLs, and 48% (260,577) by Type 01 FFLs.



*Figure CGT-13: FFL Type and TTC, 2022 – 2023* 

As reflected in Figure CGT-14, the annual median TTC for crime guns traced to Type 01 FFLs declined by 40% from 2017 (4.5 years) to 2021 (2.7 years); this was followed by a roughly 19% increase from 2022 (2.7 years) to 2023 (3.2 years). The annual median TTC for crime guns traced to Type 02 FFLs declined by almost 56% from 2017 (3.4 years) to 2021 (1.5 years); this was followed by an almost 67% increase in 2023 (2.5 years). The annual median TTC for crime guns traced to Type 07 FFLs was roughly two years between 2017 and 2019. The median TTC then decreased by almost 48% from 2019 (2.1 years) to 2021 (1.1 years). This decrease in median TTC was followed by an almost 91% increase in 2023 (2.1 years).



Figure CGT-14: Annual Median TTC (Years) by FFL Types 01, 02, and 07

#### The TTC Distributions of Crime Guns and the Year Distribution of Firearms Sold

The role of theft in supplying guns to criminals can be assessed by comparing the TTC distribution of crime guns and the annual sales distribution of legally purchased firearms in the U.S. over a similar period. If theft is the predominant source of crime guns, the TTC distribution of crime guns should follow the annual sales distribution of legally purchased firearms—the broader pool of guns at risk for theft.<sup>11</sup> Thieves stealing firearms would not know the age of the firearms they were stealing; the selection of guns would resemble a random selection process with respect to the age of the stolen guns. Conversely, if close-to-retail illegal diversions, such as straw purchases, of guns from licensed dealers contribute to the supply of guns to criminals, then the age distribution of crime guns should be disproportionately concentrated among newer guns relative to the age distribution of all legally purchased firearms.

The TTC distribution of the 410,676 crime guns recovered in 2023 by U.S. law enforcement agencies and traced to a purchaser by ATF with a known TTC of 20 years or less was compared to the annual percentage of firearms sold by FFLs in the U.S. as measured by the estimated minimum sales volume (EMSV) between 2003 and 2022. Table CGT-16 presents annual aggregate firearm data for 2003 to 2022. The average EMSV for firearms sold by FFLs each year between 2003 and 2022 was 11,752,750 firearms, for a total EMSV during this period of 235,054,991 firearms. Only 6.7% of these firearms were sold in 2022. However, 22.0% of recovered and traced crime guns in 2023 were last sold at retail in 2022. One-year-old firearms were overrepresented by almost 328% when the firearm sales history distribution and time-to-crime distribution are compared. Firearms with TTC less than 3 years (53.9%) were overrepresented by 234% when compared to the percentage of firearms sold in the last three years (23%). These patterns suggest that diversion of non-stolen firearms is a prominent source of crime guns.

Year	Estimated Minimum Sales Volume	% Distribution EMSV	% Distribution of Traced 2023 Crime Guns Last Known Sale
2003	6,535,529	2.8%	0.5%
2004	6,808,497	2.9%	0.6%
2005	7,158,433	3.0%	0.7%
2006	7,611,008	3.2%	0.8%
2007	7,980,810	3.4%	0.9%
2008	8,751,137	3.7%	1.2%
2009	9,309,428	4.0%	1.2%
2010	9,077,111	3.9%	1.4%
2011	10,420,836	4.4%	1.8%
2012	13,383,312	5.7%	2.6%
2013	14,440,061	6.1%	2.5%
2014	12,664,431	5.4%	3.1%
2015	13,859,210	5.9%	4.0%
2016	15,445,469	6.6%	4.6%
2017	12,642,830	5.4%	5.0%
2018	12,361,223	5.3%	5.5%
2019	12,447,184	5.3%	9.9%
2020	20,489,908	8.7%	15.5%
2021	17,913,502	7.6%	16.4%
2022	15,755,072	6.7%	22.0%

### Table CGT-16: Distribution by Year of Firearms Sold by FFLs in the US, 2003 – 2022 and Time-To-Crime Distribution of Traced Firearms Recovered in Crime in the U.S. in 2023

# Traces Associated with Law Enforcement and other Government Agency Firearms

A specific subset of crime guns that were recovered and traced are firearms that were either once owned by a governmental agency or were in the custody of a law enforcement agency (LEA) for evidentiary or other purposes. For purposes of this Section, these firearms are referred to as "traced LEA firearms." State and local LEAs may have different policies governing their disposition of recovered crime guns or issued service firearms. Some state or local laws also require an LEA to destroy or sell surplus service and/or recovered crime guns. These policies and laws impact the extent to which LEA firearms are recovered as crime guns.

<u>Department of Justice (DOJ) asset forfeiture policy</u><sup>12</sup> does not allow for the transfer or sale of forfeited crime guns to the public. While federal laws and regulations generally do not prohibit federal agencies<sup>13</sup> from selling forfeited firearms or surplus service firearms, most agencies have policies prohibiting such practices.<sup>14</sup> An <u>International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) policy resolution</u> recommends the destruction of all surplus service firearms and crime guns in the custody of law enforcement. On September 26, 2024, President Biden issued an <u>Executive Order</u> directing DOJ to issue guidance to LEAs on best practices regarding the destruction of crime guns. On October 31, 2024, DOJ published the <u>DOJ</u> *Policy Regarding Federal Forfeiture of Firearms and Ammunition*.

Generally, <u>GCA</u> firearms and <u>NFA</u> weapons possessed by the registrant are lawful commodities and not contraband subject to summary forfeiture. When these types of firearms are recovered by an LEA, they may only be destroyed if the recovering LEA assumes legal title and ownership of the firearm through <u>forfeiture</u>, abandonment, court order, or other statutorily authorized legal means. Firearms illegally possessed by a prohibited person or used during the commission of a crime are often forfeitable based on their use in a crime.

In certain situations, LEA firearms may be lawfully transferred to the public. Moreover, unregulated firearm parts (e.g., barrels, slides, internal components), which are often not serialized, are at times lawfully transferred by LEAs to the public. Situations in which issued service firearms, seized firearms, or unregulated firearm parts that had been in an LEA's custody and transferred to the public include the following:

#### Service Firearms

Firearms issued to or allowed to be officially carried by law enforcement officers are considered service firearms. Service firearms are taken out of service and replaced periodically. Where not prohibited by law, the LEA may allow their law enforcement officers to purchase or keep firearms taken out of service as their personal firearms. LEAs may also directly sell these firearms to the public or use an FFL to make such transfers. In other instances, an LEA may have the frame or receiver of the firearm destroyed but transfer unregulated parts of the firearm to include internal components, trigger group, grips, sights or scope, stocks, slide, and barrel.<sup>15</sup>

#### Firearms Stolen from Law Enforcement

Issued service firearms are sometimes stolen from a law enforcement official during the burglary of a vehicle or residence. Additionally, in rare instances, firearms are stolen from LEA evidence vaults and later recovered and traced.

#### Gun Buyback Program

<u>Gun buyback programs</u> compensate individuals who turn over firearms to a LEA and surrender their rights to the ownership of those firearms. In some instances, an LEA may have the frame or receiver of the firearm destroyed but sell unregulated parts of the firearm to include internal components, trigger group, grips, sights or scope, stocks, slide, and barrel. DOJ agencies are prohibited by policy from participating in gun buyback programs.

#### **Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and Protection Orders**

The issuance of a <u>domestic violence related restraining or protection order</u> requires an LEA to take possession of firearms owned by the subject of the restraining order until the order expires. Persons subject to a domestic violence related restraining or protection order are prohibited from possessing or acquiring firearms or ammunition under <u>Title 18 U.S.C. \$922(g)(8)</u>. Once the restraining or protection order expires, the firearm is returned to the person from whom it was taken, provided that the person is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm. If that person is prohibited from possessing a firearm, the firearm may be returned to a third party designated by the prohibited possessor or owner.

#### Firearms Recovered in Criminal Investigations

When recovered crime guns are no longer required to be held as evidence<sup>16</sup> they may be disposed in one of several ways:

- First, the firearm may be returned to non-prohibited owner or third party. This includes return of a stolen firearm to its lawful, non-prohibited owner.
- Second, the firearm may be sold to the public. Certain state laws require an LEA that has obtained legal title to a firearm through forfeiture or other process to sell that firearm to the public. Other state laws permit, but do not require this practice.
- Third, LEAs may destroy the firearm and all component parts.
- Fourth, LEAs may destroy the firearm frame or receiver of the firearm but sell the unregulated parts. In some instances, unregulated firearm parts are affixed with the same serial number appearing on the frame or receiver. Such serialized parts may later be used in the assembly of a PMF.

When returning a firearm to a designated third party or prior lawful owner, LEAs may use the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to ensure the intended recipient is not prohibited from possessing firearms. This is known as the Disposition of Firearms (DOF) process. While not required, the <u>FBI NICS Section</u> recommends agencies use the DOF process to help determine if a person is eligible to possess firearms.

#### State Laws Regarding Disposition of Firearms Recovered by LEAs

Ten states<sup>17</sup> **require** LEAs to sell guns that are no longer needed for evidence or service to the general public. Five states<sup>18</sup> **prohibit** the sale of guns no longer needed for evidence or service to the general

public. See Table CGT-17 for additional details regarding state laws and the disposition of recovered firearms by law enforcement. Those states that do not have specific laws requiring or prohibiting the sale of LEA recovered crime guns are either silent on this subject or have laws specifying conditions for destruction, placement into official use, transfer to other LEAs, transfer and sale to FFLs, and transfer and sale at public auction.

Disposition of Firearms Recovered by Law Enforcement	States
State or Local Law Requires LEAs to Sell Guns to the Public.	Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia
State or Local Law Prohibits LEAs from Selling Guns to the Public.	Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island

Table CGT-17: State Laws Regarding Disposition of Firearms Recovered by LEAs

#### **Recovered LEA Firearm Traces**

As reflected in Figure CGT-15, between 2019 and 2023 25,414 LEA firearms were recovered and traced. Traced LEA firearms represent just over 1% of all crime guns (1,785,978) recovered and traced to a purchaser in this period.<sup>19</sup>





Recovered LEA firearms generally involve subsequent transfers that can prevent identification of TTC, and analysis of other crime gun trafficking indicators is then often not possible.

#### Traced LEA Firearms Source States<sup>20</sup>

Figure CGT-16 documents the top 10 source states, accounting for 49% (12,456) of all LEA firearms recovered and traced (25,414). California was the largest source of LEA firearm traces accounting for more than 8% (2,129), followed by New York at nearly 6% (1,478), Georgia at slightly more than 5% (1,380), and Florida at 5% (1,274) of all LEA firearms recovered and traced. At least one recovered and traced LEA firearm was sourced from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.





See Table CGT-18 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all LEA firearms recovered and traced by source state.

#### Traced LEA Firearms Recovery States

Figure CGT-17 documents the top 10 recovery states, accounting for slightly more than 56% (14,279) of all LEA firearms recovered and traced (25,414). California had the largest volume of recoveries, accounting for almost 11% (2,728), followed by Texas and Georgia at nearly 7% each of all LEA firearms recovered and traced.



Figure CGT-17: Traced LEA Firearms by Top 10 Recovery States, 2019 – 2023

See Table CGT-19 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all LEA firearms recovered and traced by recovery state.

#### Traced LEA Firearms by Type

The type of firearm was determined for nearly all LEA firearms that were traced (25,349 of 25,414). As shown in Figure CGT-18, pistols accounted for more than 87% (22,180) of all LEA firearms recovered and traced.





See Table CGT-20 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all recovered and traced LEA firearm types.

#### Traced LEA Firearms by Caliber

The top 10 most frequent calibers<sup>21</sup> of recovered and traced LEA firearms constitute 98% (24,917) of all firearms traced (25,414). As shown in Figure CGT-19, the most frequent caliber was the .40 caliber (12,767), accounting for slightly more than 50% of all LEA firearms recovered and traced.



Figure CGT-19: Traced LEA Firearms by Top 10 Calibers 2019 – 2023

See Table CGT-21 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all recovered and traced LEA firearm calibers.

#### Traced LEA Firearms by Make, Type, Caliber

The top ten most frequent make (manufacturer), type, and caliber combination of traced LEA firearms accounted for almost 83% (21,033) of these firearms. As shown in Figure CGT-20, the most frequently recovered LEA firearm was the Glock .40 caliber pistol, accounting for 40% (10,169) of all LEA firearms traced.

Figure CGT-20: Traced LEA Firearms by Top 10 Make, Type, Caliber, 2019 – 2023



See Table CGT-22 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all recovered and traced LEA firearm make, type, and calibers.

#### Traced LEA Firearms by Crime Type

As reflected in Table CFT-23a, more than 14% (3,625 of 25,414) of all LEA firearms recovered and traced between 2019 and 2023 were associated with either a homicide<sup>22</sup> (1,076) or other violent crimes<sup>23</sup> (2,549).

	# Traced LEA	% of Traced LEA	# All Other	% of All Other
Crime Type	Firearms	Firearms	<b>Traced Firearms</b>	<b>Traced Firearms</b>
Homicide Related	1,076	4.2%	70,147	3.1%
Other Violent Crimes	2,549	10.0%	238,161	10.4%
All Other Crimes	21,789	85.7%	1,993,233	86.6%
Total	25,414	100.0%	2,301,541	100.0%

Table CGT-23a: Traced LEA Firearms and All Other Crime Gun Traces by Crime Type, 2019 – 2023

See Table CGT-23 in Appendix CGT – Crime Gun Tracing for a list of all recovered LEA firearms traced to a purchaser by all crime types.

#### Traced LEA Firearms by Possessor Age

Of the 25,414 LEA crime guns, possessor age was known for 58% (14,790) of traces. Almost 37% (5,539) of all recovered LEA firearms were traced to a possessor under the age of 25. As shown in Figure CGT-24, this is 10% more than all other recovered crime guns that were traced to a possessor under the age of 25.

Table CGT-24: Traced LEA Firearms and All Other Crime Gun Traces by Possessor Age Grouping, 2019 – 2023

Age Grouping	# Traced LEA Firearms	% of Traced LEA Firearms	# All Other Traced Firearms	% of All Other Traced Firearms
Juvenile (17 and under)	634	4.3%	50,120	3.4%
Youth (18 to 24)	4,905	33.2%	351,507	24.0%
Young Adult (25 to 34)	4,538	30.7%	470,108	32.1%
Adult (35 and over)	4,713	31.9%	594,448	40.5%
Total	14,790	100.0%	1,466,183	100.0%

#### **Summary**

ATF processes crime gun trace requests for thousands of domestic and international LEAs each year. Between 2017 and 2021, the number of trace requests received increased by more than 34 percent. Trace requests have since increased 10% in 2022 and an additional 5% in 2023. Overall trace requests for crime guns recovered in the U.S. increased 52% from 2017 to 2023. Almost 75% of crime guns were traced to a purchaser in 2017 while almost 80% of crime guns were traced to a purchaser in 2023.

OOB records and multiple sale transaction information are critical resources in the timely completion of traces for law enforcement. Of the nearly 1.3 million trace requests submitted to the NTC from 2022 to 2023, 46% were completed using OOB records. Overall, the yearly number of crime guns traced to a purchaser that were part of a multiple sale transaction increased 102% from 2017 to 2023.

From 2017 through 2023, males purchased the largest share of traced crime guns overall, but the percentage of traced crime guns purchased by females increased by five percentage points from 2017

(17%) to 2021 (22%), representing a 31% increase in the share of traced crime guns purchased by females.

Crime guns associated with a short TTC are an indicator of firearm trafficking. One-year-old firearms were overrepresented by almost 328% when the firearm sales history distribution and TTC distribution are compared. Firearms with TTC less than 3 years (53.9%) were overrepresented by 234% when compared to the percentage of firearms sold in the last three years (23%). These patterns suggest that diversion of non-stolen firearms remains a prominent source of crime guns.

The percentage of traces with a TTC of less than three years increased 12 percentage points from 42% in 2019 to 54% in 2022, then decreased to 49% in 2023. For all crime guns recovered between 2022 and 2023 pistols had a much shorter median TTC (2.3 years) relative to rifles (4.3 years), shotguns (7.0 years), and revolvers (8.8 years).

Indicators of trafficking also include the recovery of a crime gun in the possession of someone other than the purchaser. Nearly 56% of traced crime guns from 2022 to 2023 had a different purchaser than possessor. From 2017 to 2023, more than 72% of crime guns were recovered in the same state from which they were sourced and nearly 28% were recovered in a different state. The TTC for intrastate recoveries is notably shorter than the TTC for interstate recoveries.

Type 01 and Type 02 FFLs may conduct retail sales of firearms but may not manufacture firearms. Type 07 FFLs may manufacture firearms and conduct retail sales of firearms. New manufacturing methods and techniques make the manufacturing of firearms more accessible. As a result, it may be more advantageous for a licensee to have a Type 07 FFL. Additionally, in June 2011, ATF implemented the Demand Letter 3 (DL3) program which required Type 01 and 02 FFLs in the Southwest Border states (AZ, CA, NM, and TX) to report the Multiple Sale or Other Disposition of Certain Rifles on the multiple sales of certain specified rifles: semi-automatic rifles capable of accepting a detachable magazine and with a caliber greater than .22 (including .223/5.56 caliber). Between 2011 and 2023 the number of active Type 07 FFLs increased 269 percent. According to NFCTA Volume I, Part V between 2017 and 2020, 99% of all firearms manufactured and distributed into commerce were produced by only 14% of Type 07 FFLs. On October 1, 2024, the DL3 requirement was extended to both Type 07 and 08 (importer) FFLs in the Southwest Border states.

The yearly percentage of traced crime guns sold by Type 07 FFLs (manufacturers) increased by more than four percentage points from about 5% in 2017 to 9% in 2023 (reflecting a 94% increase in share of traced crime guns). As shown in Part I of this report (Table FC-28), the number of active Type 07 FFLs increased nearly 10-fold from 2000 (2,074) to 2023 (22,444). Traced crime guns transferred by a Type 07 FFL had a much shorter median TTC (1.7 years) relative to Type 02 (2.1 years), and Type 01 (2.9 years). Moreover 31% (22,154) of traced crime guns transferred by a Type 07 FFLs were recovered within one year of purchase, as were 28% by Type 02 FFLs, and 20% by Type 01 FFLs. Similarly, 68% of traced crime guns transferred by Type 07 FFLs were recovered within three years of purchase, as were 59% by Type 02 FFLs.

Between 2019 and 2023, there were 25,414 firearms recovered in crimes and traced that had previously been in the possession of an LEA as either an issued service firearm or seized as evidence in a crime. These represent just over 1% of the nearly 2.3 million all crime guns recovered and traced during that time period. More than 87% of recovered LEA firearms were pistols and more than 40% were .40 caliber. In contrast, pistols comprised 74% of all crime gun traces. These firearms were recovered in crimes ranging from illegal possession to homicide. More than 14% of all LEA firearms recovered and traced between 2019 and 2023 were associated with homicides or other violent crimes.

### **APPENDIX CGT – CRIME GUN TRACING**

#### Table CGT-03: Top Ten Calibers of Traced Pistols, 2022 – 2023

Caliber	Number	Percent
9mm	463,942	60.3%
.40	100,171	13.0%
.380	61,281	8.0%
.45	56,820	7.4%
.22	27,841	3.6%
.25	9,073	1.2%
7.62mm	8,088	1.1%
10mm	7,997	1.0%
.57	7,501	1.0%
5.56mm	6,323	0.8%

Table CGT-04: Top Ten Calibers of Traced Rifles, 2022 – 2023

Caliber	Number	Percent
.22	28,818	25.8%
5.56mm	18,393	16.4%
.223	11,614	10.4%
7.62mm	11,610	10.4%
Multi	8,141	7.3%
9mm	3,518	3.1%
.308	3,409	3.0%
.30-06	3,128	2.8%
.30-30	2,563	2.3%
.300	1,945	1.7%

Table CGT-05: Top Ten Traced Crime Guns by Manufacturer, Type, and Caliber Combination, 2022 – 2023

Manufacturer-Caliber-Type Combination	Number	Percent
Glock 9mm Pistol	119,483	11.5%
Taurus 9mm Pistol	85,450	8.2%
Smith & Wesson 9mm Pistol	49,716	4.8%
Glock .40 Pistol	47,101	4.5%
Sturm Ruger 9mm Pistol	27,735	2.7%
Smith & Wesson .40 Pistol	25,751	2.5%
HS Produkt 9mm Pistol	24,368	2.4%
Sig Sauer 9mm Pistol	21,218	2.0%
Polymer 80 9mm Pistol	21,122	2.0%
SCCY 9mm Pistol	19,586	1.9%

Year	18-24	25-34	35 & older
2017	49,327	79,295	114,565
2018	52,055	84,129	122,324
2019	55,050	87,212	124,370
2020	70,567	104,278	132,460
2021	84,537	123,052	147,258
2022	94,672	135,174	166,813
2023	92,512	131,693	168,562
Total	498,720	744,833	976,352

Table CGT-09: Purchaser Age Group for Traced Crime Guns by Year

Table CGT-10: Purchaser Gender for Traced Crime Guns by Year

Year	Male	Female	Non-Binary
2017	195,890	39,072	0
2018	207,586	42,934	0
2019	213,941	45,642	1
2020	243,018	59,371	3
2021	274,301	76,041	12
2022	305,419	85,803	203
2023	303,498	83,745	218
Total	1,743,653	432,608	437

Table CGT-11: Possessor Age Group for Traced Crime Guns by Year

Year	17 & below	18-24	25-34	35 & older
2017	6,286	51,382	70,940	88,910
2018	6,348	52,264	76,536	98,861
2019	7,227	53,677	76,814	102,886
2020	8,049	66,749	88,426	99,504
2021	9,496	76,429	102,280	115,366
2022	12,444	82,151	106,504	136,914
2023	13,538	77,406	100,622	144,491
Total	63,388	460,058	622,122	786,932

Table CGT-12: Possessor Gender for Traced Crime Guns by Year

Year	Male	Female	Non-Binary
2017	182,475	14,793	0
2018	196,912	15,949	0
2019	199,620	16,612	0
2020	214,437	19,196	0
2021	240,859	23,422	0
2022	265,505	25,906	25
2023	261,148	24,710	50
Total	1,560,956	140,588	75

	Less than 1 year		Less than 3 years		All Traces
Year	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
2017	48,552	19.3%	100,624	40.0%	251,669
2018	53,149	19.8%	113,506	42.2%	268,795
2019	54,705	19.7%	116,906	42.1%	277,647
2020	92,607	29.3%	152,875	48.3%	316,464
2021	117,850	32.3%	196,622	53.9%	364,471
2022	103,105	25.0%	223,723	54.2%	412,912
2023	82,953	20.2%	201,897	49.2%	410,689

Table CGT-14: Time-to-Crime Grouping for Traced Crime Guns by Year

_	# Traced LEA
State	<u>Firearms</u>
CA	2,129
NY	1,478
GA	1,380
FL	1,274
NJ	1,214
NC	1,212
VA TY	1,023
TX	964
PA	899
MI	883
OH TN	826
	800
AZ SC	772 739
IN	736
LA	685
IL	655
MA	640
MD	556
WI	532
KY	486
AL	476
MO	440
PR	373
CT	364
MS	347
WA	345
NM	323
MN	259
CO	252
KS	217
AR	186
UT	185
DC	172
OK	166
IA	135
OR	134
NH	133
NV	131
WV	123
ID	96
NE	94
DE	83
RI	80
ME	79
SD	54
VT	43
MT	43
AK	39
ND	39
HI	37
WY	33
Unknown	25
VI	21
GU	3
Total	25,414

State	# Traced LEA Firearms
CA	2,728
TX	1,763
FL	1,708
IL	1,690
GA	1,239
NC	1,238
OH	1,047
TN	1,002
LA	953
VA	911
PA	775
AZ	710
AL	703
IN	677
MO	657
MD	627
SC	621
NY	496 468
MI WI	468
KY KY	433
PR	341
MS	313
DC	313
NM	280
CO	279
WA	279
NJ	256
KS	243
NV	241
OK	226
MA	235
AR	210
MN	209
OR	182
UT	124
CT	109
IA	106
NE	100 78
DE WV	63
ID	49
AK	49
NH	42
RI	40
SD	35
MT	33
VI	30
ME	24
ND	16
HI	13
WY	11
VT	9
GU	2
Total	25,414

	# Traced LEA
Crime Gun Type	Firearms
Pistol	22,180
Revolver	1,454
Rifle	970
Shotgun	537
Machine Gun	208
Receiver/Frame	25
Unknown Type	15
Destructive Device	11
Silencer	9
Derringer	4
Combination Gun	1
Total	25,414

Table CGT-20, Traced LEA Firearms by All Gun Types, 2019 – 2023

Caliber	# Traced LEA
40	Firearms 12,767
9	6,345
45	2,348
	2,548
357	
38	836
12	517
556	502
223	295
380	213
22	156
ZZ	145
MULTI	61
30	45
308	37
10	34
762	24
25	23
30-06	23
44	16
57	11
20	11
30-30	9
32	8
300	7
410	6
46	4
7	4
243	6
65	3
222	2
338	2
40/357	2
41	2
50 BMG	2
17	3 2 2 2 2 2 2 1
177	1
	1
22/410	
356	1
357/40	1
357/9	1
38-40	1
45/410	1
460	1
	2
270	-
270 50	1

Table CGT-21, Traced LEA Firearms by All Calibers, 2019 – 2023

Table CGT-22,	Traced LEA	Firearms by	, All Make,	Type and	Caliber, 2019 -	- 2023

Make-Type-Caliber	# Traced LEA Firearms
GLC-P-40	10,169
GLC-P-9	3,992
GLC-P-45	1,567
SW-P-40	1,507
SW-P-9	1,145
SW-PR-38	745
SIG-P-9	545
SIG-P-40	526
SW-PR-357	435
SW-P-45	407
REM-S-12	273
FII-P-9	262
GLC-P-357	197
FII-P-40	181
SIG-P-45	177
SIG-P-357	153
HEC-P-40	148
SR-P-9	125
CLT-R-556	124
MOS-S-12	99
SR-PR-357	85
GLC-P-380	71
BER-P-40	70
GLC-P-ZZ	66
CLT-R-223	64
GRV-R-556	62
WAL-P-40	62
BER-P-9	57
BHT-R-223	55
HEC-P-45	53
HEC-M-9	50
IMC-P-45	44
BHT-R-556	42
CLT-PR-38	43
SIG-R-556	37
SW-P-380	37
IMC-P-40	36
FNH-P-40	34
USA-R-30	35
SR-P-380	31
RRA-R-556	29
SR-R-223	27
HEC-P-9	25
SR-P-22	24
SR-PR-38	23
BNL-S-12	22
CLT-P-45	22
HEC-M-556	21
REM-R-308	21
SW-R-556	21
WIN-S-12	26
HEC-M-40	19
HS-S-12	19
CLT-M-556	18
FNH-P-9	18
SW-S-12	18
GLC-P-10	17
CLT-PR-357	17

SIG-P-380	16
SW-P-357	16
BER-P-45	15
IMC-P-9	15
SR-PR-22	15
BER-P-380	14
GLC-RF-ZZ	14
LWR-R-556	14
TAS-P-9	14
GLC-Z-ZZ	13
WAL-P-380	14
DDI-R-556	12
MRM-S-12	12
RRA-R-223	12
SR-M-223	12
DPM-R-223	11
KIE-P-45	11
SW-P-10	11
SW-R-223	11
WAL-P-9	11
BHT-R-MULTI	10
FII-P-22	10
SR-R-556	10
BCM-R-223	9
SGW-R-556	9
USA-M-556	9
WAL-P-22	9
BER-P-357	8
FII-P-25	8
GLC-M-9	8
SIG-P-22	8
SIG-P-ZZ	8
SIG-R-223	8
SR-R-22	8
SW-PR-44	9
USA-R-30-06	8
CLT-M-9	7
DDI-R-223	7
ITH-S-12	, 7
MAR-R-22	8
REM-R-22	7
SR-P-40	8
TAS-PR-38	7
WWI-R-223	7
AIL-R-308	6
BER-S-12	6
CAC-PR-38	7
	7
CLT-P-556	
DDI-R-MULTI	6
DPM-R-556	6
DTC-DD-ZZ	6
HS-PR-22	6
KHR-P-9	6
LWT-R-556	6
SAV-S-12	6
SIG-P-556	6
SIO-R-223	6
WIN-R-30-06	6
WIN-R-30-30	6
AZD-R-ZZ	5
BHT-M-223	5 5
CLT-M-223	5

FNH-R-556	5
HEC-M-45	5
HS-P-22	5
KTC-P-380	5
REM-R-556	
	5
SR-PR-44	5 5 5
SW-P-22	
SW-PR-45	5
AAL-R-556	4
AEI-P-380	4
BCE-M-12	4
BCM-R-MULTI	4
BRO-S-12	4
FNB-M-57	4
FNB-P-57	4
FNH-R-MULTI	4
HEC-M-46	4
HEC-R-556	4
HIH-P-380	4
JPN-R-223	4
KHR-P-40	4
KTC-P-9	4
NAA-PR-22	4
RAV-P-25	4
REM-R-30-06	4
SGD-P-45	4
SGD-R-30	4
SIG-R-300	4
SR-P-45	4
SW-P-38	4
TAS-PR-357	4
WIN-R-22	4
AAL-R-223	3
AZD-R-556	3
BAU-P-25	3
BCM-R-556	3
BHT-P-223	3
BRO-R-22	3
CLT-PR-22	2
	3 3 3
CLT-R-9	3
CZ-P-9	3
DBK-R-556	3
DRY-R-556	3
FNB-M-762	3
FNH-R-ZZ	3
GLC-P-22	3
HEC-M-762	33
	3
HIH-R-9	3
IMI-M-9	3
KHR-P-45	3
LCN-P-25	3
LWT-DD-40	3
	2
MAR-R-30-30	3
MOS-S-ZZ	3
POD-P-45	4
REM-R-223	5
REM-R-7	3
SCC-SI-300	3
SIG-R-762	3
SIG-R-MULTI	3 3 3 3 3
SIO-R-556	3
STF-R-223	3
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SW-PR-9
SW-R-MULTI
TAS-P-380
WAL-P-45
WWI-R-556
ZAS-P-9
AAL-R-762
ADM-R-223
AMT-P-380
AMT-P-45 API-R-MULTI
AVL-R-MULTI
BER-M-9
BPM-R-556
BRT-R-50 BMG
BTH-P-9
CBC-R-22
CLT-P-22
CLT-P-380
CLT-R-222
CLT-R-ZZ
CYT-R-556
DBK-P-9
DBS-R-556
GND-P-380
GTO-R-MULTI
HEC-M-10
HEC-M-223
HEC-R-223
HEC-Z-ZZ
HR-R-22
HR-S-32
HS-PD-22 IBE-P-40
IMI-R-556
INC-P-9
KIR-P-9
KTC-P-32
KTC-P-40
MAR-R-9
MDI-R-762
NFR-R-MULTI
PWS-R-223
PWS-R-MULTI
REM-R-243
REM-R-ZZ
REM-S-20
RRA-RF-ZZ
SGD-R-556
SIG-M-223
SIG-M-9
SIG-P-40/357
SIG-P-762
SKY-P-9 SR-P-57
SR-P-57 SR-R-9
SR-SI-556
SWD-P-9
TAM-R-556
TAS-P-45
TFD-M-45
USA-M-30

USA-P-45
WWI-R-MULTI
AAI-M-22
AAL-R-22
AAL-R-MULTI
AAN-S-410
ACC-P-380
AEL-S-12
AKK-S-12
AMR-PR-38
AMR-R-22
ATP-P-556
ATP-R-MULTI
AVC-SI-338
AVL-R-223
BCI-R-MULTI
BCM-P-556
BER-P-22
BER-P-25
BER-P-ZZ
BER-R-40
BER-R-9
BHT-RF-MULTI
BKO-R-MULTI
BNL-S-20
BNL-S-ZZ
BRO-P-9
BRO-R-7
BRO-S-20
BRO-S-ZZ
BRY-P-9
BTH-M-9
CBR-PD-38
CCE-P-556
CCO-PR-38
CCP-R-223
CFA-R-MULTI
CLK-PR-22
CLT-P-10
CLT-P-25
CLT-P-38
CLT-R-22
CLT-R-762
CMM-R-9
CMM-R-MULTI
CSC-P-10
CSC-P-9
CSC-P-MULTI
CZU-P-9
DAB-PD-22
DBK-P-380
DDI-P-MULTI
DDI-R-308
DPM-M-ZZ
DPM-R-308
DPM-RF-ZZ
DPM-R-ZZ
DTN-P-45
DWO-DD-12
DWO-P-9
FAC-PR-22
FBM-S-12

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FEG-P-380
FEG-P-9
FIP-PR-38
FNB-M-556
FNB-R-308
FNB-R-556
FNB-R-57
FNH-P-45
FNH-R-223
FNH-S-12
GAP-R-308
GAP-R-65
GLC-P-460
GLC-P-50
GLC-RF-MULTI
GTO-R-223
HAR-PR-22
HAR-S-12
HDP-R-223
HEC-M-ZZ
HEC-P-177
HEC-P-357
HEC-R-762
HEC-RF-MULTI
HGC-S-20
HGC-S-ZZ
HIH-P-9
HKI-S-12
HR-PR-32
HR-PR-38
HRR-R-22
HRT-PR-22
HSP-R-308
HS-RF-ZZ
HWA-S-12
IJ-PR-22
IMB-P-45
IMI-P-45
IMI-P-9
IMI-R-ZZ
ING-M-45
IOI-R-556
IZH-P-380
JEI-P-22
KHR-P-380
KIE-P-9
KNI-R-556
KNI-R-762
KRS-S-12
KTC-P-22
KTC-R-40
KTC-R-9
LRT-R-762
LWR-R-223
LWR-R-308
LWT-R-223
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MAR-S-12
MAK-5-12 MAU-P-25
MGM-R-MULTI
MIX-M-9 MKV S 20
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MKY-R-223
MOS-P-9
MOS-S-20
MOS-S-20 MOS-S-410
MRM-S-20
NAA-P-22
NAA-P-32
NFR-R-ZZ
NRD-R-223
NVK-R-556
OMC-P-380
OTT-S-12
PMC-M-30
PMC-R-30
POF-R-223
POF-R-556
PTC-R-308
PTC-RF-ZZ
QTD-R-MULTI
RDC-R-223
REM-R-17
REM-R-MULTI
REM-S-410
REM-S-ZZ
RGI-PR-22
RGI-PR-38
RGN-R-223
RLI-P-22
RMC-P-762
RMC-R-223
RNR-R-MULTI
ROM-PR-22
RPB-P-9
RRA-P-223
RRA-P-556
RSE-RF-ZZ
RTT-P-223
RU-P-762
SAV-C-22/410
SAV-R-22
SAV-R-223
SAV-R-65
SAV-S-410
SCC-SI-9
SEP-P-32
SET-DD-12
SGA-P-25
SGD-P-10
SGD-P-10 SGD-P-9
SGD-R-223
SGD-R-30-06
SGD-R-MULTI
SGM-R-556
SGW-M-223
SGW-R-MULTI
SIG-M-556
SIG-P-10
SIG-P-357/40
SIG-SI-556
SIG-SI-762
SKB-S-20
SKY-P-380

SLT-P-556
SNC-S-12
SQB-S-12
SR-PR-357/9
SR-PR-41
SR-R-243
SR-R-30-06
SR-R-338
SSN-P-MULTI
SSN-P-ZZ
SSW-R-556
STA-P-45
STE-M-9
STE-P-40
STE-R-223
STE-R-9
STH-P-9
STZ-P-9
SW-P-356
SW-P-556
SW-P-MULTI
SW-PR-22
SW-PR-38-40
SW-PR-41
SW-R-22
SW-RF-ZZ
TAS-P-22
TAS-P-25
TAS-PR-45/410
TFG-P-45
TKK-R-65
UBE-P-45
UNV-R-30
URA-S-12
USA-M-223
USA-M-45
USA-M-762
USA-P-9
USA-R-ZZ UTF-R-223
VOL-R-45
VTU-S-12 VWS-R-223
VWS-R-225 VWS-R-556
WIN-R-30
WIN-R-308 WWI-R-308
WW1-R-308 YLZ-S-410
ZAS-P-32
ZAS-P-32 ZAS-P-40
ZAS-P-40 ZAS-P-762
ZAS-P-/62 ZEV-P-9

NCIC Crime Description	<b># of Traces</b>	% of Total
Firearm Under Investigation	5,973	23.5%
Weapon Offense	2,822	11.1%
Possession of Weapon	2,670	10.5%
Found Firearm	2,627	10.3%
Felon in Possession of Firearm	2,286	9.0%
Carrying Concealed Weapon	1,027	4.0%
Dangerous Drugs	575	2.3%
Homicide	503	2.0%
Aggravated Assault - Gun	409	1.6%
Suicide	409	1.6%
Assault	387	1.5%
Domestic Violence	327	1.3%
Marijuana - Possession	313	1.2%
Health - Safety	311	1.2%
Stolen Property	216	0.8%
Firing Weapon	196	0.8%
Aggravated Assault - Nonfamily-Gun	190	0.8%
	182	
Homicide - Attempted		0.7%
Carrying Prohibited Weapon	152	0.6%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Gun	143	0.6%
Domestic Disturbance	143	0.6%
Marijuana - Sell	141	0.6%
Possess Stolen Property	138	0.5%
Robbery	131	0.5%
Burglary	130	0.5%
Driving Under Influence Liquor	122	0.5%
Traffic Offense	122	0.5%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Nonfamily-Gun	105	0.4%
Aggravated Assault - Family-Gun	90	0.4%
Aggravated Assault Police Officer-Gun	90	0.4%
Marijuana	87	0.3%
Weapons Trafficking	85	0.3%
Aggravated Assault - Police Officer-Weapon	80	0.3%
Aggravated Assault-Weapon	75	0.3%
Cocaine - Sell	74	0.3%
Suicide - Attempted	73	0.3%
Receive Stolen Property	67	0.3%
Stolen Vehicle	67	0.3%
Larceny	65	0.3%
Vehicle Theft	64	0.3%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Police Officer-Gun	59	0.2%
Amphetamine - Sell	56	0.2%
Robbery - Street-Gun	56	0.2%
Cocaine - Possession	54	0.2%
Amphetamine - Possession	52	0.2%
Selling Weapon	49	0.29
Crimes Against Person	48	0.29
Resisting Officer	43	0.29
Carjacking - Armed	43	0.29
Robbery - Business-Gun	42	0.2%
Probation Violation	40	0.2%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Family-Gun	35	0.1%
Synthetic Narcotic - Possession	32	0.1%
Burglary - Forced Entry-Residential	31	0.1%
Flight To Avoid (Prosecution, Confinement, etc.)	31	0.1%
Threat-Terroristic - State Offenses	31	0.1%
Cocaine	30	0.1%
Disorderly Conduct (Specify Conduct)	29	0.1%
Heroin - Sell	27	0.1%

Table CGT-23, Traced LEA Firearms by All	Crime Types, 2019 – 2023
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Fraud	26	0.1%
Robbery - Residential-Gun	26	0.1%
Synthetic Narcotic - Sell	26	0.1%
Driving Under Influence Drugs	25	0.1%
Aggravated Assault - Nonfamily-Weapon	23	0.1%
Heroin	23	0.1%
Public Peace	23	0.1%
Amphetamine	22	0.1%
Drugs - Health or Safety	22	0.1%
Larceny - from Automobile	22	0.1%
Obstruct Police	21	0.1%
Public Order Crimes	21	0.1%
Heroin - Possession	20	0.1%
Narcotic Equipment - Possession	19	0.1%
Homicide – Negligible Manslaughter-Weapon	18	0.1%
Intimidation (Includes Stalking)	18	0.1%
Possess Stolen Vehicle	18	0.1%
Kidnaping	17	0.1%
Property Crimes	16	0.1%
Violation of a Court Order	16	0.1%
Family Offense	15	0.1%
Hit and Run	14	0.1%
Aggravated Assault - Family-Weapon	13	0.1%
Sex Offense	13	0.1%
Aggravated Assault - Public Off-Gun	12	0.0%
Simple Assault	12	0.0%
Theft of US Government Property	12	0.0%
Drugs - Adulterated	11	0.0%
Licensing - Registration Weapon	11	0.0%
Burglary - Forced Entry-Nonresidential	10	0.0%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Weapon	10	0.0%
Marijuana - Producing	10	0.0%
Opium or Derivative - Possession	10	0.0%
Opium or Derivative - Sell	10	0.0%
Transport Interstate Stolen Property	10	0.0%
Altering Identification on Weapon	9	0.0%
Damage Property	9	0.0%
Flight-Escape	9	0.0%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Nonfamily-Weapon	9	0.0%
Sex Assault	9	0.0%
Explosives - Teaching Use (Specify in Miscellaneous Field)	8	0.0%
Failure to Appear	8	0.0%
Parole Violation	8	0.0%
Shoplifting	8	0.0%
Cruelty Toward Wife	7	0.0%
Damage Property - Private	7	0.0%
Explosives - Possessing	7	0.0%
Hallucinogen-Possession (Not to Include Marijuana)	7	0.0%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Police Officer-Weapon	7	0.0%
Trespassing	, 7	0.0%
Aggravated Assault - Family-Strongarm	6	0.0%
Civil Rights	6	0.0%
Opium or Derivative	6	0.0%
Receive Stolen Vehicle		
	6	0.0%
Robbery - Street-Weapon	6 5	0.0%
Arson Duralamy Na Formed Entry Decidential		0.0%
Burglary - No Forced Entry-Residential	5	0.0%
Cocaine - Smuggle	5	0.0%
Evidence - Destroying	5	0.0%
Liquor	5	0.0%
Marijuana - Smuggle	5	0.0%
Obstruct (Specify Judiciary, Congress, Legislature, Commission)	5	0.0%

Rape - Gun	5	0.0%
Robbery - Residential-Weapon	5	0.0%
Smuggling Aliens	5	0.0%
Assembly - Unlawful	4	0.0%
Bribery	4	0.0%
Burglary - No Forced Entry-Nonresidential	4	0.0%
Hallucinogen - Sell (Not to Include Marijuana)	4	0.0%
Harassing Communication	4	0.0%
Kidnap Adult	4	0.0%
Larceny - From Building	4	0.0%
Military	4	0.0%
Sale of Stolen Property	4	0.0%
Theft and Use Vehicle Other Crime	4	0.0%
Aggravated Assault - Police Officer-Strongarm	3	0.0%
Barbiturate - Possession	3	0.0%
Fraud - Impersonal	3	0.0%
Fraud - Illegal Use Credit Cards	3	0.0%
Hallucinogen - Distribution (Not to Include Marijuana)	3	0.0%
Immigration	3	0.0%
Invade Privacy	3	0.0%
Kidnap Adult for Ransom	3	0.0%
Misconduct - Judicial Officer	3	0.0%
Neglect Child (Includes Nonsupport of Child)	3	0.0%
Robbery - Banking-Type Institution	3	0.0%
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle (Includes Joy Riding)	3	0.0%
Amphetamine - Manufacturing	2	0.0%
Anarchism	2	0.0%
Burglary - Safe-Vault	2	0.0%
Conflict Of Interest	2	
Conservation - Animals	2	$0.0\% \\ 0.0\%$
	2	0.0%
Cruelty Toward Child		
Food - Health or Safety	2 2	0.0%
Forgery		0.0%
Hallucinogen - (Not to Include Marijuana)	2	0.0%
Hallucinogen - Manufacturing (Not to Include Marijuana)	2	0.0%
Homicide - Willful Kill-Public Off-Gun	2	0.0%
Kickback - Receiving	2	0.0%
Liquor - Possession	2	0.0%
Obstructing Justice	2	0.0%
Smuggling	2	0.0%
Strip Stolen Vehicle	2	0.0%
Theft and Sale Vehicle	2	0.0%
Threat to Bomb	2	0.0%
Abduction - No Ransom or Assistance	1	0.0%
Barbiturate - Sell	1	0.0%
Bribe - Giving	1	0.0%
Bribe - Offering	1	0.0%
Commercial Sex	1	0.0%
Compounding Crime	1	0.0%
Conceal Stolen Property	1	0.0%
Conditional Release Violation	1	0.0%
Conservation - Fish	1	0.0%
Contempt of Court	1	0.0%
Cosmetics - Health or Safety	1	0.0%
Counterfeiting	1	0.0%
Damage Property - Business	1	0.0%
Damage Property - Public	1	0.0%
Damage Property - Public-With Explosive	1	0.0%
Embezzle	1	0.0%
Extort - Threat Injure Person	1	0.0%
False Citizenship	1	0.0%
Federal - Material Witness	1	0.0%

Total	25,414	100.0%
Threat-Federal Protectees (President, Vice President, etc.)	1	0.0%
Synthetic Narcotic	1	0.0%
Statutory Rape - No Force	1	0.0%
Sex Assault - Sodomy-Woman-Gun	1	0.0%
Sex Assault - Sodomy-Boy-Strongarm	1	0.0%
Selective Service	1	0.0%
Sedition	1	0.0%
Riot - Interfere Officer	1	0.09
Rape - Strongarm	1	0.00
Prostitution	1	0.09
Opium or Derivative - Smuggle	1	0.0
Obscenity	1	0.09
Neglect Family	1	0.0
Money Laundering	1	0.0
Making False Report	1	0.0
Liquor - Sell	1	0.09
Larceny - Postal	1	0.0
Larceny - Parts from Vehicle	1	0.0
Kidnap Minor for Ransom	1	0.0
Kidnap Minor	1	0.0
Kidnap Adult to Sexually Assistance	1	0.0
Keeping House Ill Fame	1	0.0
International Trafficking Crime	1	0.0
Incest with Minor	1	0.0
Incendiary Device - Possession	1	0.0
Illegal Entry	1	0.0
Homicide - Willful Kill-Public Off-Weapon	1	0.0
Homicide - Willful Kill-Family-Weapon	1	0.0
Homicide - Negligible Manslaughter-Vehicular	1	0.0
Gambling	1	0.0

### **ENDNOTES**

<sup>7</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Figure OFT-03.

<sup>8</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Figure OFT-20.

<sup>9</sup> Pierce, Glenn L., Anthony A. Braga, Raymond R. Hyatt, and Christopher S. Koper. 2004. "The Characteristics and Dynamics of Illegal Firearms Markets: Implications for a Supply-Side Enforcement Strategy." *Justice Quarterly*, 21 (2): 391–422; Kennedy, David M., Anne M. Piehl, and Anthony A. Braga. 1996. "Youth Violence in Boston: Gun Markets, Serious Youth Offenders, and a Use-Reduction Strategy." *Law and Contemporary Problems*, 59 (1): 147-196; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. 2002. *Crime Gun Trace Analysis (2000): National Report.* Washington, DC: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

<sup>10</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Figure IFT-15.

<sup>11</sup> The analyses presented in this section updates previous research comparing the age distributions of crime guns and firearms produced for domestic sales presented in Braga, Anthony A., Garen J. Wintemute, Glenn L. Pierce, Philip J. Cook, and Greg Ridgeway. 2012. "Interpreting the Empirical Evidence on Illegal Gun Market Dynamics." *Journal of Urban Health*, 89 (5): 779 – 793.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section, *Asset Forfeiture Policy Manual 2023*, Chapter 5: Administrative and Judicial Forfeiture, Paragraph C, Pg 5-24.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, Management Advisory Memorandum 52-001, Notification of Concerns Regarding DEA's and FBI's Handling of Employee Issued Firearms Pending Destruction, October 2024, retrieved from <u>https://oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/25-001.pdf</u>

<sup>14</sup> Unlike other types of forfeited property, federally forfeited firearms and ammunition may not be sold, except as scrap. 18 U.S.C. § 3051(c)(3) provides that "[notwithstanding] any other provision of law, the disposition of firearms forfeited by reason of a violation of any law of the United States shall be governed by the provisions of section 5872(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986." 26 U.S.C. § 5872(b) provides that no notice of public sale is required as to forfeited firearms and that no forfeited firearm may be sold at public sale. Although § 5872(b) permits forfeited firearms to be retained for federal official use, forfeited firearms are not transferred to state or local law enforcement agencies through equitable sharing or otherwise. Although § 5872(b) indicates that the General Services Administration (GSA) could sell forfeited firearms to state or local governments, GSA has determined that it will not do so. See 41 C.F.R. § 102-41.200 & 102-40.175. As a result, seized and forfeited firearms cannot be sold and are generally destroyed.

<sup>15</sup> Mike McIntire, "*The Guns Were Said to Be Destroyed. Instead, They Were Reborn.*" New York Times, December 10, 2023., retrieved from <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/10/us/guns-disposal-recycling.html</u>

<sup>16</sup> In other words the case results in conviction and appeals are concluded, or case is not pursued, or is dismissed. <sup>17</sup> AZ - Section 13-3105Section 13-3105 A; GA - OCGA 17-5-52; ID–IC § 55-403(4)(b); KY - KRS 16.220; MT - MCA 46-5-313; ND - ND 62.1-01; TX - TX Crim Pro Sec 18.19(c); TN - TCA § 39-17-1317; UT - UCA 77-11a-403(3); WV - WVC 36-8A-5

<sup>18</sup> IL - 720 ILCS 5/24-6; NE - NRS 29-820(1)(e-f); NJ - 2C:64-6, 2C:64-9; NY - PenalLaw § 400.05; RI - 11-47-22 (exception for antiques, curios, relics)
 <sup>19</sup> LEA firearms that were recovered between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2023, and traced between January

<sup>19</sup> LEA firearms that were recovered between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2023, and traced between January 1, 2019, and July 1, 2024.

<sup>20</sup> All LEA (federal, state, local) physically located within the source states are included in this data.

<sup>21</sup> There are multiple variations and descriptions of commonly available ammunition and the data for each specific caliber may inadvertently exclude some variations of a specific caliber that amount to less than .1% of total. <sup>22</sup> For purposes of this section the term "Homicide" includes the following NCIC crimes that have been listed on trace request forms: Homicide; Homicide-Attempted; Homicide Willful Kill-Gun; Willful Kill-Weapon; Homicide Willful Kill-Gun; Homicide Willful Kill-Gun; Homicide Willful Kill-Gun; Homicide Willful Kill-Officer-Weapon; Homicide Willful Kill-Police Officer-Weapon;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part II, Appendix Table NTC-01.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This data includes duplicate traces, gun buy backs, and firearms turned into law enforcement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Figure OFT-01: Total Number of Crime Gun Trace Requests, 2017 – 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Trace count excludes duplicate traces, gun buy backs, and firearms turned into law enforcement. This number includes only those firearms with a recovery country location identified as the United States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Figure OFT-01.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See NFCTA Volume II, Part III, Table CCG-01.

Homicide Willful Kill Family-Gun; Homicide Willful Kill Family-Weapon; Homicide Negligent Manslaughter-Gun; Homicide Negligent Manslaughter-Weapon; Homicide Negligent Manslaughter-Vehicle; Homicide Willful Kill-Public Official-Gun; Homicide Willful Kill-Public Official-Weapon; Homicide John or Jane Doe No Warrant; Abortion.

<sup>23</sup> For purposes of this section the term "Other Violent Crimes" includes the following NCIC crimes that have been listed on trace request forms: Aggravated Assault – Family – Strongarm; Aggravated Assault – Nonfamily Gun; Aggravated Assault - Police Officer Strongarm; Aggravated Assault - Police Officer Weapon; Aggravated Assault - Family Gun; Aggravated Assault - Family Weapon; Aggravated Assault - Gun; Aggravated Assault - Nonfamily Weapon; Aggravated Assault - Public Official Gun; Aggravated Assault - Police Official Gun; Aggravated Assault - Weapon; Arson; Arson - Residential Defraud Insurer; Arson - Residential Endanger Life; Arson - Residence; Assault: Burning; Burglary; Burglary – Non-forced Residence; Burglary – Forced Entry Residence; Burglary – Forced Non-Residence; Burglary-Safe-Vault; Carjacking - Armed; Domestic Disturbance; Domestic Violence; Escape; Escape from Custody; Flight; Explosives - Possession; Explosives - Teaching Use; Explosives -Transporting: Damage Property - Public – With Explosive: Extortion: Extortion – Threat to Injure: Extortion – Threat Injure Reputation; Extortion – Threat to Accuse Person of Crime; Extortion – Threat to Damage Property; Forcible Purse Snatching; Incendiary Device – Possession; Hit and Run; Incendiary Device – Teaching Use; Incendiary Device – Transporting; Intimidation (includes stalking); Kidnap Hostage for Escape; Kidnap Adult; Kidnap Adult for Ransom; Kidnap Adult to Sexually Assault; Kidnap Minor; Kidnap Minor for Ransom; Kidnapping; Kidnap-Hijack Aircraft; Rape-Strongam; Rape-Gun; Rape-Weapon; Riot; Riot-Engaging In; Resist Officer; Riot - Interfere Firearm; Riot - Interfere Officer; Riot - Inciting; Robbery; Robbery Business Strongarm; Robbery - Banking Type Institution; Robbery - Business Gun; Robbery - Business Weapon; Robbery -Residence Gun; Robbery - Residence Strongam; Robbery - Residence Weapon; Robbery - Street Gun; Robbery -Street Strongarm; Robbery - Street Weapon; Robbery - Residential Weapon; Sedition; Sex Assault -Sodomy Boy Strongarm; Sex Assault - Sodomy Boy Weapon; Sex Assault - Sodomy Woman Gun; Sex Assault -Sodomy Woman Weapon; Sex Assault - Sodomy Man Weapon; Sex Assault - Sodomy Girl Weapon; Sex Assault -Sodomy Man Gun; Incest; Sex Assault - Sodomy Girl Strongarm; Sex Assault - Sodomy Woman Strongarm; Incest with Minor; Sabotage; Sedition; Terroristic Threats; Threat to Bomb; Threat to Burn; Threat-Federal Protectees; Treason.