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Guns and Violent Crime

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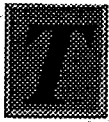


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Introduction

In recent years, Virginia's citizens and government leaders have become increasingly concerned about the proliferation and misuse of firearms - particularly handguns. The increased availability of firearms has coincided with rapid increases in murders and other gun-related violent crimes, as well as increases in juveniles committing violent crimes with guns, in the number of assault weapons confiscated by police, and in the number of gun-related incidents in public schools. Homicide, mainly by firearms, is now the leading cause of death among male African-Americans 15 to 34 years old.

Despite the growing concern and attention being focused on firearms violence, there is surprisingly little information available about the link between guns and violent crime. Without such information, government can do little to develop policies to reduce this violence.

Many questions about guns and violent crime are debated in government, in the media, and by the public, often without being guided by the solid data needed to provide much-needed answers.



For example:

- How prevalent is the use of guns in violent crimes?
- How often are juveniles involved in crimes using guns?
- What types of firearms are used by criminals?
- How do criminals obtain firearms?
- What laws exist related to the sale of firearms, and how many offenders are convicted under these laws?

In response to concerns about growing firearms violence and the lack of data needed to develop strategies to combat this violence, the Secretary of Public Safety directed the Department of Criminal Justice Services' Criminal Justice Research Center to prepare a comprehensive report on firearms and crime.

This report draws on many sources of data, some of which have never before been available to Virginia policy-makers. Much of the data concerning the number of violent crimes involving firearms in Virginia was drawn from the FBI's national Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) database. Data concerning the number of Virginia convictions for firearms-related offenses was drawn from the state's Pre/post-Sentence Investigation (PSI) report database.

Additional information was provided by data collection efforts developed especially for this report.

More than a thousand juvenile and adult offenders under the custody of the Departments of Corrections and Youth and Family Services, for example, were interviewed to gather data about how often these offenders carried and used firearms while committing crimes, what types of firearms they used, and how and where they obtained their firearms. The law enforcement homicide files of selected large and small Virginia localities were examined to extract detailed information about the types of firearms used to commit murders in Virginia during 1989, 1990 and 1991. Additionally, extensive information was gathered from the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program (VFTP) to document how many firearms are sold in Virginia and how often illegal firearms sales are blocked by the state's innovative instant criminal records background check.

Much of the information collected at the request of the Secretary was presented to the Governor's Commission on Violent Crime to help guide its deliberations and recommendations concerning firearms and violent crime. However, much of the more detailed information was not presented to the Commission or was too lengthy to present in the Commission's final report. Therefore, this data is being presented in this separate, special report to be included with the final report of the Commission.

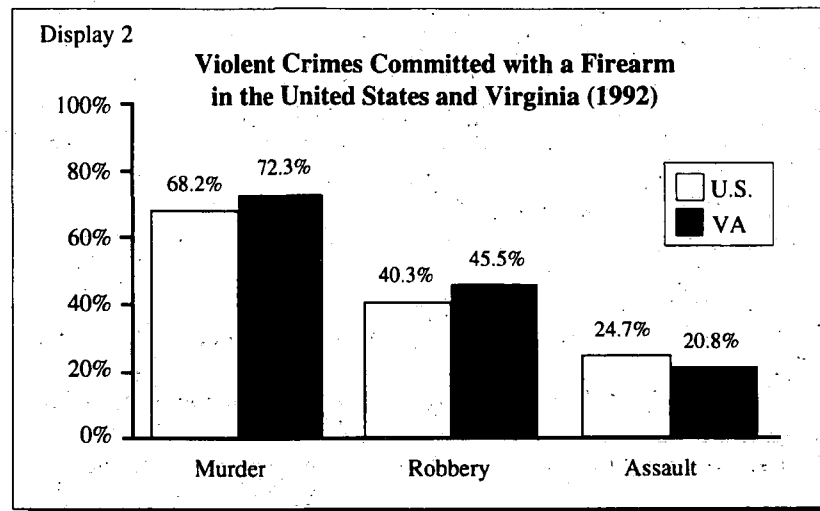
Hopefully, this report will provide Virginia policymakers and others with information to guide the development of policies to reduce firearms violence in the Commonwealth.

Handgun and Firearm Involvement in Murder

Nearly three-quarters of the 563 murders reported in Virginia during 1992 were committed with a firearm, and more than 80% of these firearms were handguns. Historically, handguns have been used in crime far more often than other types of firearms. Handguns are generally the least expensive firearm to obtain and they are much easier to carry and conceal than rifles or shotguns.

Display 1 presents the percentage of all murders in the U.S. and Virginia that were committed using a handgun during the period 1980 through 1992.

Murders with a handgun increased in both the U.S. and Virginia between 1980 and 1992. In 1980, 49% of the murders in Virginia were committed with a handgun. By 1992, this percentage had risen to 60%. Handgun murders in the U.S. rose by a similar amount during this same period.



- With the exception of 1982, the percentage of murders in Virginia committed with a handgun remained fairly constant between 1980 and 1986. Handgun murders began to rise in 1987, and the sharpest increase occurred between 1989 and 1992.

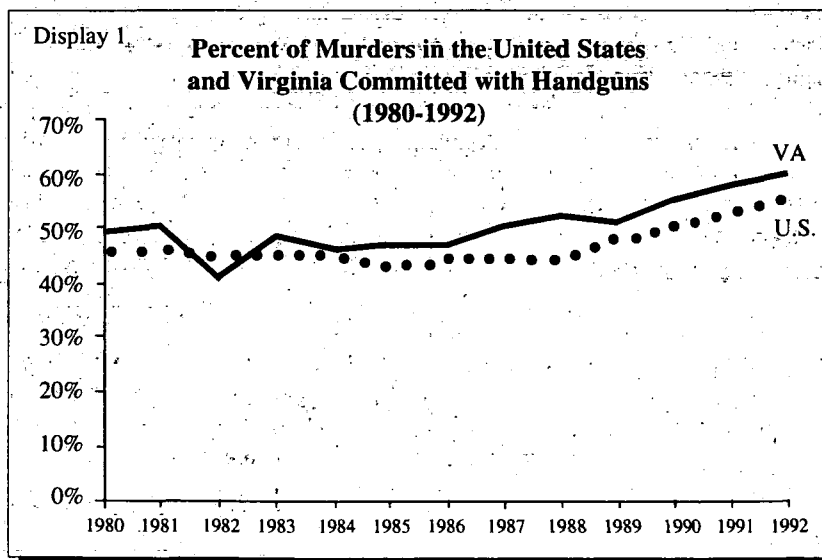
- The percentage of murders committed with a handgun in Virginia exceeded those committed in the U.S. during all years except 1982.

The increase in violent crimes committed with firearms is not restricted to murders, nor is it restricted to only the use of handguns. Display 2 compares the percentages of murders, robberies and aggravated assaults committed with all types of firearms in the U.S. and Virginia in 1992.

- About 68% of murders in the U.S. were committed with a firearm, compared to 72% of murders committed in Virginia.

- A larger percentage of Virginia robberies were committed with a firearm than were committed in the U.S.

- Nearly 25% of the assaults in the U.S. were committed using a firearm, compared to about 21% of the assaults committed in Virginia.



Weapons Used by Juveniles Arrested for Murder in Virginia (1987-1992)

As seen in the previous display, murders in Virginia committed with a firearm rose significantly during the late 1980s and early 1990s. One alarming aspect of this increase is that murders by firearm committed by juveniles (those less than 18 years old) rose even faster than murders overall.

This increase is clearly seen in Display 3, which presents the numbers of Virginia murders during 1987 - 1992 in which at least one juvenile was arrested. Murders are classified by the type of weapon used to commit the crime. Weapon types are classified as handguns, other guns (rifles and shotguns) and other weapons (knives, clubs, fists, etc.). Data are taken from the Supplemental Homicide Reports provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system.

- The number of murders committed by juveniles increased for all categories of weapon types between 1987 and 1992. Nearly three times as many juveniles were arrested for murder in 1992 as in 1987.

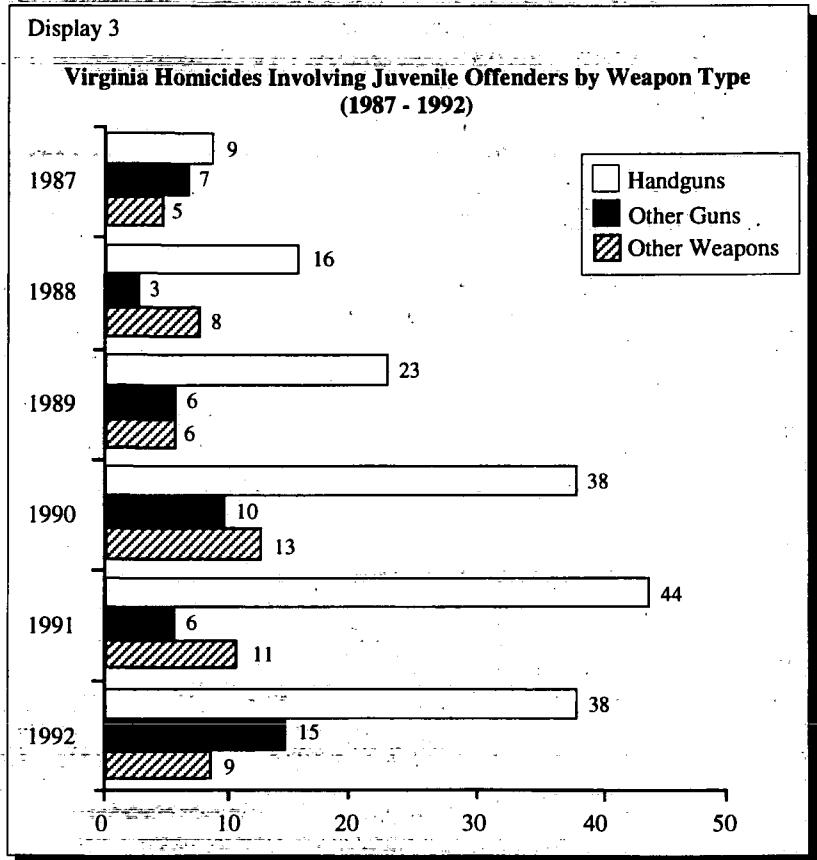
- The growth in the use of firearms by juveniles is clearly seen by contrasting the increases in murders committed with and without firearms. In 1992, the number of murders committed using a weapon other than a firearm was almost twice what it was in 1987. By contrast, the number of murders committed with all types of firearms (rifles, shotguns and handguns

combined) more than tripled during this period.

- The growth in the use of handguns by juveniles was even greater than the growth in the use of firearms in general. The number of murders committed using a handgun more than quadrupled from 1987 to 1992.

The numbers shown in this display are somewhat less than the total

number of juveniles arrested for murder as reported by the UCR in the years 1987 through 1992. The numbers shown in this display are less because each murder included in the display is counted only once, regardless of how many juveniles may have been arrested for the crime. The UCR juvenile arrest totals, however, may include more than one juvenile arrest for each murder.



Types of Firearms Possessed and Used by Juvenile and Adult Offenders in Virginia

Data available from official crime statistics provides little information about the relationship between criminals and guns. Generally, crime statistics reveal little more than whether an offender used a gun in a crime and whether the gun was a handgun, rifle or shotgun.

To obtain more information about the relationship between criminals and guns, the Criminal Justice Research Center surveyed offenders incarcerated in nine reception and classification facilities operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) and juveniles at the reception and diagnostic center operated by the Virginia Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). All surveys were administered by DOC and DYFS staff during interviews conducted between November, 1992 and May, 1993. All offenders surveyed were assured that their answers were confidential. To ensure confidentiality, no data was collected that would identify any individual's name, sex, age or conviction offense.

Because the ages of those interviewed were not recorded, juvenile and adult offenders were identified based on the reported average age of offenders in the facilities surveyed. Those identified as juveniles in Display 4 were incarcerated at a DYFS facility in which the average offender's age was 15.6 years. Those identified as adults were incarcerated at DOC facilities with an average inmate age of 31 years. Additionally, because the offense leading to incarceration was not recorded, those interviewed are not limited to only violent offenders.

Display 4 presents information about the types of firearms owned and used by juvenile and adult offenders surveyed. All percentages shown are based on the total number of offenders interviewed. Data are based on an analysis of responses from 1,122 adult and 192 juvenile offenders.

- Juveniles were much more likely than adults to say they had ever possessed a firearm. Seventy percent of juveniles said they had, compared to less than one-half of the adult inmates. This is somewhat surprising given that it is much harder for a juvenile to legally obtain a firearm than it is for an adult.

- About one-third of the juveniles and one-fifth of the adults said they had ever carried a fire-

arm at a crime scene.

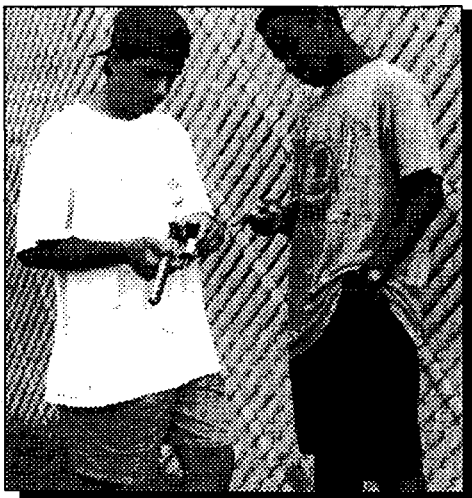
- Although many offenders admitted to possessing a firearm, only about one in ten juveniles and adults said they had carried a firearm while committing the crimes for which they were incarcerated. Even fewer, about 5%, said they fired their weapon during these crimes.

- Juveniles were more than twice as likely as adults to say they had ever possessed a semi-automatic pistol. They were nearly three times as likely to say they had carried one at a crime scene. Adults were slightly less likely to say they had ever possessed a revolver or carried it at a crime scene.

- Adult inmates were somewhat less likely than juveniles to have ever possessed a rifle or shotgun. No more than 3% of adults and juveniles said they ever carried or used these weapons during a crime.

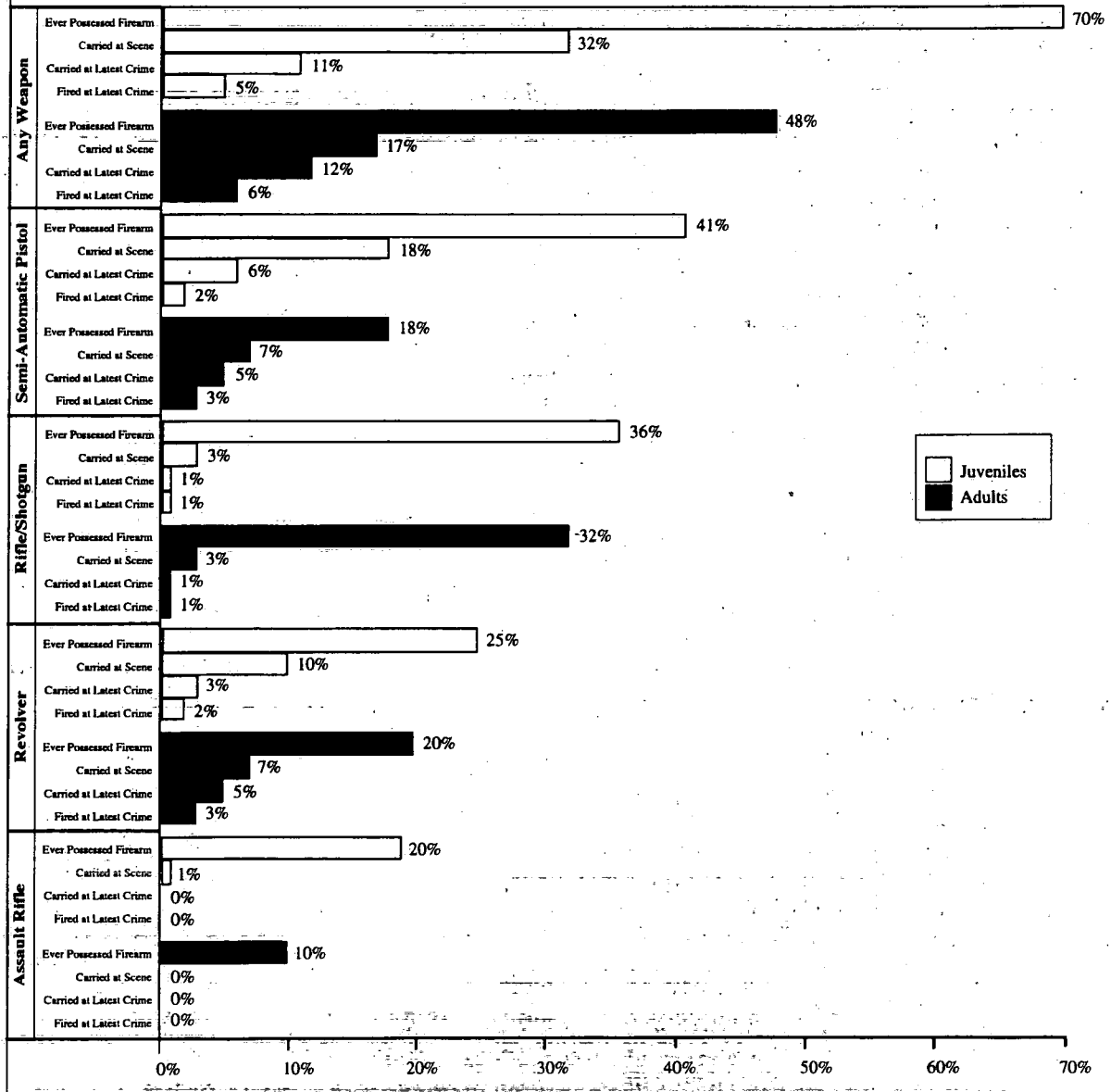
- Almost twice as many juveniles as adults said they had ever possessed an assault-type rifle.

- No more than 1% of the juveniles said they had ever carried an assault rifle at a crime scene. None of the juveniles or adults surveyed said they had ever fired this type of weapon at a crime scene.



Display 4

Firearms Possessed by Juvenile and Adult Offenders



Most Common Handguns Used in Virginia Murders 1989-1991

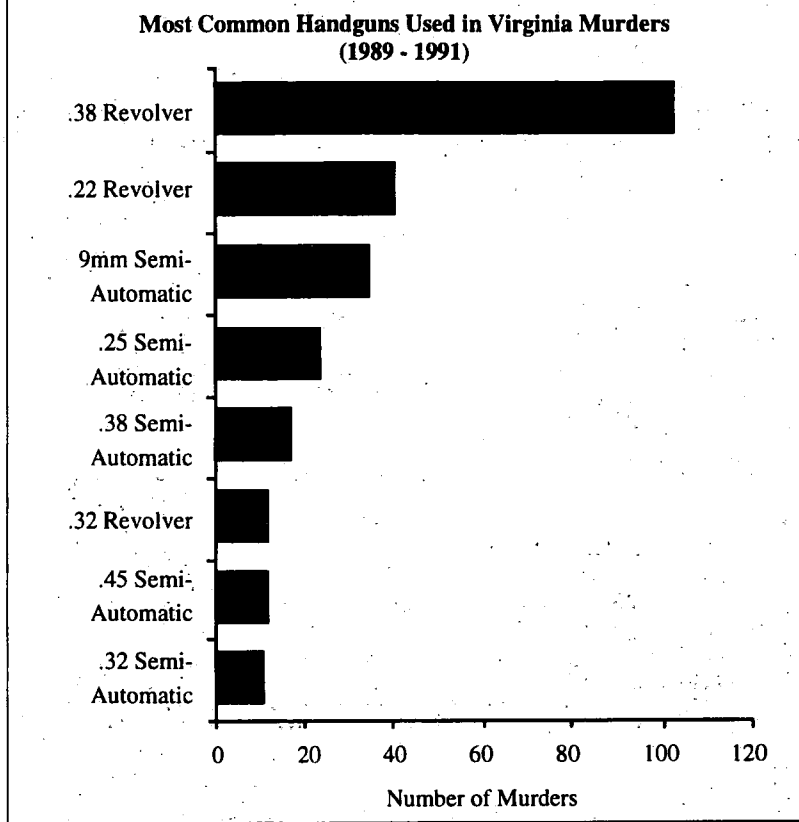
Official crime statistics contain little information about the types of firearms used to commit violent crimes. For example, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system only identifies firearms used in homicides as one of three general types: handgun, rifle or shotgun. Homicide investigators working on individual cases gather much more information about the firearms involved, but this data is not collected or reported in any official state crime reporting system.

To obtain more detailed information about the types of firearms used in Virginia homicides, the Criminal Justice Research Center collected data from the homicide case files of 18 Virginia law enforcement agencies. The 18 agencies selected were in localities which reported more than five murders in the year 1990 to the Virginia State Police.* For each of these localities, the homicide files for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 were examined.

A total of 590 murders was committed with a firearm in these localities during 1989-1991. In 413 of these murders, law enforcement officials identified the firearm used as a handgun. For 273 of these handguns, they were able to identify the caliber and firing action type of the weapon. Eight types of handguns accounted for 256, or 94%, of the 273 murders in which the type of handgun used was identified. These eight types of handguns are shown in Display 5.

- By far, the most frequently used handgun was a .38 caliber revolver. This handgun was used more than twice as often as the next most frequently used handgun, a .22 caliber revolver.

Display 5



- Among semi-automatic handguns, the 9mm pistol was the most frequently used weapon, followed by the .25 caliber pistol.

- Three of the most frequently used handguns were revolvers and five were semi-automatic pistols.

In 30% of the 590 homicide files examined, law enforcement investigators were unable to identify the type of firearm used to commit the crime. In some cases, neither the murderer or the firearm used was found. When a firearm is not found, investigators can often make inferences about the type of firearm used by examining bullets recovered at the crime scene or from the victim's body. However, in some cases even this information is unavailable. Bullets sometimes enter and exit a victim's body and are not

recovered. In other cases, bullets that are recovered are so badly deformed that it is difficult to precisely identify the type of firearm from which it was fired.

The homicide files examined to obtain this information also provided some data about the use of "assault" type semi-automatic pistols. Six such weapons were identified in these files. Two of the pistols were identified as the Intratec Tec-9. One pistol was identified as "similar to a Tec-9," one as a "Tec-9, Mac-10 or Uzi" and one as an "Uzi-type weapon."

* Twenty Virginia localities reported more than five murders to the UCR section of the Virginia State Police in 1990. The homicide files from two of these localities were unavailable for examination, leaving 18 localities from which this data were drawn.

Revolvers and Semi-Automatic Handguns Used in Virginia Murders 1989-1991

Although the previous display shows that the revolver is the most commonly used handgun in the homicide cases, in recent years law enforcement officials and others have noted that more and more of the handguns used in violent crimes are semi-automatic pistols.

Revolvers are so given this name because their ammunition is contained in a revolving cylinder. After each pull of the trigger, the gun is usually manually "cocked" to revolve the cylinder and align the next bullet with the gun barrel. Semi-automatic pistols, on the other hand, carry their ammunition in a "clip" and automatically align the next bullet with the barrel between each pull of the trigger. These pistols are

called "semi-automatic" because the trigger must be pulled each time a bullet is fired. Fully automatic firearms, also known as "machine guns," fire bullets continuously as long as the trigger is pulled.

Semi-automatic pistols reportedly are gaining popularity because they have a faster firing rate, are faster and easier to reload, and generally have a larger ammunition capacity than revolvers.

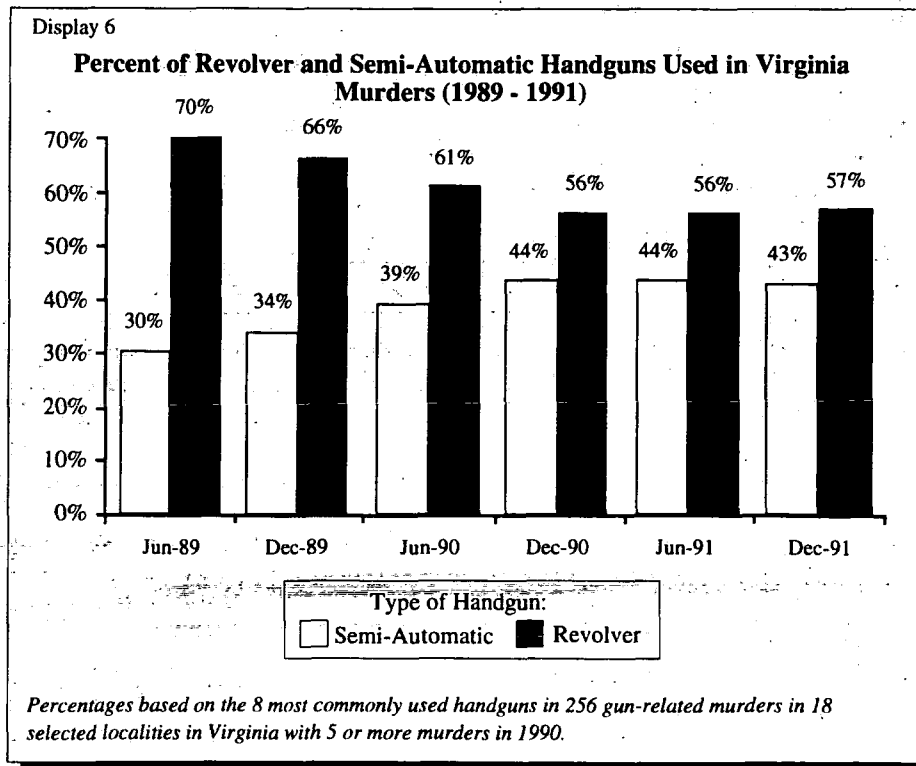
Display 6 shows the relative percentages of revolver and semi-automatic handguns used in Virginia murders committed during six consecutive six-month intervals in 1989 through 1991. Each date shown in the display

represents the end-point of a six-month interval. Data shown are based on the 256 handguns used in murders that were described in Display 5.

- In the first half of 1989, revolvers were used to commit 70% of the murders examined, compared to only 30% for semi-automatic pistols.

- By the latter half of 1991, 43% of the handguns used in murders were semi-automatic pistols.

- As a result of the increasing use of semi-automatic pistols by criminals, many federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are replacing their revolver sidearms with semi-automatic pistols.



Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers in Virginia 1985 and 1992

The previous displays examined how often firearms are used in violent crimes and the types of firearms used by those who commit these crimes. Officials searching for solutions to the problem of gun-related violence must look at all available data when attempting to develop policies to reduce these crimes. One approach to reducing firearms violence is regulating the sale of firearms in an attempt to keep them out of the hands of criminals. To provide information about firearms sales in Virginia, the next several displays discuss the sources, types and volume of commercial firearms transactions in the Commonwealth. This information can be used in conjunction with other data to better understand the connections between firearms, firearms availability, and violent crime.

The Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 established a licensing system for persons who manufacture, import or deal in firearms. To obtain a license, an applicant must be at least 21 years old, be legally able to possess firearms, and have a premises from which to conduct business. Licensed individuals must abide by all relevant state laws and local ordinances when mak-



Display 7

Federal License Data for Virginia 1985 and 1992

	1985	1992	Percent Change
Dealers	5513	6827	+24%
Pawn Brokers	60	152	+153%
Manufacturers of Firearms	12	20	+67%
Importers of Firearms	23	43	+87%

ing firearms sales. The annual fee for a dealer's license is \$10. Currently there are more than 287,000 Federal firearms licenses in the nation.

Display 7 presents the number of federally licensed firearm dealers in Virginia in 1985 and 1992, and the change in these numbers over this eight-year period.

- The number of federally licensed firearms dealers in Virginia increased by 24% from 1985 to 1992.
- The number of pawn brokers with a federal firearms license more than doubled from 1985 to 1992, increasing by 153%.
- There are far fewer licensed firearms manufacturers than dealers in Virginia. The number of manufacturers increased by 67% from 1985 to 1992. Most of these manufacturers produce parts for firearms rather than completed weapons.
- The number of importers of firearms with a federal firearm license increased by 87% from 1985 to 1992.

Federal and state officials have expressed concern that the current

dealer licensing system is too lenient. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) estimates that only about 26% of the current licensees operate from a commercial premises. BATF also estimates that the remaining 74% of the licensees conduct little or no business, but simply use the license to engage in interstate firearms trading, buy guns at wholesale, and circumvent state record check requirements.

In 1993, President Clinton directed the BATF to take steps to tighten compliance with the current dealer licensing requirements. These steps include a more rigorous screening of license applicants and firearm purchasers, making the "premises" requirement more meaningful, improving BATF's response to multiple handgun sales, increasing sanctions for dealer violations, and improving agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies that address licensing and firearms trafficking problems.

The Commonwealth of Virginia does not license firearms dealers. However, legislation to establish a state licensing system has been recommended by the Governor's Commission on Violent Crime.

Distribution of Handgun Sales by Virginia Dealers FY 1991

Handgun dealers in Virginia range from dealers who sell fewer than 10 handguns per year to large dealers who sell more than 1,000 handguns a year. An indication of handgun sales volume in Virginia can be seen by examining data from the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program (VFTP). Display 8 presents sales data for licensed dealers in Virginia who sold at least one handgun during fiscal year 1991. Data are presented for dealers grouped according to handgun sales volume.

- Dealers with the smallest volume of handgun sales made up 70% of the active handgun dealers in Virginia. However, this group accounted for only 7% of the handguns sold in FY 1991.
- Dealers who sold between 11 and 100 handguns made up 23% of all dealers in Virginia, and accounted for 24% of the handgun transactions in the state.
- Dealers who sold between 101 and 300 handguns made up only 6% of the firearm dealers in Virginia, but accounted for 31% of all handgun transactions. This group sold a greater number of handguns than any other group.
- Dealers who sold between 301 and 1,000 handguns made up only about 1% of the firearm dealers in Virginia, but accounted for 22% of all the handgun transactions.
- Only six firearm dealers in Virginia reported sales of more than 1,000 handguns in FY 1991. These dealers specialize in firearms and firearm-related products. Although few in number, these dealers accounted for 16% of all handgun transactions.

A total of 1,834 firearm dealers reported 60,044 transactions involving one or more handguns to the VFTP during FY 1991. A total of 65,221 handguns were sold in these transactions. The number of handguns sold is greater than the number of transactions reported because some transactions involved more than one handgun.

The 1,834 firearm dealers that reported handgun sales in FY 1991 is far fewer than the approximately 6,800 federally licensed firearm dealers in Virginia in 1991. There are several reasons for this difference. The majority of licensed dealers in Virginia only sell rifles and shotguns. Also, many individuals holding firearms licenses are no longer or never were active dealers.

Display 9 lists the 10 localities in Virginia that had the largest volume of handgun sales in FY 1991. It is interesting to note that several rural

Display 9

Top Ten Handgun Sales Localities (FY 1991)

Locality	Handgun Transactions
Chesterfield	5,474
Hanover	3,084
Virginia Beach	3,039
Prince William	2,454
Roanoke City	2,272
Hampton City	2,104
Newport News	1,782
Isle of Wight	1,662
Fauquier	1,625
Fairfax	1,555

counties with large sales volumes are adjacent to urban areas with ordinances that regulate handgun sales (see Display 15). This suggests that residents of these urban areas may purchase firearms by traveling to neighboring jurisdictions with less restrictive purchasing requirements.

Display 8

Handgun Sales By Virginia Dealers (FY 1991)

Dealer Volume	Number of Handgun Dealers	Percent of All Handgun Dealers	Percent of All Handgun Transactions (N = 60,044)	Number of Handguns Sold *
1 to 10	1,275	70%	7%	4,159
11 to 100	415	23%	24%	14,439
101 to 300	111	6%	31%	18,528
301 to 1,000	27	1%	22%	16,103
>1,000	6	0%	16%	11,992
Totals	1,834			65,221

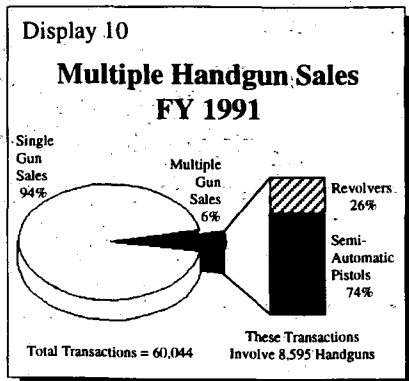
* Total number of handguns sold is greater than total number of handgun transactions because some transactions involve sale of multiple handguns.

Multiple Handgun Sales in Virginia FY 1991

The sale of multiple handguns has been a major issue in the debate over the availability of firearms and violent crime. Display 10 combines data provided by the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program (VFTP) and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to estimate how many Virginia handgun sales in fiscal year 1991 involved more than one gun.

- Multiple handgun sales accounted for at least 6% of the sales reported to the VFTP. Federal and state officials believe the 6% figure underestimates the multiple sale purchases.
- Semi-automatic pistols made up nearly three-quarters of the handguns sold in these multiple handgun transactions.

Concern about multiple handgun sales, and the fact that these weapons have been found at crime scenes in major eastern U.S. cities, led to recent legislation to limit these sales. The 1993 General Assembly enacted the "one handgun a month" law which limits to one the number of handguns that an individual can purchase in a 30-day period. The 1993 General Assembly also authorized the VFTP to begin collecting data on the number and type of firearms sold by firearm dealers.



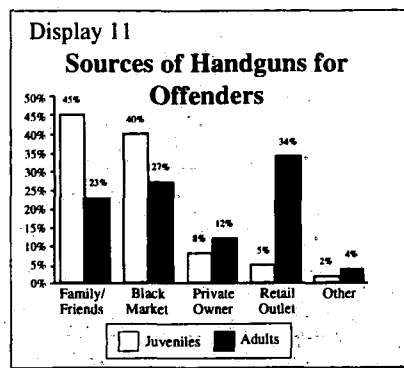
Sources of Firearms Used by Offenders

Many people have argued that the increasing use of firearms in violent crime is related to the ready availability of firearms. As previously seen, large numbers of firearms, particularly handguns, are sold in Virginia each year, and firearms are involved in an increasing proportion of violent crimes.

Those who argue that the ease of firearms availability contributes to increased firearms violence believe that regulating the availability of these weapons is one viable means of reducing violent crime. Such regulation can take the form of prohibitions on who can purchase firearms, limits on the number of firearms that can be purchased within a certain period, or prohibitions on the sale of certain types of firearms. Other forms of regulation include imposing waiting periods on prospective firearms purchasers. Waiting periods would give law enforcement authorities time to check the background of prospective buyers and provide a "cooling-off" period for would-be purchasers who may intend to use a firearm while angry or under stress.

Others argue that restricting the legal sale of firearms will do little to keep guns from criminals because criminals can obtain their guns through illegal means. They contend that restricting these sales will inconvenience law-abiding citizens while having little effect on criminals.

In an attempt to provide some information about how and where criminals obtained firearms, incarcerated juveniles and adults interviewed in the previously described survey were asked several questions about the sources of their weapons.



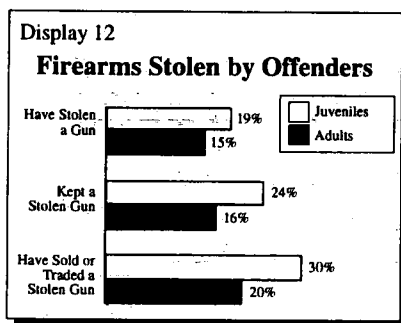
Display 11 shows the percentages of juveniles and adults who reported obtaining handguns from each of several different types of sources: family or friends, the black market, private owners, retail outlets, and other sources.

- Overall, adult offenders were most likely to report obtaining a handgun from a retail outlet, whereas juveniles were most likely to report obtaining a handgun from a family member or friend.
- Although retail outlets were the single most common source of handguns owned by adult offenders, nearly two-thirds of these offenders reported getting a handgun from a source other than a retail outlet.
- Only 5% of juveniles said they obtained a handgun from a retail outlet. This is not surprising because in Virginia it is illegal for anyone under 21 years old to purchase a handgun.
- Forty percent of the juveniles said they obtained a handgun from a black market source. About one-quarter of adult offenders reported obtaining a handgun from a black market source.
- Some researchers contend that because many offenders appear to obtain handguns through noncommercial sources, efforts to regulate the commercial sales of handguns will have limited success in keeping handguns away from criminals.

Sources of Firearms Used by Offenders (continued)

In addition to being asked about the sources of their firearms, the incarcerated juveniles and adults were asked about their involvement with stolen firearms. Display 12 presents information about how many juveniles and adults admitted to being involved with stolen firearms of any type, including rifles or shotguns.

- Most of the adults and juveniles surveyed stated that they had never stolen a firearm. About one in five juveniles and one in six adults admitted to having stolen a firearm.



- Overall, juveniles were more likely than adults to say they had ever stolen a firearm or kept, sold or traded a stolen firearm.
- About one-quarter of juveniles said they had previously kept a stolen firearm, compared to about one in six adults.

As can be seen in Display 12, the percentages of juveniles and adults admitting to have ever kept, sold or traded a stolen firearm is larger than the percentages that admitted to stealing a firearm. This discrepancy may be because some of the offenders interviewed had obtained and used firearms which they knew to be stolen, but had not stolen the weapons themselves.

Offenders and Armed Victims

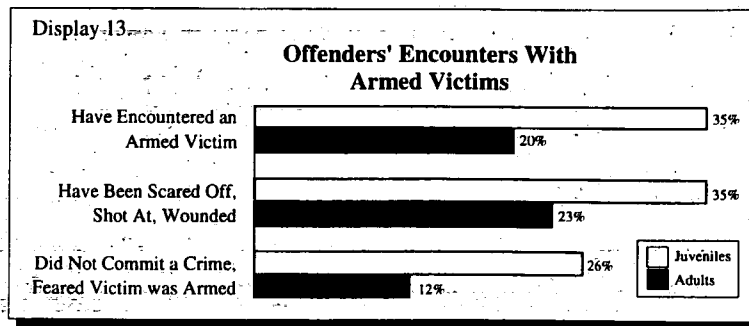
The majority of those who see a relationship between violent crime and the availability of firearms believe that the large number of firearms in society contribute to violent crime. However, a few have argued that the widespread availability of guns may also have an opposite effect. According to this view, the widespread availability of firearms may act as a deterrent to crime because criminals sometimes avoid committing a crime for fear of encountering a victim who is armed.

One possible way to test this assertion is to determine if known offenders report ever having been deterred from criminal activity by the fear of encountering an armed victim. Juveniles and adults interviewed in the previously described offender survey were asked whether they had ever personally encountered a victim armed with a gun (other than a police officer or security guard) while committing a crime, or whether they had ever been scared off, shot at, wounded or captured by an armed victim. They were also asked if they had ever decided not to commit a crime because they knew or believed that the intended victim was armed with a gun. These questions were asked of all offenders interviewed in the survey, regardless of whether the

offender admitted to ever possessing or using a gun in a crime. Findings from these questions are presented in Display 13.

- More than one-third of the juveniles interviewed stated that they had encountered an armed victim or had been scared off, shot at, wounded or been captured by a victim armed with a gun.
- Only about one in five adults admitted having a similar experience due to an encounter with an armed victim.
- About one in four juveniles and one in ten adults said that they had decided not to commit a crime for fear of encountering a victim armed with a gun.

These responses indicate that at least some criminals have been deterred from committing a crime based on a fear of encountering an armed victim. However, it would be very difficult to document any such widespread deterrent effect using official crime statistics. These statistics are based on crimes reported to law enforcement authorities and could not measure crimes that did not occur due to such a deterrent effect.



Virginia Firearms Legislation

Virginia and all other states have enacted laws defining firearm offenses and prescribing penalties for violating these laws. Professor Franklin Zimring of the University of California has identified three broad types of firearms laws: restrictions on who may possess firearms, restrictions on the use of firearms, and restrictions on certain types of firearms.

Display 14 presents 34 firearms-related felony offenses contained in the Code of Virginia as of December 1, 1993. These offenses are grouped according to the three types of firearm laws identified by Professor Zimring. For each offense, the penalty range prescribed in the Code is shown, as well as the number of convictions for the offense during 1992. Conviction data are from the Pre/post - Sentence Investigation database, which does not include all felony convictions.

The 1950 Code of Virginia listed eight felony firearms-related offenses. Since 1950, the General Assembly has added 26 new felony firearms offenses. More than 80% of these new offenses have been added since 1986, and more than one-half of them have been added by the last four General Assemblies.

In addition to these 34 felony offenses, the Code defines 22 firearms-related misdemeanor offenses not listed. These offenses include several recent prominent pieces of legislation: the "one-handgun-a-month" law, prohibitions against minors possessing handguns or assault rifles, and the prohibition of the Striker 12 "Street-sweeper" shotgun.

Display 14

Virginia Firearm Felony Laws in Effect on December 1, 1993 and Number of Convictions: 1992




Description	Penalty Range	Convictions
RESTRICTIONS ON WHO MAY POSSESS OR CARRY FIREARMS		
<i>Purchaser must not:</i>		
• make false statements on form authorizing criminal history record check:	1Y-10Y	30
• transfer to; transport out of state and transfer to; purchase multiple firearms and provide to; or transport to another state and provide to an ineligible person:	1Y-10Y	0
<i>Ineligible person must not use another person to obtain:</i>	1Y-10Y	*
<i>Alien may not possess/transport assault firearm:</i>	1Y-5Y	*
<i>Felon may not possess/transport/conceal:</i>	1Y-5Y	428
Citizen must not give or sell to <i>felon</i> :	1Y-5Y	1
Citizen must not furnish a <i>minor</i> with a handgun:	1Y-5Y	*
RESTRICTIONS ON HOW FIREARMS ARE USED		
<i>A citizen must not:</i>		
• possess "sawed-off" shotgun when committing a violent crime:	20-life	9
• possess/use machine gun when committing a crime:	20-life	1
• discharge from a motor vehicle:	1Y-10Y	8
• use restricted ammunition in commission of crime:	1Y-10Y	0
• maliciously discharge within/shoot-at occupied house/building:	2Y-10Y	43
• possess/use machine gun for offensive/ aggressive purpose:	2Y-10Y	1
• possess "sawed-off" shotgun:	2Y-10Y	49
• discharge within/shoot-at a school; or discharge while on or within 1000 feet of school property:	2Y-10Y	NA
• possess while selling 1 lb. or more marijuana:	3Y	0
• subsequent offense:	5Y	0
• use in commission of felony:	3Y	672
• subsequent offense:	5Y	154
• possess while selling Schedule I/II drugs:	3Y	0
• subsequent offense:	5Y	0
• discharge within/shoot-at occupied house/building:	1Y-5Y	41
• brandish/point while on/within 1000 feet of school property; or possess while on school property:	1Y-5Y	1
• possess while possessing Schedule I/II drugs:	1Y-5Y	248
• arrange so it fires on touch/by remote control:	1Y-5Y	0
• possess an unregistered silencer or muffler:	1Y-5Y	0
• conceal without a permit - second offense;	1Y-5Y	11
• conceal without a permit - third offense:	2Y-10Y	4
RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO FIREARMS		
Import/sell/manufacture/transfer/possess plastic firearms:	1Y-10Y	0

* Indicates that the law became effective after 1992 and, therefore, no conviction data is yet available.

Display 15

Local Firearms Ordinances

	Cities												Counties										Towns	
Restrictions on Who May Purchase, Possess, Carry, Transfer or Sell Firearms	Alexandria	Chesapeake	Fairfax	Hampton	Lynchburg	Newport News	Norfolk	Portsmouth	Richmond	Roanoke	Suffolk	Virginia Beach	Albemarle	Arlington	Chesterfield	Fairfax	Hanover	Henrico	Loudoun	Prince William	Roanoke	Southampton	Farmville	Smithfield
Buyer Must Have a Permit or License																								
Buyer Must Not be Felon, Drug User, etc.																								
Local Waiting Period																								
Buyer Must Have Records Check																								
Buyer Must be Fingerprinted																								
Must Not Sell, Transfer or Lend to Minors																								
Minors Must Not Possess/Discharge in Public																								
Dealer License Required																								
Dealer Must Have Records Check																								
Dealer Must be Fingerprinted																								
Dealer Must Report Sales Information																								
Restrictions on How Firearms May Be Used																								
No Discharge in Certain Places																								
Must Not Possess/Carry—Certain Places																								
Must Not Point-Brandish-Misuse																								
Must Keep Away From Children																								
Must Not Use Teflon Bullets																								
Must Not Alter Serial Number																								
Forfeiture If Concealed Illegally																								
Forfeiture If Used in Crime																								
Legend:																								
														</										

Legend:  In effect (applicable to handguns)  Not stated in Code but carried out in Practice  Local permit authorized by Section 15.1-525, Code of Virginia

Note: Localities were selected on the basis of population or because they have a "permit to purchase" ordinance in effect.

Local Firearm Ordinances in Virginia

In addition to state laws regulating firearms, some Virginia localities also have enacted ordinances which regulate firearms. Display 15 presents a listing of firearm-related ordinances currently in effect in Virginia's 20 most populous localities and in four other localities that have "permit to purchase" ordinances. As in Display 14, ordinances are grouped according to whether they restrict who may possess or whether they restrict the uses of firearms. None of the localities identified in the figure are known to have an ordinance restricting specific types of firearms.

The localities having "permit to purchase" ordinances were identified by a 1990 survey conducted by the Virginia Department of State Police. The survey was conducted shortly after the Virginia Firearms Transaction Program became effective to identify localities with ordinances that might conflict with state law. It is probable that some small localities with firearm ordinances may not appear in this table. This analysis focused on large localities because it was assumed that large localities would be more likely than smaller localities to have firearm ordinances.

In 1987 the General Assembly enacted legislation prohibiting localities from passing firearms ordinances without first obtaining the approval of the General Assembly. Although this state "preemption" statute did not invalidate already existing local ordinances, nearly all localities have since ceased to enact any new firearms ordinances. A few localities have enacted firearm ordinances since 1987 after obtaining the approval of the General Assembly.

Virginia Firearms Transaction Program Performance 1990 and 1992

Display 16 presents data supplied by the Department of State Police Virginia Firearms Transaction Program (VFTP) on the number of firearm transactions requested and denied in 1990 and 1992. Firearm transactions are denied if the VFTP computerized background check on prospective firearms purchasers reveals a record indicating the purchaser is not legally eligible to purchase firearms. Data is also presented concerning the reasons for transaction denials and arrests made in 1992 for illegally attempting to purchase firearms.

- The number of transactions requested in 1992 was more than three times greater than in 1990. The primary reason for this increase is that, in 1990, background checks were required only for handgun purchases. Beginning in June, 1991, background checks were required for all firearm purchases, including rifles and shotguns. This

increase suggests that about two-thirds of all transactions requests are for the sale of rifles or shotguns.

- Although there was a major increase in transactions requested in 1992, the transaction denial rate in 1992 was considerably lower than in 1990.

- Two possible reasons have been proposed for the decreased transaction denial rate in 1992. The majority of the firearms transactions in 1992 were for rifle or shotgun purchases, which did not require a background check in 1990. It is possible that persons ineligible to purchase firearms are more likely to attempt to purchase handguns than long guns. This is suggested by the fact that most violent crimes are committed by individuals using handguns rather than long guns.

- Another possible reason for the decreased transaction denial rate in

1992 is that persons ineligible to purchase firearms have become more aware of the background check requirement and have avoided attempting to purchase firearms through retail outlets.

- The most common reason for denial of a transaction was that the person attempting to purchase the firearm was found to have a felony conviction. In 1992, more than three times as many transactions were denied for this reason as for prospective purchasers having an outstanding felony charge or being identified as a fugitive.

- In both 1990 and 1992, the number of transactions denied was a very small percentage of the total transactions requested in each year. However, the small percentage of transactions denied should not be seen as a measure of the VFTP's effectiveness in blocking illegal firearms sales. It is likely that the background check process deterred some ineligible persons from attempting to purchase firearms. However, the transaction denial rate does not include illegal sales deterred in this manner.

In 1992 the Virginia State Police established a Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU). The FIU staff investigate transaction requests that were denied because the prospective purchaser was found to be ineligible to purchase a firearm. Since starting these investigations, the FIU has increased the number of persons arrested for illegally attempting to purchase firearms in Virginia.

Figure 16

Virginia Firearms Transaction Program Performance 1990 and 1992

	1990*	1992
Transactions Requested:	60,018	191,540
Transactions Denied:	1,035	1,667
Reasons for Denial		
• Felony Conviction:	693	1,287
• Outstanding Felony Charge:	302	295
• Wanted (Fugitive):	40	73
Denial Rate:	1.7%	1.0%
Confirmed Arrests for Attempting to Purchase:	—	468
Confirmed Arrests of Wanted Persons:	—	116

* VFTP approval was required only for handgun sales in 1990.

Virginia's Mandatory Firearm Penalty Enhancement Law

Like all other states, Virginia has adopted a mandatory firearms penalty enhancement law. Virginia's law, which went into effect in 1975, provided a mandatory prison term of one year for a first conviction and three years for a subsequent conviction for any person who used or attempted to use a firearm while committing murder, rape, robbery, burglary or abduction. In 1980 and again in 1993, the General Assembly increased the mandatory prison term and added to the list of offenses covered by this law.

For such a law to act as a deterrent against use of firearms in crime, those who commit (or contemplate) crimes with a firearm must be aware of the law. In an attempt to determine if convicted offenders were aware of Virginia's firearm penalty enhancement law, juvenile and adult offenders interviewed in the previously described offender survey were asked about the law and whether it ever influenced

their decision to use a firearm while committing a crime. Display 17 presents data based on these questions.

- The majority of juveniles and adults said they were aware of the penalty enhancement law. Juveniles were more likely to be aware of the law than adult inmates. Percentages shown in the figure are based on all offenders surveyed, including offenders convicted of crimes that did not involve firearms.
- Although the majority of offenders said they were aware of the penalty enhancement law, only about two-thirds of juveniles and one-quarter of adults aware of the law said it had ever

influenced their decision to use or not use a gun while committing a crime.

- Nearly one-half of juveniles and 20% of adults stated that they carried a firearm. These percentages include those who were and were not aware of the penalty enhancement law.

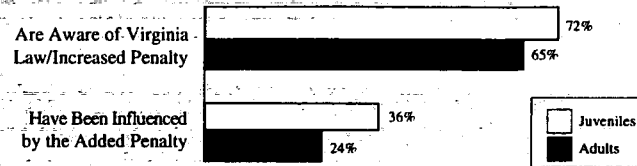
- This data concerning awareness of the penalty enhancement law is based on responses from convicted offenders. As such, it provides no indication of awareness of the law by those who may have been deterred from committing crimes by the law.

For a law to act as a deterrent, there also must be some degree of certainty that the penalty will be applied in cases covered by the law. Display 18 illustrates how often the law was applied in various crimes involving the use of a firearm. Data are based on a three-year average of convictions during the years 1990 through 1992.

While the probability of an offender's incurring the mandatory firearms penalty was high, it was by no means certain. Although a judge had to impose the penalty if an offender was convicted under this statute, about 25% of the criminals who used a firearm in the offenses shown were not given this additional sanction. It is likely that the penalty enhancement in these cases was dropped as part of a plea negotiation.

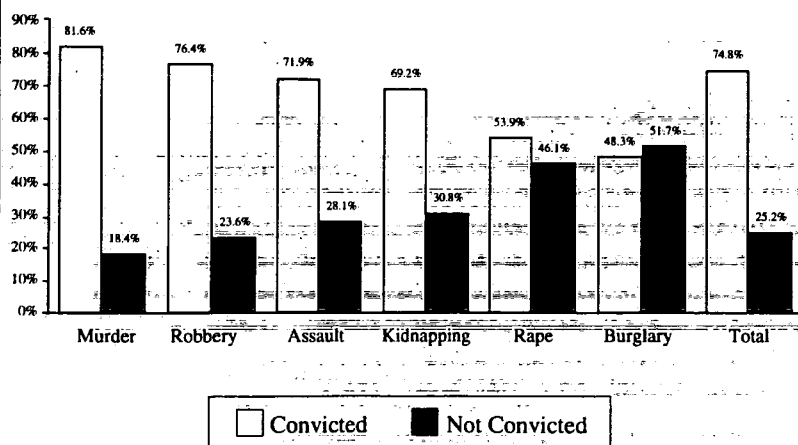
Display 17

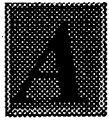
Offenders Aware of/Influenced by Mandatory Firearm Law



Display 18

Percent Convicted of the Mandatory Firearm Law (1990 - 1992)





acknowledgements

Alexandria Police Department	Pulaski Police Department
Arlington County Police Department	Richmond Police Department
Charlottesville Police Department	Roanoke Police Department
Chesapeake Police Department	Suffolk Police Department
Chesterfield County Police Department	Virginia Beach Police Department
Dinwiddie County Sheriff's Office	Captain R. Lewis Vass, Department of State Police
Fairfax County Police Department	Donna Tate, Department of State Police
Henrico County Police Department	Irvin Moran, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Henry County Sheriff's Office	Patrick J. Gurney, Ph.D. Department of Corrections
Lynchburg Police Department	William D. Brock, Ph.D. Department of Youth and Family Services
Martinsville Police Department	
Newport News Police Department	
Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office	
Portsmouth Police Department	
Prince William County Police Department	



Publications:

Crime in Virginia, Uniform Crime Reporting Section, Virginia Department of State Police

- Displays 1,2,3

Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation

- Displays 1,2

Data Bases:

Homicide Firearm Study data base, Criminal Justice Research Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

- Displays 5,6

Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) data base, Virginia Department of Corrections

- Displays 14,17

Survey of Virginia Prison Inmates and Youths Committed to Learning Centers data base, Criminal Justice Research Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

- Displays 4,11,12,13,16

Federal and State Agencies:

Criminal Justice Research Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

- Displays 14,15

United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

- Displays 7,8,9,10

Virginia Firearms Transaction Program, Department of State Police

- Displays 8,9,10,15

CRIME TREND SERIES

Uniform Crime Reporting Program in Hawaii

Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention Division

Robert A. Marks, Attorney General
Ruth I. Tsujimura, First Deputy

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Crimes Committed with Firearms in the State of Hawaii, 1983-1992

By Thomas M. Green, James B. Richmond, JoAnn E. Taira

From 1983 to 1992, 35 percent of all homicide victims were killed with a firearm, 71 percent of whom were killed with a handgun. While the total number of homicides in Hawaii has remained relatively stable and low during the past 10 years, the proportion of those homicides committed with a firearm is increasing. In 1983, 32 percent of Hawaii murder victims were killed with firearms, while 40 percent died by this method in 1992.

Other major findings of this report include:

State

- The total number of robberies and the number of robberies committed with a firearms generally declined from 1983 to 1991; however, from 1991 to 1992, the total number of robberies increased 17 percent and the number of robberies committed with a firearm increased 64 percent.

- From 1983 to 1992, the number of aggravated assaults increased 53 percent and the number committed with a firearm increased 12 percent. The percentage of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm was smaller in 1992 than in 1983.

- Arrests for weapons violations increased 83 percent from 1983 to 1992.

City & County of Honolulu

- From 1988 to 1992, there were 59 firearm-related homicides in the City and County of Honolulu, of which 41 were male and 18 were female.

- Forty-eight of the 59 homicides were committed with a handgun, 8 with a rifle, and 3 with a shotgun. Fourteen of those victims were killed with a registered firearm, 7 with a gun which had been reported stolen, 18 with an unregistered firearm, and 19 with a firearm that was not recovered.

- Most homicide victims had no record of any prior convictions.

- Twenty-four of the 55 persons suspected of or charged with killing those 59 victims had no record of any prior convictions, 16 had petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor convictions only, and 15 had a record of felony convictions.

HOMICIDE

During the 10 year period from 1983 to 1992, 464 persons were reported murdered in the State of Hawaii, 163 (35 percent) of whom were killed with a firearm. Of those killed with a firearm, 116 (71 percent) were killed with a handgun.

The average annual number of murders in Hawaii during the 10 year period 1983 to 1992 was 46.4 and ranged from a high of 57 in 1983 to a low of 34 in 1984. The 42 homicides in 1992 was 9 percent below the 10 year average. Figure 1 (see page 8)

shows the relationship between total number of homicides, the number of homicides committed with all firearms, and the number of homicides committed with handguns for the State of Hawaii for 1983 to 1992.

Nationally, the number of homicides has increased steadily since 1987. From 1983 to 1992, the average annual number of murders in the United States was 19,200. The 1992 homicide total, 22,540, was 17 percent higher than the 10 year average. From 1983 to 1992, 62 percent of those reported murdered in the United States were killed with a firearm, 76 percent of which involved a handgun. Figure 2 (page 8) shows the relationship among the total number of homicides, the number of homicides committed with all firearms, and the number of homicides committed with handguns for the United States for 1983 to 1992.

Over the 10 year period from 1983 to 1992, the use of firearms in homicides has become much more prevalent in the United States as a whole than in Hawaii. In 1983, 32 percent of the homicides in Hawaii were firearm-related and 23 percent involved a handgun; in 1992, those figures were 41 percent and 29 percent, respectively. Nationally, 61 percent of the homicides in 1983 were firearm-related and 45 percent involved a handgun. In 1992, 68 percent of the homicides nationally were firearm-related and 55 percent involved a handgun. The number of homicides in Hawaii is relatively low; as such, annual fluctuations appear dramatic. However, the overall trend for the state shows that firearms are accounting for a greater percentage of all homicides. Figure 3

(page 8) illustrates the changing role firearms have played in homicides in the United States and Hawaii from 1983 to 1992.

ROBBERY

From 1983 to 1992, there were 10,758 reported robberies in the State of Hawaii, 13 percent of which (1,359) involved a firearm.¹ In 1992, the 1,151 reported robberies were 7 percent higher than the 10 year average of 1,075.8 robberies per year but 13 percent lower than the 1983 robbery total of 1,330. During the 10 year period, both the total number of robberies and the number of robberies committed with a firearm generally declined, until 1992, when the total number of robberies increased 17 percent and the number of robberies committed with a firearm increased 64 percent over the previous year.

The total number of robberies in the United States declined during the 1980s, but then increased in the early 1990s. From 1983 to 1992, the number of reported robberies increased 39 percent, while the percentage of robberies committed with firearms grew from 37 percent in 1983 to 40 percent in 1992. In 1983, 17 percent of the robberies committed in Hawaii involved a firearm. In 1992, 10 percent of the robberies in Hawaii involved a firearm, up from 7 percent in 1991. Figure 4 (page 9) shows a 10-year trend in the number of robberies reported nationally and in Hawaii from 1983 to 1992. Figure 5 (page 9) illustrates the percentage of robberies committed with firearms in the United States and Hawaii from 1983 to 1992.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Of the 12,538 reported aggravated assaults reported in the State of Hawaii between 1983 and 1992, 20 percent (2,540) involved a firearm. In 1983, there were 891 reported aggravated assaults, 189 of which involved a firearm (21 percent). In 1992, there were 1,365 reported aggravated

assaults (an increase of 53 percent from 1983), of which 211 involved a firearm (a 12 percent increase). Overall, a smaller proportion of all aggravated assaults involved a firearm in 1992 than in 1983.

Nationally, the number of reported aggravated assaults has steadily increased from 1983 to 1992, including the number and percentage involving a firearm. In 1983, 21 percent of the reported aggravated assaults involved a firearm. In 1992, there was a 73 percent increase in the number of reported aggravated assaults, a 102 percent increase in the number of aggravated assaults which involved a firearm, and an increase from 21 percent to 25 percent in the proportion of all aggravated assaults involving firearms. Figure 6 (page 9) illustrates the changes in the number of reported aggravated assaults nationally and in Hawaii; Figure 7 (page 10) shows the percentage of aggravated assaults committed with firearms.

WEAPONS VIOLATIONS

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects arrest data for one other group of offenses involving firearms, collectively referred to as "weapons violations", described in Chapter 134 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. These offenses include failing to register a firearm, possessing a firearm without a permit, improperly carrying or storing a firearm, and possessing illegal firearms. In addition to weapons violations involving a firearm, Chapter 134 also prohibits electric guns, switchblade knives, and carrying other dangerous weapons such as a blackjack and metal knuckles in a concealed fashion.²

From 1983 to 1992, the number of arrests for weapons violations increased 83 percent, from 506 to 924. During that period, adult arrests increased 84 percent (from 450 to 827) while juvenile arrests increased 73 percent (from 56 to 97). In 1983, 89 percent of the arrests for weapons

violations involved adults; in 1992, 90 percent involved adults. Figure 8 (page 10) summarizes these changes.

Nationally, the number of arrests for weapons violations increased 27 percent from 1983 to 1992. During that same period, the number of adult arrests increased 14 percent, while juvenile arrests increased 106 percent. The 10 year trend for weapons violations arrests appears in Figure 9 (page 10).

HOMICIDE 1988-1992: City and County of Honolulu

From 1988 to 1992, there were 87 homicide victims killed with firearms in Hawaii, 68 percent (59) of which occurred in the City and County of Honolulu. A more detailed analysis of the firearm-related homicides in Honolulu reveals important information concerning the weapons used and the criminal records of the victims and offenders. This analysis involved reviewing each of the 59 homicide case files, checking the registration of firearms used in the homicides, and conducting a criminal history check of each victim and offender.³

Victim Characteristics

Of the 59 homicide victims killed with a firearm, 41 were male and 18 were female. Eighty-three percent of the males (34) and 78 percent of the females were killed with a handgun. The youngest homicide victim was 11, the oldest 68, and the average victim's age was 29.9 years. Forty-two of the homicides involved a single victim and a single offender; 5 victims were killed by more than one offender; 7 victims were killed in circumstances which involved multiple victims of a single offender (2 cases involved 2 victims with one offender, one case involved 3 victims with one offender); and for 5 of the victims, the number of offenders was unknown. Ten of the victims were related to their killer, including 4 spouses; 16 were friends; 19 were acquaintances; 8 were

strangers; and for 6 of the victims, their relationship with their killer(s) was unknown to the police.⁴

Thirty-one of the 59 homicide victims had no record of convictions; 1 victim had a conviction for a petty misdemeanor only; 16 victims had records for convictions of only misdemeanors; and 4 had conviction records for only petty misdemeanors and misdemeanors. Only 7 of the 59 homicide victims had a record of any felony conviction: 5 had felony convictions for property crimes, and 2 had convictions for property, drug, and violent crimes.

Seven of the 59 homicide victims had a record of petty misdemeanor convictions; the median number of convictions was 1, the average 2. Of the 27 victims who had convictions for misdemeanors, the median number of convictions was 2, the average 3.5. Seven victims had convictions for felony property crimes, with a median of 1 and an average of 1.9 convictions per person. Two victims had one conviction each for a felony drug offense, and the same 2 victims had one conviction each for a violent felony offense (assault 2 and robbery).

Offender Characteristics

From 1988 to 1992, 55 individuals were known to be or suspected of being responsible for the deaths of the 59 victims (not all of the cases have been resolved). Of the 55 suspects/offenders, 51 were male and 4 were female. Forty-two of the suspects/offenders acted alone, killing a single victim; 3 suspects/offenders acted alone, killing multiple victims (in 2 cases killing 2 persons, in 1 case killing 3); and 5 suspects/offenders had one accomplice each, killing a single victim. Four of the suspects/offenders committed suicide after killing their victim(s).

Forty of the suspects/offenders had no record of felony convictions: 24 of the suspects/offenders had no record of convictions, 14 had misdemeanor

convictions only, and 2 had only petty misdemeanor and misdemeanor convictions. Of the 15 suspects/offenders who had a record of felony convictions, 7 had convictions for property crimes only, 2 had convictions for drug crimes only, and 6 had convictions for violent felonies.

Of the 7 suspects/offenders who had convictions for petty misdemeanors, the median number of convictions was 1, the average 1.1. Twenty-eight suspects/offenders had a record of misdemeanor convictions with a median value of 3 and an average of 3.8 convictions per person. Eleven of the suspects/offenders had a record of felony property crimes, a median of 1 and an average of 3.8 per person (one person had 18 gambling convictions; 6 of the 11 had only 1 conviction). For the 3 suspects/offenders with felony drug convictions, the median number of convictions was 1, the average 2. The 6 suspects/offenders with a record of violent felony convictions had a total of 9 convictions, a median and an average of 1.5 each.

Circumstances - Relationships

As stated above under Victim Characteristics, most of the homicide victims knew their killer. By circumstances, the greatest number of victims were killed during, or as the result of, a domestic argument or break-up: 19. In addition, 3 victims were killed as a result of a love-triangle. Sixteen of the victims were killed during a non-domestic argument, 12 were killed as the result of gang- or drug-related violence, 3 were killed while "playing around" with a gun (e.g. "Russian Roulette"), 1 was killed in the commission of a robbery, and 5 of the victims were killed under unknown circumstances.

By relationship, all 8 victims who were family members with the suspect/offender, including spouses, were killed (almost by definition) during domestic arguments and/or break-ups. Half (8) of the 16 victims killed by their friend(s) also died in a domestic

dispute or break-up. The 3 victims killed while "playing around" with a gun were friends with the person holding the gun, 2 friends were killed in a love-triangle, 2 friends died in a drug-related killing, and 1 friend was killed in a non-domestic argument.

Persons who were acquainted with their killer constituted the largest single group of firearm-related homicide victims by relationship: 19. The degree of intimacy between acquaintances is less than that for friends, but greater than for strangers. Some examples of the 19 acquaintances included the mother and father of the killer's former girlfriend (who was also killed), the boyfriend of the killer's mother, 1 person in a love triangle, a business competitor, and 7 persons who used and/or sold drugs with the suspect/offender(s).

Five of the 8 (63 percent) homicide victims who were shot by a stranger were killed during an argument. One of the strangers was killed while giving chase following a drug rip-off, one stranger was shot from across the street by a rival gang member, and one stranger was killed during a robbery.

All five of the victims killed under unknown circumstances were male. Of the 36 males killed where the circumstances were known, 33 (92 percent) were killed by other males, 3 by females. Seventeen of the 18 (94 percent) female victims were killed by males, 1 by another female.

Males were most likely to be killed by an acquaintance (42 percent of all males killed), a stranger (20 percent), a friend (15 percent), or where the relationship was unknown (15 percent). Three males were shot and killed by a family member (including an eleven year old boy killed by his father, who then strangled his wife and smothered his daughter) and 1 male was shot by his wife.

One-third of the female victims (6) were killed by a spouse or other family member, 10 were killed by a friend (9

of whom were boyfriends or former boyfriends), and 2 were acquaintances. No females were killed with a firearm by a stranger or under unknown circumstances.

Handguns were used in 67 percent of the firearms-related murders involving a family member, 75 percent of spouses, 100 percent of friends, 68 percent of acquaintances, 88 percent of strangers, and in 83 percent of the cases where the relationship between victim and offender was unknown.

Handguns were used in 89 percent of the domestic/break-up related-homicides, 67 percent of those related to a love-triangle, 75 percent of nondomestic arguments, 83 percent of gang/drug-related murders, 100 percent of the cases where the victim and suspect/offender were "playing around," and in 80 percent of the cases where the circumstances were unknown. A shotgun was used in the 1 case involving a robbery.

FIREARMS USED IN HOMICIDE

Of the 59 firearm-related homicides in the City and County of Honolulu, 48 were committed with a handgun and 11 were committed with a long gun (8 involving a rifle and 3 with a shotgun). Five (9 percent) of the firearms used in a homicide were registered to the victim or the suspect/offender, 9 (15 percent) were registered to a family member or friend, 1 (2 percent) was registered to someone not involved in the homicide but was not reported stolen, 7 (12 percent) had been reported stolen, 18 (31 percent) were unregistered, and 19 (32 percent) were not recovered.

Of the 48 handguns used in homicides, one-third of the handguns (16) were not recovered during the course of the homicide investigation,⁵ 25 percent (12) were unregistered, 17 percent (8) were registered to a family member or friend of the suspect/offender, 15 percent (7) had been reported stolen,

and 10 percent (5) were registered to the victim or suspect/offender.

The most popular calibers for handguns used in homicides from 1988 to 1992 were 9mm (11), .357 (10), and .38 (10). Other calibers of handguns used include .45 (4), .22 (5), .25 (1), and .32 (1).⁶

Over half of the 11 long guns (6) used in a homicide from 1988 to 1992 were unregistered, of which at least four were purchased legally in Hawaii (current Hawaii law does not require the registration of long guns). In three of the homicides (27 percent), the long gun was not recovered; in one case (9 percent), the gun was registered to someone not involved in the homicide but was not reported stolen; and in one other case (9 percent), the gun was registered to a family member of the suspect/offender.

Of the nine long guns identified as the murder weapon, six were rifles and three were shotguns. Four of the rifles were .22 caliber and two were .30 caliber. All three of the shotguns were 12 gauge.

Of the 5 guns registered to the suspect/offender or the victim, 2 were used to kill a spouse, 2 a friend, and 1 a stranger. The 9 guns registered to other family members or friends of the suspect/offender were involved in the murder of 4 friends, 3 acquaintances, and 2 strangers. The 1 gun that was registered to someone not directly involved in the homicide but who had not reported the gun stolen was used to kill an acquaintance of the suspect/offender. The 7 guns that had been reported stolen were used to kill 1 family member, 2 friends, 3 acquaintances, and 1 stranger. Eighteen of the guns recovered in homicides were not registered; 4 were involved in the death of a family member, 2 spouses, 5 friends, 4 acquaintances, and 3 strangers. Nineteen victims were killed with firearms which were not recovered, including 1 family member, 3 friends, 8 acquaintances, 1 stranger, and 6 persons where the relationship

between victim and offender was unknown.

Eight of the nineteen persons killed in a domestic argument or during the break-up of a relationship were killed with an unregistered firearm, 5 with a stolen gun, 5 with a registered gun, and 1 with a gun which was not recovered. Of the 16 people killed in nondomestic arguments, 5 were killed with an unregistered gun, 5 with guns which were not recovered, 5 with a registered gun, and 1 with a stolen gun. Those killed in circumstances that were drug- or gang-related (12) were most likely to be killed with a weapon which was not recovered (7); 3 were killed with an unregistered gun, 1 with a stolen gun, and 1 with a gun that was registered to someone not directly involved in the homicide but who had not reported the gun as stolen. The 1 shotgun that was used in the commission of a robbery was unregistered. Three people were killed while "playing around" with a gun, 2 of which were registered to either the victim, suspect/offender, or a family member or friend, and 1 was unregistered. Not surprisingly, the 5 persons killed under unknown circumstances were killed with a gun which was not recovered.

There were 24 suspects/offenders who had no record of any convictions. Five of those suspects/offenders used a firearm which was registered to either the victim or the suspect/offender, 2 suspects/offenders used a firearm registered to a family member or a friend, 4 used a firearm which had been reported stolen, 9 used an unregistered firearm, and 4 used a firearm which was not recovered in the course of the homicide investigation.

Of the 16 suspects/offenders who had a record of petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor convictions only, none used a firearm that was registered to them or the victim. Five of this group of suspects/offenders obtained their murder weapon from a family member or friend, 1 used a gun that was registered to someone not directly

involved with the homicide but that was not reported stolen (the investigation was unable to determine how the suspect/offender came into possession of the firearm), 2 used a weapon which had been reported stolen, 3 used an unregistered gun, and 5 used a weapon which was not recovered.

Fifteen of the suspects/offenders had a record of some type of felony (property, drug-related, or violent). None of those 15 used a gun which was registered to them or their victim and 1 used a gun registered to a friend (the suspect had given the gun to his friend as a gift, then borrowed it to kill his victim; the gun was reported stolen 10 days after the homicide). None of the 15 suspects/offenders used a gun which had been reported stolen. Fourteen of the 15 used a gun which was either unregistered (6) or not recovered (8).

DISCUSSION

Violent crimes are not common in Hawaii. In 1992, Hawaii had the eleventh lowest homicide rate in the United States, the fifteenth lowest robbery rate, and the sixth lowest aggravated assault rate. For two of those offenses, the proportion committed with a firearm are below the national average: from 1983 to 1992, 35 percent of the homicides in Hawaii were committed with a firearm, compared with 62 percent in the United States overall; and 13 percent of the robberies in Hawaii were committed with a firearm, compared with 36 percent in the United States overall. From 1983 to 1992, 20 percent of the aggravated assaults in Hawaii were committed with a firearm; during that same period, 22 percent of the aggravated assaults nationwide involved a firearm. Arrests for weapons violations have increased at a greater rate in Hawaii than the mainland United States for the period 1983 to 1992 (83 percent versus 27 percent, respectively); however, some of that difference in the rate of increase is explained by the

relatively low numbers of arrests in Hawaii.

Is firearm-related violence a problem in Hawaii? No, and yes. No, because Hawaii certainly has not fallen prey to the handgun violence evidenced in numerous mainland United States cities. Many of the elements which contribute to a high violent crime rate are not currently present in Hawaii. The interrelationship between drugs, gangs, and guns has not developed at the same rate in Hawaii as in other states.

There are several areas of concern when considering the future of firearm-related violence in Hawaii. First, Hawaii is not immune to the conditions which contribute to increasing crime. Trends on the mainland United States can take years to emerge in Hawaii. Rapid urbanization, rising unemployment, especially among minorities, the emergence of more sophisticated gangs, and the lucrative drug trade are examples of what Hawaii's future may hold. On the positive side, the lessons of the mainland United States need not be lost on Hawaii. Hawaii's handling of youth gangs is a good example: through the proactive efforts of both public and private agencies, youth gangs have not evolved as feared into Los Angeles-type organizations.

During the past 10 years in Hawaii, the percentage of firearm-related homicides has remained relatively stable, and the percentage of firearm-related robberies and aggravated assaults has generally declined. However, the sharp upturns in all three categories from 1991 to 1992 bear close watching. Also, the recent United States total homicide and firearm-related homicide trends are increasing, the latter more steeply, providing a more disturbing background for our basic observation of no decrease in firearm-related homicides in Hawaii.

The weapons violation arrests for the United States are another indicator of

concern for Hawaii's future. While Hawaii arrests for weapons violations have increased in rough equality among the juvenile and adult populations, juvenile arrests for these violations nationwide have more than doubled in the last 10 years, while adult arrests have increased less than 15 percent.

It is important to note that the nature of firearm-related violence is different in Hawaii than many mainland locales. The analysis of homicides in the City and County of Honolulu from 1988 to 1992 contained in this report illustrates some of the differences. First of all, Honolulu's homicides are not random acts of violence, nor are they significantly linked to drug trafficking. In 1976, Washington, D.C. adopted a law that banned the purchase, sale, transfer, or possession of handguns by civilians. The city experienced a slight decline in the number of homicides annually until 1985. From 1985 to 1992, the number of homicides doubled (U.S. Department of Justice 1974-1992).

The rapid increase in the number of homicides in Washington, D.C. is largely the result of drug-related violence, specifically crimes involving crack cocaine. From 1987 to 1990, 58 percent of the increase in the number of homicides was due to the increase in crime-related homicides. This increase is attributable to homicides related to drug dealing, the number of which nearly doubled during those years, and robbery. From 1987 to 1990, 48 percent of all homicides in Washington, D.C. were drug related. The drug-related violence generally did not spill over to those outside the "business" (Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis 1991).

The twelve gang- or drug-related homicides involving firearms in the City and County of Honolulu from 1988 to 1992 (20 percent of the firearm-related homicides) did not involve turf disputes over drug trafficking or large-scale rip-offs. Most of the drug-related homicides

involved situations where the victim owed money to his dealer or the theft of a small amount of drugs.

Those who were arrested for, or suspected of, committing homicide with a firearm in Honolulu appear to be different from their counterparts on the continental United States. A recent newsletter from the Attorney General of the State of California (Lungren 1994) cited a statistic from "Homicide in California, 1992" which revealed that 77.3 percent of those arrested for a firearm-related homicide had been convicted of homicide or some other offense.

From 1988 to 1992, 44 percent (24) of the suspects/offenders in firearm-related homicides had no record on any convictions; 75 percent (40) had either no record or a record of convictions for petty misdemeanors and/or misdemeanors only. Twenty-seven percent (15) of the suspects/offenders had a record of any felony convictions, of which 60 percent (9) had prior convictions for nonviolent felonies.

An important question not completely answered by this report is how those who committed murder with a firearm came into possession of that firearm. At least 14 (24 percent) of the victims were killed with weapons that were legally registered and that their killer, or suspected killer, had ready access to.

Only 7 of the firearms used in a homicide had been reported stolen. This is somewhat surprising, given the number of firearms stolen annually⁷ and the role they can play in the firearms black market. On the other hand, since most of the homicide suspects/offenders were not deeply involved in crime and may not have had ready access to firearms on the black market,⁸ the small number of stolen firearms used in homicides is less surprising. In fact, none of the suspects/offenders who used a stolen gun had a felony record, and only 2 suspects/offenders had any record of

convictions at all (both involved misdemeanors).

All of the 18 unregistered firearms which were recovered from a homicide investigation in the City and County of Honolulu from 1988 to 1992 were legal at the time of manufacture. During the course of several homicide investigations, an effort was made to track down the origin of the recovered firearms through the National Crime Information Center, always without success. The guns may have been purchased legally on the mainland United States, brought into Hawaii and not registered. Some of the unregistered firearms may then have been stolen and not reported, and sold on the black market.

It is not possible to determine the origin of the majority of the 19 firearms which were not recovered. During the course of the homicide investigations, some of the suspects told the police that they had received the gun from a friend, or that they had purchased the gun from someone (who they could/would not identify). A review of the firearms registration records revealed that there were no weapons registered to either the victim or the offender in the 19 cases where the murder weapon was not recovered.

Legislation at the federal and state levels concerning violent crime has sparked a great deal of discussion in recent months. In general, most efforts to restrict firearms and the role they play in violent crimes has taken place at the state and local levels. This is certainly true of Hawaii: President Clinton recently signed into law the "Brady Bill" requiring a 5-day waiting period for the purchase of firearms; Hawaii has had a 10-day waiting period since 1981 and a 14-day waiting period since 1992. Since 1986, Hawaii has enacted laws which increase penalties for crimes committed with firearms, prohibit automatic weapons and converting a firearm to an automatic firearm, prohibit assault pistols and detachable ammunition magazines with a capacity in excess of

10 rounds, require safe storage of firearms where a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm, increase penalties for theft of a firearm, and prohibit possession of a firearm while under a protective order of any court.

Two important questions concerning firearm-related violence in Hawaii are: 1) what factors are responsible for the state's relatively low rate of firearm-related violence; and 2) how can those rates be kept low? The first question requires a complex answer, but contains some elements mentioned earlier in this report: urbanization, unemployment, gangs, and drugs. Factors such as migration and mobility, cohesiveness of neighborhoods, educational achievement, and cultural traditions of nonviolence surely influence the rate of violent crimes in Hawaii.

Hawaii also has fewer guns per capita than the mainland United States: an estimated 1 gun for every 3 persons versus 1 gun for every 1.3 persons, respectively. However, the number of firearms registered in the State of Hawaii totaled approximately 16,000 in 1992, an 11 percent increase in 3 years (Honolulu Police Department 1991, 1993; Hawaii County Police Department 1993; Kauai County Police Department 1993; Maui County Police Department 1993). During the same period, the state's de facto population increased only 3 percent (The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism 1993).

The second question - how to keep Hawaii's firearm-related violence rate low - is no less complex. There is a growing body of evidence that links the availability of firearms with gun-related crimes (e.g. Loftin et al. 1991, Sloan et al. 1988, Zimring 1991) and the presence of firearms in the home with an increase in gun-related homicide and suicide (e.g. Kellermann et al. 1993, Kellermann and Reay 1986, Brent et al. 1991). There is compelling evidence that many of Honolulu's 59 firearm-related homi-

cides from 1987 to 1992 would not have occurred had a gun not been readily available.

The problems before the citizens of Hawaii and their elected representatives is how to restrict gun ownership to those who will not use them to kill, rob, and assault, and how to restrict, and ultimately reduce, the number of firearms available through illegal means.

ENDNOTES

¹ The Uniform Crime Reporting Program does not differentiate between handguns and long guns (rifles and shotguns) for the offenses of robbery and aggravated assault committed with a firearm.

² Arrest data for weapons violations includes all offenses covered under HRS Chapter 134. A review of the computerized records management system of the police department for the City and County of Honolulu for 1992 revealed that approximately 90 percent of the offenses related to firearms and 10 percent of weapons violations involved carrying a concealed deadly weapon (which may include a firearm) or possessing a switchblade; however, not all of the records listed the specific section of HRS Chapter 134 which was violated. In order to disaggregate the data by specific type of offense (e.g. those involving a firearm), it would require an examination of the actual police reports.

³ The Crime Prevention Division would like to express its appreciation to the staff of the Honolulu Police Department's Research and Development Division, Records Division, Firearms Registration Division, and the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center of the Department of the Attorney General for their assistance in compiling the data in this section of the report.

⁴ In 5 of the 6 cases, the victim's body

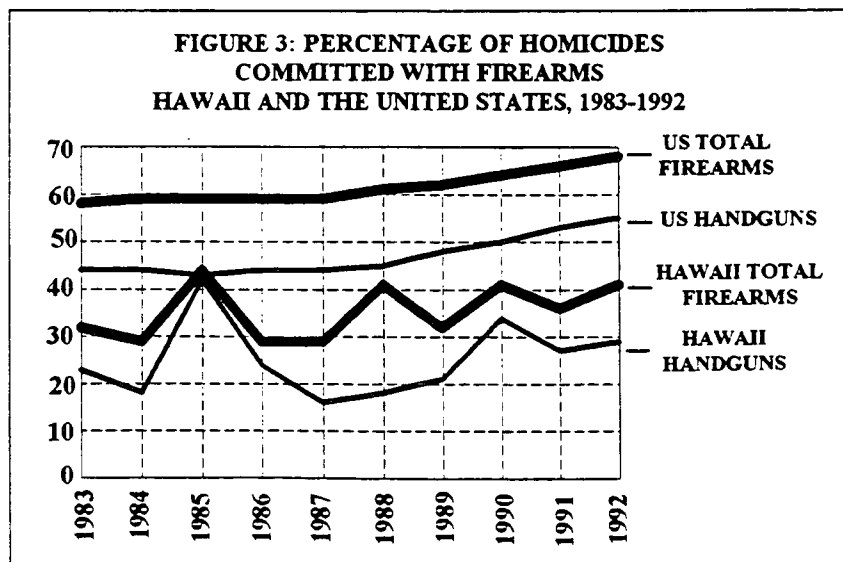
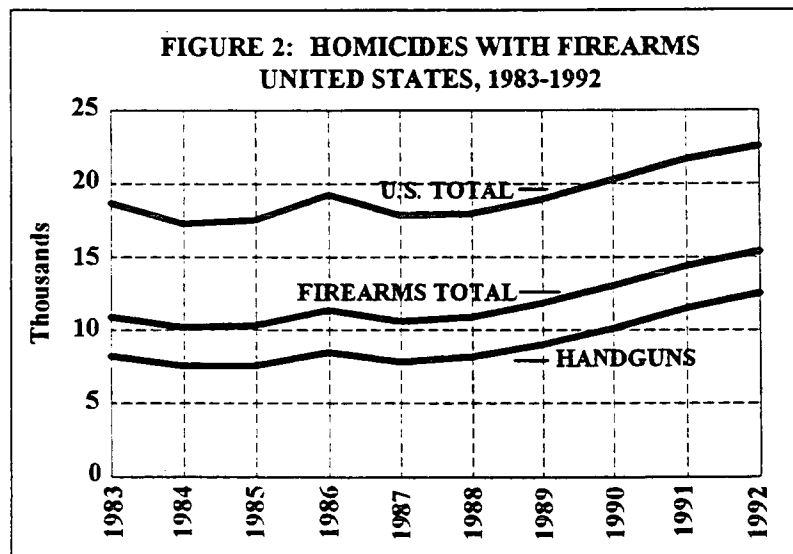
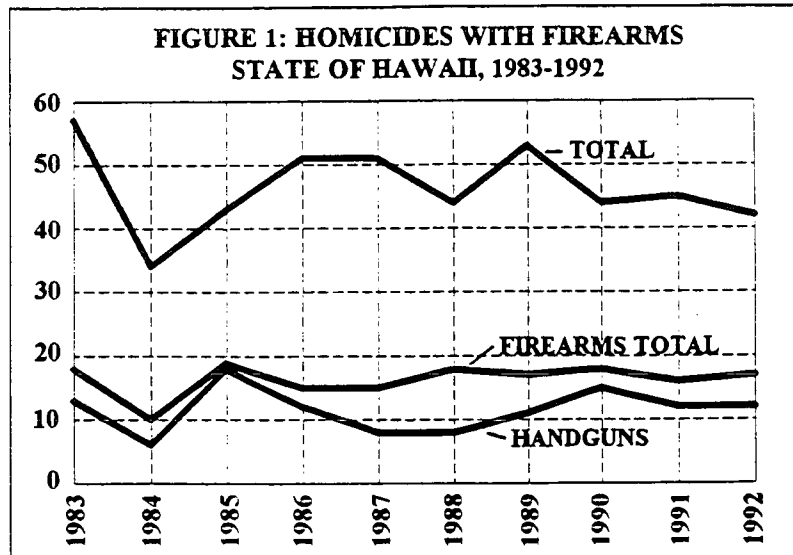
was found and there was no evidence to connect a suspect to the homicide. In 1 case, a suspect was apprehended, but there was no indication in either the Supplemental Homicide Report, used in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, or in the homicide investigation report concerning the relationship between the victim and the offender.

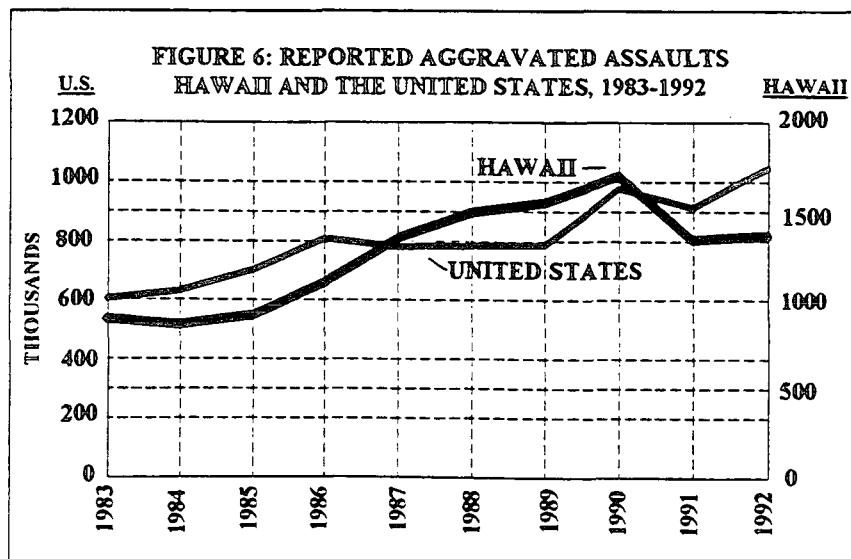
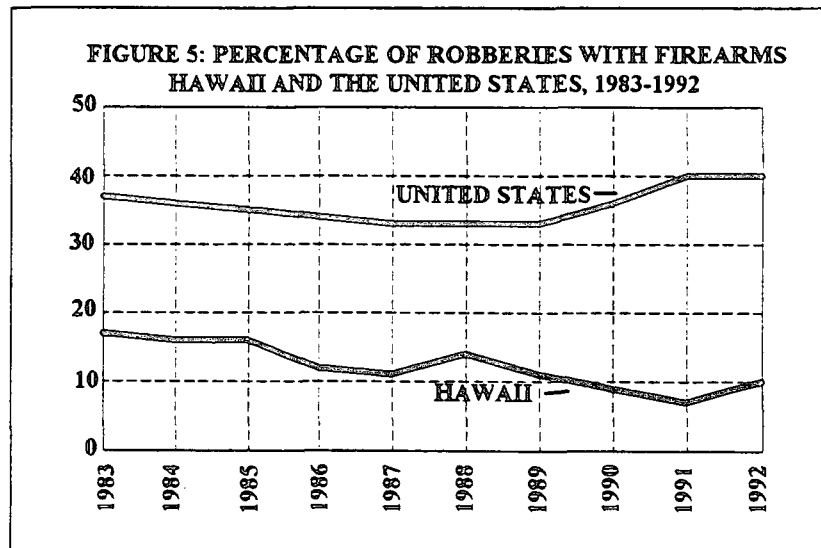
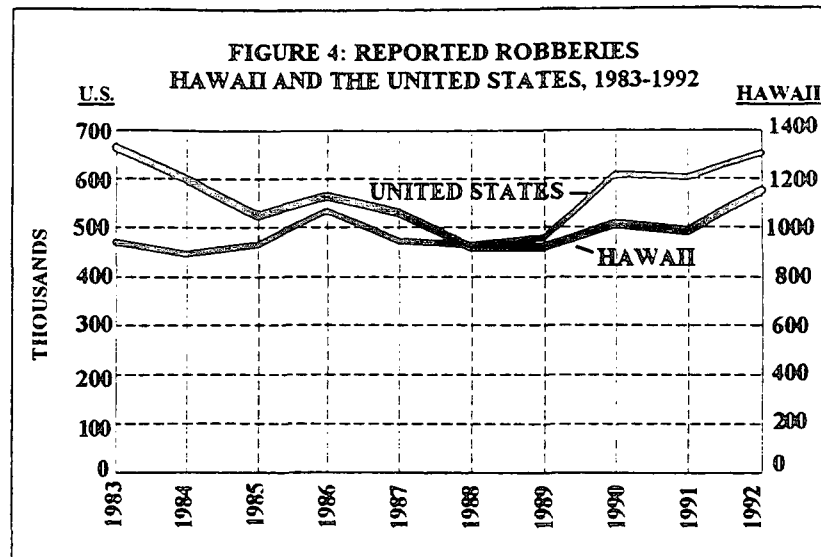
⁵ A common scenario involved the suspect/offender disposing of the weapon. The police were often able to identify the specific type of weapon but were unable to locate it.

⁶ Not all the handguns identified by either the suspect/offender or witnesses were recovered.

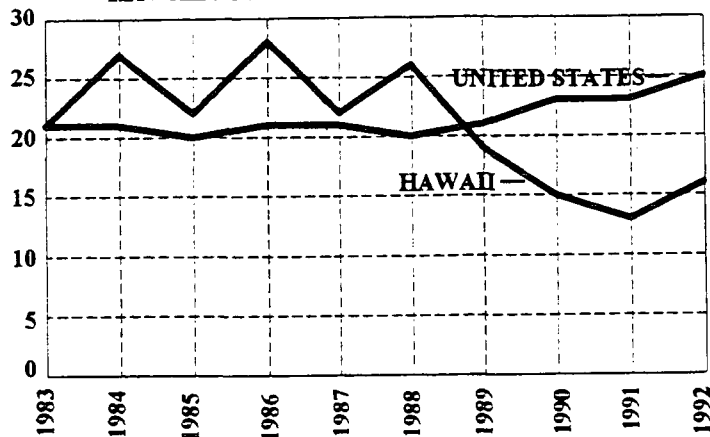
⁷ In the 4 years from 1989 to 1992, 1,546 firearms were reported stolen in the City and County of Honolulu. In 1989, 386 firearms were reported stolen; in 1990, 308; in 1991, 361; and in 1992, 491.

⁸ By definition, guns purchased on the black market are illegal. The sources for these guns are those that are stolen locally, and those which are brought into the state illegally. In the latter case, failing to register the gun makes it illegal. The gun may then enter the black market by being sold, or, if stolen, is not likely to be reported.

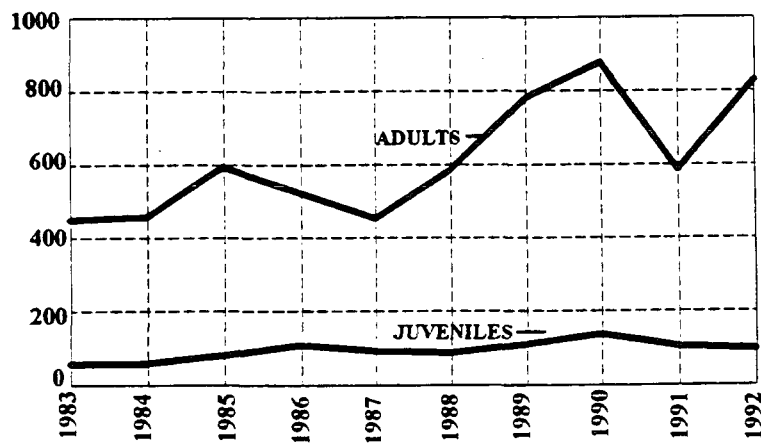




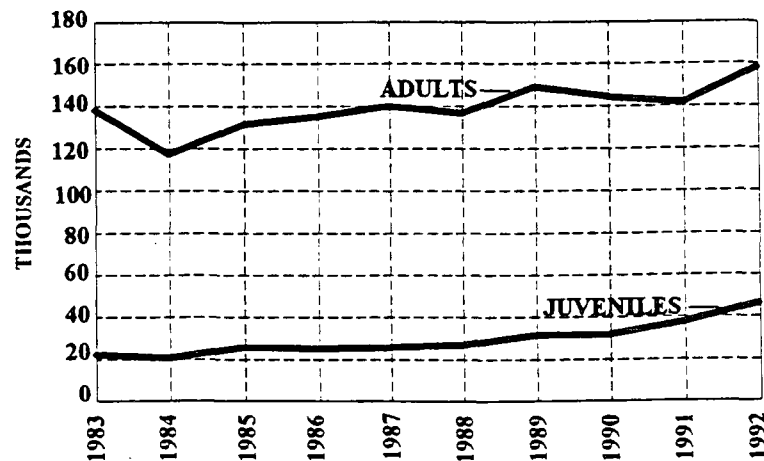
**FIGURE 7: PERCENTAGE OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS
WITH FIREARMS
HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES, 1983-1992**



**FIGURE 8: WEAPONS VIOLATIONS ARRESTS
HAWAII, 1983-1992**



**FIGURE 9: WEAPONS VIOLATIONS ARRESTS
UNITED STATES, 1983-1992**



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The data for the Crime Trend Series comes from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program in Hawaii gathers offense and arrest data from each of the four county law enforcement agencies: Honolulu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.

The Research and Statistics Branch of the Crime Prevention Division, Department of the Attorney General, operates as a clearinghouse for the UCR Program, reporting the county offense and arrest data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and publishing the results annually in Crime in Hawaii.

Questions concerning this or other publications can be directed to the authors at (808) 586-1416.

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Resources for Additional Information on Guns & Crime

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Clearinghouse

Box 6000
Rockville, Maryland 20849-6000
(800) 732-3277

BJS Home Page:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Justice Information Center Home Page:

<http://www.ncjrs.org>

NCJRS Bulletin Board System: (301) 738-8895

E-mail: askncjrs@ncjrs.org

BJS Fax-on-Demand Service: (301) 251-5550

Fax: (410) 792-4358

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), the BJS Clearinghouse responds to telephone and written requests for crime and justice data from policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, academicians, researchers, and others. In response to inquiries, information specialists send BJS publications, conduct literature searches of the NCJRS data base, and provide referrals to agencies and organizations that disseminate justice statistics. Users can also access BJS data and press releases through the Justice Information Center home page on the World Wide Web, the NCJRS Bulletin Board System, and the BJS Fax-on-Demand Service.

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

Criminal Justice Information Services Division

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

1000 Custer Hollow Road
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306
(304) 625-2823
(202) 324-5015

World Wide Web: <http://www.fbi.gov>

Established in the 1920's and administered by the FBI, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of over 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime brought to their attention. The program's primary objective is to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics, including detailed statistics on firearms, for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

National Firearms Tracing Center (NFTC)

2029 Stonewall Jackson Drive
Falling Waters, West Virginia 25419
(304) 274-4100

World Wide Web:

<http://www.nstreas.gov/treasury/bureaus/atf/atf.html>

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, a division of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, is the Federal Government's chief data collection branch for the illegal importation, transportation, registration, manufacture, distribution, purchase, and transfer of firearms. The ATF's National Firearm Tracing Center (NFTC) provides assistance to law enforcement agencies by offering the ability to link firearms to crimes and to successfully trace the origin of guns in the United States. The objective of NFTC is to provide a centralized source of data on firearms and link this information to the commission of crimes. The data compiled by the NFTC are published in annual reports to provide a detailed examination of firearms manufacture, sale, and use nationwide.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Scientific and Technical Information Branch

6525 Belcrest Road
Room 1064
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782
(301) 436-8500

World Wide Web:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/nchs/home.htm>

The National Center for Health Statistics, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the Federal Government's principal vital and health statistics agency, covering the full spectrum of concerns in the health field from birth to death, including firearm mortality. The NCHS mission includes data collection, analysis and dissemination, research in statistical survey methodology, and cooperative programs with State, national, and international organizations.



**National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
(NACJD)**

ICPSR

P. O. Box 1248

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-1248

(800) 999-0960

(313) 763-5011

E-mail: nacjd@icpsr.umich.edu

World Wide Web:

<http://www.icpsr.edu/NACJD/home.html>

The National Archive of Criminal Justice Data was established in 1978 under the auspices of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). ICPSR is a membership-based organization that acquires, processes, and distributes social science data for research and instructional use. The central mission of NACJD, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, is to facilitate and encourage research in the field of criminal justice through sharing data resources. NACJD provides access to computer readable criminal justice data collections and supplies technical assistance in the selection of data collections and the necessary hardware and software for data analysis.

ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse/NCJRS

1600 Research Boulevard

Rockville, Maryland 20850

(800) 666-3332

E-mail: askncjrs@ncjrs.org

The ONDCP Drugs & Crime Clearinghouse, managed by BJS and funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, specializes in the collection, analysis and distribution of data on drugs and crime, including the drug-gun nexus, and gives special attention to serving the data needs of State and local

government agencies.

**Justice Research and Statistics Association
(JRSA)**

444 North Capitol Street, NW.

Suite 445

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-5269

E-mail: cjinfo@jrja.org

World Wide Web: <http://www.jrsainfo.org>

The Justice Research and Statistics Association is a professional association of criminal justice analysts, researchers, and practitioners committed to providing accurate and timely information in support of sound policy development. The State Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) are the primary members of JRSA. JRSA publishes an annual directory, *Criminal Justice Issues in the States*, which indicates, by jurisdiction, many of the justice-related issues and problems, including guns and crime, examined throughout the country by the SACs. JRSA also maintains a computerized index to State activities in criminal justice. The index, called Database of State Activities and Research (DSAR) contains information on SAC research, analyses, and other activities, as well as SAC reports and publications.



Online Resources for Data on Guns & Crime

World Wide Web Sites

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Statistics on guns and crime and links to the data sets used in the reports. This site also maintains all BJS data collection programs and provides access to data sets and documents published since the mid-1970's covering a range of subjects including crimes reported to the police, criminal victimization, prison populations, federal case processing, and counts of police officers and their equipment.

Justice Information Center (JIC)

<http://www.ncjrs.org>

Provides a clearinghouse of information on research and statistical publications, products, and sites pertaining to guns and crime. This site is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

<http://www.ustreas.gov/treasury/bureaus/atf/atf.html>

Information on firearms manufacturing and licensing, frequently asked questions and answers about the Brady law, and a listing of States subject to the Brady law.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html

Statistics on firearm-related injuries and deaths, death investigations, and health-related data from the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

Crime data from the annual *Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)*, including weapon-related offenses.

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD)

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html>

Datasets available from archived crime and justice data collection series and research studies from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and researchers.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Statistics on firearm-related injuries and deaths, death investigations, and health-related data. Fact sheets on injury-related visits to hospital emergency departments, national data on homicide and suicide by type of weapon, and vital statistics.

National Rifle Association (NRA)

<http://www.nra.org/>

Firearms data base consisting of State firearm laws, status of all Federal legislation, gun safety issues, and firearm facts and figures.

Guns & Crime Statistics Discussion Lists

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (MMWR-toc)

This list makes available CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Statistical Bulletin*. To subscribe to MMWR-toc, send an e-mail to lists@list.cdc.gov. Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, type **subscribe mmwr-toc [your name]**.

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**Homicide Research Working Group List
(HRWG)**

This list facilitates discussions by researchers on homicide data. To subscribe to HRWG, send an e-mail to listproc@apollo.it.luc.edu. Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, type **subscribe hmcide-l [your name and affiliation]**.

National Crime Survey List (NCS-L)

This list discusses methodological issues relative to the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey. To subscribe to NCS-L, send an e-mail to listserv@umdd.umd.edu. Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, type **subscribe ncs-l [your name and affiliation]**.



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Office of Justice Systems Analysis
Public Policy Report

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ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HOMICIDE IN NEW YORK CITY

Around our nation there is growing concern with the increased use of rapid-fire firearms with large ammunition capacities by violent offenders. In this report we closely examine the use of assault weapons in homicides committed in New York City during 1993. Earlier studies have noted the number and type of firearms used in lethal violence. To our knowledge, none have assessed the link between assault weapons and homicide. For our analysis, assault weapons are defined in terms of proposed legislation in New York State. Our findings show that assault weapons as so defined were used in at least 16 percent, and perhaps as many as 25 percent, of the gun-related homicides that were studied. This number is much greater than originally thought. Clearly, legislation is needed to regulate assault weapons and to curtail their use in violent crime.

Richard H. Girgenti
Director of Criminal Justice and Commissioner

Violent crime is a growing public concern. Recognizing the need for a viable solution to this problem, criminal justice policy makers and practitioners are considering a wide variety of proposals. Among these are recommendations calling for the more stringent regulation of assault weapons.

The objective of assault weapons legislation is to restrict the possession of any gun with large ammunition capacity that fires rapidly and can kill or seriously injure numerous people at close-range without the necessity of reloading or taking careful aim. In the view of many, these military-style weapons lack a legitimate sporting purpose and are unnecessary for self-defense. In the hands of criminals, the tremendous killing power of these weapons has been used against both intended victims and innocent bystanders. Standard law enforcement firepower is inferior to many assault weapons, leaving police officers at a disadvantage in confrontations with criminals possessing these weapons.

Beyond Second Amendment considerations of the "right to bear arms," opponents of regulation claim that since criminals ignore the law and illegally acquire assault weapons, only the law-abiding would be affected. They also assert that

very few crimes are committed with assault weapons and banning them would not reduce acts of violence. ¶

The debate over this issue has been complicated by the fact that we do not know to what extent assault weapons are used to commit violent crimes, especially homicides. The purpose of this report is to inquire into that question. To that end we use data derived from ballistic reports maintained by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) that contain information on weapons recovered by police in connection with homicides where a weapon was discharged.

What Is An Assault Weapon?

The determination of the extent to which assault weapons are involved in violent crime is made more difficult by the variety of ways in which assault weapons are defined. There are several definitions of assault weapons. The Department of Defense defines an assault rifle as a short and compact military-use weapon equipped with a switch to change from semiautomatic to full automatic rate of fire. From this original definition, the term assault weapon has taken on broader meaning and is sometimes used to refer generally to any gun capable of firing many bullets in rapid succession without reloading.

Varying legal interpretations have developed in recent years. For purposes of the national import ban in 1989, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms defines assault weapons based on the physical characteristics of the gun including military appearance, large magazine capacity, and being a semiautomatic version of a machine gun. A semiautomatic firearm shoots a single round with each trigger pull, ejecting the spent casing with the gas-operated forces of the fired cartridge, after which a fresh round is immediately chambered from the magazine. While machine guns are also gas-operated, they are fully automatic in action, in that they continuously fire for as long as the trigger is depressed. By virtue of federal statute, the U.S. Treasury Secretary is authorized to ban the import of weapons deemed unsuitable for sporting purposes, such as hunting and marksmanship. The United States Senate has passed a crime bill with provisions supported by President Clinton which will ban the sale, manufacture and possession of 19 specific makes and models of semiautomatic long guns, handguns, and other guns based upon shot capacity and at least two specified military-style features.

Other states have adopted definitions in statutes that restrict public possession of assault weapons. California and Connecticut outlaw specific makes and models of semiautomatic firearms not lawfully possessed and registered prior to a specified date. California's law applies to both long guns and handguns. Connecticut's statute applies only to long guns, though state legislation has been introduced to extend the ban to certain semiautomatic handguns. New Jersey bans specifically listed long guns and handguns, along with their copies, as well as weapons exceeding certain shot capacities and semiautomatic shotguns with pistol grips or folding stocks. People who owned assault weapons prior to the law's effective date were required to sell them to dealers or residents of other states, to surrender them to law enforcement agencies, or to render them inoperable. Hawaii bans possession of assault pistols -- semiautomatic handguns with large capacity or military characteristics. Semiautomatic Street Sweeper shotguns are banned in Virginia.

Several municipalities have enacted ordinances restricting the possession of various types of assault weapons. New York City bans centerfire and rimfire long guns (rifles and shotguns) with various military characteristics such as a bayonet mount, flash suppressor, barrel shroud, or grenade launcher. The list of military features may be expanded by the New York City Police Commissioner on the basis of what is

suitable for military and not for sporting purposes. In addition, shotguns with revolving cylinders are banned, as are parts designed to readily convert a long gun into an assault weapon.

Rochester bans semiautomatic long guns that hold over six rounds -- magazine and chamber combined. In addition, long guns with military characteristics, and specific makes and models of semiautomatic long guns are banned from public possession. The City of Albany bans high-capacity centerfire firearms (long guns and handguns) which have been determined by the City Council to be for non-sporting purposes. Also, the Albany ordinance bans specified makes and models of semiautomatic firearms and shotguns with revolving cylinders, and their copies.

Legislation proposed by Governor Cuomo and passed by the New York State Assembly (Bill 40001) in 1994, defines an assault weapon as any centerfire, semiautomatic rifle, shotgun, or pistol capable of having loaded in its magazine and chamber more than six cartridges for a long gun (rifle or shotgun) or ten cartridges for a pistol. Fifty-one specifically listed military-style weapons and their copies are also included in the bill as assault weapons (e.g., UZIs, Tec-9s, MAC-10s, AK-47s), as well as those with military characteristics of a

flash suppressor, grenade launcher, night sight, barrel jacket, or multiburst trigger activator. Under this bill, unlicensed possession of such weapons will be a class D felony. In addition, various felony-level penalties will apply to use of assault weapons in crimes. Individuals could obtain a license to possess and use assault weapons at

organized marksmanship competitions and at authorized ranges, with provisions for transportation of the weapons to and from these functions. A State license would also allow federally licensed collectors to possess assault weapons.

Legislation introduced in the New York State Senate (Senate Bill 6406) would ban 22 specifically listed makes and models of semiautomatic handguns and long guns, (e.g., Tec-9s, MAC-10s and Striker 12s). With few exceptions, the firearms covered by the Senate Bill are a subset of the weapons regulated by the Assembly Bill. Under the Senate Bill, possession of such weapons and their copies would be a class C felony. Felony-level penalties would attach to use of assault weapons in crimes and the death penalty would be authorized for first degree murder.

...the term assault weapon has taken on broader meaning and is sometimes used to refer generally to any gun capable of firing many bullets in rapid succession without reloading.

The Limits of Available Data

The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), the most comprehensive source of crime statistics in the United States, indicate annually the number of firearms used in homicides, based upon reports submitted by law enforcement agencies statewide. Table 1 shows the number of firearms by type used in homicides in New York City from 1987 to 1992. For policy purposes, the problem with the UCR data is that the categories used to classify firearms do not permit a determination of those that are assault weapons. For example, 2,007 homicides were recorded in New York City in 1992. Of the 1,551 firearms homicides, only 44 cases involved a long gun (rifle or shot gun) of any type. These classifications are determined from police investigations and Medical Examiner records. If all assault weapons were long guns, then the number of assault weapons used in homicides in New York City in 1992 would be no more than 44. However, such an approach would be inappropriate because it excludes the wide variety of semiautomatic handguns that meet the definition of assault weapon. The focus of this analysis is to determine how often assault weapons were used in homicides. For that purpose, detailed data are needed that identify the weapons used in homicide incidents.

Method of Study

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) identifies every criminal incident known to the Department by assigning an exclusive complaint number to each respective act. Any ballistic evidence gathered from a crime scene is forwarded to the NYPD Ballistics Unit for analysis and codification. Firearms, bullets, bullet fragments, or casings recovered from shooting scenes are itemized on Ballistics Unit

Case Worksheets. Each Worksheet contains information including:

- ① case identifiers (e.g., case number, police precinct, complaint number);
- ② the number and type (caliber, make, model, action, serial number) of firearms recovered;
- ③ the level of injury (deceased, injured, no one injured); and
- ④ for each firearm recovered, whether or not it was positively identified with the injury.

All worksheets are given an exclusive Ballistics Unit case number which serves as an identifier between the criminal incident or complaint number and evidence analyzed and subsequently recorded by the Ballistics Unit.

A review of all Ballistics Unit Case Worksheets generated in 1993 revealed 1,588 cases that identified, at minimum, one firearm that was recovered from a shooting incident. NYPD Member of Service weapons (i.e., police guns) were analyzed if involved in a shooting incident. Of these 1,588 cases, 407 or 25.6 percent indicated at least one victim died.

Each of the 407 cases was identified by its respective complaint number and corresponding police precinct where the incident occurred. This list was cross-referenced with all 1,508 cases being investigated as firearms-related homicides by the NYPD Chief of Detective's Office to ascertain which cases were indeed homicides rather than suicides, accidents, or justifiable homicides. Of the 407 cases where at least one person died, 259 cases (63.6 percent) matched and hence were deemed homicides. In matched cases where there were multiple victims (n=28), 12 cases involved an additional victim that was being investigated as a separate homicide. These 12

FIREARM USE IN NEW YORK CITY HOMICIDES 1987-1993 TABLE 1							
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Total - All Homicides	1668	1913	1918	2263	2164	2007	1946
Handgun	1026	1240	1308	1503	1582	1510	N/A
Shotgun	34	31	31	40	21	29	N/A
Rifle	12	9	4	14	3	8	N/A
Machine Gun	3	4	1	10	6	4	N/A

cases and their respective weapons were scored as single victim homicide incidents. This process resulted in a total of 271 cases for this analysis identified as homicides. The remaining 148 cases were not considered.

The intent of this analysis is to determine the proportion of gun-related homicides in New York City during 1993 that involved assault weapons as defined by legislation pending in the New York State Legislature. To achieve this goal, every weapon listed on the Ballistic Case Worksheet for all 271 cases was identified according to caliber, action, manufacturer (and if noted, model), and type (i.e., semiautomatic pistol, revolver, derringer, long gun). This information was derived directly from Ballistics Case Worksheets. For each weapon that was not a revolver, the shot capacity was determined based upon the detailed information specified by Ballistics personnel in conjunction with current gun catalogues. When the shot capacity could not be determined by this methodology, the specific weapon in question was referred to Ballistics personnel for further identifying features. Weapons for which shot capacity could not be determined were coded as missing. Specifically listed military-style weapons and their copies and weapons in which the shot capacity exceeded limits specified in the Governor's Program Bill (Assembly Bill 40001) were declared assault weapons.

The Weapons and the Homicide Incidents

A particular firearm recovered from a homicide incident was not necessarily used in the killing or fired. Recovered weapons are positively identified with a killing only when they are matched by ballistic evidence to bullets, bullet fragments, or casings obtained from the scene or the victim.

**NUMBER OF WEAPONS RECOVERED
IN HOMICIDE INCIDENTS
TABLE 2**

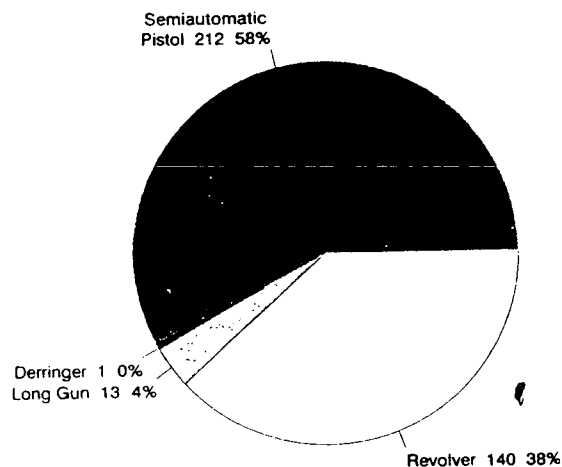
	Incidents		Weapons	
	N	%	N	%
One Weapon	203	74.9	203	55.5
Two Weapons	48	17.7	96	26.2
Three Weapons	15	5.5	45	12.3
Four Weapons	3	1.1	12	3.3
Five Weapons	2	0.7	10	2.7
TOTALS	271	100.0	366	100.0

Of 271 homicides under investigation by NYPD detectives in 1993 for which a firearm was discharged and at least one firearm was recovered, a total of 366 firearms were acquired by the NYPD Ballistics Unit for examination. The number of weapons recovered as part of these homicide investigations is listed in Table 2. Of the 271 incidents, 203 (75 percent) involved only one firearm.

Using the NYPD data, we determined the type of weapon or weapons found. More than half (212 or 58 percent) of the 366 firearms recovered in relation to homicides were semiautomatic pistols. (See Figure 1.) Another 140 (38 percent) were revolvers and only 13 (4 percent) were long guns of any type.

All 366 weapons in this analysis were recovered from incidents at which a death occurred and a gun was discharged.

**WEAPON TYPE
TOTAL WEAPONS = 366
FIGURE 1**



Each weapon was then tested by NYPD Ballistics Unit detectives. Positive identification of a particular firearm with a shooting was determined through microscopic comparison of a test bullet fired from the same gun to a bullet or bullet fragment extracted from the deceased or found at the scene.

Recovered weapons are positively identified with a killing only when they are matched by ballistic evidence to bullets, bullet fragments, or casings obtained from the scene or the victim.

Thus, it can be said that firearms that have been *positively identified* were used or involved in homicides.

Not all weapons recovered from the 271 homicide incidents are positively identified with the killings. A firearm involved in a shooting may not be matched to ballistic evidence if the condition of the bullet is substantially altered upon impact. The NYPD Ballistics Unit maintains a record of those weapons that have been positively identified with shooting incidents. For each incident it was determined whether or not the weapons recovered were positively identified with the homicides. Neither are all firearms recovered from homicide incidents assault weapons. For purposes of analysis, all 366 firearms were classified in terms of whether or not they would be considered assault weapons under the Governor's Program Bill (Assembly Bill 40001).

Table 3 shows that of the total 271 homicides under study, at least one weapon was positively identified with the killing in 169 (62 percent) cases. Similarly, Table 3 shows that for the 271 homicide incidents, at least one assault weapon was recovered in 68 (25 percent) cases.

It is possible to combine information about the positive identification of the weapons with the extent to which the identified firearms can be classified as assault weapons. Table 3 considers this association in two ways. Of the total 271 incidents in which a weapon was recovered, 43 (15.9 percent) of the incidents included assault weapons that were positively identified with the homicides. This percentage does not include other weapons used in the homicides that may or may not have been positively identified. It is also possible to consider the 43 incidents as a proportion of those incidents in which a weapon was positively identified with the homicide. Using that method, the 43 incidents represent 25.4 percent of the 169 homicides in which a weapon was recovered and positively identified with the homicide.

Further examination of the Ballistics Unit records for the 43 cases showed that a specific bullet extracted from the deceased was directly linked to the assault weapon in 20 cases. Our limited analysis of just those 169 murders in New York City during 1993 where a firearm recovered was positively identified with the killing shows that certainly no fewer than 20 and probably at least 43 homicide victims were killed by an assault weapon. Thus, assault weapons appear to have been responsible for 25 percent of the homicide cases where the firearm which likely caused the death could be identified.

Table 4 (see page 6) lists 52 weapons positively identified with 43 homicide incidents involving assault weapons. Of the 52 firearms, virtually all can be considered handguns and 42 (81 percent) were 9mm caliber weapons. The weapon involved most often was the 9mm Ruger with a 16-shot capacity, used eight times, followed by the 9mm Glock with an 18-shot capacity, used seven times. Ten of the firearms, the Intratec 21-shot capacity 9mm, the SWD 38-shot capacity 380 auto, and the IMI UZI 31-shot capacity 9mm would be specifically prohibited by both the Assembly and Senate bills. With respect to the more narrowly crafted Senate bill, this sum represents the total number of assault weapons linked to homicides. The list also includes two member of service or police officer weapons: an S&W 16-shot capacity 9mm and a Glock 18-shot capacity 9mm.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS UNDER STUDY					
N=271 HOMICIDES					
TABLE 3					
At Least One Assault Weapon Recovered		At Least One Positively Identified Weapon		At Least One Positively Identified Assault Weapon	
No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
203 (74.9%)	68 (25.1%)	102 (37.6%)	169 (62.4%)	228 (84.1%)	43 (15.9%)
		At Least One Assault Weapon Recovered (of all positively identified cases)			
		No	Yes		
		126 (74.6%)	43 (25.4%)		

ASSAULT WEAPONS POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED TO HOMICIDE INCIDENTS UNDER STUDY TABLE 4			
MAKE	CALIBER	SHOT CAPACITY	NUMBER
RUGER	9MM	16	8
♦ GLOCK	9MM	18	7
♣* INTRATEC	9MM	21	5
♣* SWD	380 AUTO	38	4
SMITH & WESSON	9MM	14	3
SIG SAUER	9MM	14	3
BERETTA	9MM	16	3
GLOCK	45 AUTO	14	2
TANFOGLIO	9MM	16	2
HECKLER & KOCH	9MM	18	2
FEG	9MM	16	2
BERSA	380 AUTO	14	1
STAR	9MM	16	1
♣ SMITH & WESSON	9MM	16	1
BROWNING	9MM	13	1
HECKLER & KOCH	9MM	MISSING	1
GLOCK	40 SMITH & WESSON	14	1
TANFOGLIO	380 AUTO	12	1
ASTRA	9MM	16	1
AMERICAN ARMS	9MM	31	1
BERETTA	380 AUTO	14	1
♣* IMI UZI	9MM	31	1
TOTAL	52		

*Assault weapons specifically listed by make and model in the Assembly Bill.

♣Assault weapons specifically listed by make and model in the Senate Bill.

♦This weapon is an NYPD officer service weapon.

♣One of these weapons is an NYPD officer service weapon.

Summary and Conclusion

Our analysis focused upon the 271 homicides being investigated by the NYPD in 1993 where a firearm was discharged and recovered. Of the 271 homicides, an assault weapon, as defined in the Governor's Program Bill passed by the New York State Assembly, was recovered for 68 homicide incidents (25 percent). Of the 271 homicide cases, a particular firearm was positively identified with the killing 169 times (62 percent). This involvement was established through a match between ballistic evidence found in the deceased or at the homicide scene and an assault weapon recovered. It was determined in this manner that assault weapons were used in at least 43 homicide cases. Thus, assault weapons were involved in 16 percent of the 271 homicides where discharged firearms were recovered and 25 percent of the 169 homicides where a recovered firearm was positively linked with ballistic evidence from the crime.

Of course, we only examined cases where the police recovered and tested an actual firearm. The 271 homicides we studied were only 18 percent of the 1,508 firearm homicides being investigated by NYPD detectives in 1993. Since these cases do not constitute a random sample, the results cannot be generalized to all firearm-related homicides. However, if the 43 victims of the assault weapons homicides identified by this analysis represent the same proportion of all firearms homicide victims, then the number of possible homicide victims against whom assault weapons were used in New York City in 1993 could range from 240 (15.9 percent) to 383 (25.4 percent).

This report was prepared by Kelly Haskin-Tenenini, Philip Jones, and James Blake of the Bureau of Statistical Services, and Steven Roth of the Bureau of Program and Policy Analysis. The project team worked under the direction of Henry H. Brownstein, Chief of the Bureau of Statistical Services and Richard J. Dehais, Director of the Office of Justice Systems Analysis. We would like to thank Commissioner William Bratton and the New York City Police Department for their cooperation without which this analysis would not have been possible. Special thanks go to Capt. Thomas Dale of the Homicide Analysis Unit of the Chief of Detectives Office and Lt. James Moran of the Ballistics Unit.



Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings

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Firearms, crime, and criminal justice

Guns Used in Crime

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How often are guns used in violent crimes?

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), almost 43.6 million criminal victimizations occurred in 1993, including 4.4 million violent crimes of rape and sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. Of the victims of these violent crimes, 1.3 million (29%) stated that they faced an offender with a firearm.*

In 1993, the FBI's *Crime in the United States* estimated that almost 2 million violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault were reported to the police by citizens. About 582,000 of these reported murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults were committed with firearms. Murder was the crime that most frequently involved firearms; 70% of the 24,526 murders in 1993 were committed with firearms.

How do we know about the guns used by criminals?

No national collection of data contains detailed information about all of the guns used in crimes. Snapshots of

Highlights

- Although most crime is not committed with guns, most gun crime is committed with handguns. *pages 1 & 2*
- Although most available guns are not used in crime, information about the 223 million guns available to the general public provides a context for evaluating criminal preferences for guns. *page 2*
- By definition, stolen guns are available to criminals. The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) stolen gun file contains over 2 million reports; 60% are reports of stolen handguns. *page 3*
- In 1994, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) received over 85,132 requests from law enforcement agencies for traces of guns used in crime. Over three-quarters of the guns traced by the

ATF in 1994 were handguns (mostly pistols), and almost a third were less than 3 years old. *page 4*

- Surveys of inmates show that they prefer concealable, large caliber guns. Juvenile offenders appear to be more likely to possess guns than adults. *page 5*

- Studies of the guns used in homicides show that large caliber revolvers are the most frequent type of gun used in homicides, but the number of large caliber semiautomatic guns used in murders is increasing. *page 5*

- Little information exists about the use of assault weapons in crime. The information that does exist uses varying definitions of assault weapons that were developed before the Federal assault weapons ban was enacted. *page 6*

information about the guns used by criminals are available from —

- official police records concerning the guns recovered in crimes and reports gathered from victims
- surveys that interview criminals
- surveys that interview victims of crime.

From these sources, we know how often guns are involved in crime, how guns are used in crime, what general categories of firearms are most often used in crime, and, to a limited extent, the specific types of guns most frequently used by criminals.

* See note on page 7.

What are the different types of firearms?

Types

Handgun	A weapon designed to fire a small projectile from one or more barrels when held in one hand with a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand.
Revolver	A handgun that contains its ammunition in a revolving cylinder that typically holds five to nine cartridges, each within a separate chamber. Before a revolver fires, the cylinder rotates, and the next chamber is aligned with the barrel.
Pistol	Any handgun that does not contain its ammunition in a revolving cylinder. Pistols can be manually operated or semiautomatic. A semiautomatic pistol generally contains cartridges in a magazine located in the grip of the gun. When the semiautomatic pistol is fired, the spent cartridge that contained the bullet and propellant is ejected, the firing mechanism is cocked, and a new cartridge is chambered.
Derringer	A small single- or multiple-shot handgun other than a revolver or semiautomatic pistol.
Rifle	A weapon intended to be fired from the shoulder that uses the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.
Shotgun	A weapon intended to be fired from the shoulder that uses the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

Firing action

Fully automatic	Capability to fire a succession of cartridges so long as the trigger is depressed or until the ammunition supply is exhausted. Automatic weapons are considered machineguns subject to the provisions of the National Firearms Act.
Semiautomatic	An autoloading action that will fire only a single shot for each single function of a trigger.
Machinegun	Any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot automatically more than one shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger.
Submachinegun	A simple fully automatic weapon that fires a pistol cartridge that is also referred to as a machine pistol.

Ammunition

Caliber	The size of the ammunition that a weapon is designed to shoot, as measured by the bullet's approximate diameter in inches in the United States and in millimeters in other countries. In some instances, ammunition is described with additional terms, such as the year of its introduction (.30/06) or the name of the designer (.30 Newton). In some countries, ammunition is also described in terms of the length of the cartridge case (7.62 x 63 mm).
Gauge	For shotguns, the number of spherical balls of pure lead, each exactly fitting the bore, that equals one pound.

Sources: ATF, *Firearms & Explosives Tracing Guidebook*, September 1993, pp. 35-40, and Paul C. Giannelli, "Ballistics Evidence: Firearms Identification," *Criminal Law Bulletin*, May-June 1991, pp. 195-215.

Handguns are most often the type of firearm used in crime

- According to the Victim Survey (NCVS), 25% of the victims of rape and sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault in 1993 faced an offender armed with a handgun. Of all firearm-related crime reported to the survey, 86% involved handguns.
- The FBI's Supplemental Homicide Reports show that 57% of all murders in 1993 were committed with handguns, 3% with rifles, 5% with shotguns, and 5% with firearms where the type was unknown.
- The 1991 Survey of State Prison Inmates found that violent inmates who used a weapon were more likely to use a handgun than any other weapon; 24% of all violent inmates reported that they used a handgun. Of all inmates, 13% reported carrying a handgun when they committed the offense for which they were serving time.

What types of guns do criminals prefer?

Research by Wright and Rossi in the 1980's found that most criminals prefer guns that are easily concealable, large caliber, and well made. Their studies also found that the handguns used by the felons interviewed were similar to the handguns available to the general public, except that the criminals preferred larger caliber guns.

What types of guns are available generally?

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) estimates that from 1899 to 1993 about 223 million guns became available in the United States, including over 79 million rifles, 77 million handguns, and 66 million shotguns. The number of guns seized, destroyed, lost, or not working is unknown.

The number of new handguns added to those available has exceeded the number of new shotguns and rifles in recent years. More than half of the guns added in 1993 were handguns.

Over 40 million handguns have been produced in the United States since 1973.

Since over 80% of the guns available in the United States are manufactured here, gun production is a reasonable indicator of the guns made available. From 1973 to 1993, U.S. manufacturers produced —

- 6.6 million .357 Magnum revolvers
- 6.5 million .38 Special revolvers
- 5.4 million .22 caliber pistols
- 5.3 million .22 caliber revolvers
- 4.5 million .25 caliber pistols
- 3.1 million 9 millimeter pistols
- 2.4 million .380 caliber pistols
- 2.2 million .44 Magnum revolvers
- 1.7 million .45 caliber pistols
- 1.2 million .32 caliber revolvers.

During the two decades from 1973 to 1993, the types of handguns most frequently produced have changed. Most new handguns are pistols rather than revolvers. Pistol production grew from 28% of the handguns produced in the United States in 1973 to 80% in 1993.

The number of large caliber pistols produced annually increased substantially after 1986. Until the mid-1980's, most pistols produced in the United States were .22 and .25 caliber models. Production of .380 caliber and 9 millimeter pistols began to increase substantially in 1987, so that by 1993 they became the most frequently produced pistols. From 1991 to 1993, the last 3 years for which data are available, the most frequently produced handguns were —

- .380 caliber pistols (20%)
- 9 millimeter pistols (19%)
- .22 caliber pistols (17%)
- .25 caliber pistols (13%)
- .50 caliber pistols (8%).

Stolen guns are a source of weapons for criminals

All stolen guns are available to criminals by definition. Recent studies of adult and juvenile offenders show that many have either stolen a firearm or kept, sold, or traded a stolen firearm:

- According to the 1991 Survey of State Prison Inmates, among those inmates who possessed a handgun, 9% had acquired it through theft, and 28% had acquired it through an illegal market such as a drug dealer or fence. Of all inmates, 10% had stolen at least one gun, and 11% had sold or traded stolen guns.
- Studies of adult and juvenile offenders that the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services conducted in 1992 and 1993 found that 15% of the adult offenders and 19% of the juvenile offenders had stolen guns; 16% of the adults and 24% of the juveniles had kept a stolen gun; and 20% of the adults and 30% of the juveniles had sold or traded a stolen gun.
- From a sample of juvenile inmates in four States, Sheley and Wright found that more than 50% had stolen a gun at least once in their lives and 24% had stolen their most recently obtained handgun. They concluded that theft and burglary were the original, not always the proximate, source of many guns acquired by the juveniles.

How many guns are stolen?

The Victim Survey (NCVS) estimates that there were 341,000 incidents of firearm theft from private citizens annually from 1987 to 1992. Because the survey does not ask how many guns were stolen, the number of guns stolen probably exceeds the number of incidents of gun theft.

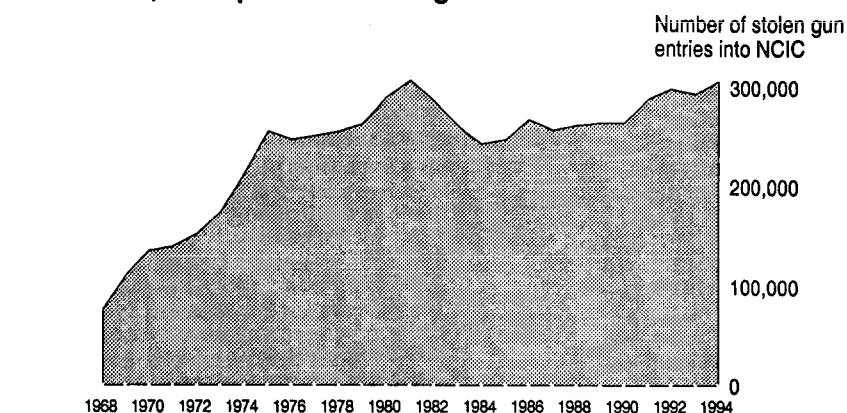
The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) stolen gun file contained over 2 million reports as of March 1995. In 1994, over 306,000 entries were added to this file including a variety of guns, ammunition, cannons, and grenades. Reports of stolen guns are included in the NCIC files when citizens report a theft to law enforcement agencies that submit a report to the FBI. All entries must include make, caliber, and serial number. Initiated in 1967, the NCIC stolen gun file retains all entries indefinitely unless a recovery is reported.

Most stolen guns are handguns

Victims report to the Victim Survey that handguns were stolen in 53% of the thefts of guns. The FBI's stolen gun file's 2 million reports include information on —

- 1.26 million handguns (almost 60%)
- 470,000 rifles (22%)
- 356,000 shotguns (17%).

From 1985 to 1994, the FBI received an annual average of over 274,000 reports of stolen guns



Source: FBI, National Crime Information Center, 1995.

How many automatic weapons are stolen?

Under the provisions of the National Firearms Act, all automatic weapons such as machine guns must be registered with the ATF. In 1995, over 240,000 automatic weapons were registered with the ATF. As of March 1995, the NCIC stolen gun file contained reports on about 7,700 machine guns and submachine guns.

What types of handguns are most frequently stolen?

Most frequently reported handguns in the NCIC stolen gun file

Percent of stolen handguns	Number	Caliber	Type
20.5%	259,184	.38	Revolver
11.7	147,681	.22	Revolver
11.6	146,474	.357	Revolver
8.8	111,558	9 mm	Semiautomatic
7.0	87,714	.25	Semiautomatic
6.7	84,474	.22	Semiautomatic
5.4	68,112	.380	Semiautomatic
3.7	46,503	.45	Semiautomatic
3.3	41,318	.32	Revolver
3.1	39,254	.44	Revolver
1.5	18,377	.32	Semiautomatic
1.3	16,214	.45	Revolver

Upon request, the ATF traces some guns used in crime to their origin

The National Tracing Center of ATF traces firearms to their original point of sale upon the request of police agencies. The requesting agency can use this information to assist in identifying suspects, providing evidence for subsequent prosecution, establishing stolen status, and proving ownership. The number of requests for firearms traces increased from 37,181 in 1990 to 85,132 in 1994.

Trace requests represent an unknown portion of all the guns used in crimes. ATF is not able to trace guns manufactured before 1968, most surplus military weapons, imported guns without the importer's name, stolen guns, and guns missing a legible serial number.

Police agencies do not request traces on all firearms used in crimes. Not all firearms used in crimes are recovered so that a trace could be done and, in some States and localities, the police agencies may be able to establish ownership locally without going to the ATF.

Most trace requests concern handguns

Over half of the guns that police agencies asked ATF to trace were pistols and another quarter were revolvers.

Type of gun	Percent of all 1994 traces
Total	100.0%
Handgun	79.1
Pistol	53.0
Pistol Revolver	24.7
Pistol Derringer	1.4
Rifle	11.1
Shotgun	9.7
Other including machinegun	0.1

While trace requests for all types of guns increased in recent years, the number of pistols traced increased the most, doubling from 1990 to 1994.

What are the countries of origin of the guns that are traced?

Traced guns come from many countries across the globe. However, 78% of the guns that were traced in 1994 originated in the United States and most of the rest were from —

- Brazil (5%)
- Germany (3%)
- China (3%)
- Austria (3%)
- Italy (2%)
- Spain (2%).

Almost a third of the guns traced by ATF in 1994 were 3 years old or less

Age of traced guns	Traces completed in 1994	
	Number	Percent
Total	83,362	100%
Less than 1 year	4,072	5
1 year	11,617	14
2 years	6,764	8
3 years	4,369	5

What crimes are most likely to result in a gun-tracing request?

Crime type	Percent of all 1994 traces	Percent of traces by crime type						
		Handgun					Rifle	Shotgun
		Total	Total	Pistol	Pistol Derringer	Pistol Revolver		
Weapons offenses	72%	100%	81%	55%	1%	25%	10%	9%
Drug offenses	12	100	75	50	2	23	14	11
Homicide	6	100	79	49	1	29	11	10
Assault	5	100	80	50	1	28	10	11
Burglary	2	100	57	34	1	22	24	19
Robbery	2	100	84	53	1	29	7	10
Other	2	100	76	54	1	21	14	10

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: ATF, unpublished data, May 1995.

What guns are the most frequently traced?

The most frequently traced guns vary from year to year. The ATF publishes a list of the 10 specific guns most frequently traced annually. The total number of traced guns on the top 10 list was 18% of the total traced from 1991 to 1994. Most of the top 10 guns were pistols (over 30% were .25 caliber pistols), although a number of revolvers and a few shotguns and rifles were also included. The most frequently traced gun was a Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolver in 1990, the Raven Arms P25 (a .25 caliber pistol) from 1991 through 1993, and the Lorcin P25 in 1994.

10 most frequently traced guns in 1994

Rank	Manufacturer	Model	Caliber	Type	Number traced
1	Lorcin	P25	.25	Pistol	3,223
2	Davis Industries	P380	.38	Pistol	2,454
3	Raven Arms	MP25	.25	Pistol	2,107
4	Lorcin	L25	.25	Pistol	1,258
5	Mossburg	500	12G	Shotgun	1,015
6	Phoenix Arms	Raven	.25	Pistol	959
7	Jennings	J22	.22	Pistol	929
8	Ruger	P89	9 mm	Pistol	895
9	Glock	17	9 mm	Pistol	843
10	Bryco	38	.38	Pistol	820

Source: ATF, May 1995.

What caliber guns do criminals prefer?

In their 1983 study, Wright, Rossi, and Daly asked a sample of felons about the handgun they had most recently acquired. Of the felons sampled —

- 29% had acquired a .38 caliber handgun
- 20% had acquired a .357 caliber handgun
- 16% had acquired a .22 caliber handgun.

Sheley and Wright found that the juvenile inmates in their 1991 sample in four States preferred large caliber, high quality handguns. Just prior to their confinement —

- 58% owned a revolver, usually a .38 or .357 caliber gun
- 55% owned a semiautomatic handgun, usually a 9 millimeter or .45 caliber gun
- 51% owned a sawed-off shotgun
- 35% owned a military-style automatic or semiautomatic rifle.

Do juvenile offenders use different types of guns than adult offenders?

A study of adult and juvenile offenders by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services found that juvenile offenders were more likely than adults to have carried a semiautomatic pistol at the crime scene (18% versus 7%).

They were also more likely to have carried a revolver (10% versus 7%). The same proportion of adults and juveniles (3%) carried a shotgun or rifle at the crime scene.

Some studies of guns used in homicides provide information about caliber

McGonigal and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center studied firearm homicides that occurred in Philadelphia: 145 in 1985 and 324 in 1990. Most of the firearms used in the homicides studied were handguns: 90% in 1985 and 95% in 1990. In both years, revolvers were the predominant type of handgun used; however, the use of semiautomatic pistols increased from 24% in 1985 to 38% in 1990. The caliber of the handguns used also changed:

In Philadelphia, handguns most often used:

In 1985, of 91 homicides		In 1990, of 204 homicides	
44%	.38 caliber revolver	23%	9 mm pistol
19%	.25 caliber pistol	18%	.38 caliber revolver
14%	.22 caliber revolver	16%	.357 caliber revolver
14%	.32 caliber revolver	16%	.22 caliber revolver
3%	9 mm pistol	10%	.32 caliber revolver
2%	.357 caliber revolver	6%	.380 caliber pistol

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services studied 844 homicides that occurred in 18 jurisdictions

from 1989 through 1991. Firearms were identified as the murder weapon in 600 cases. Over 70% of the firearms used were handguns. Of those handguns for which the caliber and firing action could be identified, 19% were .38 caliber revolvers, 10% were .22 caliber revolvers, and 9% were 9 millimeter semiautomatic pistols.

The Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention Division, studied 59 firearm-related homicides in Honolulu from 1988 to 1992. Handguns were used in 48 homicides (over 80%) including 11 handguns of 9 millimeter caliber, 10 of .357 caliber, 10 of .38 caliber, and 5 of .25 caliber.

What caliber guns are used in the killings of law enforcement officers?

From 1982 to 1993, of the 687 officers who were killed by firearms other than their own guns, more were killed by .38 caliber handguns than by any other type of weapon.

Type of firearm	Percent of law enforcement officers killed with a firearm
.38 caliber handgun	25.2%
.357 Magnum handgun	12.1
9 millimeter handgun	9.5
12 gauge shotgun	7.4
.22 caliber handgun	5.4
.22 caliber rifle	4.4

How often are assault weapons used in crime?

Little information exists about the use of assault weapons in crime. The information that does exist uses varying definitions of assault weapons that were developed before the Federal assault weapons ban was enacted.

In general, assault weapons are semiautomatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that were designed and configured for rapid fire and combat use. An assault weapon can be a pistol, a rifle, or a shotgun. The Federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 bans the manufacture and sale of 19 specific assault weapons identified by make and manufacturer. It also provides for a ban on those weapons that have a combination of features such as flash suppressors and grenade launchers. The ban does not cover those weapons legally possessed before the law was enacted. The National Institute of Justice will be evaluating the effect of the ban and reporting to Congress in 1997.

In 1993 prior to the passage of the assault weapons ban, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), reported that about 1% of the estimated 200 million guns

in circulation were assault weapons. Of the gun-tracing requests received that year by ATF from law enforcement agencies, 8% involved assault weapons.

Assault weapons and homicide

A New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services study of homicides in 1993 in New York City found that assault weapons were involved in 16% of the homicides studied. The definition of assault weapons used was from proposed but not enacted State legislation that was more expansive than the Federal legislation. By matching ballistics records and homicide files, the study found information on 366 firearms recovered in the homicides of 271 victims. Assault weapons were linked to the deaths of 43 victims (16% of those studied).

A study by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services reviewed the files of 600 firearm murders that occurred in 18 jurisdictions from 1989 to 1991. The study found that handguns were used in 72% of the murders (431 murders). Ten guns were identified as assault weapons, including five pistols, four rifles, and one shotgun.

Assault weapons and offenders

In the 1991 BJS Survey of State Inmates, about 8% of the inmates reported that they had owned a military-type weapon, such as an Uzi, AK-47, AR-15, or M-16. Less than 1% said that they carried such a weapon when they committed the incident for which they were incarcerated. A Virginia inmate survey conducted between November 1992 and May 1993 found similar results: About 10% of the adult inmates reported that they had ever possessed an assault rifle, but none had carried it at the scene of a crime.

Two studies indicate higher proportions of juvenile offenders reporting possession and use of assault rifles. The Virginia inmate survey also covered 192 juvenile offenders. About 20% reported that they had possessed an assault rifle and 1% said that they had carried it at the scene of a crime. In 1991, Sheley and Wright surveyed 835 serious juvenile offenders incarcerated in 6 facilities in 4 States. In the Sheley and Wright study, 35% of the juvenile inmates reported that they had owned a military-style automatic or semiautomatic rifle just prior to confinement.

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Note

Data in this report from the 1993 National Crime Victimization Survey are the first released on this topic since the survey was redesigned. Because of changes in the methodology, direct comparisons with BJS's victim survey data from prior years are not appropriate. Additional information about the survey's redesign can be obtained from the Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse at 1-800-732-3277.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Selected Findings summarize statistics about a topic of current concern from both BJS and non-BJS datasets.

Substantial assistance in preparing this document was provided by Roy Weise and Gary Boatman of the Criminal Justice Information Systems Division of the FBI; Edward Troiano, Emmett Masterson, Gerald Nunziato, Gary Kirchoff, and Kris Denholm of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Jim McDonough of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; Henry Brownstein and Kelly Haskin-Tenenini of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; and Larry Greenfeld, Thomas Hester, and Michael Rand of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Verification and publication review were provided by Yvonne Boston, Ida Hines, Rhonda Keith, and Priscilla Middleton of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

July 1995, NCJ-148201

Guns Used in Crime is the first of a series of reports on firearms and crime that will become part of a longer document, *Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Other topics to be covered in this series include weapons offenses and offenders, how criminals obtain guns, and intentional firearm injury. The full report will focus on the use of guns in crime, trends in gun crime, consequences of gun crimes, characteristics of offenders who use guns, and sanctions for offenders who use guns. This report will not cover the involvement of firearms in accidents or suicides.

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National Institute of Justice

R e s e a r c h . P r e v i e w

Jeremy Travis, Director

September 1995

Arrestees and Guns: Monitoring the Illegal Firearms Market

Firearms are plentiful, easily obtained, and regularly used by offenders in major urban areas, according to interim findings from a study conducted for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Thirty-nine percent of arrestees reported ever owning a firearm—a rate higher than the general population's self-reported ownership rates and lower than rates for more serious offenders. Most troubling is that 40 percent of juvenile males—for whom the possession of most firearms is by statute illegal—reported ever possessing a firearm. Just over a third of the juveniles admitted to owning a firearm in the previous 30 days.

The findings are based on data collected by researchers in interviews with more than 4,000 recent arrestees in 11 cities (Atlanta, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, San Diego, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.) during the first 3 months of 1995. These cities were chosen because they participated in NIJ's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program and have high crime rates. Most provide data on juveniles as well as adults. The DUF program, on a quarterly basis, conducts urinalysis tests and interviews with recent arrestees. Six of the cities—Atlanta, Detroit, New Orleans, Miami, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C.—were among the U.S. cities with the highest levels of violent crime in 1993.

Interim findings

The wide availability of firearms and the increase in firearm violence among young people provided the impetus for this study. The ongoing study is focused on learning how offenders obtain firearms, their motives in obtaining them, their patterns of firearm use, and their experiences as victims of firearms. Interim findings are based on interviews with 2,343 adult males, 942 adult females, 753 juvenile males, and 103 juvenile females. Overall, admitted gang membership and involvement in

drug sales appear to be most associated with gun ownership. Highlights of the findings to date include:

- ☐ Fifteen percent of the total sample of arrestees reported that they carried a gun all or most of the time. (Among juvenile male arrestees, 22 percent reported carrying a gun all or most of the time.) For arrestees who admitted selling illegal drugs in the past year, this figure jumps to 25 percent, and for those who admit gang membership, it jumps to 36 percent.
- ☐ Interestingly, those who tested positive (via urinalysis) for illegal drugs were no more likely to report possession or use of a firearm than those whose test results were negative.
- ☐ As might be expected, the illegal firearms market has played a large role in providing arrestees with access to weapons; 45 percent of those interviewed said this was how they obtained their guns.
- ☐ A strong association was found between carrying a gun and gang membership and carrying a gun and illicit drug-selling. Of the total sample, 7 percent reported that they were current members of a gang, and 19 percent reported having sold drugs within the past year. Among those reporting gang membership, 36 percent stated that they carried a gun all or most of the time. Among respondents reporting drug sales in the previous year, 25 percent indicated that they carried a gun all or most of the time.
- ☐ A similar association was found between illegal gun procurement and gang membership or illicit drug sales. Sixty percent of those who admitted to gang membership reported having obtained their most recently acquired gun through illegal means, and 60 percent of those who reported having sold illegal drugs in the last year made a similar claim.

■ The majority of the sample (55 percent) reported that it was easy to get firearms illegally, and one-third of the sample (34 percent) said they could get a gun in less than a week.

■ Twenty-four percent of the arrestees interviewed admitted using a gun in a crime (32 percent of the juvenile males), and one-third of that group said they fired the gun during the crime. Considerably higher figures were reported for gang members and those who sold illegal drugs in the preceding year.

■ Thirteen percent of interviewed offenders indicated that they had stolen a gun.

■ Arrestees have experienced high levels of firearm victimization. Fifty-six percent had been threatened with a gun (60 percent among adult male arrestees and 55 percent among juvenile male arrestees), 42 percent had been shot at (48 percent among adult male arrestees and 50 percent among juvenile male arrestees), and 16 percent had been injured by gunshot (21 percent among adult male arrestees and 11 percent among juvenile male arrestees). Exposure to violence through victimization was associated with the likelihood of owning or possessing firearms. That is, arrestees who reported being threatened or shot at were more likely to admit gun ownership than those who had not been victimized.

■ Arrestees' beliefs about firearm use suggest a series of norms that support and encourage the use of firearms to settle disputes. For example, 9 percent agreed with the statement, "It is OK to shoot someone who has disrespected you," and 28 percent agreed that "It is OK to shoot someone who hurt you." Among juvenile males, 38 percent held this view.

Additional data for this project will be collected through summer 1995, and a final report on the project is expected to be available in late fall.

This study is being conducted under NIJ grant 95-IJ-R014 by Scott Decker, Ph.D., Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Susan Pennell, Criminal Justice Research Division, San Diego Association of Governments. For further information on the project, please contact Dr. Thomas Feucht, Program Manager, Office of Research and Evaluation, NIJ, at 202-307-2949. Inquiries may also be made to Dr. Decker at 314-516-5038 or Ms. Pennell at 619-595-5383.

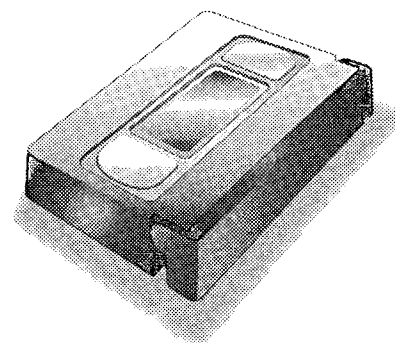
As part of NIJ's Research in Progress Seminar Series, Dr. Decker and Ms. Pennell discussed this study with an audience of researchers and criminal justice professionals and practitioners. A 60-minute VHS videotape *Monitoring the Illegal Firearms Market* is available for \$19.00 (\$24.00 in Canada and other countries). Please ask for NCJ 153850.

Use the order form on the next page to obtain this videotape and any of the 11 other tapes now available in the series.

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Crime Data Brief

April 1994, NCJ-147003

Handgun Victimization, Firearm Self-Defense, and Firearm Theft

Guns and Crime

By Michael R. Rand, BJS Statistician

In 1992 offenders armed with handguns committed a record 931,000 violent crimes. Handgun crimes accounted for about 13% of all violent crimes. As measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), the rate of nonfatal handgun victimizations in 1992 — 4.5 crimes per 1,000 people age 12 or older — supplanted the record of 4.0 per 1,000 in 1982.

On average per year in 1987-92, about 62,200 victims of violent crime, about 1% of all victims of violence, used a firearm to defend themselves. Another 20,300 used a firearm to defend their property during a theft, household burglary, or motor vehicle theft.

For 1987-92 victims reported an annual average of about 341,000 incidents of firearm theft. Because the NCVS asks for types but not a count of items stolen, the annual total of firearms stolen probably exceeded the number of incidents.

Handguns and crime, 1987-92

	1992	Annual average, 1987-91
Handgun crimes	930,700	667,000
Homicide	13,200	10,600
Rape	11,800	14,000
Robbery	339,000	225,100
Assault	566,800	417,300

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Data for homicide come from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

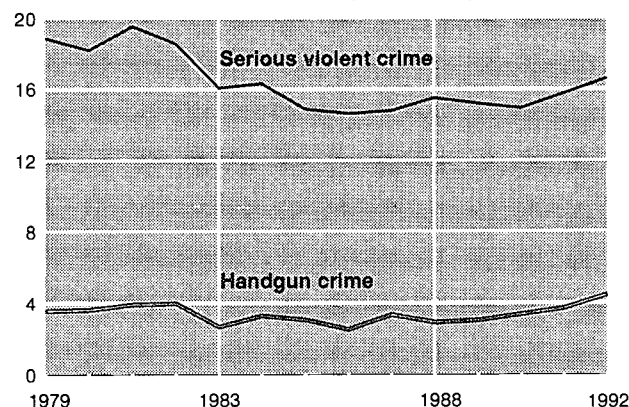
Males, blacks, and the young had the highest rates of handgun crime victimization, 1987-92

Age of Victim	Average annual rate of crimes committed with handguns (per 1,000 persons)*					
	Male victims			Female victims		
	Total	White	Black	Total	White	Black
All ages	4.9	3.7	14.2	2.1	1.6	5.8
12-15	5.0	3.1	14.1	2.5	2.1	4.7
16-19	14.2	9.5	39.7	5.1	3.6	13.4
20-24	11.8	9.2	29.4	4.3	3.5	9.1
25-34	5.7	4.9	12.3	3.1	2.1	9.0
35-49	3.3	2.7	8.7	1.7	1.4	3.3
50-64	1.5	1.2	3.5	0.8	0.7	1.6
65 or older	0.8	0.6	3.7	0.3	0.2	2.3

*Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in each age category. Rates do not include murder or nonnegligent manslaughter committed with handguns. The totals include persons of other races not shown separately.

The 1992 handgun victimization rate was the highest on record

Number of victimizations per 1,000 population



Source: BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, 1979-92.

Note: Serious violent crime includes rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Violent crime rates

Unlike the record rate of handgun crimes in 1992, the overall rates for violent crimes were well below the 1981 peaks.¹ The total 1992 rate for rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault was 35 per 1,000 persons, compared to 39 per 1,000 in 1981. The 1992 rate of 17 per 1,000 for the more serious violent crimes (rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) was also less than the 20 per 1,000 in 1981.

Most likely victims of handgun crime

- Males were twice as likely as females to be victims of handgun crimes, and blacks 3 times as likely as whites.
 - Young black males continued to be the population subgroup most vulnerable to handgun crime victimization.
- For males age 16-19 —
The rate for blacks (40 per 1,000 persons) was **4 times** that of whites (10 per 1,000).
- For males age 20-24 —
The rate for blacks (29 per 1,000) was **3 times** that of whites (9 per 1,000).

¹ Except where noted, this brief excludes homicides, which NCVS does not measure.

When offenders fired at victims

• Offenders fired their weapon in 17% of all nonfatal handgun crimes (or about 2% of all violent crimes). In 3% of handgun crimes, about 21,000 a year, the victim was wounded. (An additional annual average of 11,100 were victims of homicide by handgun.) The offender shot at but missed the victim in 14% of handgun crimes.

Self-defense with firearms

- 38% of the victims defending themselves with a firearm attacked the offender, and the others threatened the offender with the weapon.
- A fifth of the victims defending themselves with a firearm suffered an injury, compared to almost half of those who defended themselves with weapons other than a firearm or who had no weapon. Care should be used in interpreting these data because many aspects of crimes — including victim and offender characteristics, crime circumstances, and offender intent — contribute to the victims' injury outcomes.
- In most cases victims who used firearms to defend themselves or their property were confronted by offenders

About three-fourths of the victims who used firearms for self-defense did so during a crime of violence, 1987-92

	Average annual number of victimizations in which victims used firearms to defend themselves or their property		
	Total	Attacked offender	Threatened offender
All crimes	82,500	30,600	51,900
Total violent crime	62,200	25,500	36,700
With injury	12,100	7,300	4,900
Without injury	50,000	18,200	31,800
Theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft	20,300	5,100	15,200

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Includes victimizations in which offenders were unarmed. Excludes homicides.

who were either unarmed or armed with weapons other than firearms. On average between 1987 and 1992, about 35% (or 22,000 per year) of the violent crime victims defending themselves with a firearm faced an offender who also had a firearm.²

Theft of firearms

- Although most thefts of firearms (64%) occurred during household burglaries, a significant percentage (32%) occurred during larcenies. Loss of firearms through larceny was as likely to occur away from the victim's home as at or near the home. In 53% of the firearm thefts, handguns were stolen.

Offenders shot at victims in 17% of handgun crimes, 1987-92

	Percent
Shot at victim	16.6%
Hit victim	3.0
Missed victim	13.6
Nongunshot injury	1.6
No physical injury	12.0
Did not shoot at victim	83.4%
Other attack/attempt	19.9
Verbal threat of attack	15.4
Weapon present	46.8
Other threat	.8
Unknown action	.5
Average annual number	699,900

Note: Excludes homicides.

341,000 incidents of firearm theft occurred per year, 1987-92

Crime in which firearm was stolen	Average annual number of victimizations in which firearms were stolen		
	Total	Handgun	Other gun
Total	340,700	180,500	160,200
Violent crime	7,900	5,300	2,600
Personal theft	56,200	33,900	22,300
Household theft	52,600	31,700	20,900
Household burglary	217,200	105,300	112,000
Motor vehicle theft	6,700	4,400	2,400

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. The table measures theft incidents, not numbers of guns stolen. See text on page 1.

²Because the NCVS collects victimization data on police officers, its estimates of the use of firearms for self-defense are likely to include police use of firearms. Questionnaire revisions introduced in January 1993 will permit separate consideration of police and civilian firearm cases.

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Research Preview

Jeremy Travis, Director

June 1996

Youth Violence, Guns, and Illicit Drug Markets

A Summary of a Presentation by Alfred Blumstein, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University

Note: This Research Preview updates the December 1995 release.

The perception that violence is on the rise is supported by data showing a sharp increase in violent crime among juveniles since the mid-1980s. Although the overall national homicide rate has not increased over the past 20 years, homicides by youths under the age of 24 have grown significantly in recent years. Between 1985 and 1992, the rate of homicide by young people, the number they committed with guns, and the arrest rate of nonwhite juveniles for drug offenses have all more than doubled. These increases appear to be linked to the recruitment of juveniles into the illegal drug trade and the consequent diffusion of guns from them to a much larger number of young people.

Age, murder, and illegal drug use

Age and murder. It has long been known that crime rates typically peak in the late teen years, and age-specific patterns for such crimes as robbery and burglary have not changed significantly in the past 20 years. However, major changes have occurred in homicide patterns among the young.

From 1970 to 1985, individuals ages 18 to 24 were the most likely of any age group to commit murder, and the murder rate among this group was relatively steady. In 1985, murder by people under 24 began to increase: for those 18 and younger, the homicide rate more than doubled between 1985 and 1992. During that same period, the rate among those 24 to 30 remained steady, and the rate declined for those over 30. Thus, much of

the rise in the Nation's overall homicide rate in the late 1980s was due to the surge in killings by the young.

To further illustrate the dimensions of this change, a calculation can be made to show the "excess" murders attributable to young people, i.e., the homicides that would not have been committed if the rates for ages 15–22 had remained stable at their 1970–1985 levels. A total of 18,600 of these "excess murders" are estimated to have been committed between 1986 and 1992. This represents about 12 percent of the annual average of 22,000 murders during those 7 years.

Age, race, and illegal drugs. The surge in violent juvenile crime coincided with an increase in drug arrests, which rose particularly among nonwhites in urban areas. After a 10-year period of stability in drug arrests of nonwhite juveniles, the rise of urban crack cocaine markets led to sharply increased rates among this group, beginning in 1985. To meet the growth in demand for crack cocaine, the drug industry had recruited young sellers, primarily nonwhite youths, many of whom saw this as their only viable economic opportunity. The rate of arrests rose from approximately 200 per 100,000 in 1985 to twice that rate 4 years later.

For white youths, drug arrests declined during this period, in part because of a general policy shift begun in 1975 that reversed their rapidly growing drug arrest rate, primarily for marijuana. The rapid increase in arrests of nonwhites (primarily African Americans) reflected the extent to which crack street markets were more accessible to police (as well as to buyers) than the more surreptitious markets maintained by white drug dealers.

Murder with guns. Guns are increasingly involved in homicides among youths. From 1976 to 1985, when the homicide rate involving juveniles was fairly steady, a gun was used more often than any other weapon (a constant 60 percent of the time). Seven years later, by 1992, the number of murders by juveniles in which a gun was involved had doubled, but the number committed without a gun remained steady.

The linkage: a hypothesis. As more juveniles were recruited to sell crack, they armed themselves with guns. For those transporting valuable illicit merchandise, whether money or drugs, a gun was seen as necessary for protection, especially because they could not call for police assistance if threatened. Since juveniles are tightly networked in schools and in their neighborhoods, some youths not involved in the drug business felt they had to carry guns to protect themselves from armed juvenile drug sellers. Possibly, many also saw guns as conferring a measure of status and power. Gun possession escalated into an arms race that diffused the weapons broadly throughout the community.

Considering the known frequency with which male teenagers often resort to violence to settle arguments, the increased presence of guns has meant that disputes once settled by fist fights often escalated to shooting incidents resulting in greater lethality. Juveniles' use of firearms is more random than adults'; teenage behavior is often marked by recklessness and bravado, while adults generally act with more restraint. Until recently, the majority of homicide cases involved people who knew each other. Overall, between 1976 and 1991, the proportion of homicides involving strangers was about 20 percent. But when male juveniles were involved as perpetrators, the figure climbed to 34 percent.

The links between the diffusion of guns to juveniles and to the general community—a result of youths' recruitment into the illegal drug trade—is reflected in the 120 percent jump in the homicide arrest rate for nonwhite juveniles from 1985 to 1992. For white juveniles, the rate rose about 80 percent, even though there was no strong indication of their involvement in the drug trade; also, this increase began in 1988, 3 years after the rise among nonwhites began—a lag consistent with the diffusion hypothesis. In sharp contrast, there was no growth in the homicide rate for adults of either group.

Implications

Demographics and crime. Meanwhile, the incarceration rate in this country has grown dramatically. In the 50 years from 1923 to 1973, it was quite stable and averaged about 110 per 100,000. Since then, the rate has almost quadrupled to over 400 per 100,000 in State and

Federal prisons. In fact, the large increase in incarcerated adults could have contributed substantially to the recruitment of juveniles into the drug trade.

Of particular relevance to future crime rates is the growing number of teenagers. The age group currently responsible for the highest homicide rate, the 18-year-olds, is about as small as it has been in recent years. As this cohort ages, its crime rate may level out, as it has in the past. But it is also possible that today's 18-year-olds will continue reckless behavior as they grow older. However, children who are now younger (about ages 5 to 15) represent the future problem, because they are larger cohorts than the current 18-year-old group. Even if current rates do not continue to rise, violent crime is likely to increase because there will be more 18-year-olds to commit violence at a higher rate.

Options to change the trends. A concerted effort needs to be made to get firearms out of the hands of young people. In most cases it is not a legislative issue—the carrying of firearms by juveniles is illegal almost everywhere, and the 1994 Crime Law made it a Federal offense. Because so many of the guns obtained illegally have moved across State lines, initially from a licensed firearms dealer, the Federal government has an important role in enforcing the laws prohibiting those illegal sales. Stronger enforcement and other avenues of depleting the gun supply need to be found, especially in urban areas.

Some communities are trying new ways to cut down the number of guns. Pittsburgh's "gun task force" is examining

This summary is based on a presentation by Alfred Blumstein, Ph.D., J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University. As part of NIJ's Research in Progress Seminar Series, Dr. Blumstein discussed his work with an audience of researchers and criminal justice professionals and practitioners. A 60-minute VHS videotape, *Youth Violence, Guns, and Illicit Drug Markets*, is available for \$19 (\$24 in Canada and other foreign countries). Ask for NCJ 152235. Use the order form on the NEXT PAGE to obtain this videotape and any of the other tapes now available in the series.

Dr. Blumstein's research is being extended with an NIJ grant on juvenile violence and its relationship to drug markets.

a variety of approaches, including radio and television spots with a telephone number to use to anonymously report illegal guns. In Charleston, South Carolina, a bounty is offered for reports leading to the seizure of an illegal gun. Such an approach not only removes that gun from circulation, it also inhibits the brandishing of guns, which stimulates others to obtain a gun. These are the kind of approaches needed to reverse the escalating arms race in our neighborhoods.

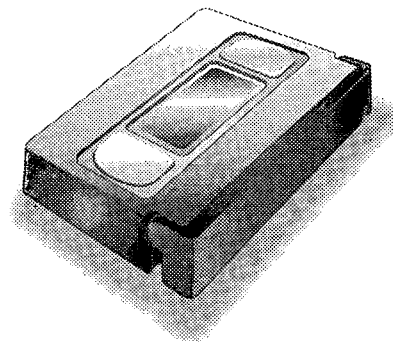
In the long term, a major effort has to be made to build a base of understanding by involving the research community in examining juvenile crime and its causes, the links between those two criminogenic commodities—guns and drugs—in the community and in their respective markets, and the rate of homicides among young people. Financial resources are needed to pursue these issues at the necessary depth. The war on drugs, in particular, needs to be examined to assess its positive and negative effects, including its unintended consequences.

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Research Preview

Jeremy Travis, Director

June 1996

Understanding and Preventing Violence: A Public Health Perspective

Summary of a Presentation by Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., Emory University

Misuse of firearms and its related violence have been the source of new challenges to the criminal justice and medical professions. Criminal justice responses to gun-related violence involve deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation of perpetrators, while medicine focuses on providing emergency and trauma care as well as physical rehabilitation to injured victims. A third approach—the public health model—stresses prevention and addresses both potential victims and offenders. The three perspectives have obvious overlapping interests and expertise to share.

As part of the effort to reduce firearm violence, research projects at Emory University's Center for Injury Control feature an explicit partnership between public health and local law enforcement. Some key findings of this effort indicate:

- ☐ Firearms in the home are associated with an increased risk of suicide or homicide among family members residing there.
- ☐ Guns kept in the home do not offer substantial protection against homicide at the hands of an intruder.
- ☐ The number of individuals who are injured and require medical treatment for gunshot wounds is three to eight times the number who are killed by guns.
- ☐ Existing gunshot injury reporting systems do not link emergency department records with police reports to support criminal investigations.
- ☐ Health care providers often fail to report patients with gunshot wounds to the authorities, even in jurisdictions with mandatory reporting.
- ☐ Policy relevant research on gun-violence reduction efforts, especially in terms of youth violence, is vital to finding which aspects of such comprehensive programs as Atlanta's Project PACT* are effective.

Guns in the home: protection or peril?

Approximately half of all homes in America contain one or more firearms. Although many gun owners keep a gun in their home at least in part for self-protection, studies conducted over the past decade suggest that the risks of keeping a gun in the home outweigh the potential benefits. For example, two large population-based case control studies have found that keeping a gun is associated with an increased risk of violent death in the home.

The studies identified suicides and homicides that occurred in the home of the victim, regardless of the instrument of death. By interviewing surviving next-of-kin and identifying behavioral characteristics of the family and environmental characteristics of the household, researchers were able to develop profiles of those homes that were the scene of a violent death. Through a process of random selection, investigators then identified a neighboring household that contained an individual of the same age range, gender, and race as the case household. In each of these "control" households, an adult family member was interviewed, and a similar profile of behavioral, personal, and environmental characteristics was compiled.

By comparing the characteristics of households where a violent death occurred to those of neighboring households where a violent death did not occur, risk factors for violent death could be identified. Several behavioral factors (e.g., living alone, depression, alcoholism, illicit drug use, previous arrest history, previous family violence history) were strongly and independently linked to an increased risk of suicide or homicide in the home. However, even after these characteristics were taken into account, and case and control households were matched for age, sex, race, and neighborhood, researchers found

that homes with guns were almost five times more likely to be the scene of a suicide and almost three times more likely to be the scene of a homicide than comparable homes without firearms.

No evidence was found to indicate that keeping a gun in the home offered substantial protection from homicide, even in the subset of cases where someone forcibly entered the home. In those cases, the presence of a gun neither increased nor decreased the risk of violent death. Instead, researchers found that homes with guns were much more likely to be the scene of a homicide involving a spouse, a family member, or an intimate acquaintance.

Survey data gathered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics between 1987 and 1992 estimated that guns are used in self-defense each year approximately 82,000 times. But this figure compares to the annual toll of more than 1.5 million instances of criminal violence involving firearms. Guns probably are used infrequently in self-defense because the criminals often rely on stealth, surprise, or sudden force to achieve their goal. Few victims have sufficient time to secure a weapon.

Tracking nonfatal gun injuries

The computer systems of many medical care facilities and law enforcement agencies do not lend themselves to tracking nonfatal data. Hospital admission data bases do not include information about individuals treated and released, and law enforcement data bases—usually indexed by the type of offense—do not readily indicate whether a weapon was involved.

To fill this gap, researchers at Emory University and other institutions are studying the incidence and impact of gun-related violence in three cities: Memphis, Tennessee; Seattle, Washington; and Galveston, Texas. According to preliminary data, for every firearm homicide in Memphis, another seven patients required medical care; in Galveston, the ratio of nonfatal to fatal cases was nearly 8 to 1, while in Seattle, the ratio was close to 3 to 1. The weapon used in most cases was a handgun. In Memphis, handguns were used in 87 percent of gun-related assaults where the type of weapon was recorded. Handguns account for about one-third of all privately owned firearms in the United States.

Researchers have found they needed both hospital emergency reports and police offense reports, but gathering this information is cumbersome and slow. The Emory University team was surprised to learn that even in States where reporting is legally mandated, health care providers do not always notify police of a gunshot wound, often because they are told by the person seeking medical assistance that the police were already notified.

Whereas a law enforcement officer would view such claims with skepticism, physicians almost always take the patient at his word.

In an effort to create a fail-safe process for notifying authorities, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has been asked to provide a single, regional, round-the-clock telephone contact number so emergency room personnel can report gun-related injuries and provide physical profiles to appropriate law enforcement officials. Emory University researchers hope to link these reports to police records to build a real-time electronic data base that will allow police and public health officials to quickly discern patterns, "hot spots," and trends as well as identify wounded fugitives when they contact the health care system.

Educating communities about juvenile gun violence

Local government officials in the five-county greater Atlanta area have recently joined with city and community leaders under Project PACT* to forge a comprehensive community-based approach to gun violence. Designed to break the link between youths and guns, the program will involve young people as well as culturally sensitive and appropriate media messages, school-based education, neighborhood groups, and support from grassroots organizations.

In addition, under a new Georgia State law, juvenile offenders using guns will be referred to and handled by the adult court. The Emory University team is evaluating this effort with support from a consortium of Federal agencies.

*Pulling America's Communities Together

As part of NIJ's Research in Progress Seminar Series, Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., discussed the work summarized in this document with an audience of researchers and criminal justice professionals and practitioners. Dr. Kellermann is director of the Center for Injury Control, School of Public Health, and associate professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine, School of Medicine, Emory University.

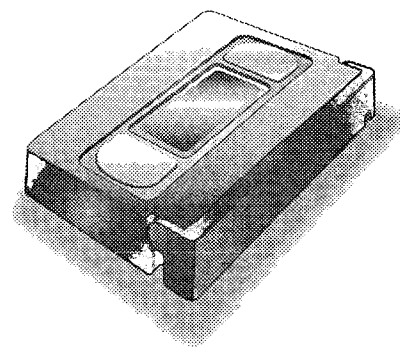
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Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings

November 1995, NCJ-155284

Firearms, crime, and criminal justice

Weapons Offenses and Offenders

By Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Marianne W. Zawitz
BJS Statisticians

What are weapons offenses?

Weapons offenses are violations of statutes or regulations that control deadly weapons. *Deadly weapons* include firearms and their ammunition, silencers, explosives, and certain knives. About 2% of arrests nationwide in 1993 were for weapons offenses.

All States, some localities, and the Federal Government have criminal laws concerning deadly weapons, including restrictions on their —

- possession
- carrying
- use
- sales or trafficking
- manufacturing
- importing and exporting.

Many of these laws are specific to *firearms*. For example, in 1994 all States and the District of Columbia had statutes concerning the carrying of firearms; some required permits to carry a concealed weapon, and some prohibited open carrying of firearms.

Federal law regulates the importation, manufacture, and distribution of firearms; bans certain firearms such as machine guns and semiautomatic assault weapons; and prohibits the sale

Highlights

- Weapons arrestees are predominantly male, age 18 or over, and white. However, weapons arrest rates per 100,000 population are highest for teens and for blacks. *page 2*
- Arrests of juveniles comprise an increasing proportion of weapons arrests. *page 3*
- The number of Federal weapons offenses investigated and prosecuted has increased at least 4-fold since 1980. *page 4*
- Average prison sentence lengths for Federal weapons offenders have increased, while those for State offenders have decreased. *page 5*
- Of the defendants in felony weapons cases in the 75 largest counties in 1992, two-fifths were on probation, parole, or pretrial release at the time of the offense, and a third had

previously been convicted of a felony. *page 5*

◦ Weapons offenders are making up an increasing proportion of admissions to State and Federal prisons. *page 5*

◦ Although many more offenders are admitted to Federal prison for drug offenses than for weapons offenses, from 1985 to 1992 the rate of increase in admissions of weapons offenders was 4 times greater than the rate of increase of drug offenders. *page 6*

◦ Weapons charges as an addition to other charges are more common at the Federal level than the State level. *page 7*

This report is the second in a series on firearms, crime, and criminal justice. The first report in the series, *Guns Used in Crime* (NCJ-148201, July 1995), includes definitions of commonly used firearm terms.

of some firearms to restricted classes of people, including convicted felons and juveniles.

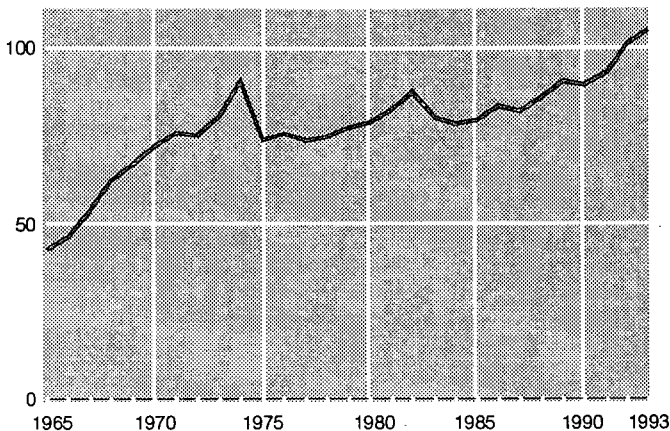
How many arrests for weapons offenses are made annually?

The FBI's *Crime in the United States, 1993*, estimated that State and local law enforcement agencies made 262,300 arrests in which a weapons offense was the most serious charge.

From 1974 to 1993, the number of arrests for weapons offenses increased 54%, while the total number of arrests for all crimes increased 55%. The proportion of all arrests that were for weapons offenses remained fairly constant during the period. The number of violent offenses (murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults) committed with a firearm increased 78%.

After 1965, arrest rates for weapons offenses more than doubled

Weapons offense arrest rates
per 100,000 population



Sources: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Age-specific Arrest Rates and Race-Specific Arrest Rates For Selected Offenses, 1965-1992*, December 1993; and FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1993*, December 1994.

Who is arrested for weapons offenses?

Of those persons arrested by State and local agencies for weapons offenses in 1993 —

- 92% were males
- 77% were age 18 or over
- 55% were white.

Race	Percent of persons arrested for weapons offenses		
	Total	Age 18 or over	Under age 18
Total	100.0%	76.6%	23.4%
White	55.4	41.0	14.4
Black	43.0	34.4	8.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.1	.8	.3
American Indian or Alaskan Native	.5	.4	.1

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1993*, December 1994.

Weapons arrest rates are 5 times greater for blacks than for whites

Race	Weapons offense arrests per 100,000 population		
	Total	Age 18 or over	Under age 18
Total	105	109	94
White	70	69	73
Black	362	430	221
Other	40	41	37

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1993 preliminary arrest data adjusted to reporting populations.

Most arrests for weapons offenses were made in cities

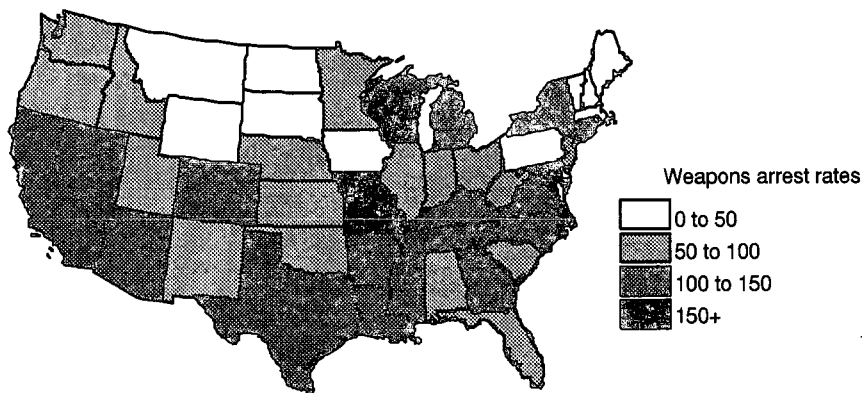
Most arrests for all types of offenses are made in urban areas; however, weapons offense arrests are more likely to occur in urban areas.

Place of occurrence	Percent of 1993 arrests	
	All arrests	Weapons offense arrests
Urban	77%	81%
Suburban	16	14
Rural	8	5

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1993*, December 1994.

Of all arrests for weapons offenses, 20% were of juveniles in cities.

Weapons offense arrest rates vary by State



1993 weapons offense arrest rates per 100,000 population by State

State	Rate	State	Rate	State	Rate
District of Columbia	301	Michigan	107	Alabama	67
Missouri	199	Kentucky	106	Minnesota	61
Wisconsin	165	Maryland	104	Rhode Island	60
Georgia	149	New York	102	Hawaii	60
Louisiana	142	Ohio	97	Indiana	59
Nevada	141	New Jersey	94	Idaho	52
Colorado	140	Kansas*	94	Pennsylvania	49
Texas	139	Oklahoma	91	South Dakota	41
Mississippi	135	Utah	85	Massachusetts	35
California	135	Oregon	81	Wyoming	31
North Carolina	132	Nebraska	78	Delaware	30
Tennessee	131	West Virginia	77	Iowa	30
Virginia	129	South Carolina	77	North Dakota	25
Arkansas	126	Washington	75	Maine	23
Connecticut	116	Illinois*	75	New Hampshire	16
Arizona	114	New Mexico	71	Montana	12
Alaska	107	Florida	68	Vermont	1

*1993 arrest data were not available for these States.
An average of their 1991 and 1992 rates was used.

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1993*, December 1994.

Arrests of juveniles comprise an increasing proportion of weapons offense arrests

Juveniles accounted for 16% of those arrested for weapons offenses in 1974 and 23% in 1993. Between 1985 and 1993, the number of juvenile arrests for weapons offenses increased by more than 100%, from just under 30,000 to more than 61,000; at the same time, adult arrests grew by 33%.

Older teens have the highest weapons offense arrest rates

Among all age and gender groups, males at age 18 have the highest per capita arrest rates for weapons offenses.

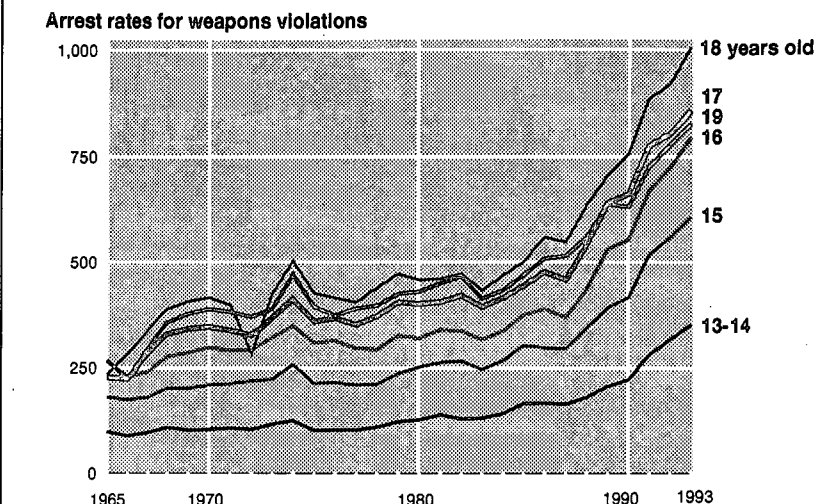
Age group	1993 weapons offense arrest rates per 100,000 population	
	Males	Females
12 or under	15.2	2.1
13-14	350.9	47.7
15	607.8	56.1
16	793.9	59.4
17	857.8	50.7
18	1,007.0	48.6
19	826.5	42.0
20	683.7	36.2
21	630.4	39.2
22	601.2	38.7
23	546.5	43.3
24	447.7	36.7
25-29	317.0	30.0
30-34	210.5	24.6
35-39	153.9	18.6
40-44	108.4	11.7
45-49	82.2	8.3
50-54	60.2	5.5
55-59	40.7	3.0
60-64	26.6	1.4
65 or over	14.6	.9

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1993 preliminary arrest data adjusted to reporting populations.

Juveniles are subject to additional weapons restrictions in many jurisdictions

Both the States and the Federal Government have jurisdiction over the possession of firearms by juveniles.

For teenage males, arrest rates for weapons offenses rose dramatically since the mid-1980's



Sources: FBI, *Age-Specific Arrest Rates and Race-Specific Arrest Rates for Selected Offenses, 1965-1992*, December 1993, and FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, 1993 preliminary arrest data and 1993 population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census adjusted to reporting populations.

At the Federal level, the Youth Handgun Safety Act of 1994 prohibits the possession of handguns by anyone under age 18 and provides criminal sanctions of up to 10 years in prison for anyone convicted of providing a handgun to a person under age 18. There are a number of exceptions to the prohibition including possession for employment, for hunting, and for firearm safety training. Prior to enactment of this law, Federal firearms licensees were prohibited from selling handguns to anyone under age 21 and rifles and shotguns to anyone under age 18. However, the earlier Federal law did not prohibit the sale of firearms to juveniles by unlicensed persons and did not prohibit the possession of any type of firearm by juveniles.

According to a 1994 study of State laws by the National Criminal Justice Association, all 50 States and the District of Columbia have firearms laws that specifically apply to juveniles. In addition—

- half the States prohibit or restrict a juvenile's possession of firearms without some form of parental or adult supervision or permission
- 24 States explicitly prohibit or restrict a juvenile's possession of a handgun.

The ages covered by firearms restrictions on juveniles vary; in some States the laws apply to persons under age 16, and in others, to persons under age 21.

More than two-thirds of the States have enacted general prohibitions against the possession of a firearm in or near a school or similar facility, such as a daycare center.

How many delinquency cases involving weapons offenses are handled by the juvenile courts?

Juveniles who commit criminal law violations are handled by the juvenile justice system in delinquency cases. Adults who commit the same acts are prosecuted in the criminal courts. In 1992 juvenile courts processed an estimated 41,000 delinquency cases (about 3% of those processed) in which the most serious offense involved weapons. Between 1988 and 1992, the number of delinquency cases involving weapons grew 86%, more than any other offense type.

The National Center for Juvenile Justice reported that of the weapons offense cases involving juveniles that were disposed of in 15 States in 1992, 57% were handled formally (petitioned) by juvenile courts. Of those weapons cases petitioned, 63% were formally adjudicated by the court. Of the adjudicated weapons cases, about 31% resulted in an out-of-home placement, 56% resulted in probation, 6% received other sanctions, and 6% were dismissed.

Some juveniles may be prosecuted for weapons offenses in criminal court

In some States, some juveniles charged with selected offenses may be prosecuted in criminal court. Juveniles come under criminal court jurisdiction in one of three ways:

- *statutory exclusion* where the State law specifically excludes certain offenses from juvenile court jurisdiction
- *prosecutorial discretion* where the prosecutor may file certain juvenile cases in either juvenile or criminal court
- *judicial waiver* where a juvenile court judge may waive jurisdiction and transfer the case to criminal court.

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report*, the provisions used vary by State:

- Cases involving juveniles accused of a weapons offense are excluded by statute from the juvenile court in four States; at age 15 in Illinois and at age 16 in Indiana, Maryland, and Oklahoma.
- Prosecutors may decide whether to prosecute juveniles of a minimum age for any criminal offense in three States and for weapons offenses in two States (Colorado and Florida).
- Judges have discretion to transfer any case that involves a juvenile of a minimum age to adult court for any criminal offense in 23 States and for any felony charge in 25 States. Such authority is provided to judges specifically in weapons cases involving

juveniles in six States (Arkansas, California, the District of Columbia, Montana, New Jersey, and New Mexico).

According to the BJS National Judicial Reporting Program, an estimated 640 persons under age 18 were convicted as adults of felony weapons offenses in State criminal courts in 1992.

Most defendants charged with weapons offenses are released pending trial

In 1992, 71% of the defendants charged with felony weapons offenses in the Nation's 75 largest counties were released prior to trial. The remainder included 4% held without bail and 25% held although bail had been set. Of all weapons defendants, 28%

were granted a nonfinancial release including 18% released on personal recognizance.

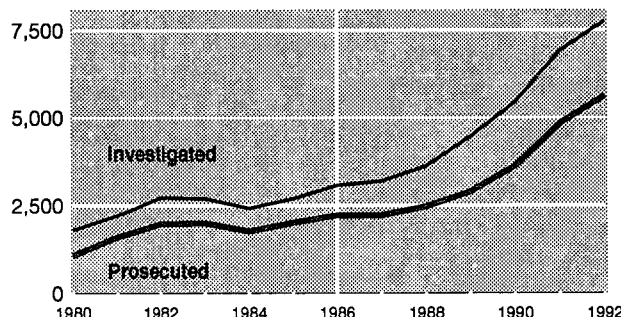
Federal courts in 1990 released 80% of the felony weapons offense defendants prior to trial. The remainder included 16% held without bail and 5% held although bail had been set. Of all weapons defendants, 60% were granted a nonfinancial release including 15% released on personal recognizance.

How many felony weapons defendants had a criminal justice status or prior criminal history at the time of the offense?

According to *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1992*, 42% of the felony weapons defendants had a

The number of Federal weapons offenses investigated and prosecuted has increased since 1980

Number of weapons offense suspects in matters concluded by the U.S. attorneys



Sources: BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1980-87*, NCJ-120069, May 1990; BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1980-90*, NCJ-136945, September 1992; BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-91, with Preliminary Data for 1992*, NCJ-144526, November 1993; and BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1992*, NCJ-148949, forthcoming.

- In 1992 U.S. attorneys investigated 7,971 suspects and prosecuted 5,613 suspects who had a Federal weapons violation as their most serious offense. Between 1980 and 1992, the number investigated increased 4-fold, and the number prosecuted increased 5-fold.
- The proportion of all suspects investigated and prosecuted by U.S. attorneys and whose most serious charge was a weapons offense more than doubled from 1980 to 1992, growing from 3% to 7% of all investigations and from 3% to 8% of all prosecutions.
- Increases in the number of Federal investigations and prosecutions for weapons offenses may have been due to new Federal statutes enacted during the last decade. For example, the Omnibus Drug Initiative Act of 1988 added several provisions prohibiting the acquisition or transfer of firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes, and the Crime Control Act of 1990 added several provisions, including a prohibition on assembling from imported parts any rifle or shotgun that may not legally be imported into the United States.

criminal justice status at the time of the offense including —

- 17% on probation
- 10% on parole
- 14% on pretrial release.

Of the felony weapons defendants, 34% had at least one prior felony conviction, and 17% had at least one misdemeanor conviction. Of those felony weapons defendants with a history of felony convictions, more than half had two or more such convictions. Convicted felons and, in some States, some misdemeanants are prohibited from possessing guns or other deadly weapons.

How many cases with a weapons offense as the most serious charge result in a conviction?

Few weapons arrests (an estimated 11%) result in a felony conviction. Some people arrested for weapons offenses are charged with misdemeanors rather than felonies.

Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1992, reported that 68% of weapons defendants charged with a felony were convicted: 55% for a felony and 13% for a misdemeanor. Of those convicted of a weapons offense, 93% pleaded guilty.

At the Federal level in 1992, about 84% of weapons cases resulted in a conviction. Of the 3,177 convicted of a Federal weapons offense, 85% pleaded guilty.

In both 1990 and 1992, weapons offenses accounted for about 3% of felony convictions in State courts nationwide. In 1992, for 6% of all those convicted in Federal district court, their most serious conviction offense was a weapons offense.

Where do felony weapons offense convictions occur?

Most felony convictions occur in State courts. Of all felony convictions in 1990, State courts accounted for 96% and Federal courts for 4%. Most felony weapons convictions also occurred

in State courts (90%). While the Federal courts account for about 4% of all felony convictions nationwide, about 10% of felony convictions for weapons violations occur in Federal court.

Who is convicted of felony weapons offenses?

Of those convicted of State felony weapons offenses in 1992 —

- 96% were male
- 60% were black
- half were age 27 or under.

What kinds of sentences are given to offenders convicted of weapons offenses?

In 1992, two-thirds of the estimated 26,000 offenders convicted in State courts of felony weapons offenses were sentenced to incarceration: 40% to prison and 26% to jail. About a third were sentenced to probation. The average sentence length given to weapons offenders was approximately —

- 4 years for those sentenced to prison
- 6 months for those sentenced to jail
- 3 years for those sentenced to probation.

Felony weapons offenders sentenced to prison were almost twice as likely as those receiving jail or probation terms to have had multiple conviction offenses.

Of all offenders convicted of felony weapons offenses, some had additional sanctions attached to their sentences including —

- 14% who were fined
- 7% who had to pay restitution
- 5% who were sentenced to community service
- 4% who were sentenced to treatment.

The additional penalty may have resulted from a secondary conviction offense in addition to the more serious weapons conviction.

Among convicted weapons offenders sentenced in Federal court in 1992, 86% were imprisoned, and 21% received probation. Less than 1% received a sentence of a fine only.

Average sentence length increased for weapons offenders admitted to Federal prison and decreased for those admitted to State prison

Year	Average sentence length for weapons offenders admitted to prison	
	State	Federal
1985	56 months	42 months
1986	53	45
1987	54	53
1988	53	52
1989	50	47
1990	47	47
1991	48	63
1992	45	77

Sources: BJS, *National Corrections Reporting Program*, 1985 through 1992; BJS, *Prisoners in 1993*, Bulletin, NCJ-147036, June 1994; and BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-91, with Preliminary Data for 1992*, NCJ-144526, November 1993.

Between 1985 and 1992, State prison sentences for weapons offenders declined nearly a year to an average of less than 4 years. Over the same period, average sentences to prison for Federal weapons offenders increased by almost 3 years to almost 6½ years.

Weapons offenders comprise an increasing proportion of admissions to State and Federal prisons

Prison admissions for weapons offenses				
Year	State		Federal	
	Number	Percent of admissions	Number	Percent of admissions
1985	3,296	1.8%	1,003	4.9%
1986	3,253	1.6	1,174	5.1
1987	3,836	1.7	1,188	5.0
1988	4,661	1.9	1,262	5.4
1989	5,957	2.0	1,647	6.0
1990	6,138	1.9	1,894	6.6
1991	7,296	2.3	2,632	8.6
1992	8,023	2.4	3,426	10.2

Sources: BJS, *National Corrections Reporting Program*, 1985 through 1992; BJS, *Prisoners in 1993*, Bulletin, NCJ-147036, June 1994; and BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-91, with Preliminary Data for 1992*, NCJ-144526, November 1993.

Many State and Federal laws concerning weapons offenses provide for mandatory prison terms and sentence length enhancements

According to the report *National Assessment of Structured Sentencing*, prepared for the Bureau of Justice Assistance, 41 States have mandatory minimum sentences to prison for certain weapons offenses such as using a firearm in the commission of a felony. Also, some State statutes permit judges to enhance or lengthen an offender's sentence for a crime committed with a deadly weapon. Marvell and Moody reported that such statutes were in force in 20 States as of 1992.

Federal law concerning the use of firearms provides for both sentencing enhancements and mandatory minimums and includes —

- the Armed Career Criminal Act enacted in 1984, and amended in 1986, which provides enhanced penalties for persons who are convicted of possessing firearms and have three previous State or Federal convictions for violent felonies or serious drug offenses
- the 1986 amendments to the Firearms Owners Protection Act which imposes mandatory penalties for the use or carrying of firearms in the commission of drug trafficking crimes.

Are admissions to prison for weapons offenses growing as rapidly as those for drug offenses?

In recent years, drug offenders made up an increasing proportion of admissions to prison and accounted for a large share of the overall growth in the prison population. Weapons offenders make up a much smaller proportion of prison admissions than drug offenders, but their proportion of all admissions has also grown.

At the State level, admissions for drug offenses grew faster than those for weapons offenses, but at the Federal level the opposite was true:

- Among those entering State prisons, the number of weapons offenders increased more than 140% between

What are the characteristics of weapons offenders in State and Federal prisons?

Characteristic	Prisoners convicted of a weapons offense		
	State	Federal	
Sex			
Male	99%	97%	➤ In both State and Federal prisons, weapons offenders were predominantly male.
Female	1	3	
Race/ethnicity			
White	24%	47%	➤ Weapons offenders in State prison were more likely than those in Federal prison to be black or Hispanic.
Black	56	35	
Hispanic	19	13	
Other	2	5	
Citizenship			
U.S.	97%	92%	➤ While few weapons offenders in prison were not U.S. citizens, State prisoners were more likely than Federal prisoners to be U.S. citizens.
Non-U.S.	3	8	
Criminal history			
No	10%	25%	➤ Most State and Federal weapons offenders in prison had a prior criminal history, but State offenders were more likely than Federal offenders to have a history of prior violence.
Yes	90%	75%	
Prior violence	44	28	
No prior violence	46	47	
Total	12,700	3,100	

Sources: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991, and BJS, Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities, 1991.

1985 and 1992, compared to about a 300% increase in the number of drug offenders.

- Over the same years, the number of Federal offenders imprisoned for drug offenses increased just over 60%, while the number of Federal weapons offenders imprisoned increased 4 times as fast, growing about 240%.

State prisons hold more weapons offenders than Federal prisons, but weapons offenders are more prevalent in Federal prisons

In 1991 two simultaneous surveys, the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities and the Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities, revealed that weapons offenders were about 3 times as prevalent in the Federal prison population — 5.7% of Federal prisoners and 1.8% of State prisoners were serving time after conviction for a weapons offense. However, State prisons held about 4 times as many convicted weapons offenders as Federal prisons; in 1991 an estimated 12,700 weapons offenders were in State prisons, and 3,100 were in Federal prisons.

Average time served in prison is similar for State and Federal weapons offenders

Federal weapons offenders released in 1992 had served an average of 4 months longer in confinement than those released in 1985. By contrast, released State weapons offenders in 1992 served about 1 month longer than those released in 1985.

Year	Average (mean) time releasees served in prison	
	State*	Federal
1985	21 months	19 months
1986	25	19
1987	25	20
1988	23	21
1989	24	21
1990	24	21
1991	23	21
1992	22	23

*Includes an average of 5 months of jail credit against the sentence.

Sources: BJS, *National Corrections Reporting Program*, 1985 through 1992, and BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-91, with Preliminary Data for 1992*, NCJ-144526, November 1993.

In 1991, 60% of weapons offenders in State prison were on probation or parole at the time of admission

According to the 1991 Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 46% of those in prison were probation or parole violators, including 35% who were convicted of a new offense and 10% who had technically violated the conditions of their release. In State prisons, about 2% of all probation violators and parole violators were admitted for a weapons offense.

Federal law and many State laws prohibit convicted felons from possessing guns. In some States, such prohibitions also apply to some misdemeanants. Although 14% of all violators (35,000) reported being armed when they committed their current offense, 1 out of 5 of them (7,000) were actually convicted of a weapons violation.

Probation and parole conditions of release often prohibit offenders from possessing firearms or deadly weapons. Technical violations of the conditions of release may result in revocation of probation or parole. Less than 1% of the violators in prison were there because their probation or parole was revoked for a technical violation involving weapons.

Weapons offense charges may accompany more serious charges

When a weapon is used or possessed during the commission of a crime, the defendant may be charged with a weapons offense in addition to the primary criminal charge. The Congress and many State legislatures have passed laws that target armed offenders with additional sanctions including mandatory minimum terms in prison or enhancements to the length of the prison sentence imposed.

Additional weapons charges in cases brought in State courts are uncommon

In general, most offenders are not charged with or convicted of more than one felony. Offenses in addition to

more serious charges were present for —

- 34% of the defendants charged with a felony
- 21% of convicted offenders
- 35% of State prison inmates.

Few defendants or offenders were charged or convicted of additional weapons offenses. Weapons offenses in addition to more serious offenses were present for —

- 2% of the felony defendants
- 1% of convicted offenders
- 5% of State prison inmates.

Weapons offenses accompanied all types of offenses including property crimes and drug offenses

Defendants and offenders whose most serious offense was a weapons offense were more likely than those charged or convicted of other offenses to have additional weapons charges or convictions.

Most serious offense	Percent of State offenders with a weapons offense in addition to another charge		
	Felony defendants in the 75 largest counties in 1992	Felony convictions in 1992	Inmates in State prisons in 1991
Total†	2%	1%	5%
Violent offenses	3%	3%	5%
Murder	3%	8%	5%
Rape	*	*	1%
Robbery	5%	3%	5%
Aggravated assault	3%	4%	8%
Other violent	1%	*	2%
Property offenses	1%	*	1%
Burglary	1%	1%	2%
Larceny and motor vehicle theft	1%	*	1%
Drug offenses	1%	1%	2%
Weapons	12%	7%	5%

*Less than 0.5%.

†Includes offenses not displayed in detail.

Sources: Unpublished BJS data from the National Pretrial Reporting Program, the National Judicial Reporting Program, and the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991.

Defendants or offenders charged or convicted of the violent crimes of murder, robbery, and aggravated assault were the next most likely to have additional weapons offenses.

At the Federal level, additional weapons convictions are more common than at the State level

Federal Firearms-related Offenses, a BJS study of U.S. Sentencing Commission data, found that the 2,400 Federal offenders convicted of an additional firearms offense included —

- 21% of convicted violent offenders
- 8% of convicted drug offenders
- 1% of public-order offenders
- 0.4% of property offenders.

Of those convicted of an additional firearms offense, 82% were convicted of the use or carrying of a firearm in the commission of another offense and 10% were convicted of illegally possessing the weapon as a prohibited person (such as convicted felons, mental defectives, or illegal aliens).

Ninety-nine percent of the Federal offenders convicted of an additional weapons offense were sentenced to prison. Violent offenders convicted of a firearms charge in addition to another offense were sentenced to an average of more than 12 years. Over a third of the sentence length imposed for these offenders was attributable to the firearms conviction.

Federal sentencing guidelines also consider the involvement of deadly weapons, particularly firearms

Sentences in Federal courts are determined through the application of sentencing guidelines. Two factors — the seriousness of the offense and the offender's criminal history — determine what sentence a convicted Federal offender will receive. The presence or use of a firearm during the commission of the offense is one measure of seriousness. Even when offenders are not convicted of separate firearms offenses, they may receive additional

sanctions because the use of a firearm during the crime increases the sentence recommended under the guidelines or raises the penalty to that for an "aggravated offense" class.

According to *Federal Firearms-related Offenses*, during the fiscal year ending on September 30, 1993, 1,786 Federal offenders received enhanced sentences under the guidelines because of firearms involvement. Over a quarter of the Federal offenders convicted of a violent crime were given a sentence enhancement because of firearms involvement. Their sentences increased by about 19% because of the firearms involvement.

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Selected Findings summarize statistics about a topic of current concern from both BJS and non-BJS datasets.

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November 1995, NCJ-155284

This report is part of a series on firearms and crime that will result in the publication of a comprehensive document entitled *Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Other topics to be covered in this series include guns used in crime, how criminals obtain guns, and intentional firearm injury. The full report will focus on the use of guns in crime, trends in gun crime, consequences of gun crimes, and characteristics of and sanctions for offenders who use guns. This report will not cover the involvement of firearms in accidents or suicides.

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Spouse Murder Defendants in Large Urban Counties

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- 59% were husbands killing wives.
- 41% were wives killing husbands.
- 70% were charged with first-degree murder.
- 80% were arrested on the day of the murder or the next day.

The report answers these questions:

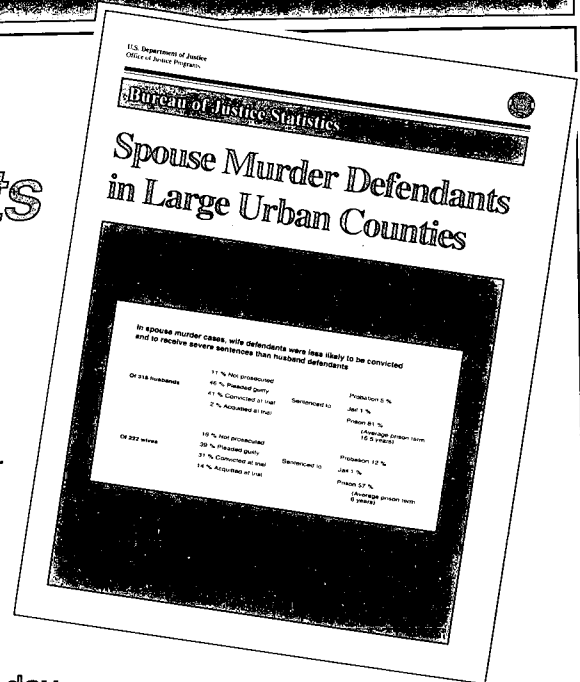
- What age and race were defendants and their spouses?
- What was the arrest charge?
- How likely were defendants to plead not guilty?
- What percent chose a jury trial rather than a trial by a judge?
- What were the outcomes for each?
- What percent of cases resulted in guilty verdicts? In acquittals?

- What was the average sentence for husbands? For wives?
- What percent of cases involved provocation or self-defense? What were the outcomes?
- Were there differences in outcome by race of the victim or race of the defendant?
- How long did these cases take from the murder to final disposition, on the average?

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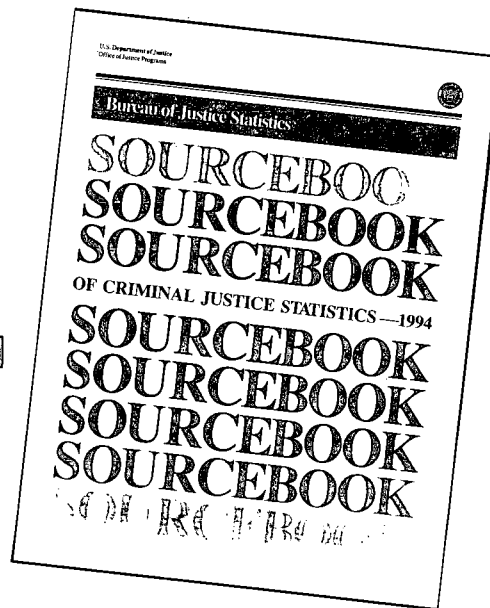
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Firearms, crime, and criminal justice

Firearm Injury from Crime

By Marianne W. Zawitz
BJS Statistician

What information is available about firearm injury from crime?

Firearm injuries caused by crime include those caused by interpersonal violence regardless of whether or not the victim was the intended target. Such injuries can be fatal (homicides) or nonfatal (assaults). As discussed on page 6, firearm homicide data from several good sources have been available for many years. Little data on nonfatal firearm injuries caused by crime were available until recently. While many jurisdictions have laws mandating the reporting of gunshot wounds to law enforcement, there is no national registry of such injuries.

To understand firearm injury better, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiated the Firearms Injury Surveillance Study in June 1992. As discussed on page 5, this study collects data about gun-related injuries treated at hospital emergency departments through the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System.

Firearm-related crime and resulting injury is a relatively rare event

- In 1994 the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) found that

Highlights

- Of the victims of nonfatal violent crime who faced an assailant armed with a firearm, 3% suffered gunshot wounds. *page 1*
- Over half of all nonfatal firearm-related injuries treated in emergency departments were known to have resulted from an assault. *page 2*
- An estimated 57,500 nonfatal gunshot wounds from assaults were treated in hospital emergency departments from June 1992 through May 1993. *page 2*
- Of those victims who received nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime and were treated in an emergency room, 65% arrived by emergency medical service, rescue squad, or ambulance. *page 2*
- Almost half of the victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime were shot in an arm, hand, leg, or foot. *page 2*
- About 60% of the victims of nonfatal firearm injury from crime who went

- to an emergency room were subsequently hospitalized. *page 2*
- Over half of the victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime who were treated in emergency departments were black males; a quarter were black males age 15-24. *page 3*
- While the majority of victims of intentional gunshot wounds were black, most victims of unintentional firearm injury and suicide attempts with firearms were white. *page 3*
- For 12% of the victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime, the term "drive-by" was used to describe the assault. *page 4*
- The firearm injury rate for police officers declined in the early 1980s and began climbing again after 1987, but has not exceeded the peak reached in 1980-81. *page 4*

This report is the third in a series on firearms, crime, and criminal justice. The first report in the series, *Guns Used in Crime* (NCJ-148201, July 1995), includes definitions of commonly used firearm terms.

29% of the victims of nonfatal violent crime, excluding simple assault, faced an offender armed with a gun.

- An earlier analysis of NCVS data for 1987-92 found that of the victims of nonfatal violent crime who faced an assailant armed with a firearm, 3% suffered gunshot wounds.

- According to the 1992 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, about 0.3% of all injury visits to emergency departments (3 of every 1,000 visits) were caused by firearms. This estimate includes all causes of firearm injury and may also include visits for patients seeking follow-up care and patients who died at the hospital.

How often are victims injured as a result of crimes committed with firearms?

According to an analysis of NCVS data for 1987-92, about 17% of the victims of nonfatal gun crimes were injured. Of those injured, 61% received minor injuries. Few of those injured in nonfatal gun crimes received injuries that resulted from the discharge of a firearm; about 19% of the victims injured in gun crimes suffered from gunshot wounds. The NCVS does not include victims who died.

	Percent of victims
Injured in gun crime	100 %
Gunshot wound	19
Serious injury	15
Rape/Attempted rape	5
Minor injury	61

Of the victims who suffered gunshot wounds, over 90% reported that they were treated at a hospital.

How many people are injured by firearms and how many are the result of crime?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that between June 1, 1992, and May 31, 1993, about 99,000 nonfatal firearm-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. Of these, an estimated 57,500 nonfatal gunshot wounds were known to have resulted from assaults.¹

Of the total firearm injuries —

- 58% resulted from assaults
- 20% were unintentional
- 5% were suicide attempts
- 1% were legal interventions
- 16% were from unknown causes.

CDC estimates that there were 3.3 nonfatal firearms-related injuries from assault or legal intervention for every firearm-related homicide. While most nonfatal firearm-related injuries are the result of intentional, interpersonal

violence, most firearm-related deaths are self-inflicted. According to the Vital Statistics, 37,776 firearm deaths occurred in 1992; 48% were suicides, and 47% homicides/legal interventions, and 4% unintentional.

How did the victims of firearm injury from crime get to the hospital?

About two-thirds of the victims of gunshot wounds from crime who were treated in emergency departments were taken to the emergency department by an emergency medical service, ambulance, or rescue squad.

Mode of transport to the hospital	Percent of victims of gunshot wounds from crime
EMS/Rescue/Ambulance	65%
Private vehicle	19
Walk-in	6
Police	4
Unknown	4
Air transport	2

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Firearm Injury Surveillance Study, June 1, 1992, through May 31, 1993.

Victims of unintentional firearm injury differ from other types of gunshot victims in that a higher percentage come to hospital by private vehicle than any other means.

Where were victims of gunshot assaults wounded?

Data from the CDC study of nonfatal firearm injury show that almost half of the victims shot as a result of an assault received wounds to the extremities (arms, hands, legs, or feet). Over a third of these victims were shot in the trunk, and the remainder were shot in the head or neck.

By contrast, three-quarters of the victims of unintentional gunshot wounds were shot in the arms, legs, or feet, while two-thirds of the victims of suicide attempts were shot in the head or neck or upper trunk.

Webster and others analyzed all crime-related gunshot wound cases that were admitted to a level I trauma unit in Washington, D.C., from 1983 to 1990.* They found that the severity of gunshot wounds increased during the study period. Increased mortality among victims of gunshot wounds was a function of an increase in the percentage of patients who suffered wounds to the head or thoracic regions that included the vital organs. In addition, the increase in patient mortality during the last 3 years of the study was partially attributable to increases in the proportion of patients with multiple thoracic wounds. Overall, they found that the proportion of patients with two or more gunshot wounds grew from about 26% before 1987 to 43% from 1988 through 1990.

Most victims of intentional firearms injury treated in an emergency room are subsequently hospitalized

The CDC data show that about 60% of the victims of nonfatal intentionally inflicted gunshot wounds (an estimated 34,500) were hospitalized after their initial treatment in an emergency room. The remainder (40%) were released after being treated or transferred.² The CDC firearms study did not follow treatment after admission but did estimate that about 92% of the victims hospitalized for firearm injury were discharged from the hospital alive.

Data from the NCVS on nonfatal firearm crimes for 1987-92 showed that over half of the victims of gunshot wounds were hospitalized and of these victims over half were hospitalized less than 1 week.

The analysis by Webster and others found that 28% of the admitted patients received some care in an intensive care unit. In 1990 the gunshot wound patients in intensive care spent an average of 2.2 days in the unit.*

¹95% confidence interval estimates the number to be between 33,800 to 81,000. See *Methodology*.

*A full citation for this source is at the end of this paper.

²95% confidence interval estimates the number to be between 20,300 to 48,700. See *Methodology*.

Who are the victims of gunshot wounds from crime?

Victim characteristic	Percent of victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime treated in hospital emergency departments	
Sex		➤ Almost 9 of 10 victims were male
Male	87%	
Female	13	
Race and ethnicity		➤ About 6 in 10 victims were black
White*	19%	
Black	59	
Hispanic	14	
Other	4	
Unknown	5	
Age		➤ One quarter of the victims were under age 20
0-14	3%	
15-19	22	➤ About half of the victims were between 15 and 24 years old
20-24	27	
25-29	17	
30-34	12	
35-39	10	
40-44	5	
45+	6	

*Represents white, non-Hispanic.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Firearm Injury Surveillance Study, June 1, 1992, through May 31, 1993.

Over half the victims of gunshot wounds from crime who were treated in hospital emergency departments were black males

	Percent of victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime
Black male	52%
White male*	15
Hispanic male	13
Black female	6
White female*	4
Other male	3
Hispanic female	1
Other female	1
Unknown	5

*Represents white, non-Hispanic.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Firearm Injury Surveillance Study, June 1, 1992, through May 31, 1993.

Over a quarter of all the victims of intentional gunshot wounds were black males age 15 to 24.

While the majority of victims of intentional gunshot wounds were black, most victims of unintentional firearm injury and suicide attempts with firearms were white.

How do the victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime compare to firearm homicide victims?

A comparison of two sources of firearm homicide data to the CDC's data on nonfatal firearm injury from crime shows similar demographic patterns among victims. Black males are the most frequent victims of firearm homicide and nonfatal firearm injury from crime. Young people are also more frequently victims in all three sources. Older victims are more frequent in the homicide statistics since they are less able than younger victims to recover from gunshot wounds.

Although these sources cover slightly different periods and have different population coverage (see page 5), the homicide victims in the Vital Statistics and the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports appear to be very similar. Some of the differences between these sources and the firearm injury study may be due to differences in population coverage or the estimation procedures used with the firearm injury surveillance sample.

Victim characteristics	Firearm homicides		Nonfatal firearm injury from crime, June 1992 - May 1993
	1992 Vital Statistics	FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports, June 1992 - May 1993	
Race and sex			
White male	37%	35%	28% [†]
White female	9	9	5 [†]
Black male	45	47	52
Black female	6	7	6
Other	2	2	4
Unknown	*	1	5
Age			
0-14	3%	2%	3%
15-19	16	16	22
20-24	22	22	27
25-29	17	17	17
30-34	13	14	12
35-44	16	17	15
45+	13	12	6
Unknown		1	

*Less than 0.5%

[†]For comparison, Hispanics who were included in the other racial category

in the original data were included in the whites racial category. The homicide sources do not classify Hispanics as a racial category.

Sources: 1992 Vital Statistics of the United States, Centers for Disease Control, and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics; FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, Supplementary Homicide Reports, June 1992 — May 1993; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention, Firearms Injury Surveillance Study, June 1992 — May 1993.

What were the circumstances surrounding the crimes that resulted in gunshot wounds?

For most of the victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime in the CDC study, little is known about the event or the type of weapon, because much of this information is unavailable in hospital emergency departments. Information about whether the injury resulted from another crime such as a robbery, from a physical fight, or from a verbal argument was recorded for less than a third of the cases.

offender was unknown. In 28% of the cases the perpetrator was a stranger to the victim, and 10% of the victims did not see who shot them.

Victim-offender relationship	Percent of victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime
Relationship unknown	48%
Stranger	28
Did not see offender	10
Friend/acquaintance	8
All other	6

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Firearm Injury Surveillance Study, June 1, 1992 through May 31, 1993.

About 60% of the victims of gunshot wounds for 1987-92 in the NCVS reported that they were victimized by strangers. Another quarter reported that they were victimized by an acquaintance.

The relationship to the offender was unknown in 40% of the firearm homicides in the Supplementary Homicide Reports from June 1992 through May 1993. In 44% of the homicides during the period, the killer was known to the victim including —

- 24% in which the victim and offender were friends or acquaintances
- 13% in which the killer was a relative or intimate of the victim.

The killer was a stranger to the victim in 15% of the homicides.

What is the cost of injuries caused by assaults with firearms?

Miller and Cohen estimated the average cost per gunshot wound from all causes in 1992.* The estimates for medical costs, mental health care, emergency transport, police services, and insurance administration were —

- \$21,700 per fatal gunshot wound
- \$28,000 per gunshot wound requiring hospitalization
- \$6,500 per gunshot wound treated in the emergency department and released without hospitalization.

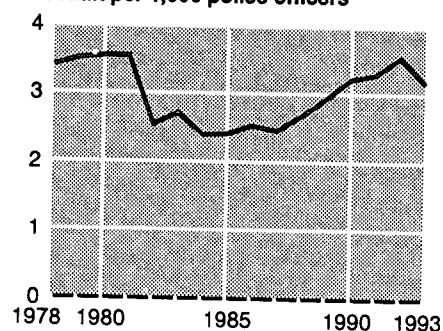
They estimated that the total cost per survivor of gunshot wounds caused by

assault was \$260,000. This figure included direct costs such as medical costs as well as those costs because of lost productivity and pain, suffering, and reduced quality of life. Overall, they estimated that firearm assault injury and death cost \$63.4 billion in 1992.

How often are police officers injured in assaults with firearms?

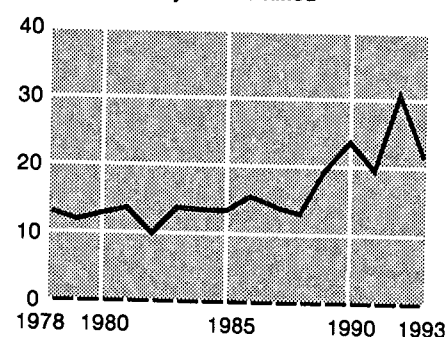
In 1993, over 1,400 police officers were injured in firearm assaults and 67 police officers were killed by a firearm while responding to a crime. The firearm injury rate for police officers declined in the early 1980s and began climbing again after 1987. Rates in the 1990s have not exceeded the peak reached in 1980-81.

Number of firearm injuries from assault per 1,000 police officers



Because fewer police officers are dying from gunshot wounds, the ratio of those injured to killed from assaults with firearms has been increasing.

For police officers who were shot, ratio of those injured to killed



Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1978-93.

Where did the assaults that resulted in nonfatal gunshot wounds occur?

The CDC study found that the location of the assault was —

- unknown by hospital staff in more than half the injuries
- a street or highway in 18%
- a home, apartment, or condominium in 16%
- other property, including schools or recreation areas, in 13%.

In 83% of the cases, the assault did not occur when the victim was on the job. In the text descriptions provided by hospital staff, the term "drive-by" was used to describe what happened to 12% of the victims of nonfatal gunshot injury from assaults.

What was the relationship of injured victims to their attackers?

In almost half of the cases in the CDC study, the victim's relationship to the

*A full citation for this source is at the end of this paper.

Over 44,000 violent State prison inmates in 1991 reported that victims of their crimes had been shot and killed or injured

The Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities found that of the almost 328,000 State prison inmates serving time for a violent crime in 1991, 30% were armed with a firearm when they committed the crime. Of those armed, 56% said that they fired the gun and most of those who fired said their victims were shot and either wounded or killed.

Injury to the victim and the use of a firearm are both factors that can increase the severity of the sentence given to violent criminals. For example, according to *Federal Firearms-related offenses*, over a quarter of the Federal offenders convicted of a violent crime were given longer sentences because of firearms involvement.

Are offenders more likely to be victims of firearm injury?

Several studies reported findings about the gunshot wound history of criminals and criminal defendants:

- Preliminary findings from a National Institute of Justice study of over 4,000 arrestees in 11 cities during the first 3 months of 1995 showed that 21% of the adult male arrestees and 11% of the juvenile male arrestees had been injured by a gunshot at some time.*
- May and others' study of 582 male detainees in the Cook County, Illinois jail, in 1994 found that 26% had survived gunshot wounds.*

According to a BJS study of murder in the 75 largest counties in 1988, 13% of the victims killed with a firearm had a prior criminal arrest and 7% a prior conviction — a pattern similar to victims of homicide killed with other weapons.*

McGonigal and others' study of firearm deaths in Philadelphia in 1985 and 1990 found that two-thirds of the victims killed in 1990 had a prior criminal history including 36% who had prior firearms arrests.*

*A full citation for this source is at the end of this paper.

Methodology

CDC Firearms Injury Surveillance Study — These data were compiled through the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). The CPSC established NEISS in 1972 to track product-related injuries. NEISS collects data from 91 hospitals selected as a representative sample of the approximately 6,000 hospitals in the United States with emergency departments. The system includes very large inner-city hospitals with trauma centers, as well as other types of urban, suburban, and rural hospitals. Data from the 91 NEISS hospitals are weighted to provide national estimates about injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments.

Through an agreement with CDC, NEISS was used to collect data on nonfatal gun-related injuries at all 91 hospitals beginning in June 1992. NEISS personnel abstracted information from medical records on each case identified. Further information about the study can be found in Annett and others, "National Estimates of Nonfatal Firearm-Related Injuries: Beyond the Tip of the Iceberg," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 14, 1995.

The CDC data for June 1992 through May 1993 consists of 4,874 unweighted cases. This report focuses on the 3,302 unweighted cases that involved nonfatal gunshot wounds

caused by any weapon that uses a powder charge to fire a projectile. Additional estimates on injury caused by BB guns or pellet guns and other injuries that directly involve a gun including powder burns, pistol whipping, or recoil injuries are included in the report cited above and in "BB and Pellet Gun-Related Injuries, United States, June 1992, May 1994," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 44, No. 49, December 15, 1995, pp. 909-13.

Because the CDC data are a sample of firearm injuries that occur in U.S. hospitals, the estimates that are derived from the data are subject to sampling error. To measure the precision of national estimates obtained from the data, CDC estimated the generalized standard errors for estimates of selected sample size as follows:

Estimate	Standard error	Relative sampling error in percent	95% Confidence interval
1,000	300	30%	412-1,588
5,000	1,150	23%	2,746-7,254
10,000	2,200	22%	5,688-14,312
25,000	5,300	21%	14,612-35,388
50,000	10,600	21%	29,224-70,776
75,000	15,800	21%	44,032-105,968
99,000	21,800	22%	56,272-141,728

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is also using NEISS to collect information about both firearm and nonfirearm intentional interpersonal injury. The BJS study collects data from 31 hospitals in the NEISS sample. The information on intentional firearm injury in the BJS study comes from the CDC firearm injury data. This report used the CDC data since it has a larger number of firearm injury cases permitting more detailed analysis.

National Crime Victimization Survey — The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. The survey provides a detailed picture of crime incidents, victims and trends occurring each year in the

United States. The survey collects information on the frequency and nature of the crimes of rape, sexual assault, personal robbery, aggravated and simple assault, household burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft utilizing a nationally representative sample of approximately 49,000 households (about 101,000 persons).

The survey provides information about victims (age, sex, race, etc.), offenders (age, sex, race, etc.) and the crimes (use of weapons, nature of injury, etc.). Because firearm crime and resulting injury are relatively rare when compared to all types of crime, there were too few cases in any one year to permit detailed analysis of gun crime and gunshot injuries. It was therefore necessary to aggregate sample cases for 6 years, 1987-1992, to have a sufficient number of cases for analysis. The 6 year aggregate of firearm crimes consists of 2,011 unweighted cases.

Firearm homicide data — Firearm homicide data come from two primary sources:

- Vital Statistics of the United States, which collects data from all death certificates filed throughout the Nation
- Supplementary Homicide Reports, which includes data reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the FBI by State and local law enforcement agencies on a voluntary basis.

The Vital Statistics information includes the demographic characteristics of firearm homicide victims and is thought to be an accurate count of the number of such deaths. Firearm homicides include legal intervention deaths such as those caused by police officers in pursuit of criminals. It does not contain information about the circumstances surrounding the death, the type of firearm used, or suspected offenders. The Supplementary Homicide

Reports provide such detailed information. However, not all agencies report and not all reports are complete. In 1992, for example, the FBI estimated that there were 23,760 murders in the U.S. and provided Supplementary Homicide Reports on 22,540 murders. The homicide data from the Vital Statistics and the Uniform Crime Reports provide slightly different estimates of the number of homicides annually.³

Rokaw and others attributed this difference to differences in —

- coverage of the U.S. population
- practices or rules governing the reporting of homicides to NCHS and the FBI
- criteria used in defining a case as a homicide
- categories used and rules employed to classify people among demographic subgroups.

The calendar year 1992 Vital Statistics used here included 17,790 firearm homicide and legal intervention deaths. FBI Supplementary Homicide Data covering the same period as the CDC Firearms Injury Surveillance Study were provided by James Alan Fox, Dean, College of Criminal Justice, Northeastern University. Reports on 15,610 murders involving a firearm were included.

Other data — This report includes information analyzed and published by others. Full citations for these sources are included at the end. Some of the data presented are from single site and multijurisdictional studies and are not representative of the Nation as a whole.

³Additional information about the differences between the Vital Statistics and the Uniform Crime Reports estimates of homicide can be found in the following :

Cantor, David and Lawrence E. Cohen, "Comparing Measures of Homicide Trends: Methodological and Substantive Differences in the Vital Statistics and the Uniform Crime Report Time Series (1933-1975)," *Social Science Research*, Vol. 9, 1980, pp.121-145.

Hindelang, Michael J., "The Uniform Crime Reports Revisited," *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol. 2, 1974, pp.1-17.

Rand, Michael R., "The Study of Homicide Case-flow: Creating a Comprehensive Homicide Dataset," paper presented to the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 1992.

Rokaw, William M., James A. Mercy, and Jack C. Smith, "Comparing Death Certificate Data with FBI Crime Reporting Statistics on U.S. Homicides," *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 105, 1990, pp. 447-455

Rosenberg, Mark L., M.D., M.P.P. and James A. Mercy, Ph.D., "Homicide: Epidemiologic Analysis at the National Level," *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, Vol. 62, No. 5, June 1986, pp. 376-399.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D., is director.

BJS Selected Findings summarize statistics about a topic of current concern from both BJS and non-BJS datasets.

Substantial assistance in preparing this report was provided by J. Lee Annett, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Statistics and Programming, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; James Alan Fox, Dean, College of Criminal Justice, Northeastern University; and by Larry Greenfeld, Michael Rand, and Patrick A. Langan of the BJS staff.

Verification and publication review were provided by Rhonda Keith, Tom Hester, Marilyn Marbrook, and Yvonne Boston of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

April 1996, NCJ-160093

Sources

Annest, J. Lee., Ph.D.; James A. Mercy, Ph.D., Delinda R. Gibson, and George W. Ryan, Ph.D., "National Estimates of Nonfatal Firearm-Related Injuries: Beyond the Tip of the Iceberg," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 273, No. 22, pp. 1749-54, June 14, 1995

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BJS, *Federal Firearms-related offenses, Crime Data Brief*, NCJ-148950, June 1995

BJS, *Guns and Crime: Handgun Victimization, Firearm Self-Defense, and Firearm Theft*, NCJ-147003, April 1994

BJS, *Guns Used in Crime: Firearms, Crime and Criminal Justice*, Selected Findings, NCJ-148201, July 1995

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BJS, *National Crime Victimization Survey, Firearm crime from 1987-92*, unpublished data

BJS, *Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991*, unpublished data

BJS, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*, NCJ-136949, March 1993

Burt, Catherine W., Ed.D. "Injury Related Visits to Hospital Emergency Departments: United States, 1992," *Advance Data from the Vital and Health Statistics*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, No. 261, February 1, 1995

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Advance Report of Final Mortality Statistics, 1992, Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, Vol. 43, No. 6, December 1994

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention, *Firearms Injury Surveillance Study*, June 1992—May 1993

FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the U.S.*, 1992

FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, 1978-93.

FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports, Supplementary Homicide Reports*, June 1992 — May 1993

McGonigal, Michael D., MD, John Cole, BS, C. William Schwab, MD, Donald R. Kauder, MD, Michael R. Rotondo, MD, and Peter B. Angood, "Urban Firearm Deaths: A Five-year Perspective," *The Journal of Trauma*, Vol. 35, No. 4, October 1993, pp. 532-37.

May, John P., MD, Martha G. Ferguson, MPH, Richard Ferguson, MS, and Karen Cronin, BA, "Prior Nonfatal firearm Injuries in Detainees of a Large Urban Jail," *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, Vol. 6, No. 3, 1995

Miller, Ted R. and Mark A. Cohen, "Costs of Penetrating Injury," *Textbook of Penetrating Trauma*, Rao Ivatury and C. Gene Cayten, editors (Philadelphia: Lee and Civiga) 1995

National Institute of Justice, "Arrestees and Guns: Monitoring the Illegal Firearms Market," Research Preview, September 1995

Rokaw, William M., James A. Mercy, and Jack C. Smith, "Comparing Death Certificate Data with FBI Crime Reporting Statistics on U.S. Homicides," *Public Health Reports*, Vol. 105, pp. 447-455.

Webster, Daniel W. ScD, MPH, Howard R. Champion, FRCS (Edin), Patricia S. Gainer, JD, MPA, and Leon Sykes, MD, "Epidemiologic Changes in Gunshot Wounds in Washington, D.C., 1983-1990," *Archives of Surgery*, Vol. 127, No. 6, pp. 694-698

Some of the data utilized in this report are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960.

The data and the report, as well as others from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, are available through the Internet —

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

This report is part of a series on firearms and crime that will result in the publication of a comprehensive document entitled *Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Other topics to be covered in this series include guns used in crime, how criminals obtain guns, and weapons offenses and offenders. The full report will focus on the use of guns in crime, trends in gun crime, consequences of gun crimes, and characteristics of and sanctions for offenders who use guns. This report will not cover the involvement of firearms in accidents or suicides.

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Montgomery, Alabama 36130
(334) 242-4900

Alaska

Uniform Crime Reporting Section
Department of Public Safety Information System
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 269-5708

American Samoa

Department of Public Safety
Post Office Box 1086
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
(684) 633-1111

Arizona

Uniform Crime Reporting
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Post Office Box 6638
Phoenix, Arizona 85005
(602) 223-6638

Arkansas

Arkansas Crime Information Center
One Capitol Mall, 4D-200
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-2222

California

Law Enforcement Information Center
Department of Justice
Post Office Box 903427
Sacramento, California 94203-4270
(916) 227-3473

Colorado

Uniform Crime Reporting
Colorado Bureau of Investigation
690 Kipling Street
Suite 3000
Denver, Colorado 80215
(303) 239-4300

Connecticut

Uniform Crime Reporting Program
Post Office Box 2794
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-9294
(203) 685-8030

Delaware

State Bureau of Identification
Post Office Box 430
Dover, Delaware 19903
(302) 739-5875

District of Columbia

Information Services Division
Metropolitan Police Department
Room 5054
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-4301

Florida

Uniform Crime Reports Section
Florida Crime Information Center Bureau
Post Office Box 1489
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489
(904) 487-1179

Georgia

Georgia Crime Information Center
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Post Office Box 370748
Decatur, Georgia 30037
(404) 244-2840

Guam
Guam Police Department
Planning, Research and Development
Pedro's Plaza
287 West O'Brien Drive
Agana, Guam 96910
(671) 472-8911

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois

Iowa

Kansas

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Maine

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Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Montana

Montana Board of Crime Control
303 North Roberts
Helena, Montana 59620-1408
(406) 444-2077

Nebraska

Uniform Crime Reporting Section
The Nebraska Commission on Law
Enforcement and Criminal Justice
Post Office Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(402) 471-3982

Nevada

Criminal Information Services
Nevada Highway Patrol
555 Wright Way
Carson City, Nevada 89711
(702) 687-5713

New Hampshire

Uniform Crime Reporting Unit
New Hampshire Department of Public Safety
Division of State Police
10 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03305
(603) 271-2509

New Jersey

Uniform Crime Reporting
Division of State Police
Post Office Box 7068
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0068
(609) 882-2000, ext. 2392

New York

Statistical Services
New York State Division of
Criminal Justice Services
Eighth Floor, Mail Room
Executive Park Tower Building
Stuyvesant Plaza
Albany, New York 12203
(518) 457-8381

North Carolina

Crime Reporting and Field Services
Division of Criminal Information
State Bureau of Investigation
407 North Blount Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
(919) 733-3171

North Dakota

Information Services Section
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Attorney General's Office
Post Office Box 1054
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502
(701) 328-5500

Oklahoma

Uniform Crime Reporting Section
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
Suite 300
6600 North Harvey
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116
(405) 848-6724

Oregon

Law Enforcement Data Systems Division
Oregon Department of State Police
400 Public Service Building
Salem, Oregon 97310
(503) 378-3057

Pennsylvania

Bureau of Research and Development
Pennsylvania State Police
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
(717) 783-5536

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Police
Post Office Box 70166
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8166
(787) 793-1234

Rhode Island

Rhode Island State Police
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North Scituate, Rhode Island 02857
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South Carolina

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
Post Office Box 21398
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1398
(803) 896-7162

South Dakota

South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
(605) 773-6310

Texas

Uniform Crime Reporting
Crime Information Bureau
Texas Department of Public Safety
Post Office Box 4143
Austin, Texas 78765-9968
(512) 424-2091

Utah

**Data Collection and Analysis
Bureau of Criminal Identification
Utah Department of Public Safety
4501 South 2700 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119
(801) 965-4445**

Vermont

Vermont Crime Information Center
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2101
(802) 244-8786

Virginia

Records Management Division
Department of State Police
Post Office Box 27472
Richmond, Virginia 23261-7472
(804) 674-2023

Virgin Islands

Records Bureau
Virgin Islands Police Department
Nisky Center
Second Floor
Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802
(809) 774-6400

Washington

**Uniform Crime Reporting Program
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police
Chiefs
Post Office Box 826
Olympia, Washington 98507
(360) 586-3221**

West Virginia

**Uniform Crime Reporting Program
West Virginia State Police
725 Jefferson Road
South Charleston, West Virginia 25309
(304) 746-2159**

Wisconsin

Office of Justice Assistance
222 State Street
Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53702-0001
(608) 266-3323

Wyoming

Uniform Crime Reporting
Criminal Records Section
Division of Criminal Investigation
316 West 22nd Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-7625

2

Selected Data on Guns & Crime

Selected Data on Guns & Crime

The following is a list of selected tables from BJS and other data sources on guns and crime:

Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report 1994 (ATF)

Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims (BJS)

- pp. 19–20
- p. 28

Comparing Federal and State Prison Inmates, 1991 (BJS)

- p. 1, text
- p. 14, tables 21 and 22, text
- p. 15, tables 23–26, text

Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993 (BJS)

- p. 72, table 66

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report (OJJDP)

- p. 21, text
- p. 24, text
- p. 26, table and text
- pp. 52–53, tables and text
- p. 56, text
- p. 58, table and text
- p. 108, tables and text

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1996 Update on Violence (OJJDP)

- pp. 2-3
- pp. 21-22

Monthly Vital Statistics Report (CDC NCHS)

- pp. 3–4, text
- p. 15, table

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1995 (BJS)

- pp. 188–197, tables 2.77–2.89
- pp. 337–338, tables 3.114 and 3.115
- p. 351, table 3.124
- p. 353, table 3.126
- p. 368, tables 3.148 and 3.149
- p. 381, table 3.167
- p. 390, table 3.183

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Survey of Criminal History Information Systems, 1993 (BJS)

- pp. 12–13, text
- pp. 56–63, tables 21A, 22–25

Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991 (BJS)

- pp. 18, 19

Uniform Crime Reports, 1995 (FBI)

- p. 17, text
- p. 18, tables 2.10 and 2.11
- p. 29, text
- p. 32, text
- pp. 193–195, tables 20–22
- pp. 274–276, tables 5.3 and 5.4, text

FIREARMS UNDER TITLE 18 CHAPTER 44

MANUFACTURING

Calendar Year	Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Machine Guns	Any Other Weapon	Other
1985	706,542	843,529	1,140,669	769,505	6,092	468	8,061
1986	692,977	734,650	970,541	641,482	41,482	1,736	3,561
1987	963,562	695,270	1,006,100	857,949	3,963	375	3,725
1988	991,011	754,711	1,144,707	928,070	2,239	656	35,302
1989	1,402,660	628,765	1,407,317	935,541	2,387	748	42,109
1990	1,376,399	462,496	1,156,213	848,948	3,809	510	57,425
1991	1,381,325	456,941	883,482	828,426	2,213	1,521	15,978
1992	1,549,659	460,373	1,001,708	1,018,204	900	212	15,030
1993	2,272,001	552,808	1,160,124	1,144,940	4,240	60,667	5,713
1994	1,995,511	586,450	1,324,240	1,254,926	10,248	572	10,926

EXPORTATION

Calendar Year	Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Machine Guns	Any Other Weapon	Other
1985	28,998	65,816	43,906	44,741	40,940	7	5,761
1986	16,657	103,890	37,224	58,943	24,781	47	18
1987	24,941	133,859	42,144	41,014	24,448	0	9,993
1988	32,570	99,289	53,896	68,699	12,338	3	2,728
1989	41,976	76,494	73,247	67,559	11,599	10	2,012
1990	73,398	104,620	71,659	104,250	19,337	31	5,323
1991	79,462	110,058	91,111	117,801	36,785	72	2,964
1992	77,309	111,821	89,965	119,127	10,219	112	3,068
1993	59,080	89,641	94,170	171,475	7,012	1,676	14,763
1994	93,956	78,935	81,835	146,524	16,717	56	3,222

Source: ATF F 4483A (ATF F 5300.11), *Annual Firearms Manufacturing and Exportation Report*

**FIREARMS IMPORT BRANCH ACTIVITY
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1985 TO 1995**

FISCAL YEAR	APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTATION (FORMS 6) PROCESSED				PERMITS (FORMS 6A) PROCESSED	INTERNATIONAL IMPORT CERTIFICATES
	IMPORTER	MILITARY	OTHER	TOTAL		
1985	7,973	9,457	2,840	20,270	6,803	1,502
1986	7,728	9,434	2,631	19,793	6,201	2,241
1987	7,833	8,059	2,130	18,022	6,347	1,457
1988	7,711	7,680	2,122	17,513	7,174	1,513
1989	7,950	8,293	2,194	18,437	10,713	1,575
1990	8,292	8,696	2,260	19,248	12,319	841
1991	8,098	10,973	2,412	21,483	9,024	903
1992	7,960	9,222	2,623	19,805	7,124	943
1993	7,591	6,282	2,585	16,458	9,299	865
1994	6,704	4,570	3,024	14,298	7,650	392
1995	5,267	2,834	2,548	10,649	6,211	430

FISCAL YEAR	IMPORTED FIREARMS				ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT APPS APPROVED	ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED
	SHOTGUNS	RIFLES	HANDGUNS	TOTAL		
1985	197,417	270,571	229,497	697,485	282	\$44,840
1986	201,000	269,000	231,000	701,000	288	\$73,400
1987	307,620	413,780	342,113	1,063,513	236	\$106,900
1988	372,008	282,640	621,620	1,276,268	221	\$91,400
1989	274,497	293,152	440,132	1,007,781	327	\$176,550
1990	191,787	203,505	448,517	843,809	321	\$115,050
1991	116,141	311,285	293,231	720,657	285	\$99,550
1992 *	441,933	1,423,189	981,588	2,846,710	354	\$127,000
1993	246,114	1,592,522	1,204,685	3,043,321	367	\$130,600
1994	117,866	847,868	915,168	1,880,902	243	\$162,700
1995	136,126	261,185	706,093	1,103,404	298	\$103,400

* Beginning in 1992, imported firearms statistics are reported on a calendar year basis (1992 was a transition "year" of 15 months). This data is received from the Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS).

All AEC statistics are also on a calendar year basis.

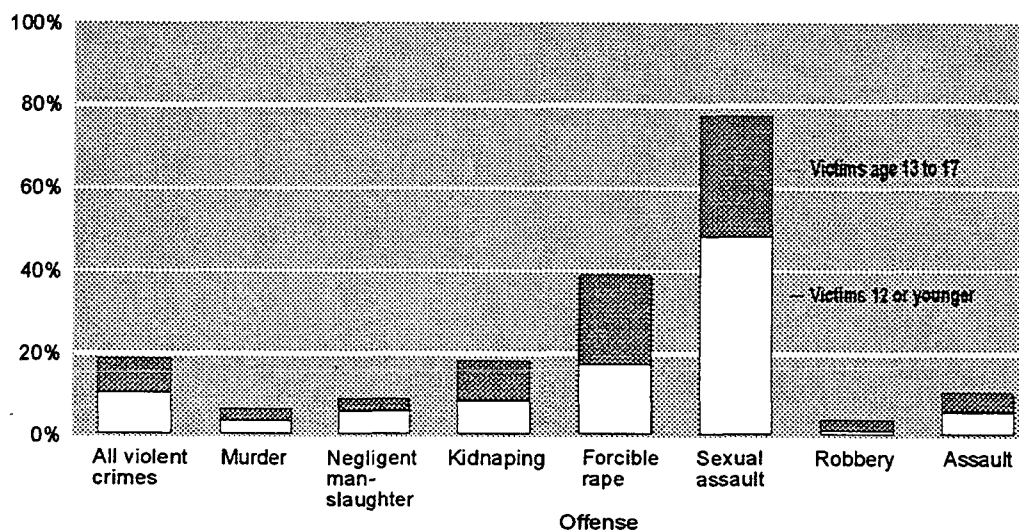


Bureau of Justice Statistics

Child Victimizerers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims

**19% of violent State prison inmates committed their crime against a child;
78% of those convicted of sexual assault had abused a child**

Percent of State prison inmates
with victims under age 18



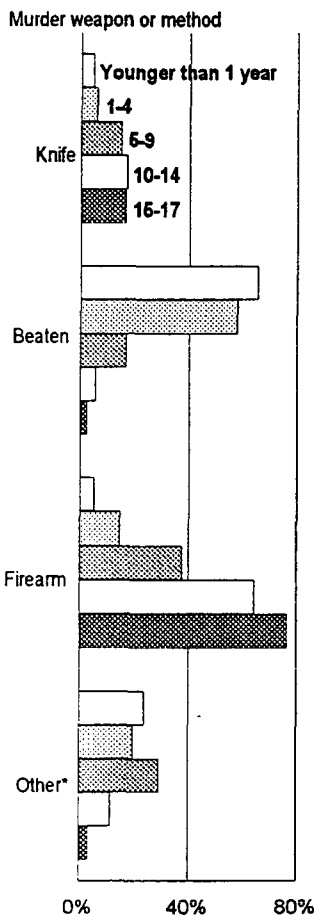
**Jointly published with the
Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention**

• The types of weapons used in child murders varies with the age of the victim (figure 21). While almost two-thirds of infant murder victims were beaten to death by an offender using hands, feet, or a blunt object, about 3% of those age 15 to 17 were killed in this fashion. Over three-quarters of the oldest child murder victims were

killed by a firearm. By 1994 handguns accounted for nearly 48% of all murders of children, a sharp increase after

the mid-1980's when less than 30% of child murders were by a handgun (figure 22).

Older child murder victims are most likely to be killed with guns, while younger victims are most often beaten



Percent of child murder victims in each age group, 1976-94, based on 31,505 cases for which the type of weapon was reported

*Includes arson, drowning, poison, and strangling.

Fig. 21

By 1994 half of child murders were committed with a handgun, a sharp increase after the mid-1980's, when a quarter were committed with a handgun

Percent of child murders committed with a handgun

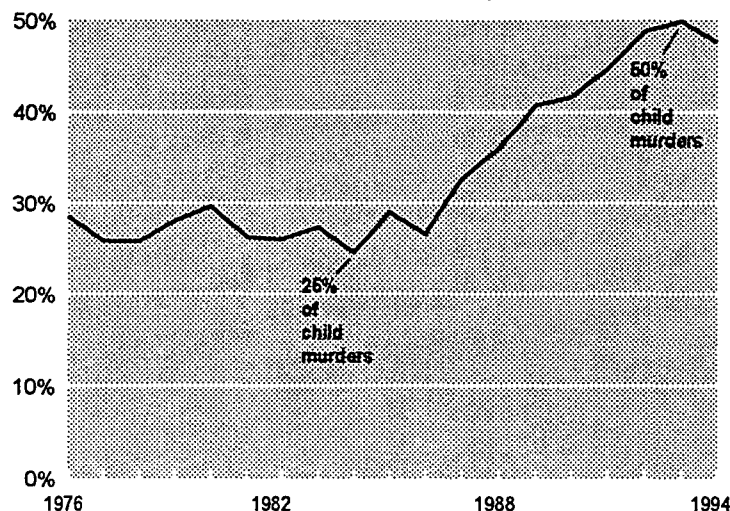


Fig. 22

Between 1984 and 1993 the number of murder victims age 15-17 climbed 171%, as handgun murders among these victims climbed 363%

In 1976, 45% of the murder victims age 15-17 were shot by a handgun; in 1994, 69%.

Number of murder victims age 15 to 17

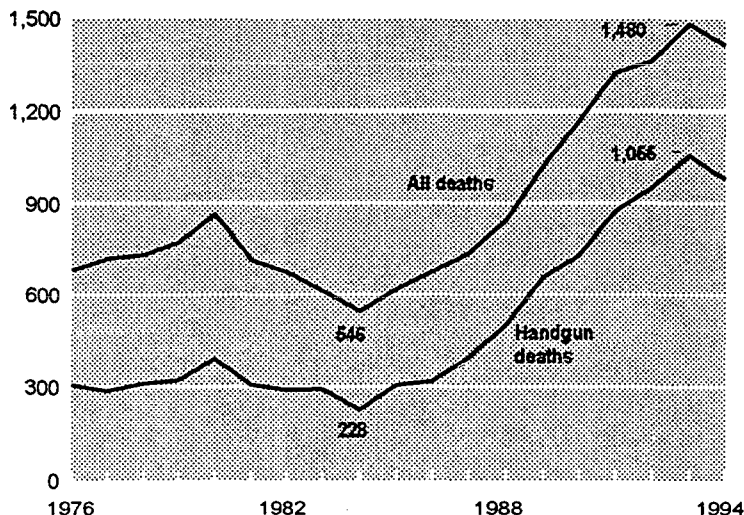


Fig. 23

Younger offenders are increasingly involved in the murders of children who are strangers to them, of children age 15-17, and of children killed with a handgun

Between 1976 and 1994, the average age of those who murdered children who were strangers to them declined from a high of 27 years in 1977 to 21 years in 1994. The average age of murderers of children age 15 to 17

declined from just over age 24 to age 20 during the same period. The average ages of murderers of children who were family members or acquaintances remained relatively stable over the period:

Relationship to child victim	Average age of offenders, 1976-94
Family members	26-27
Acquaintances	21-23

The average ages of murderers of children younger than 15 were substantially unchanged from 1976 to 1994:

Age group of child victim	Average age of offenders, 1976-94
Younger than 1	23-25
1-4	24-26
5-14	25-27

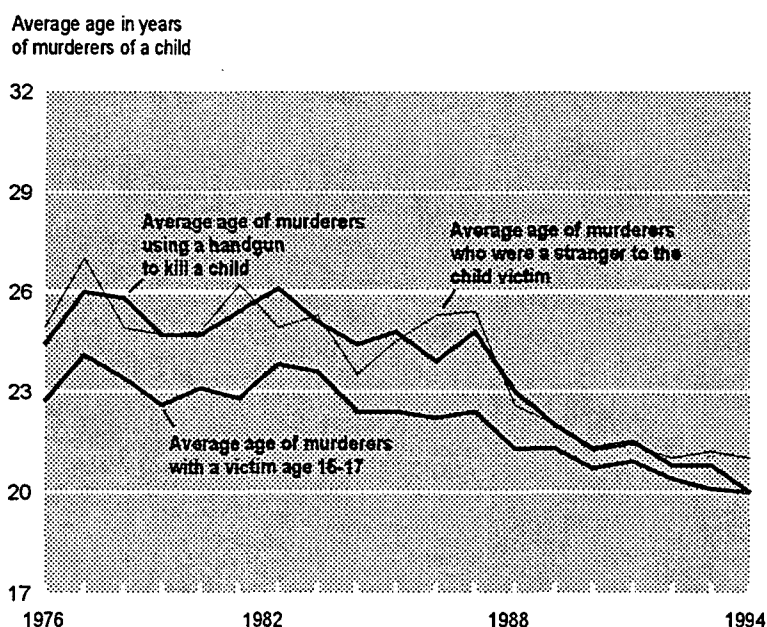


Fig. 24

In 1994 States varied substantially in the number of child murders per capita

Three States, North Dakota (1 adult murder victim), Vermont (6 adult murder victims), and Wyoming (16 adult murder victims) reported no murders of children during 1994 (table 17). Based on those jurisdictions reporting in 1994 and excluding the wholly urban District of Columbia, the highest per capita rates of child murder occurred in Illinois (6.5 murders per 100,000 children under age 18), California (5.5 murders

per 100,000), and Louisiana (5.3 per 100,000). (See the map on page 23 for a national representation of child murder rates.) These States accounted for 19% of all children living in the reporting States in 1994 but nearly 30% of the child murder victims that year.

- Between 1976 and 1994 an estimated 405,089 murders occurred in the United States. Of these, an estimated 36,951 had been murders of children below age 18. Over the 19 years for which the FBI collected

Supplementary Homicide Reports, about 92% of all murders resulted in the submission of a report—34,005 reports for child victims and 338,885 reports for victims who were adults or of unknown age (table 18).

- The national estimate that 36,951 children were murdered over the period from 1976 to 1994 translates into an average of about 1,945 child murder victims per year or about 5 per day in the United States. The number of murders in 1994 translates into an average of about 7 victims per day.

Figure 22, page 19. Murders of children committed with a handgun, 1976-94

Year	Percent of murders of children committed with a handgun
1976	28.5%
1977	25.9
1978	25.8
1979	28.0
1980	29.6
1981	26.3
1982	26.0
1983	27.3
1984	24.6
1985	29.0
1986	26.6
1987	32.7
1988	36.0
1989	40.8
1990	41.7
1991	44.7
1992	48.8
1993	49.9
1994	47.6

Note: Percentages are based on all cases, including those in which the type of weapon was not reported.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 23, page 19. Murders of victims age 15-17, by whether a handgun was used, 1976-94

Year	Number of murders of victims age 15-17 —	
	All	With handgun
1976	681	305
1977	717	289
1978	731	312
1979	771	324
1980	862	392
1981	715	309
1982	675	292
1983	612	294
1984	546	228
1985	619	307
1986	676	318
1987	735	394
1988	843	503
1989	1,020	659
1990	1,170	727
1991	1,324	872
1992	1,362	949
1993	1,480	1,055
1994	1,413	978

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports

Figure 24, page 20. Average age of child murderers, by their relationship to the victim, by the victims' age, and by whether the offender used a handgun, 1976-94

Average age of child murderers in years									
	All child victims	Relation to victim			Less than 1 year	Age of victim			Used a handgun
		Family	Acquaintance	Stranger		1-4	5-14	15-17	
1976	24.2	26.3	22.1	24.9	23.8	25.1	25.9	22.7	24.4
1977	24.9	27.3	22.1	27.0	23.1	25.3	27.0	24.1	26.0
1978	24.4	26.4	22.3	24.9	23.3	24.4	26.0	23.4	25.8
1979	24.3	26.5	22.2	24.7	23.3	25.0	25.7	22.6	24.7
1980	24.9	27.2	22.9	24.8	24.2	26.1	26.1	23.1	24.7
1981	24.8	26.8	22.7	26.2	23.8	25.9	27.1	22.8	25.4
1982	25.1	27.7	22.5	24.9	23.7	25.8	27.3	23.8	26.1
1983	24.8	26.3	23.1	25.3	23.5	26.1	26.1	23.6	25.1
1984	24.4	27.2	22.1	23.5	24.0	25.4	26.9	22.4	24.4
1985	24.9	27.2	22.9	24.5	23.9	26.8	27.2	22.4	24.8
1986	24.3	26.8	22.1	25.3	25.4	26.0	26.0	22.2	23.9
1987	24.7	27.3	22.1	25.4	23.9	26.5	26.8	22.4	24.8
1988	24.1	27.0	22.4	22.6	24.1	26.7	26.4	21.3	23.0
1989	23.9	28.0	21.6	22.0	25.2	27.0	25.2	21.3	22.0
1990	23.1	27.4	21.2	21.2	24.3	25.8	25.0	20.7	21.3
1991	23.3	27.5	21.5	21.4	25.0	26.4	24.6	20.9	21.5
1992	22.7	27.2	20.9	21.0	24.2	26.4	23.6	20.4	20.8
1993	22.7	27.8	20.8	21.2	24.3	26.9	24.0	20.1	20.8
1994	22.5	27.4	20.5	21.0	25.7	26.0	22.9	20.0	20.0

Note: The mean age of offenders was based on 28,921 victims for victim-offender relationship and on 31,467 victims for age of victim and for handgun use.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Comparing Federal and State Prison Inmates, 1991

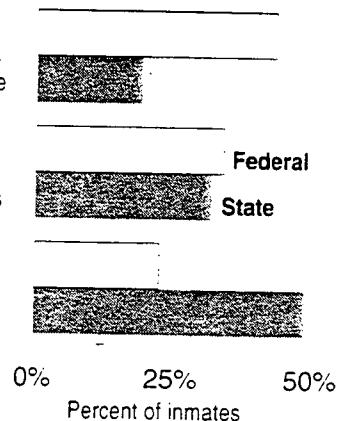
Characteristic	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
Male	92%	95%
Female	8	5
White	38%	35%
Black	30	46
Other race	4	2
Hispanic	28	17
Median age	36 years	30 years
Married	38%	18%
Widowed, divorced, or separated	30	27
Never married	33	55
At least a high school graduate	77%	59%
Citizen of a foreign country	18%	4%
Violent	17%	47%
Property	10	25
Drug	58	21
Public-order	12	7
Number of sentenced inmates	54,000	704,000

Criminal history

No previous sentence

Never violent recidivists

Ever violent recidivists



Total

Violent

Property

Drug

Public-order

Months to be served from sentencing to predicted release

0 30 60 90 120

In 1991, 58% of Federal prisoners (an estimated 31,100 inmates) and 21% of State prisoners (149,200) were serving a sentence for a drug offense. Drug traffickers were 43% of Federal offenders and 13% of State prisoners.

A fourth of Federal inmates serving time for a drug offense other than possession belonged to an illegal drug organization. About 9% belonged to an organization with 11 or more members.

These findings about the predominance of drug offenders among Federal inmates come from separate, but similar, surveys of State and Federal inmates. For the first time, in the summer of 1991, inmates were selected in nationally representative samples of both the Federal and State prison populations. They responded to questions about their past and current lives in lengthy personal interviews. The simultaneous surveys document how the two populations differ and are alike.

Other major findings include the following:

Current offense

- About 17% of Federal inmates and 47% of State inmates were in prison for a violent offense. Murder accounted for 2% of Federal prisoners and almost 11% of State inmates.

Sentence length and time to be served

- On average, Federal inmates were expected to serve almost 6½ years on a sentence of almost 10½ years, and State inmates, 5½ years on a sentence of 12½ years.

Criminal history

- About 61% of Federal inmates and 93% of State inmates had been on probation or incarcerated before their current sentence or were serving a sentence for a violent crime.

Drug and alcohol use

- Federal inmates reported less drug use than State inmates.

42% of Federal inmates and 62% of State inmates had ever used drugs regularly

32% of Federal inmates and 50% of State inmates had used drugs in the month before their current offense

17% of Federal inmates and 31% of State inmates were using drugs when they committed their current offense.

- Federal inmates were half as likely as State inmates to have been under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they committed their current offense (24% versus 49%). Eleven percent of Federal prisoners and 32% of State prisoners were under the influence of alcohol.

- Federal inmates reported slightly lower levels of participation in drug treatment than State inmates. Among those who had used drugs in the month before their current offense, about 43% of Federal inmates and 48% of State inmates had been in a drug treatment program since their admission to prison; 15% of Federal inmates and 20% of State inmates were participating at the time of the survey.

Weapons

- About 12% of Federal prisoners and 16% of State prisoners were armed when they committed the offense for which they were serving time.

- Among violent offenders 38% in Federal prison and 29% in State prison had carried a firearm when committing their current offense.

- About a quarter of Federal inmates who carried a firearm during the crime discharged the weapon. More than half of State offenders in prison who committed their crime with a gun discharged it.

Personal and family characteristics

- Federal inmates were more likely than State inmates to be —
women (8% versus 5%),
Hispanic (28% versus 17%),
age 45 or older (22% versus 10%),
married (38% versus 18%),
with some college education (28% versus 12%),
noncitizens (18% versus 4%),
employed prior to their arrest (74% versus 67%), and
raised in a two-parent home (58% versus 43%).

- Federal inmates were less likely than State inmates to have —
lived in a foster home (8% versus 17%),
parents who abused alcohol or drugs (16% versus 27%),
a relative who had been incarcerated (26% versus 38%), and
been physically or sexually abused at some time before entering prison (6% versus 14%).

- An estimated 62% of Federal inmates were parents of 70,300 children under age 18, and 57% of State inmates were parents of 818,000 minor children.

HIV

- A smaller percentage of Federal inmates (0.8%) than State inmates (2.2%) reported testing positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. These findings are based on 59% of Federal inmates and 51% of State inmates who knew they had been tested for the HIV and could report the test results.

Activities since admission

- About 58% of Federal inmates and 46% of State inmates had enrolled in a school program since their admission. About 3 in 10 had attended a vocational program.
- An estimated 91% of Federal inmates and 70% of State prisoners had a job while in prison. Of these, about 98% of the Federal prisoners and 88% of the State prisoners received some form of compensation.

The growth in juvenile homicide victimizations from the mid 1980's through 1994 was completely firearm-related

Between 1980 and 1994 most murdered children below age 6 were killed by a family member, while most murdered older juveniles were killed by an acquaintance or a stranger

Victim-offender relationship	Victim age				
	All juveniles	0-5	6-11	12-14	15-17
Parent	24%	55%	33%	8%	3%
Other family member	4	5	9	7	3
Acquaintance	36	24	24	43	44
Stranger	11	3	12	14	16
Unknown	25	13	21	27	34
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Between 1980 and 1994, 93% of white and black juvenile homicide victims were killed by persons of their same race.
- The proportion of juvenile homicides in which the offender was unknown increased with the age of the victim.
- Young children were the least likely to be killed by a stranger.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976-1994* [machine-readable data file].

Between 1980 and 1994 most murdered children below age 6 were beaten to death, while most older juveniles were killed with a firearm

Weapon	Victim age				
	All juveniles	0-5	6-11	12-14	15-17
Firearm	49%	10%	41%	64%	76%
Knife/blunt object	15	12	20	20	16
Personal*	19	47	11	4	2
Other*	10	17	22	7	3
Unknown	7	13	7	4	3
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Juvenile male homicide victims were twice as likely to be killed with a firearm as were juvenile females (59% vs. 30%).
- Black juvenile homicide victims ages 12-17 were more likely to be killed with a firearm than were white juvenile homicide victims that age (81% vs. 65%).

* *Personal weapons* include hands, fists, and feet. *Other weapons* include fire, asphyxiation, strangulation, drowning, drugs, poisons, and explosives.

Note: Detail may not total 100% because of rounding.

Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976-1994* [machine-readable data file].

More children are being killed by parents, more older juveniles by strangers and acquaintances

Between 1980 and 1994 the characteristics of the offender were unknown when the data were collected in 1 in 4 juvenile murders. The proportion of juveniles killed by unknown offenders increased over this period, from 20% in the early 1980's to 28% in the early 1990's.

Murders of juveniles by family members increased 9% between 1980 and 1994. In comparison, the number of juvenile homicides committed by acquaintances increased 78%, while murders by strangers increased 51%. There were substantial differences for white and black victims. Between 1980 and 1994, the number of whites killed by acquaintances increased 44%, while the number of blacks killed by acquaintances increased 115%. The number of whites killed by strangers and unknown offenders changed little from 1980 to 1994, while substantially more black juveniles were killed by strangers (120%) and unknown offenders (153%).

Increases in juvenile homicides were found in the youngest and oldest juvenile age groups. These increases differ substantially in the types of offenders involved. For the youngest victims (below age 6), parents and other family members accounted for 44% of the increase in murders between 1980 and 1994, acquaintances accounted for 41% of the increase, and strangers or unknown offenders accounted for 14%. In contrast, the number of juveniles ages 15-17 murdered by family members actually declined slightly between 1980 and 1994. Half of the increase in murders

Table 21. Ownership and use of guns by sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, 1991

Type of firearm	Percent of sentenced inmates					
	Ever armed while committing a crime		Armed during current offense		Fired gun during current offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
All inmates						
Any firearm	16.3%	22.9%	11.8%	16.4%	2.0%	7.8%
Handgun	13.4	19.2	9.5	13.3	1.5	6.1
Rifle or shotgun	2.9	4.8	1.9	2.7	.4	1.6
Automatic/military type	1.3	1.6	.7	.5	.1	.2
Violent inmates						
Any firearm	46.3%	35.1%	38.0%	29.2%	10.0%	15.9%
Handgun	38.4	29.1	31.0	23.6	7.8	12.4
Rifle or shotgun	8.8	7.6	5.6	5.0	1.8	3.2
Automatic/military type	2.8	2.0	1.6	.7	.4	.3
Other inmates						
Any firearm	10.1%	12.5%	6.5%	5.3%	.4%	.8%
Handgun	8.2	10.6	5.1	4.5	.3	.6
Rifle or shotgun	1.7	2.5	1.1	.7	.1	.1
Automatic/military type	.9	1.2	.5	.3	.1	.1

Note: Data were missing for 1.2% of Federal prison inmates and 1.6% of State prison inmates.

Firearms

Overall, Federal prison inmates carried a firearm less often than State inmates at the time of any past offense and during the crime for which they were currently serving a sentence. Sixteen percent of Federal inmates and 23% of State inmates indicated ever having a firearm during the commission of a crime (table 21). While committing the offense for which they were serving time, 12% of Federal inmates and 16% of State inmates were armed with a gun, and 2% of Federal offenders and 8% of State prisoners fired it.

Firearm use by violent and nonviolent offenders

Although a smaller percentage and number of Federal inmates than State inmates were serving a sentence for a violent offense, a higher percentage of the Federal inmates who were violent offenders were armed during their offense — 38% of Federal and 29% of State violent offenders (table 22). About 10% of Federal and 16% of State violent offenders fired a weapon during their current offense.

About 46% of Federal and 35% of State offenders in prison for a violent crime had carried firearms when committing some crime. In contrast, about 1 in 10 Federal and State inmates convicted of crimes other than violent offenses had ever been armed while committing a crime, and about 1 in 20 were armed when committing their current offense.

Type of firearm

Violent offenders using a firearm most often had a handgun. About 31% of Federal and 24% of State violent offenders carried a handgun during their current offense, while about 5% carried a rifle or shotgun and about 1% a military-type weapon.

Firearm use, by offense

Forty-five percent of inmates in Federal prison for homicide, and 42% of State inmates, carried a firearm at the time of the crime. Smaller percentages of the inmates said they fired the weapon. Among the nearly 6,000 Federal inmates serving time for robbery, 41% committed the crime with a gun, and 4% fired it. Among the 102,000 robbers in State prison, 35% had a gun, and 6% fired it. Among armed robbers 10% of the Federal inmates and about 16% of the State inmates fired their weapon. Of those convicted of assault, 25% of Federal prisoners and 31% of State prisoners carried a firearm, and 15% of Federal offenders and 25% of State offenders fired it.

Less than 5% of Federal and State offenders convicted of property and drug crimes committed their current offense with a firearm, and less than 1% fired their gun.

Table 22. Gun presence and firing during current offense of sentenced Federal and State prison inmates, by current offense, 1991

Current offense	Number of inmates		Percent of sentenced inmates			
			Armed during current offense		Fired gun during current offense	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	52,973	687,949	11.7%	16.3%	2.1%	7.9%
Violent offenses	9,072	320,587	37.7%	29.0%	10.1%	16.0%
Homicide	1,157	84,487	45.4	41.8	39.4	36.1
Sexual assault	370	65,659	8.2	3.2	0	.3
Robbery	5,872	102,232	41.3	34.5	4.4	5.5
Assault	809	56,255	25.4	31.3	14.5	25.2
Other violent	864	11,952	26.5	21.4	9.2	6.6
Property offenses	5,417	170,810	2.0%	3.2%	.2%	.7%
Burglary	385	85,855	16.2	3.8	2.6	.9
Other property	5,032	84,956	.9	2.6	0	.5
Drug offenses	30,760	147,692	3.7%	4.1%	.1%	.3%
Possession	7,233	52,340	4.2	4.5	0	.2
Trafficking	22,798	92,226	3.7	4.0	.1	.3
Other drug	729	3,125	0	2.1	0	0
Public-order offenses	6,558	46,437	22.2%	16.3%	2.2%	2.7%
Weapons	3,011	12,245	42.7	48.5	3.4	7.1
Other public-order	3,547	34,193	4.7	4.8	1.2	1.1

Table 23. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who had ever stolen guns or who had used or traded stolen guns, 1991

	Percent of inmates	
	Federal	State
All inmates who —		
Had ever stolen a gun	4.6%	10.4%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	2.5	6.1
Sold or traded a stolen gun	4.4	10.9
Violent inmates who —		
Had ever stolen a gun	14.3%	11.7%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	9.5	7.5
Sold or traded a stolen gun	11.9	11.3
Other inmates who —		
Had ever stolen a gun	2.5%	9.3%
Kept a stolen gun for their own use	1.0	5.0
Sold or traded a stolen gun	2.9	10.7

Note: Data were missing for 0.8% of Federal prison inmates and 0.5% of State prison inmates.

Stealing and selling firearms

About 5% of Federal inmates and 10% of State inmates had stolen a gun, and 4% of Federal inmates and 11% of State inmates had sold or traded a stolen gun (table 23). Among violent inmates about the same percentage of Federal and State offenders had stolen firearms (14% and 12%) and sold or traded stolen guns (12% and 11%).

Family background

A higher percentage of Federal (58%) than State inmates (43%) lived with both their parents most of the time while growing up (table 24). About 28% of Federal prisoners, compared to 39% of State prisoners, lived with their mothers most of the time. About 4% of each group lived primarily with their fathers.

Black Federal or State inmates were less likely than Hispanics, who were less likely than whites, to have lived with both parents. In Federal prisons 41% of black inmates lived with both parents while growing up, compared to 62% of Hispanic inmates, and 69% of white prisoners. In State prisons 32% of black inmates had lived with both parents,

Table 24. Persons with whom sentenced Federal and State inmates lived most of the time while growing up, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991

Person lived with most of the time	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	All inmates		White		Black		Hispanic	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Both parents	58.3%	43.1%	69.0%	56.1%	40.9%	31.9%	62.4%	46.2%
Mother only	28.5	39.1	20.8	27.6	42.6	49.7	24.7	36.0
Father only	3.4	3.9	3.7	4.9	3.1	3.1	3.2	4.0
Grandparent	5.7	7.7	2.8	5.2	8.8	10.0	5.5	6.8
Other*	4.2	6.2	3.7	6.2	4.6	5.4	4.2	6.9
Number of inmates	53,549	700,916	20,576	248,514	15,925	319,234	15,028	116,579

*Includes other relatives, friends, foster homes, and agencies.

Table 25. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates who lived in a foster home or institution while growing up, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991

Inmate race/Hispanic origin	Sentenced prison inmates			
	Number		Percent who had lived in a foster home or childcare institution	
	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	53,538	700,820	7.8%	17.3%
White	20,573	248,516	9.8	23.1
Black	15,949	319,374	8.2	13.1
Other	2,031	16,533	14.5	34.1
Hispanic	14,986	116,398	3.6	14.2

compared to 46% of Hispanics and 56% of whites. Among black inmates 4 in 10 Federal offenders and 5 in 10 State offenders lived only with their mothers most of the time while growing up.

Federal inmates were half as likely as State inmates to have spent some time in a childcare institution or foster home while growing up (8% versus 17%) (table 25). In Federal prisons just under 1 in 10 white and black prisoners had been under public care as a child. A fourth of white State inmates and an eighth of black inmates had been in foster care. About 15% of Asians and

Native Americans in Federal prisons and 34% in State prisons had been cared for in a public institution while growing up.

Parental drug and alcohol abuse

A lower percentage of Federal than State inmates reported that their parents or guardians abused alcohol or drugs while they were growing up (16% versus 27%) (table 26). Alcohol was abused by a parent of 16% of Federal prisoners and 26% of State prisoners. About 1% of Federal prisoners and 5% of State prisoners said their parents or guardians abused drugs.

Table 26. Sentenced Federal and State prison inmates with at least one parent or guardian who abused alcohol or drugs, by race/Hispanic origin, 1991

Parental abuse of alcohol or drugs	Percent of sentenced inmates							
	All		White non-Hispanic		Black non-Hispanic		Hispanic	
	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State	Federal	State
Total	16.2%	26.7%	20.7%	36.6%	16.2%	19.9%	9.0%	22.0%
Alcohol	14.6	22.2	18.6	30.5	14.8	16.7	8.2	17.5
Drugs	.3	.8	.2	.7	.4	.7	.3	1.3
Both	1.1	3.7	1.7	5.3	.9	2.4	.3	3.2
Number of inmates	53,551	698,029	20,585	247,764	15,946	318,013	14,998	115,857



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Estimates from the Redesigned Survey

Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993

Violent crime victimization rates for persons age 12 and over,
by age and sex of victim

(Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons)

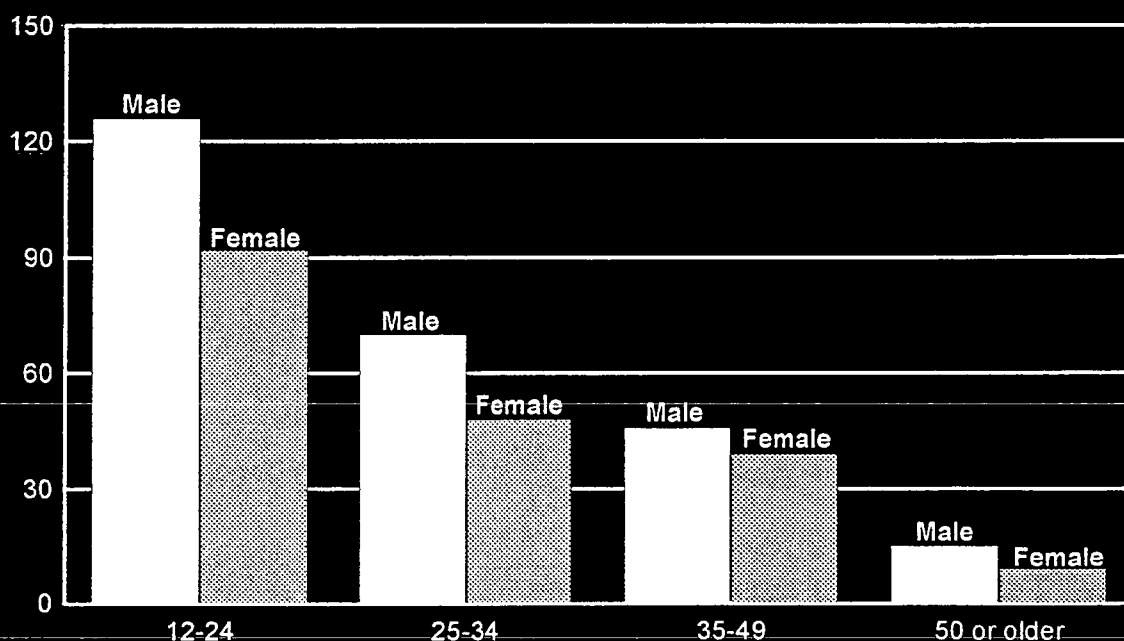


Table 66. Personal crimes of violence, 1993:

**Percent of incidents, by victim-offender relationship,
type of crime and weapons use**

All incidents	Percent of incidents						
	Total incidents		No weapon used	Weapon used			
	Number	Percent		Total	Total firearm	Hand gun	Other gun
Crimes of violence	9,898,980	100 %	65.7 %	27.3 %	10.3 %	8.9 %	1.3 %
Completed violence	2,942,240	100	62.8	31.4	11.2	10.1	0.7 *
Attempted/threatened violence	6,956,740	100	67.0	25.6	10.0	8.4	1.5
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	472,760	100	83.4	7.5	4.2 *	4.2 *	0.0 *
Robbery	1,161,900	100	39.2	52.1	25.1	24.2	0.9 *
Completed/property taken	723,140	100	33.1	59.6	31.9	30.4	1.5 *
With injury	253,950	100	47.0	45.2	9.9 *	9.9 *	0.0 *
Without injury	469,200	100	25.6	67.5	43.8	41.5	2.3 *
Attempted to take property	438,760	100	49.1	39.6	14.0	14.0	0.0 *
With injury	89,980	100	41.3	50.4	13.5 *	13.5 *	0.0 *
Without injury	348,770	100	51.1	36.8	14.1	14.1	0.0 *
Assault	8,264,320	100	68.5	25.0	8.6	7.0	1.4
Aggravated	2,220,180	100	5.8	93.0	32.1	26.2	5.2
With injury	623,010	100	20.7	75.1	13.5	10.4	1.4 *
Threatened with weapon	1,597,170	100	...	100.0	39.3	32.4	6.6
Simple ²	6,044,150	100	91.5	...	...	...	...
With minor injury	1,273,190	100	95.1	...	...	...	...
Without injury	4,770,950	100	90.5	...	...	...	...
Involving strangers							
Crimes of violence	5,045,040	100	55.1	34.8	14.4	12.6	1.6
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	122,090	100	60.0	15.0 *	8.7 *	8.7 *	0.0 *
Robbery	930,860	100	34.1	56.3	29.5	28.3	1.2 *
Aggravated assault	1,281,200	100	3.8	94.6	34.6	28.2	5.4
Simple assault ²	2,710,900	100	86.4	...	...	...	...
Involving nonstrangers							
Crimes of violence	4,853,940	100	76.8	19.6	6.1	5.1	1.0
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	350,670	100	91.5	4.9 *	2.6 *	2.6 *	0.0 *
Robbery	231,040	100	59.5	35.1	7.6 *	7.6 *	0.0 *
Aggravated assault	938,980	100	8.5	90.8	28.7	23.5	4.9
Simple assault ²	3,333,250	100	95.6	...	...	...	...

	Percent of incidents						
	Weapon used						
	Gun type unknown	Knife	Sharp object	Blunt object	Other weapon	Weapon type unknown	Don't know if weapon present
Crimes of violence	0.1 % *	6.3 %	1.0 %	3.7 %	4.8 %	1.2 %	6.9 %
Completed violence	0.3 *	7.2	1.3	4.5	6.0	1.1	5.9
Attempted/threatened violence	0.1 *	5.9	0.9	3.4	4.2	1.2	7.4
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	0.0 *	1.2 *	0.5 *	0.7 *	0.5 *	0.5 *	9.1
Robbery	0.0 *	14.3	1.6 *	4.8	4.3	2.0 *	8.8
Completed/property taken	0.0 *	14.1	2.2 *	5.5	4.1	1.9 *	7.2
With injury	0.0 *	8.8 *	3.2 *	10.4 *	9.3 *	3.7 *	7.9 *
Without injury	0.0 *	17.0	1.7 *	2.9 *	1.2 *	0.9 *	6.9
Attempted to take property	0.0 *	14.6	0.6 *	3.5 *	4.8 *	2.1 *	11.3
With injury	0.0 *	18.9 *	0.0 *	9.5 *	6.0 *	2.5 *	8.3 *
Without injury	0.0 *	13.5	0.7 *	2.0 *	4.4 *	2.0 *	12.1
Assault	0.2 *	5.5	1.0	3.7	5.1	1.1	6.6
Aggravated	0.7 *	20.3	3.7	13.9	18.9	4.1	1.2 *
With injury	1.6 *	16.8	3.8	14.8	23.4	2.9 *	4.2 *
Threatened with weapon	0.3 *	21.7	3.7	13.5	17.1	4.6	0.0 *
Simple ²	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
With minor injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.9
Without injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.5
Involving strangers							
Crimes of violence	0.3 *	7.7	1.0	4.6	5.6	1.5	10.1
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	0.0 *	0.0 *	1.8 *	2.5 *	0.0 *	1.9 *	25.0
Robbery	0.0 *	16.2	1.1 *	4.4	3.4	1.7 *	9.6
Aggravated assault	1.0 *	18.5	2.8	14.8	19.7	4.3	1.6 *
Simple assault ²	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.6
Involving nonstrangers							
Crimes of violence	0.0 *	4.9	1.1	2.7	3.9	0.9	3.6
Rape/Sexual assault ¹	0.0 *	1.6 *	0.0 *	0.0 *	0.6 *	0.0 *	3.5 *
Robbery	0.0 *	6.8 *	3.4 *	6.2 *	8.1 *	3.0 *	5.4 *
Aggravated assault	0.2 *	22.9	5.0	12.7 *	17.9	3.8	0.6 *
Simple assault ²	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.4

Note: Responses for weapons use are tallied once, based upon a hierarchy.

In previous editions, multiple responses for weapons were tallied.

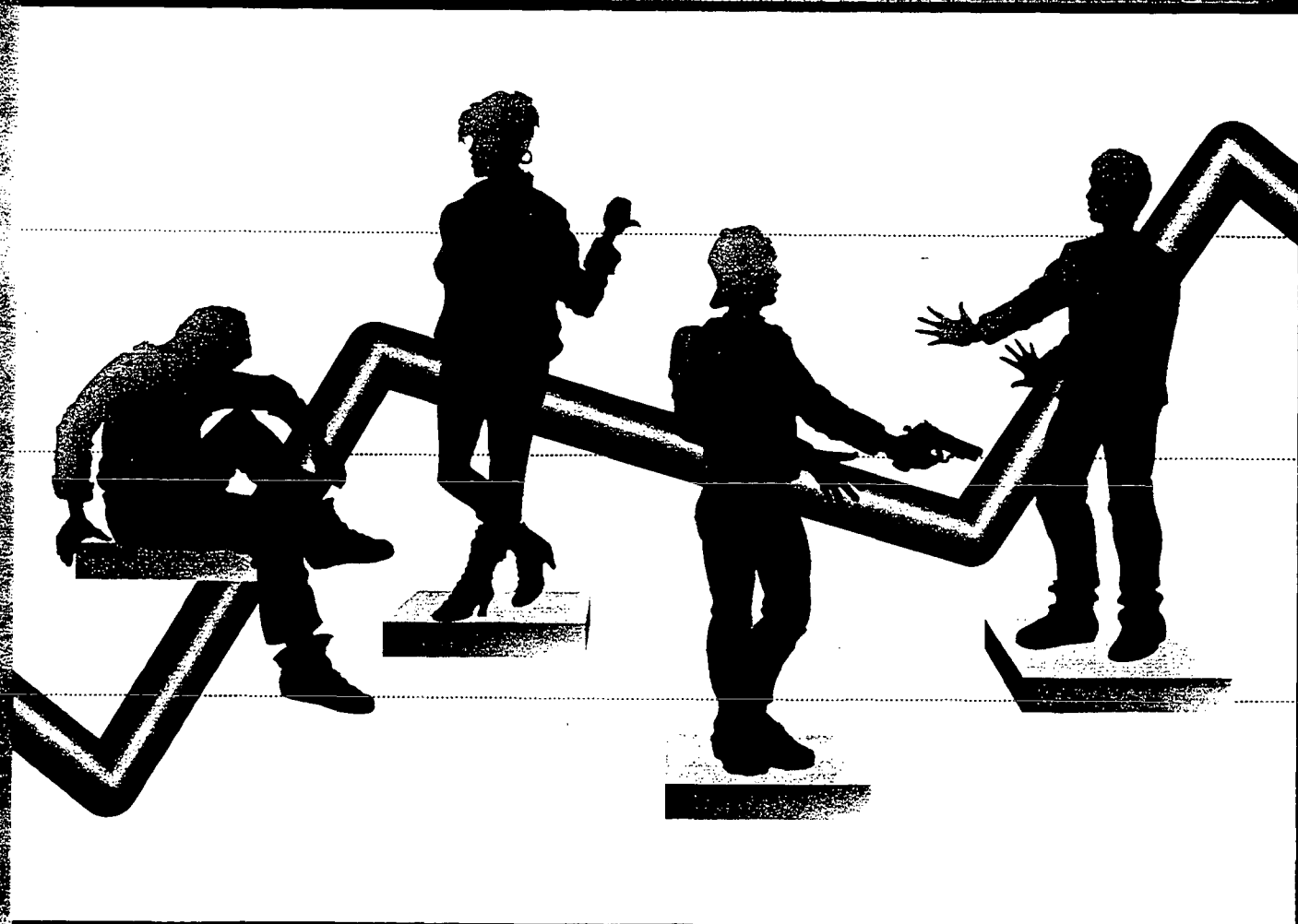
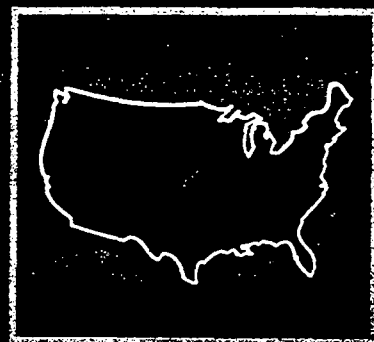
*Estimate is based on about 10 or fewer sample cases.

...Not applicable.

¹Includes verbal threats of rape and threats of sexual assault.

²Simple assault, by definition, does not involve the use of a weapon.

Juvenile Offenders and Victims A National Report



1991 were more similar for rape and robbery than for aggravated assault and simple assault.

	Percent stranger crime	
	Juvenile	Adult
Personal crimes*	22%	42%
Rape	33	39
Robbery	44	51
Aggravated assault	20	38
Simple assault	15	38

* Includes crimes of theft.

A gun was used in 1 in 4 serious violent offenses against juveniles in 1991

The offender was armed in 67% of serious violent crimes (i.e., crimes of violence excluding simple assault) involving juvenile victims. In 19% of serious violent incidents the offender had a handgun, in 6% a gun other than a handgun, in 18% a knife, and in 25% a blunt object was used.

The level of weapon use against juveniles is only slightly less than against adults. Compared with adult victimizations, offenders in serious violent incidents against juveniles were less likely to be armed (67% compared with 72% for adults) and, when armed, less likely to use a handgun (19% compared with 24% for adults).

Juveniles suffer fewer and less serious injuries than adults

The proportion of serious violent incidents that resulted in injury was the same for juveniles (35%) as for adults (36%) in 1991. Adult victims of serious violent crime, however, were twice as likely as juvenile victims to be injured seriously (14% versus 7%). Injuries requiring hospital stays of at least 2 days were also more common for adult (3%) than for juvenile victims (fewer than 1%).

Much of what is known about the victimization of juveniles comes from NCVS

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducts the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). With funds from BJS, the Bureau of the Census contacts a large nationally representative sample of households and asks their occupants to describe the personal crimes they have experienced. Personal crimes are broken into two general categories: crimes of violence and crimes of theft.

Personal crimes of violence include rape, personal robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. These crimes always involve contact between victim and offender. For this report, serious violent crime includes all crimes of violence except simple assault. Personal crimes of theft include larcenies (theft without force or threat of force) with and without victim-offender contact.

With all its strengths, NCVS has limitations in describing the extent of juvenile victimizations. NCVS does not capture information from, or about, victims below age 12. Designers of the survey believe that younger respondents are not able to provide the information requested. Therefore, juvenile victimizations reported by NCVS cover only those that involve older juveniles. In addition, as with any self-report survey, NCVS has limited ability to address the sensitive issues of intrafamily violence and child abuse.

Some official data sources (such as law enforcement and child protective service agencies) can provide a partial picture of crime against juveniles. However, they are limited to those incidents made known to them.

More than 1 in 5 violent crime victims in 1991 was a juvenile age 12-17

Crime type	Proportion of victims who were:			
	Juveniles			Adults
	Total	12-14	15-17	
Personal crime	18%	9%	9%	82%
Crimes of violence	22%	10%	12%	78%
Rape	18	3	15	82
Robbery	18	9	8	82
Aggravated assault	20	9	11	80
Simple assault	24	11	13	76
Crimes of theft	16	8	8	84
Personal larceny with contact	11	4	7	89
Personal larceny without contact	16	8	8	84

Source: BJS. (1992). *National crime victimization survey, 1991* [machine-readable data file].

Recent large increases in the homicide rates of black and older juveniles are the result of increases in firearm homicides

Fatal injuries to youth have decreased, while homicides rise

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, injury was the leading cause of death for youth below age 20 in 1991. Homicide was second only to motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of fatal injuries. Two in 5 injury deaths of these youth in 1991 were the result of motor vehicle collisions. More than 1 in 5 injury deaths resulted from homicide. Between 1986 and 1991, while the number of youth dying in motor vehicle accidents declined 20%, homicide deaths rose substantially.

On a typical day in 1992, seven juveniles were murdered

An FBI Supplementary Homicide Report form is completed on all homicides known to police. Data are collected on victim and offender demographics, the victim-offender relationship, the weapon, and circumstances surrounding the homicide.

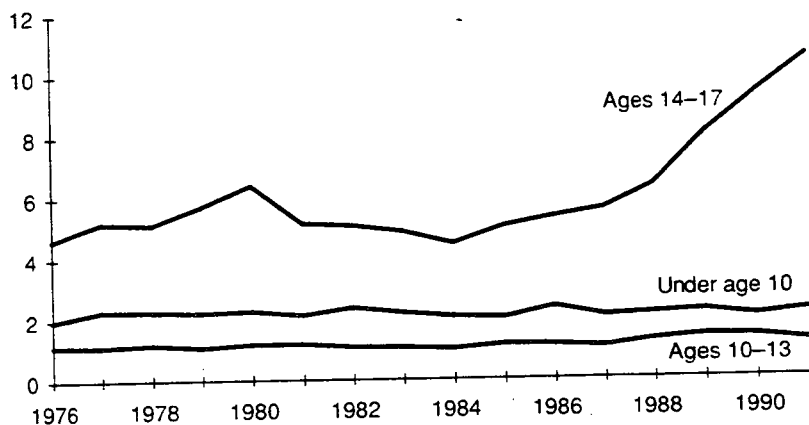
From 1985 through 1992 nearly 17,000 persons under age 18 were murdered in the U.S. In 1992, 2,595 juveniles were murdered, an average of 7 per day.

Year	Number of juvenile homicides
1985	1,605
1986	1,753
1987	1,738
1988	1,955
1989	2,184
1990	2,339
1991	2,610
1992	2,595

Source: FBI. (1986–1993). *Crime in the United States series*

The homicide victimization rate for juveniles ages 14–17 has nearly doubled since the mid-1980's, while the rates for younger juveniles have remained relatively constant

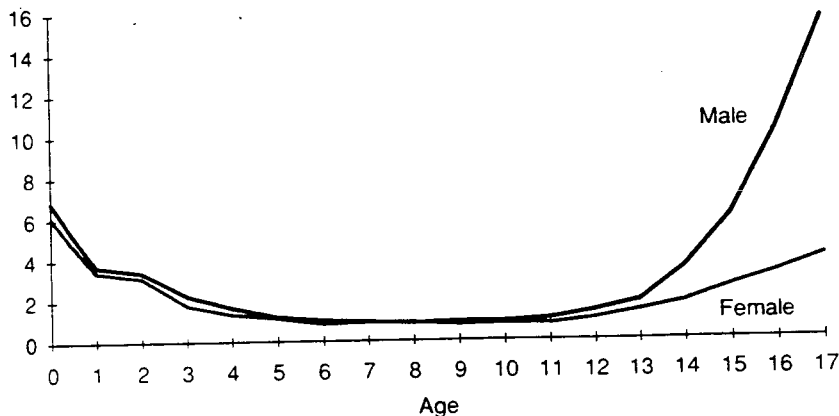
Homicide victimizations per 100,000 juveniles



Source: FBI. (1993). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1991* [machine-readable data files].

Until they become teens, boys and girls are equally likely to be murdered

Homicide victimizations per 100,000 juveniles



■ The rate of homicide victimization is higher for children age 5 and younger than for those between ages 6 and 11. After age 11 the homicide victimization rate increases throughout adolescence, especially for boys.

Note: Rates are based on the 1976–1991 combined average.

Source: FBI (1993). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1991* [machine-readable data files].

Fourteen percent of juvenile homicide victims were killed by strangers. In murders by strangers, one-third occurred during the commission of another felony, such as rape or robbery.

Young children are often killed by parents, older juveniles by their peers

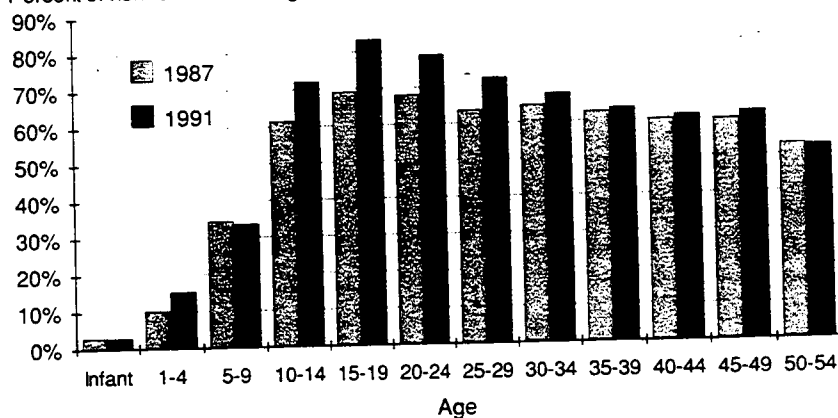
Children were more likely than were older juveniles to be killed by their parents. Fifty-nine percent of homicide victims under age 10 were killed by parents (more often the father). Fists or feet were the most common weapons in such killings (45%). Eighteen percent of these younger children were killed with a firearm. These younger homicide victims were slightly more likely to be male (54%).

A Bureau of Justice Statistics study of murder cases disposed in 1988 found that 4 in 5 children under age 12 murdered by their parents had been previously abused by the parent who killed them.

Homicide victims ages 10 to 17 were more often killed by a friend or other acquaintance (61%) rather than by a family member (16%). More than 70% of these homicide victims were shot to death. The large majority of juvenile homicide victims in this age range were male (73%).

Homicides of youth ages 15–19 are most likely to involve a gun

Percent of homicides involving a firearm



Sources: FBI. (1988). *Crime in the United States 1987*. (1992). *Crime in the United States 1991*.

More than half of juvenile homicide victims are killed with a firearm

In 1991 approximately 57% of all juvenile homicide victims were killed with a firearm, 8% were killed with a cutting or stabbing instrument, and 17% were killed with personal weapons such as fists or feet. Overall, homicide victims under age 18 were less likely than were adult homicide victims to be killed with a firearm and more likely than were adult victims to be killed with personal weapons. Older teens (ages 15 to 19) were more likely than was any other age group to be killed with a gun, while the murderers of young children rarely used a gun.

The firearm homicide rate increased while the nonfirearm homicide rate declined

The firearm homicide death rate for teens ages 15 to 19 increased 61% between 1979 and 1989, from 6.9 to 11.1 deaths per 100,000. During the same period, the nonfirearm homicide rate decreased 29%, from 3.4 to 2.4. Thus, the observed increase in the homicide rate for older teenagers was driven solely by the increase in firearm homicides.

Homicides involving firearms have been the leading cause of death for black males ages 15 to 19 since 1969. In 1979 there were fewer than 40 such deaths per 100,000 black males that age in the population — by 1989 the figure had increased to more than 85. In 1989 the firearm homicide death rate among black males ages 15 to 19 in metropolitan counties was 6.5 times the rate in nonmetropolitan counties.

How many juveniles carry guns and other weapons?

Many high school students say they carry weapons, but few carry guns

In 1990 the Centers for Disease Control asked a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9–12 how many times they had carried a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or club, during the past 30 days. One in 5 reported carrying a weapon at least once in the previous month. About 1 in 20 said they had carried a firearm, usually a handgun.

Males were nearly 4 times as likely as females to report carrying a weapon (31% vs. 8%). Hispanic males (41%) and black males (39%) were more likely to say they carried a weapon than were white males (29%).

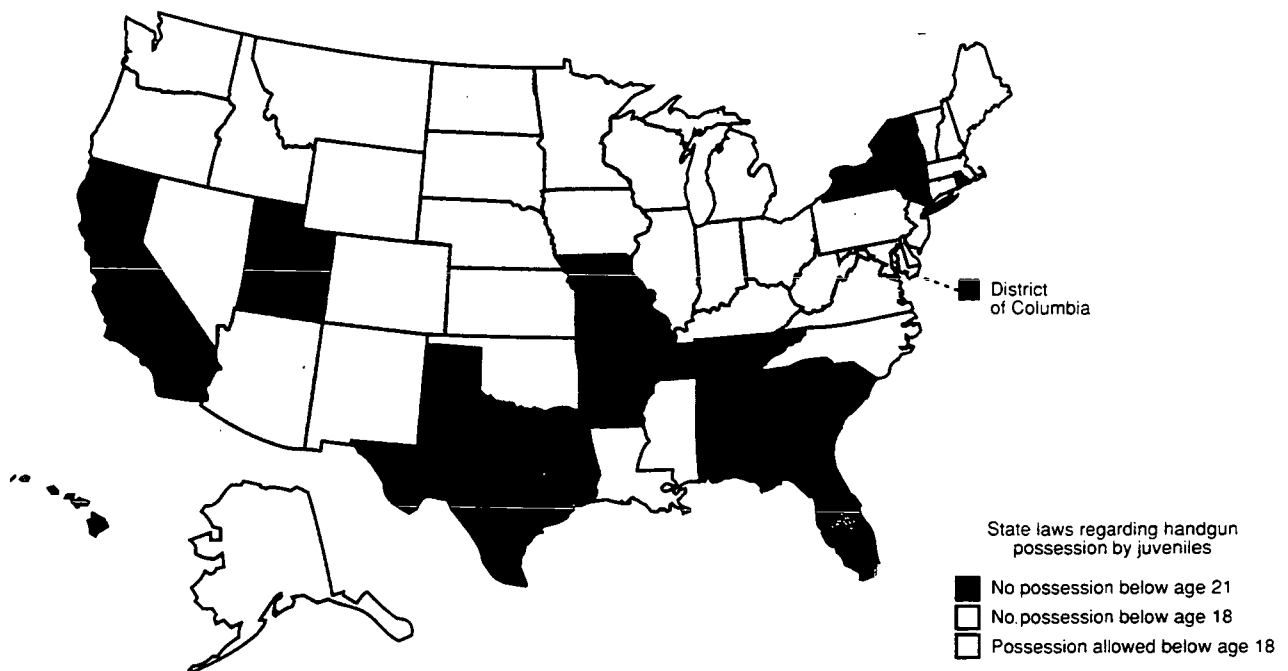
Of students who reported they had carried a weapon, 25% said they had carried a weapon only once in the 30-day period, while 43% reported carrying a weapon 4 or more times. Students who reported carrying weapons 4 or more times were 9% of all students and accounted for 71% of weapon-carrying incidents.

Among students who reported carrying a weapon, knives or razors were carried more often (55%) than clubs (24%) or firearms (21%). Most students who reported carrying firearms carried handguns. Black males were the only group for whom firearms were carried more often than other weapons — 54% of black males who carried weapons carried a firearm.

Study finds strong relationship among illegal gun ownership, delinquency, and drug abuse

A recent longitudinal study of high risk, urban youth in Rochester, New York, assessed the scope of legal and illegal gun ownership by 9th and 10th grade boys. [Legal guns are defined as shotguns or rifles owned for reasons other than protection.] By 10th grade more boys owned illegal guns (7%) than legal guns (3%). Of those who owned illegal guns, 57% carried them on a regular basis, and 24% had used a gun in a street crime. Compared with those with legal guns, boys with illegal guns were more likely to be involved in street crime (74% vs. 14%), to use drugs (41% vs. 13%), and to be a gang member (54% vs. 7%).

At the end of 1993, 16 States had laws prohibiting the possession of handguns by juveniles



Source: National Governors' Association. (1994). *Kids and violence*.

Gun possession is common for serious juvenile offenders and some inner-city high school students

A study of inmates in maximum security juvenile correctional facilities and high school students in inner-city areas where gun-related violence was likely to occur found:

- 55% of inmates said they carried guns all or most of the time in the year or two prior to their incarceration; 84% carried a gun now and then; and 63% had committed at least one crime with a gun.
- 12% of students said they carried guns most of the time, while another 23% said they carried guns now and then.
- 62% of inmates had male family members who routinely carried a gun; 84% had been threatened with a gun or shot at during their lives; and half had been stabbed with a knife.
- Two in 5 students reported that males in their family routinely carried guns outside the home; 45% had been threatened with a gun or shot at on their way to or from school; 1 in 10 had been stabbed; and 1 in 3 had been seriously assaulted in or on the way to school.
- Few thought it would be difficult to get a gun — 13% of inmates and 35% of students said it would be a lot of trouble or nearly impossible.
- Except for military-style rifles, most guns obtained from informal sources were purchased for \$100 or less. Most military-style rifles cost \$300 or less.

Many inmates of juvenile facilities and inner-city high school students own at least one gun

	Percent who said they owned a gun	
	Inmates	Students
Any type of gun	83%	22%
Rifles		
Sawed-off shotgun	51	9
Regular shotgun	39	10
Automatic/semiautomatic	35	6
Target or hunting	22	8
Handguns		
Revolver	58	15
Automatic/semiautomatic	55	18
Derringer or single-shot	19	4
Homemade (zip)	6	4
Three or more guns	65	15

Source: Sheley, J., and Wright, J. (1993). Gun acquisition and possession in selected juvenile samples. *Research in Brief*.

To obtain a gun—informal sources were preferred

	Percent of inmates	Percent of students
Likely source if desired		
Get off the street	54%	37%
Borrow from family or friend	45	53
Buy from family member or friend	36	35
Get from a drug dealer	36	22
Get from an addict	25	22
Steal from a house or apartment	17	8
Steal from a person or car	14	7
Buy from gun shop	12	28
Steal from a store or pawnshop	8	4
Source of most recent handgun		
A friend	30%	38%
The street	22	14
Drug addict	12	6
"Taken" from a house or car	12	2
Drug dealer	9	2
Gun shop/pawnshop	7	11
Family member	6	23

Source: Sheley, J., and Wright, J. (1993). Gun acquisition and possession in selected juvenile samples. *Research in Brief*.

- 35% of inmates and 10% of students believed it was "okay to shoot a person if that is what it takes to get something you want."
- 61% of inmates and 28% of students believed it was "okay to shoot someone who hurts or insults you."

The main reason given for having a gun was self-protection

	Percent listing reason as "very important"	
	Inmates	Students
Protection	70%	68%
Enemies had guns	52	32
To get someone	38	18
Use in crimes	37	(not asked)
Friends had one	17	9
To impress people	10	9
To sell	10	5

Source: Sheley, J., and Wright, J. (1993). Gun acquisition and possession in selected juvenile samples. *Research in Brief*.

Increase in homicides by juveniles is tied to the use of guns

The FBI is a primary source of information on homicide

The FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports* provide data on offenders as well as victims. In 29% of homicides that occurred between 1976 and 1991, the identity of the perpetrator was unknown, at least at the time the reports were completed by law enforcement authorities. From the large majority of homicides in which the offender is known, however, a profile of juveniles who murder can be developed and trends in juvenile homicide can be examined.

The growth in homicides involving juvenile offenders has surpassed that among adults

From 1976 to 1991, nearly 23,000 persons under age 18 were known perpetrators of homicide in the U.S., an average of more than 1,400 per year. Moreover, the number of known juvenile homicide offenders has more than doubled in recent years, from 969 in 1984 to 2,202 in 1991, while the number of adult offenders increased 20% over the same period.

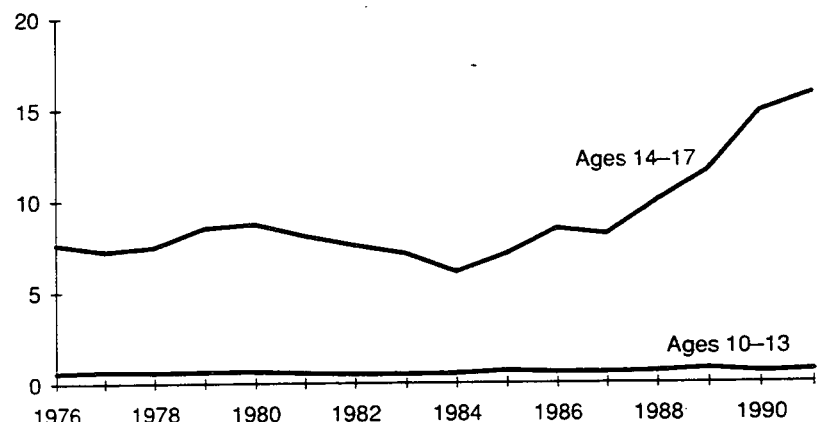
The trends in homicide for male and female juveniles are quite different. Controlling for population changes, homicides by male juveniles have more than doubled in number since the mid-1980's, whereas those by female juveniles have remained steady in recent years.

Between 1976 and 1991, 9 in 10 juvenile murderers were male, and about half were white

Most juvenile homicide offenders are male (91%). Boys are 10 times more likely to commit homicide than girls.

The homicide offending rate for 14–17-year-olds increased substantially in recent years, while the rate for younger juveniles remained constant

Homicide offenders per 100,000 juveniles in age group

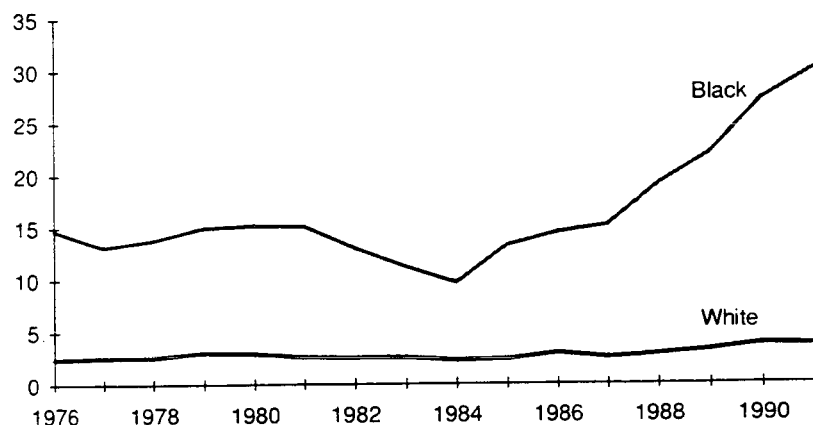


■ Between 1984 and 1991 the rate at which juveniles ages 14 to 17 committed murder increased 160%.

Source: FBI. (1993). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1991* [machine-readable data files].

The homicide offending rate for black juveniles is substantially higher than the rate for white juveniles and has risen sharply in recent years

Homicide offenders per 100,000 juveniles ages 10–17



■ Between 1984 and 1991 the rate at which white juveniles committed murder increased by 64%, while the black juvenile murder rate increased 211%.

Source: FBI. (1993). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1991* [machine-readable data files].

Nearly one-third of juvenile murder victims are strangers

When juveniles commit homicide, most of their victims are friends or acquaintances (53%). Thirty-two percent of juvenile murder victims are strangers, and 15% are family members.

When juveniles kill strangers, generally the perpetrator is male (96%) and black (57%), uses a gun (64%), and kills during the commission of a felony (62%).

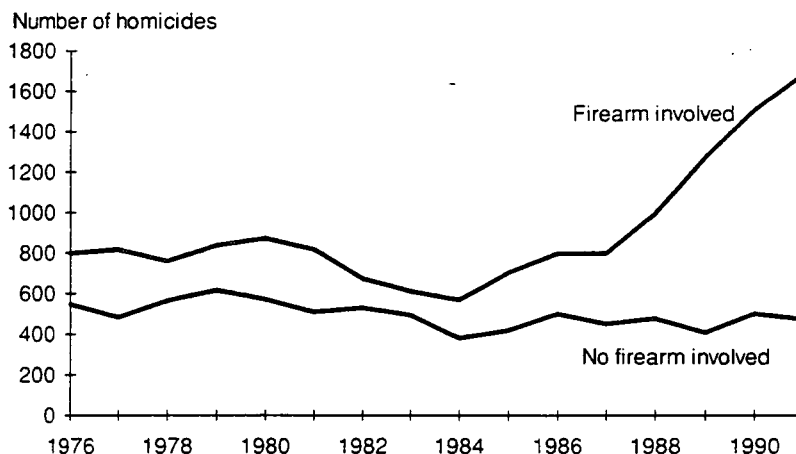
Similarly, when juveniles kill friends or acquaintances, the perpetrator is almost always male (92%), is equally likely to be white or black, kills with a firearm (62%), and is frequently motivated by an argument or brawl (45%).

In family-related incidents, the offender is usually male (75%), is more often white (64%), murders with a firearm (64%), and is motivated by an argument or brawl (51%). When juveniles commit homicide within the family, they typically kill fathers/stepfathers (30%) or brothers (17%).

Handguns accounted for the greatest proportion of homicides by juveniles from 1976 to 1991

Over the period 1976 to 1991, firearms were used by 65% of juvenile homicide offenders — 44% used handguns. The use of firearms by juvenile homicide offenders increased substantially over this period. In 1976, 59% of juvenile homicide offenders killed with a gun; by 1991 the figure was 78%.

Gun homicides by juveniles have nearly tripled since 1983, while homicides involving other weapons have actually declined



■ From 1983 through 1991, the proportion of homicides in which the juvenile uses a gun increased from 55% to 78%.

Source: FBI. (1993). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1991* [machine-readable data files].

A growing number of juveniles kill in groups of two or more

Multiple-offender killings have more than doubled since the mid-1980's. While in a majority (77%) of homicide incidents involving juvenile offenders the offender acted alone, 14% involved 2 offenders, 6% involved 3 offenders, and 3% involved 4 or more offenders. Group killings typically involve guns (64%) or knives (17%), and often occur during the commission of other felonious acts (51%). When multiple offenders are involved they are disproportionately black (52%) and male (93%). Victims of multiple-offender homicides are as likely to be strangers as not and are more likely to be male (86%) and white (60%).

Group killings are more likely to cross racial lines than single-offender homicides. Whereas 11% of single-offender killings involve victims and offenders of different races, one-quarter of multiple-offender homicides involved victims and offenders of different races. These mixed-race group killings typically involve black offenders killing white victims (71% of all mixed-race combinations) who are strangers (76%), and often involve the element of robbery (60%).

After a decade of gradual increase, the juvenile arrest rate for weapons violations increased 75% between 1987 and 1992

A weapons law violation was the most serious charge in 54,000 juvenile arrests in 1992

There were more juvenile arrests for weapons law violations in 1992 than for murder, forcible rape, and robbery combined. A weapons law violation was the most serious charge in 54,000 juvenile arrests. Many more juvenile arrests actually involved a weapons law violation but, following the FBI's reporting procedures, an arrest is classified under the most serious offense involved (e.g., aggravated assault, robbery, forcible rape, and murder).

Juvenile arrests for weapons law violations more than doubled between 1983 and 1992

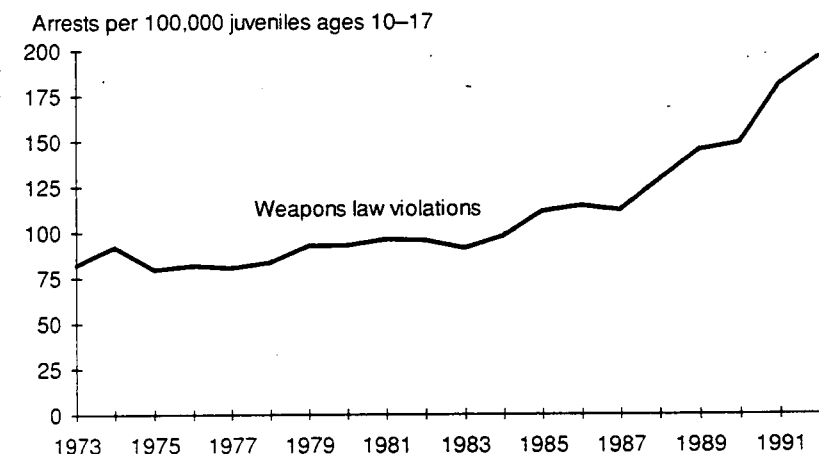
Between 1983 and 1992 the adult arrests increased 21%, while juvenile arrests increased 117%. During this same time period, juvenile murder arrests rose 128% and aggravated assault arrests rose 95%, while arrests for other assaults increased 106%. These large increases in juvenile arrests reflect a growing involvement of juveniles in violent crime.

As juveniles age, the probability that their murderer will use a firearm increases substantially

The proportion of victims killed by firearms in 1992 varied with the age of the victim:

- 4% of victims under age 1.
- 15% of victims ages 1-4.
- 37% of victims ages 5-9.
- 72% of victims ages 10-14.
- 85% of victims ages 15-17.

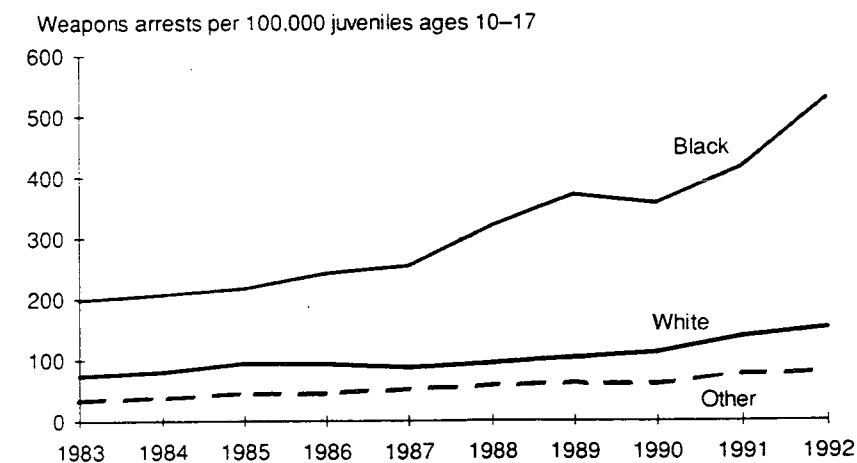
The 20-year trend in the rate of juvenile arrests for weapons law violations closely parallels the juvenile arrest trend for murder



- It took 12 years (from 1975 to 1987) for the juvenile arrest rate for weapons offenses to increase 25%. In comparison, it took just 2 years (from 1987 to 1989) for the rate to increase another 25%, and then just 2 more years (from 1989 to 1991) for another 25% increase.

Source: FBI. (1994). *Age-specific arrest rates and race-specific arrest rates for selected offenses 1965-1992*.

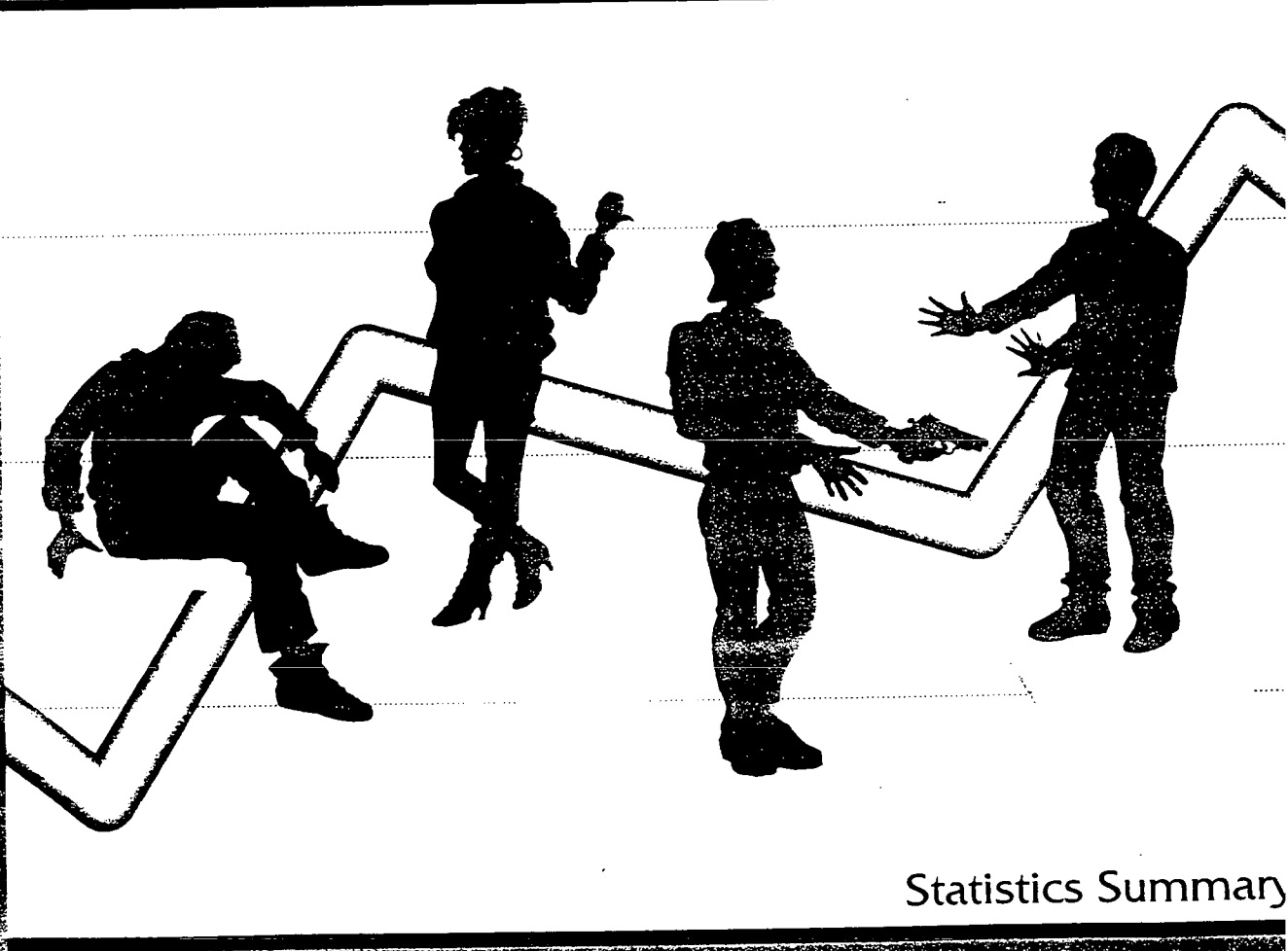
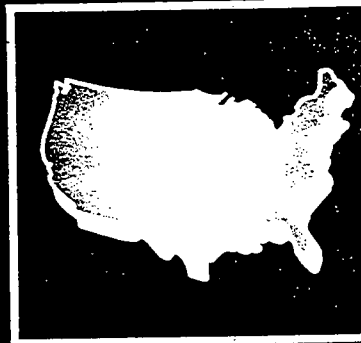
Juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations more than doubled between 1983 and 1992 in each racial group



- The increase for black juveniles (167%) was greater than the increases for whites (106%) and for youth of other races (129%).

Source: FBI. (1994). *Age-specific arrest rates and race-specific arrest rates for selected offenses 1965-1992*.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Statistics Summary

of these older juveniles were murders committed by acquaintances, with the other half murders by strangers or unknown offenders.

Black homicide victims were more likely to be killed by a firearm than were white victims

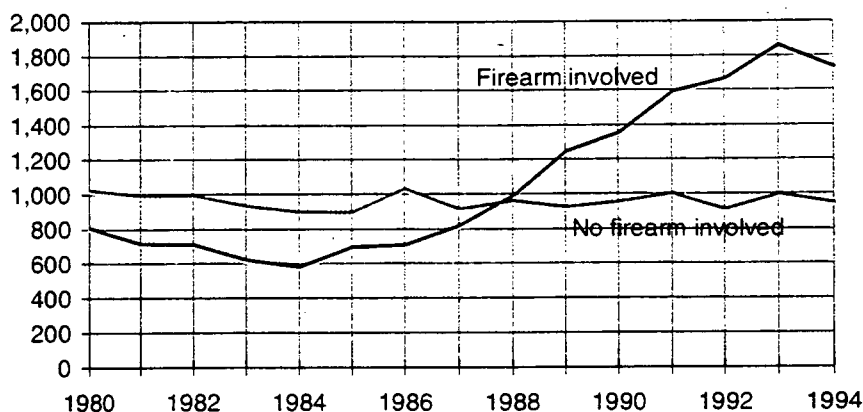
Between 1980 and 1994, in homicides in which the weapon was reported, 60% of black juvenile murder victims were killed with a firearm, compared to 46% of white victims. In the first half of the 1980's this disparity was much less (46% vs. 39%). But as the juvenile murder rate increased, so did the disparity. Between 1990 and 1994, firearms were involved in the murder of 71% of black victims and 54% of white victims.

Trends show that acquaintances and strangers who murder juveniles were more likely to use firearms

Increases in juvenile murders between 1980 and 1994 were primarily increases in murders by non-family members using firearms. Firearm murders by acquaintances increased 156% over this period. In 1980, 46% of the juveniles murdered by acquaintances were killed with a firearm — by 1994 this proportion had increased to 67%. Juvenile homicides by strangers using a firearm increased 120% between 1980 and 1994. In 1980, 59% of juveniles killed by strangers were killed with a firearm — in 1994 it was 86%. Juveniles killed by unknown assailants with a firearm increased 140% between 1980 and 1994, with the proportion killed by firearms increasing from 45% in 1980 to 72% in 1994.

While juvenile homicide victimizations not involving firearms remained constant, those involving firearms nearly tripled from 1984 to 1994

Homicide victimizations

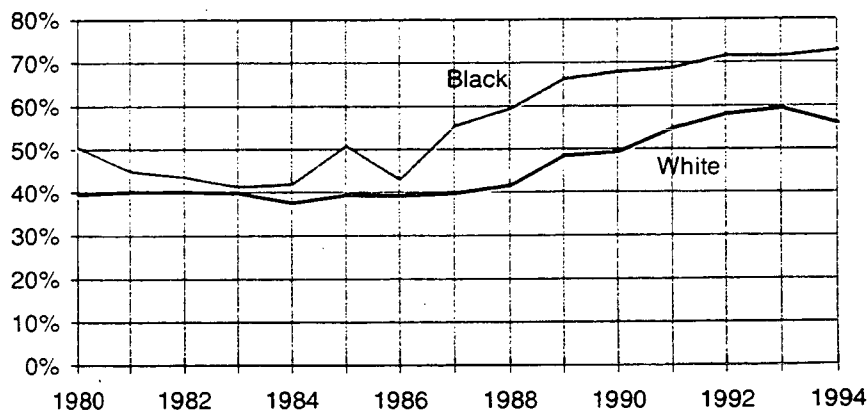


■ In 1994, 65% of juvenile murder victims were killed with a firearm — 72% of males and 42% of females.

Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1994* [machine-readable data file].

Over the years firearms were used in a greater proportion of the homicides of black than white juveniles

Firearm percent of juvenile homicide victimizations



Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1994* [machine-readable data file].

Juvenile arrest rates for weapons law violations nearly doubled between 1987 and 1994

The FBI's arrest statistics do not reflect the full volume of arrests involving a weapons law violation

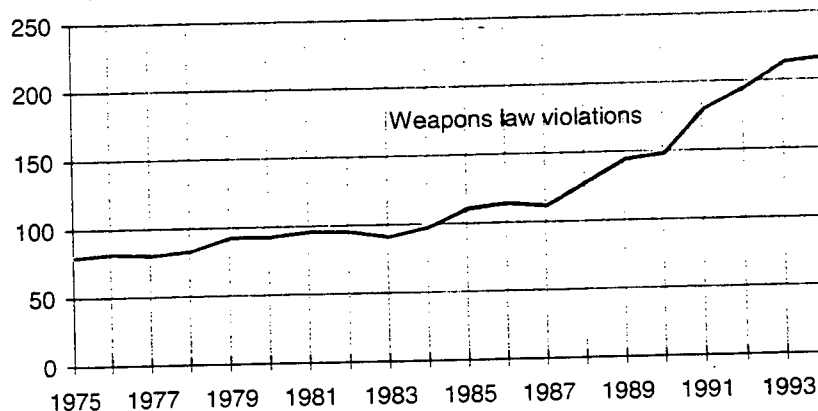
The juvenile arrest rate for weapons possession is at an historic high. A weapons law violation was the most serious charge in 63,400 juvenile arrests in 1994. However, many more arrests undoubtedly involved a weapons law violation. FBI coding procedures require an arrest to be classified by the most serious charge involved. Consequently, none of the arrests of juveniles for killing someone with a handgun, aggravated forcible rape, armed robbery, or aggravated assault with a firearm would be included in the arrest count for weapons law violations.

Interim findings from a recent study by the National Institute of Justice that interviewed 4,000 arrestees in 11 cities (Atlanta, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix, San Diego, St. Louis, and Washington, DC) found that:

- 40% of juvenile males reported possessing a firearm at some time.
- Over a third admitted owning a firearm in the previous month.
- 22% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time.
- 55% of juvenile arrestees reported that they had been threatened with a gun.
- 50% had a gun fired at them.
- 11% had been injured by a gun-shot.
- 38% believed that it was okay to shoot someone who hurts you.

The 20-year trend in the rate of juvenile arrests for weapons law violations closely parallels the juvenile arrest trend for murder

Arrests per 100,000 juveniles ages 10-17



Note: 1993 and 1994 arrest rates were estimated by the National Center for Juvenile Justice by using data presented in *Crime in the United States* reports and population data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Data sources: FBI. (1994). *Age-specific arrest rates and race-specific arrest rates for selected offenses 1965-1992*. (1994). *Crime in the United States 1993*. (1995). *Crime in the United States 1994*. Bureau of the Census. (1995). *Resident population of states 1992-1994* [machine-readable data file] and *Current population reports, series P-25*.

This study found that gang membership and involvement in drug sales appear to be highly associated with gun ownership among arrestees. In addition, the study found that juveniles who had been violently victimized (i.e., threatened or shot at) were more likely to admit owning a gun.

Increases in juvenile arrests for a weapons law violation support a picture of growing juvenile violence

Between 1985 and 1994 the adult arrest rate for weapons law violations increased 26%, while juvenile arrests grew 103%. In most of the violent

crime categories, juvenile arrests show similar increases: murder up 150%, robbery up 57%, aggravated assault up 97%, and simple assault up 144%. These changes are more disquieting when they are compared to the relatively small 11% increase in juvenile property crime arrests over this same period. If arrest statistics actually do reflect a change in juvenile behavior, the large increases in violent, and not property, crime arrests indicate that the last 10 years have not seen an increase "across-the-board" in law-violating behavior of youth, but changes primarily in the most serious types of criminal behavior.

The number of juvenile homicide offenders tripled between 1984 and 1994 — the increase is all firearm-related

There were more than 2,800 juvenile homicide offenders in 1994

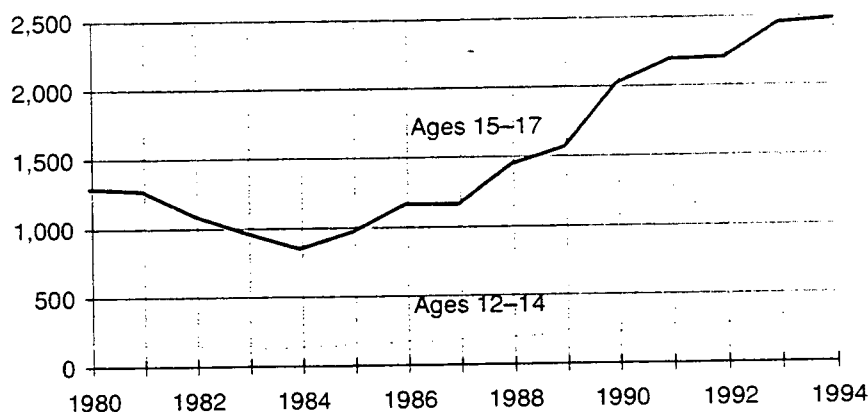
FBI Supplementary Homicide Report data provide information about homicide offenders and victims. For some homicides, however, the characteristics of the perpetrator are unknown at the time the data are collected. For 1980 through 1994 overall, the age of offender(s) was unknown in about 3 in 10 homicides, although the proportion has increased some over time. A profile of juvenile homicide offenders can be developed from data on homicides where the offender was identified as a juvenile.

From 1980 through 1994 there have been more than 26,000 known juvenile homicide offenders. While the number of juvenile homicide offenders decreased between 1980 and 1984, the number has risen significantly since the mid-1980's. There were more than 2,800 juvenile homicide offenders in 1994 — nearly three times the number in 1984.

From 1980 through 1994 there were 27,000 victims killed by offenders known to be juveniles. The trend for victims of juvenile homicide offenders paralleled the trend for juvenile homicide offenders. The number of victims killed by juveniles dropped from 1980–1984, then increased through 1994. There were more than 2,300 victims killed by juveniles in 1994 — more than two and a half times the number in 1984.

Since 1980 the number of juvenile homicide offenders has nearly doubled and the vast majority have been age 15 or older

Homicide offenders

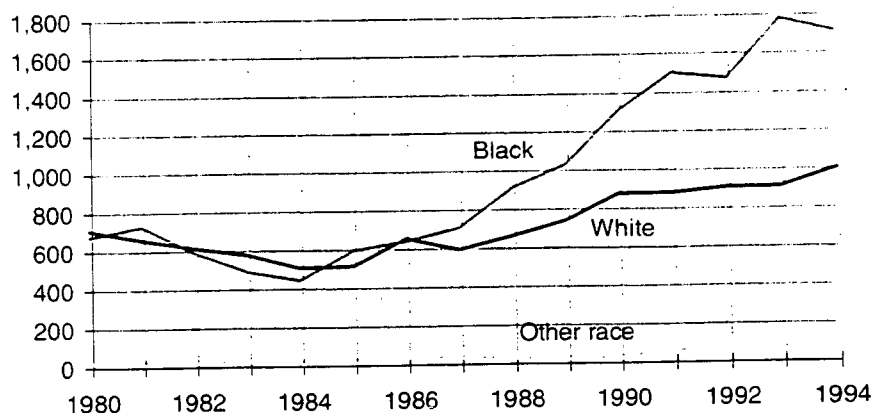


- The number of juvenile homicide offenders ages 15–17 dropped 35% from 1980–1984 and then increased 195% between 1984 and 1994.
- Very few juvenile homicide offenders are younger than age 15, but their numbers have increased. The number of 12–14-year-old homicide offenders rose 174% from 1984–1994. Each year since 1980 there were fewer than 35 offenders younger than 12 — most years fewer than 20.

Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1994* [machine-readable data file].

Since 1987 black juvenile homicide offenders have outnumbered white juvenile homicide offenders

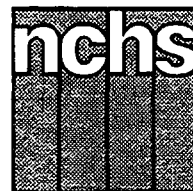
Juvenile homicide offenders



- In 1980, 48% of juvenile homicide offenders were white and a slightly smaller proportion were black (46%). By 1994, 61% of juvenile homicide offenders were black and 36% were white.

Data source: Fox, J. (1996). *Supplementary homicide reports 1976–1994* [machine-readable data file].

Monthly Vital Statistics Report



Provisional Data From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION/National Center for Health Statistics

Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths for 1995

Births

According to provisional reports, an estimated 300,000 births occurred in the United States during December 1995. This was a decrease of 4 percent from the provisional number of births reported for December 1994 (314,000). The birth rate, 13.4 live births per 1,000 population, was 5 percent lower than the rate of 14.1 for December 1994. The fertility rate, 59.3 live births per 1,000 women 15–44 years, was 5 percent lower than the comparable rate for December 1994 (62.3). The seasonally adjusted fertility rate (61.6) was also 5 percent lower than the comparable rate for December 1994 (64.8).

An estimated 3,892,000 live births occurred in 1995, a decline of 2 percent

from the 3,979,000 births reported for the previous year. The birth rate of 14.8 was 3 percent lower than the rate of 15.3 for 1994. The fertility rate for 1995 was 65.5, 2 percent lower than the rate for 1994 (67.1). These lower rates continue the generally downward trend in 12-month rates observed since early 1991.

The birth and fertility rates—which increased dramatically in the 1940's and 1950's, declined rapidly in the 1960's and early 1970's, and increased again in the late 1980's—have been declining steadily in the 1990's. The 1995 birth rate is the lowest since 1976 (14.6), while the fertility rate is the lowest since 1986 (65.4). The birth rates in 1995 were lower than in 1994 for 10 months, the same in September and higher in April.

Changes in the annual number of births are affected by two factors—changes in age-specific birth rates and changes in the number and age composition of women in the childbearing ages. According to estimates prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1), there was less than a 1-percent increase in the number of women in the childbearing ages (15–44 years) between 1994 and 1995, but a 2-percent decrease in the number of women aged 20–29, the peak childbearing years. The 2-percent decline in the fertility rate between 1994 and 1995 is consistent with the aging of the baby-boom women as they move into their forties. The 1995 estimated total fertility rate was 2,020, which indicates the number of births that 1,000 women

Provisional Vital Statistics for the United States

[Rates for infant deaths are deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births; fertility rates are live births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years; all other rates are per 1,000 total population. Data are subject to monthly reporting variation; see Technical notes]

Item	December				January–December				
	Number		Rate		Number		Rate		
	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1993
Live births	300,000	314,000	13.4	14.1	3,892,000	3,979,000	14.8	15.3	15.7
Fertility rate . . . . .	...	...	59.3	62.3	...	...	65.5	67.1	68.3
Deaths	197,000	190,000	8.8	8.5	2,309,000	2,286,000	8.8	8.8	8.8
Infant deaths	2,400	2,500	7.7	7.7	29,300	31,400	7.6	7.9	8.3
Natural increase	103,000	124,000	4.6	5.6	1,583,000	1,693,000	6.0	6.5	6.9
Marriages	169,000	173,000	7.6	7.8	2,336,000	2,362,000	8.9	9.1	9.0
Divorces	92,000	103,000	4.1	4.7	1,169,000	1,191,000	4.4	4.6	4.6
Population base (in millions) . . . . .	...	...	263.8	261.5	...	...	262.8	260.7	257.9

... Category not applicable.

NOTES: Figures include revisions received from the States. Twelve-month figures for the current year reflect revisions received for previous months, and figures for earlier years may differ from those previously published.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics



majority of areas (27 States and the District of Columbia) had lower numbers in 1995 than in 1994. The remaining 23 States had higher numbers of marriages in 1995 than in 1994.

Divorces

The estimated number of divorces granted in December 1995 was 92,000 compared with 103,000 in December a year earlier. The divorce rate per 1,000 population for December declined from 4.7 in 1994 to 4.1 in 1995.

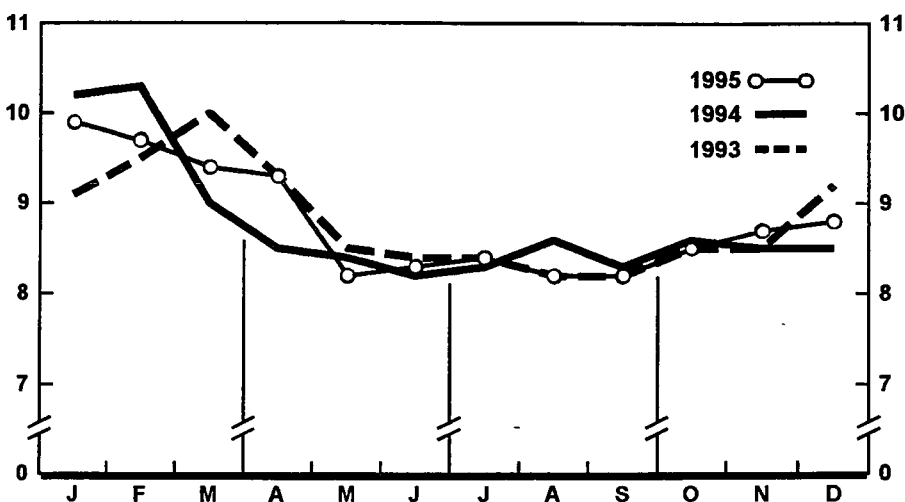
The cumulative number of divorces granted in 1995 was 1,169,000, 2 percent fewer than the number for 1994 (1,191,000). The divorce rate per 1,000 population for 1995 (4.4) was 4 percent lower than the rate for 1994 (4.6) and was the lowest divorce rate in over two decades (3). The divorce rate per 1,000 married women 15 years of age and over was 19.8 in 1995, 3 percent lower than the rate for 1994 (20.5) and the lowest rate since 1974.

The number of divorces granted in 1995 was lower than that granted in 1994 for 27 States and the District of Columbia. However, for 19 States, the number was higher than that granted in 1994. These areas did not provide provisional divorce data in 1995: California, Colorado, Indiana, and Louisiana.

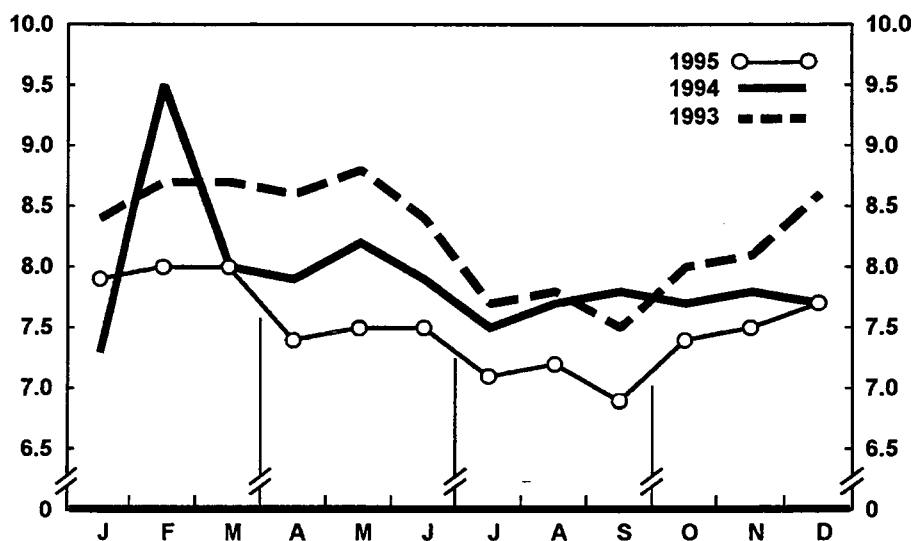
Deaths

The provisional count of deaths furnished by the 50 States and the District of Columbia during 1995 totaled 2,309,000, about 23,000 more deaths than that reported in the previous year. The death rate of 8.8 per 1,000 population was the same as the rate for 1994. About 29,300 of these deaths were to infants under 1 year of age, yielding an infant mortality rate of 7.6 per 1,000 live births. This rate was 4 percent lower than the rate of 7.9 for 1994.

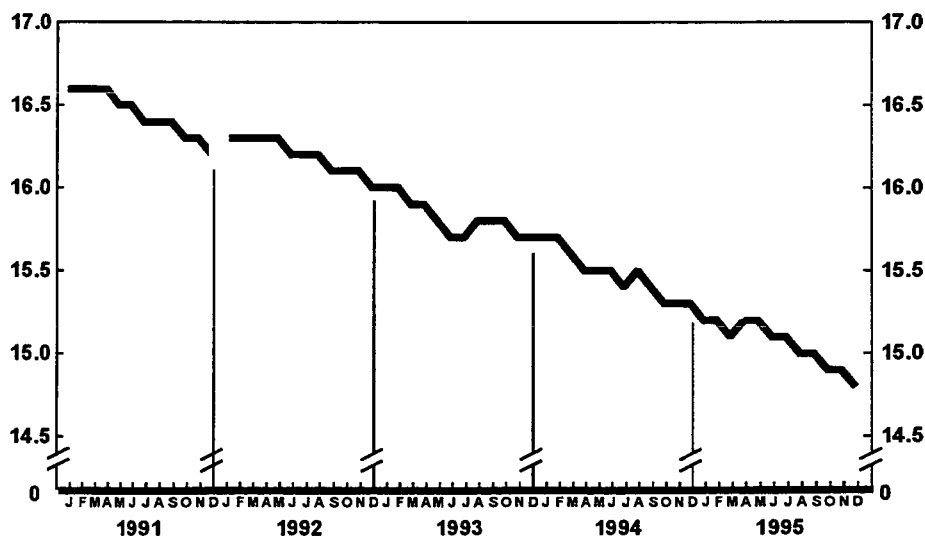
Current Mortality Sample, 12 months ending with November 1995— The provisional death rate for the 12 months ending with November 1995 was 876.6 per 100,000 population, 1 percent lower than the rate of 882.4 for the 12-month period ending November 1994. The provisional age-adjusted death rate for the 12-month period ending with November 1995



Provisional death rates per 1,000 population by month: United States, 1993-95



Provisional infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births by month: United States, 1993-95



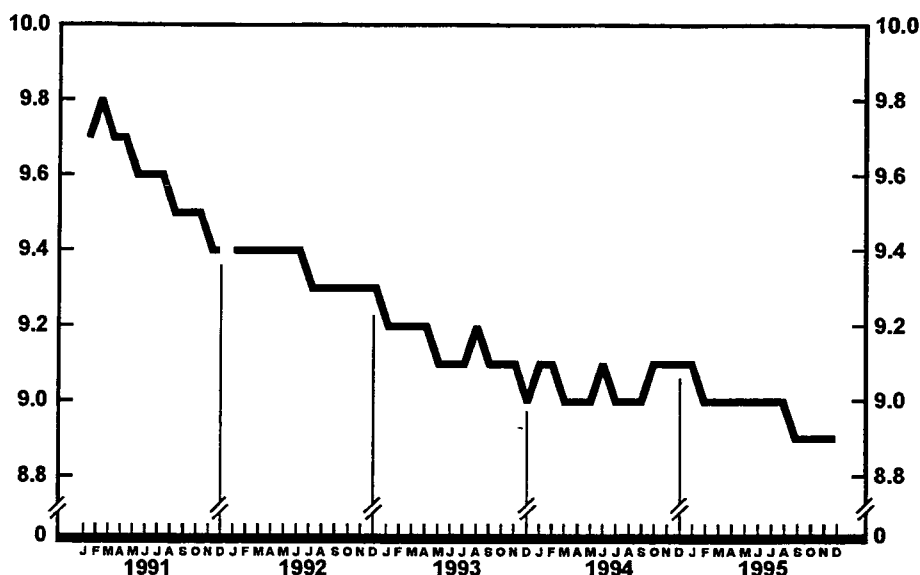
Provisional birth rates per 1,000 population for successive 12-month periods ending with month indicated: United States, 1991-95

was 503.0 per 100,000 U.S. standard million population compared with a rate of 511.7 for the 12-month period ending with November 1994. The age-adjusted death rates control for changes and variations in the age composition of the population; therefore, they are better indicators than crude rates for showing changes in mortality risk over time and for showing differences between race-sex groups within the population. Among the four race-sex groups, the estimated age-adjusted death rates decreased for white males, white females, and black males. By age the death rate for the total population decreased for the age group under 1 year and for the age groups 55–64 years, 65–74 years, and 85 years and over.

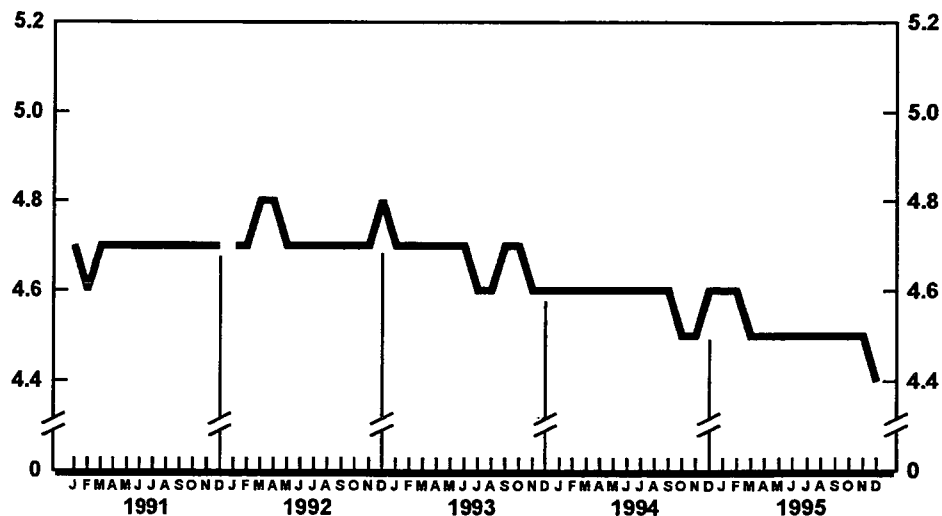
Among the major causes of death, the estimated death rate decreased between the two successive 12-month periods for Diseases of heart, Pneumonia and influenza, and Homicide and legal intervention. The death rate increased for Diabetes mellitis and Human immunodeficiency virus infection.

The death rate for injuries by firearms for the 12 months ending with November 1995 was 13.5 per 100,000 population, 10 percent lower than the rate of 15.0 for the comparable 12-month period a year earlier.

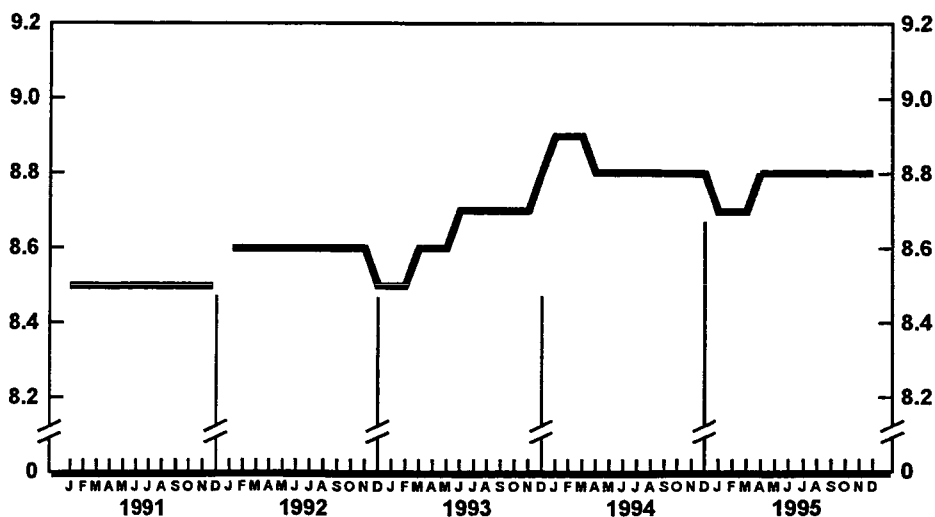
The infant mortality rate for the 12 months ending with November 1995 was 755.2 per 100,000 live births, 6 percent lower than the rate of 798.7 for the same 12-month period a year earlier. For infants under 28 days, the 12-month rate ending November 1995 was 483.4 compared with the rate of 499.8 for the 12-month period a year earlier. The change in the mortality rate for infants under 28 days was not statistically significant. The infant mortality rate for infants 28 days–11 months was 270.2, 10 percent lower than the rate of 298.9 for the 12-month period a year earlier. Among causes of infant death, the infant mortality rate decreased between the two successive 12-month periods for Respiratory distress syndrome and Sudden infant death syndrome.



Provisional marriage rates per 1,000 population for successive 12-month periods ending with month indicated: United States, 1991–95



Provisional divorce rates per 1,000 population for successive 12-month periods ending with month indicated: United States, 1991–95



Provisional death rates per 1,000 population for successive 12-month periods ending with month indicated: United States, 1991–95

Table 7. Provisional number of deaths and death rates for 16 selected subcategories of Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues: United States, November 1994 and 1995, cumulative figures 1994 and 1995, and 12 months ending with November 1994 and 1995

[Data are provisional, estimated from a 10-percent sample of deaths. Rates on an annual basis per 100,000 estimated population. Because of rounding of estimates, figures may not add to totals. For method of computation and information on standard errors of the estimates, see Technical notes]

Cause of death (Ninth Revision, International Classification of Diseases, 1975)	November				January–November				12 months ending with November				
	1995		1994		1995		1994		1995		1994		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and hematopoietic tissues ¹	140–208	43,470	200.6	44,140	205.5	492,200	204.8	494,420	207.5	536,330	204.3	540,710	207.6
Malignant neoplasm of esophagus . . . . .	.150	790	3.6	800	3.7	9,590	4.0	10,340	4.3	10,420	4.0	11,300	4.3
Malignant neoplasm of stomach . . . . .	.151	1,140	5.3	1,250	5.8	12,770	5.3	12,500	5.2	13,890	5.3	13,610	5.2
Malignant neoplasms of colon, rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus . . . . .	.153,154	4,660	21.5	5,220	24.3	51,390	21.4	53,930	22.6	56,100	21.4	59,080	22.7
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas . . . . .	.157	2,000	9.2	2,250	10.5	24,990	10.4	24,550	10.3	27,190	10.4	26,940	10.3
Malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus, and lung . . . . .	.162	12,190	56.2	12,020	56.0	137,170	57.1	136,450	57.3	149,430	56.9	149,660	57.5
Malignant melanoma of skin . . . . .	.172	550	2.5	560	2.6	6,560	2.7	6,660	2.8	7,030	2.7	7,430	2.9
Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri . . . . .	.180	440	2.0	390	1.8	4,350	1.8	4,210	1.8	4,730	1.8	4,670	1.8
Malignant neoplasms of body of uterus and of uterus, part unspecified . . . . .	.179,182	570	2.6	490	2.3	5,580	2.3	5,440	2.3	6,020	2.3	5,960	2.3
Malignant neoplasm of ovary . . . . .	.183.0	1,020	4.7	1,010	4.7	12,440	5.2	12,510	5.2	13,610	5.2	13,330	5.1
Malignant neoplasm of prostate . . . . .	.185	2,620	12.1	2,810	13.1	31,890	13.3	32,780	13.7	34,840	13.3	35,860	13.8
Malignant neoplasm of bladder . . . . .	.188	1,010	4.7	670	3.1	10,650	4.4	9,780	4.1	11,520	4.4	10,750	4.1
Malignant neoplasms of kidney and other and unspecified urinary organs . . . . .	.189	880	4.1	910	4.2	10,600	4.4	10,300	4.3	11,580	4.4	11,410	4.4
Malignant neoplasms of brain and other and unspecified parts of nervous system . . . . .	.191,192	940	4.3	1,040	4.8	10,540	4.4	11,080	4.6	11,600	4.4	11,930	4.6
Hodgkin's disease . . . . .	.201	130	0.6	110	0.5	1,430	0.6	1,390	0.6	1,560	0.6	1,470	0.6
Malignant lymphoma other than Hodgkin's disease . . . . .	.200,202	2,070	9.6	1,880	8.7	21,330	8.9	20,590	8.6	23,300	8.9	22,310	8.6
Multiple myeloma and other immunoproliferative neoplasms . . . . .	.203	770	3.6	990	4.6	9,440	3.9	9,490	4.0	10,330	3.9	10,200	3.9

¹Includes figures for subcategories not shown below.

NOTES: Figures include all revisions received from the States. Cumulative and 12-month figures for the current year reflect revisions received for previous months, and figures for earlier years may differ from those previously published.

Table 8. Provisional number of deaths and death rates for injury by firearms: United States, November 1994 and 1995, cumulative figures 1994 and 1995, and 12 months ending with November 1994 and 1995

[Data are provisional, estimated from a 10-percent sample of deaths. Rates on an annual basis per 100,000 estimated population. Because of rounding of estimates, figures may not add to totals. For method of computation and information on standard errors of the estimates, see Technical notes]

Cause of death (Ninth Revision, International Classification of Diseases, 1975)	November				January–November				12 months ending with November			
	1995		1994		1995		1994		1995		1994	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Injury by firearmsE922,E955.0–E955.4,E965.0–965.4,E970,E985.0–E985.4	3,140	14.5	3,610	16.8	32,620	13.6	35,460	14.9	35,520	13.5	39,110	15.0
Accident caused by firearm missile.E922	140	0.6	200	0.9	1,170	0.5	1,360	0.6	1,360	0.5	1,590	0.6
Suicide by firearmsE955.0–E955.4	1,500	6.9	1,880	8.7	16,670	6.9	18,010	7.5	18,050	6.9	19,730	7.6
Homicide and legal intervention by firearmsE965.0–E965.4,E970	1,500	6.9	1,500	7.0	14,550	6.0	15,860	6.6	15,830	6.0	17,520	6.7
Injury by firearms, undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflictedE985.0–E985.4	10	*	20	*	230	0.1	240	0.1	280	0.1	270	0.1

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (see Technical notes).

NOTES: Figures include all revisions received from the States. Cumulative and 12-month figures for the current year reflect revisions received for previous months, and figures for earlier years may differ from those previously published.



Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Table 2.77

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-94

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent reporting having any firearms)

	1973	1974	1976	1977	1980	1982	1984	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994
National	47%	46%	47%	51%	48%	45%	45%	44%	46%	40%	46%	43%	40%	42%	41%
Sex															
Male	53	51	52	55	56	54	53	54	51	50	55	53	50	53	50
Female	43	42	43	47	41	39	40	36	43	33	39	34	32	34	33
Race															
White	49	48	58	53	50	48	48	46	49	43	50	45	42	45	44
Black/other	38	32	37	34	29	30	30	29	33	28	23	29	29	26	24
Age															
18 to 20 years	50	34	38	54	48	51	44	39	43	33	35	40	22	48	42
21 to 29 years	43	48	45	45	48	41	37	40	35	34	33	34	36	38	34
30 to 49 years	51	49	52	55	50	51	48	48	51	42	48	46	40	44	41
50 years and older	46	44	44	49	46	44	49	44	47	42	50	42	42	42	43
Education															
College	45	42	44	45	41	39	42	40	43	37	41	37	34	38	38
High school	50	48	50	54	51	51	48	49	50	43	51	47	46	46	44
Grade school	44	49	42	51	51	41	43	38	44	39	46	47	39	47	37
Income*															
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	49	52
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	48	50
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	44	38
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	32	28
Occupation															
Professional/business	48	45	46	48	45	42	42	40	45	39	46	38	35	38	38
Clerical	42	43	40	49	45	39	41	40	45	37	37	38	35	36	36
Manual	48	48	48	52	48	49	48	48	46	41	52	50	47	51	45
Farmer	83	79	62	66	81	77	84	78	75	82	87	83	56	68	67
Region															
Northeast	22	27	29	32	27	32	32	28	31	25	32	30	28	29	26
Midwest	51	49	48	53	52	48	44	48	46	41	46	44	42	41	46
South	62	59	60	62	59	52	52	53	55	47	53	52	50	52	48
West	47	42	44	46	44	47	49	40	47	42	48	39	32	39	35
Religion															
Protestant	56	52	53	57	56	52	52	50	52	46	53	48	46	47	46
Catholic	35	37	36	39	36	36	34	35	36	31	36	36	30	36	34
Jewish	14	7	26	17	6	11	22	9	25	0	18	6	10	9	18
None	32	40	43	50	39	37	36	44	39	41	36	34	31	37	32
Politics															
Republican	53	49	50	56	53	50	56	47	51	46	50	48	42	51	49
Democrat	44	45	45	49	46	44	42	47	44	39	43	40	41	35	37
Independent	49	47	48	50	47	44	40	39	44	36	46	42	37	42	39

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

*Income categories have been revised and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the National Opinion Research Center; data were made available through The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research.

Table 2.78

Respondents reporting owning a firearm

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Do you personally own a gun, or not?"

	Yes	No
National	35%	64%
Sex		
Male	50	50
Female	22	77
Race		
White	38	61
Black	17	83
Nonwhite*	20	80
Age		
18 to 29 years	25	75
30 to 49 years	38	62
50 to 64 years	47	51
50 years and older	39	59
65 years and older	31	68
Education		
College post graduate	30	70
College graduate	36	64
Some college	37	62
No college	34	65
Income		
\$50,000 and over	40	60
\$30,000 to \$49,999	41	58
\$20,000 to \$29,999	40	59
Under \$20,000	26	74
Community		
Urban area	25	74
Suburban area	38	62
Rural area	52	47
Region		
East	22	78
Midwest	35	64
South	46	53
West	35	65
Politics		
Republican	38	61
Democrat	30	69
Independent	37	63

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

*Includes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.79

Respondents reporting a firearm in their home

By type of firearm and demographic characteristics, United States, 1994

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?" If yes, "Is it a pistol, shotgun, rifle, or what?"

(Percent reporting having a firearm)

	Firearm in the home			
	Any type	Type of firearm		
		Pistol	Shotgun	Rifle
National	41%	24%	24%	24%
Sex				
Male	50	32	33	34
Female	33	19	18	17
Race				
White	44	26	28	28
Black/other	24	16	9	9
Age				
18 to 20 years	42	24	23	26
21 to 29 years	34	18	21	20
30 to 49 years	41	25	24	26
50 years and older	43	27	26	24
Education				
College	38	24	21	22
High school	44	26	28	28
Grade school	37	22	24	22
Income				
\$50,000 and over	52	34	32	34
\$30,000 to \$49,999	50	31	31	33
\$20,000 to \$29,999	38	24	24	23
Under \$20,000	28	14	15	12
Occupation				
Professional/business	38	24	22	22
Clerical	36	22	20	20
Manual	45	27	28	28
Farmer	67	37	50	45
Region				
Northeast	26	13	18	20
Midwest	46	23	31	28
South	48	32	29	26
West	35	23	14	22
Religion				
Protestant	46	28	28	28
Catholic	34	20	20	22
Jewish	18	18	0	3
None	32	16	18	21
Politics				
Republican	49	31	30	31
Democrat	37	22	20	21
Independent	39	23	24	24

Note: All data are based on the entire sample. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the National Opinion Research Center; data were made available through The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research.

Table 2.80

Attitudes toward various gun control issues

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "Please tell me for each of the following statements whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree."

(Percent responding "strongly agree" or "agree")

	Armed citizens are the best defense against criminals	Parents should be charged with a crime if their children injure themselves or others with a gun kept in their household	It should be easier for law-abiding citi- zens to carry con- cealed handguns	Companies that manufacture guns with no hunting or sporting purpose should be held finan- cially responsible when these guns in- jure or kill people
National	33.3%	55.6%	32.6%	45.4%
Sex				
Male	41.6	54.7	39.3	39.8
Female	25.5	56.5	26.3	50.7
Race				
White	33.6	57.6	33.2	43.6
Black	32.7	39.4	31.1	51.9
Hispanic	31.5	54.1	28.4	47.3
Age				
18 to 29 years	33.9	46.4	33.9	43.9
30 to 39 years	36.1	59.4	36.3	46.9
40 to 59 years	32.8	58.2	31.8	44.5
60 years and older	30.6	56.6	29.3	45.9
Education				
College graduate	23.4	60.2	25.5	51.3
Some college	37.2	57.3	39.2	43.0
High school graduate	35.1	52.5	32.0	47.7
Less than high school graduate	45.1	50.5	35.3	33.7
Income				
Over \$60,000	33.3	62.6	28.5	48.4
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	33.2	55.4	34.4	47.8
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	33.1	56.1	36.7	43.9
Less than \$15,000	40.0	51.3	28.6	48.7
Community				
Urban	26.8	58.0	35.9	48.1
Suburban	29.7	62.5	27.2	47.1
Small city	29.4	57.4	28.7	50.5
Rural/small town	41.2	50.3	37.0	41.1
Region				
Northeast	19.8	59.7	24.4	56.3
Midwest	28.7	45.6	26.9	42.9
South	41.7	53.1	38.9	42.9
West	35.3	65.7	35.3	43.4
Politics				
Republican	39.1	57.8	41.0	39.1
Democrat	29.6	54.6	29.2	55.0
Independent/other	32.7	54.9	30.3	44.4

Note: See Note, table 2.21.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.81

Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

	More strict	Less strict	Kept as they are
National	59.2%	9.7%	28.1%
Sex			
Male	48.7	13.7	33.7
Female	69.0	5.9	22.8
Race			
White	55.4	9.1	32.2
Black	71.2	13.5	15.4
Hispanic	80.8	6.8	12.3
Age			
18 to 29 years	58.4	10.0	29.9
30 to 39 years	56.5	11.2	30.2
40 to 59 years	61.0	9.4	26.1
60 years and older	59.0	8.1	27.7
Education			
College graduate	66.7	8.6	22.6
Some college	54.5	11.5	31.5
High school graduate	58.6	9.5	28.5
Less than high school graduate	54.5	7.9	30.7
Income			
Over \$60,000	63.4	7.5	28.0
Between \$30,000 and \$60,000	56.0	11.1	30.2
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	59.8	10.0	28.9
Less than \$15,000	58.5	9.3	26.3
Community			
Urban	67.9	7.1	23.1
Suburban	65.0	9.9	21.3
Small city	64.7	8.6	25.1
Rural/small town	49.2	10.7	36.4
Region			
Northeast	69.5	5.1	23.2
Midwest	52.5	10.9	34.0
South	58.2	10.9	26.6
West	59.9	9.9	27.7
Politics			
Republican	50.0	14.3	33.0
Democrat	72.5	4.6	21.8
Independent/other	55.7	9.8	30.0

Note: See Note, table 2.21. The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.82

Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

	More strict	Less strict	Kept as they are now
National	62%	12%	24%
Sex			
Male	57	13	28
Female	67	11	20
Race			
White	61	13	25
Black	76	12	10
Nonwhite ^a	73	9	15
Age			
18 to 29 years	60	15	23
30 to 49 years	62	14	22
50 to 64 years	66	13	19
65 years and older	64	8	26
65 years and older	62	3	33
Education			
College post graduate	64	7	28
College graduate	65	7	26
Some college	64	16	19
No college	59	13	26
Income			
\$50,000 and over	70	11	19
\$30,000 to \$49,999	56	18	25
\$20,000 to \$29,999	57	9	30
Under \$20,000	68	11	19
Community			
Urban area	67	10	21
Suburban area	64	14	21
Rural area	45	15	39
Region			
East	61	12	24
Midwest	60	8	30
South	65	15	19
West	62	13	24
Politics			
Republican	49	15	34
Democrat	68	11	20
Independent	69	11	18

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.83

Attitudes toward the registration of handguns

United States, selected years 1982-93

Question: "Would you favor or oppose the registration of all handguns?"

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
1982	66%	30%	4%
1985	70	25	5
1990	81	17	2
1991	80	17	3
1993	81	18	1

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 340 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1994), p. 20. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.84

Attitudes toward banning the possession of handguns except by the police and other authorized persons

United States, selected years 1980-93

Question: "Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns except by the police and other authorized persons?"

	Should	Should not	Don't know or refused
January 1980	31%	65%	4%
December 1980	38	51	11
April 1981	39	58	3
June 1981	41	54	5
October 1987	42	50	8
September 1990	41	55	4
March 1991	43	53	4
March 1993	42	54	4
December 1993	39	60	1

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 340 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1994), p. 22. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.85

Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1972-94

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

	1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1980		1982	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	70%	27%	74%	25%	75%	24%	74%	24%	72%	27%	72%	26%	69%	29%	72%	26%
Sex																
Male	61	37	67	32	66	33	66	32	64	35	64	35	63	36	68	31
Female	79	17	79	19	83	15	80	17	78	20	78	19	74	23	75	23
Race																
White	70	27	73	25	75	24	73	25	71	27	70	28	68	30	71	27
Black/other	69	26	74	24	77	22	81	15	74	24	81	17	81	15	78	19
Age																
18 to 20 years	70	27	73	27	75	23	74	26	78	22	69	31	71	29	77	23
21 to 29 years	74	24	76	23	77	23	79	19	71	27	72	26	73	27	76	24
30 to 49 years	68	29	72	26	76	24	70	27	73	25	70	29	70	29	72	26
50 years and older	70	26	74	24	74	24	73	24	70	29	74	24	67	29	69	29
Education																
College	71	27	76	23	77	22	76	22	71	27	74	25	70	29	76	23
High school	72	26	73	25	75	23	74	24	72	27	70	28	69	29	71	27
Grade school	66	29	70	27	71	27	68	26	71	28	72	25	70	27	64	30
Income^a																
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Occupation																
Professional/business	69	28	71	27	74	25	73	24	74	25	76	23	70	28	75	23
Clerical	80	18	78	21	84	16	81	18	78	20	75	22	77	21	77	23
Manual	72	26	74	24	74	24	70	27	68	30	68	30	67	32	69	29
Farmer	54	44	56	42	52	48	60	33	56	44	66	31	53	47	36	60
Region																
Northeast	83	16	88	10	88	12	85	12	86	13	85	14	86	13	85	13
Midwest	69	27	72	28	77	22	76	22	72	27	67	31	71	27	73	24
South	63	33	67	31	70	28	66	30	63	35	69	28	64	34	62	36
West	67	32	69	29	66	32	70	29	68	30	68	31	60	38	69	30
Religion																
Protestant	66	31	68	31	71	28	70	27	67	31	67	30	64	34	68	30
Catholic	78	19	83	15	85	14	83	15	82	18	80	20	83	16	81	17
Jewish	96	4	98	2	98	2	96	4	89	11	89	9	88	12	89	5
None	69	29	81	18	70	29	71	28	68	28	73	26	71	28	72	28
Politics																
Republican	70	27	70	28	74	25	74	23	71	27	71	26	64	35	66	33
Democrat	72	25	76	22	78	22	77	20	74	25	73	26	74	25	75	24
Independent	68	30	73	26	73	25	70	28	69	29	71	28	68	29	72	26

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the National Opinion Research Center; data were made available through The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research.

^aIncome categories have been revised and therefore are not directly comparable to previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

1984		1985		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
70%	27%	72%	26%	70%	28%	74%	24%	78%	21%	79%	20%	81%	18%	81%	17%	78%	20%
62	37	65	34	62	36	66	33	69	30	72	27	74	25	73	26	70	29
76	20	78	20	76	22	79	17	85	13	84	14	86	12	87	11	84	14
69	29	72	27	69	29	74	24	77	21	77	21	81	18	80	18	77	22
79	18	76	22	74	23	75	23	81	18	86	12	84	15	84	15	84	14
71	24	71	29	69	29	73	24	66	34	91	9	70	30	83	17	85	15
73	25	74	25	76	23	73	26	81	17	83	15	82	18	83	17	78	20
70	29	71	28	68	30	72	26	74	25	76	23	82	17	82	17	77	22
70	26	72	26	69	29	75	20	81	17	78	19	80	17	80	18	79	19
74	25	75	24	74	25	76	22	80	19	81	18	85	14	84	15	79	19
68	30	71	28	67	31	74	24	75	23	77	20	79	20	79	19	76	22
72	23	69	26	70	27	66	27	82	17	73	22	70	24	76	20	78	18
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	84	15	79	20
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	83	16	74	25
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	84	15	80	19
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	79	20	80	18
71	27	75	24	74	24	77	21	82	17	78	20	89	11	84	15	79	20
76	23	79	21	77	22	78	19	80	16	84	15	84	15	89	10	85	14
68	29	68	31	64	33	71	26	72	26	77	22	75	23	75	23	74	24
48	48	43	57	48	50	24	65	73	27	56	39	72	28	72	24	56	38
80	18	82	17	83	15	84	13	90	10	85	15	84	15	90	9	85	15
70	25	73	25	68	31	76	22	80	19	78	20	81	17	82	16	78	21
66	31	67	32	66	31	69	28	72	26	77	20	78	21	75	22	77	21
67	32	71	29	67	31	68	28	74	24	75	24	85	15	82	17	74	25
66	31	68	30	67	31	72	26	75	23	76	22	78	20	79	19	75	23
79	20	79	20	74	24	77	20	84	16	84	14	84	15	84	14	84	15
93	7	94	6	85	10	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	96	4	94	6
78	22	74	26	77	20	73	25	70	26	76	23	87	13	80	20	76	22
66	32	70	28	71	27	68	29	76	22	78	21	81	18	76	22	71	28
75	23	74	25	70	29	79	19	84	15	83	15	82	16	86	13	85	14
70	28	72	27	70	28	73	24	71	26	76	23	80	19	81	17	77	21

Table 2.86		
Attitudes toward making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles		
By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996		
Question: "The House of Representatives recently voted to repeal the ban on the sale of semi-automatic assault rifles and to allow their sale in the future. Do you favor or oppose making it legal to sell semi-automatic assault rifles?"		
	Favor	Oppose
National	17%	81%
Sex		
Male	28	70
Female	8	91
Race/ethnicity		
White	19	79
Black	4	93
Hispanic	16	84
Age		
18 to 24 years	25	75
25 to 29 years	30	70
30 to 39 years	18	82
40 to 49 years	15	84
50 to 64 years	14	82
65 years and older	12	85
Education		
Less than high school graduate	12	83
High school graduate	20	79
Some college	15	83
College graduate	20	80
College post graduate	14	86
Income		
\$15,000 or less	18	81
\$15,001 to \$25,000	19	79
\$25,001 to \$35,000	20	80
\$35,001 to \$50,000	14	85
Over \$50,000	18	81
Community		
Central city	15	84
Metropolitan area ^a	18	81
Small town	14	82
Rural area	26	71
Region		
East	16	83
Midwest	17	80
South	15	84
West	24	75
Politics		
Republican	26	73
Democrat	10	89
Independent	17	81
Note: The "not sure/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.		
^a Excluding central city.		
Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates. Reprinted by permission.		

Table 2.87		
Attitudes toward a ban on assault rifles		
By demographic characteristics, United States, 1995		
Question: "Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose the following proposal which some people have made to reduce crime: a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of certain semi-automatic guns known as assault rifles."		
	Favor a ban	Oppose a ban
National	68%	29%
Sex		
Male	61	36
Female	74	23
Race		
White	68	29
Black	68	27
Nonwhite ^a	73	24
Age		
18 to 29 years	61	34
30 to 49 years	67	30
50 to 64 years	76	21
50 years and older	73	24
65 years and older	70	27
Education		
College post graduate	77	23
College graduate	77	21
Some college	66	32
No college	64	32
Income		
\$50,000 and over	76	22
\$30,000 to \$49,999	63	37
\$20,000 to \$29,999	70	26
Under \$20,000	64	32
Community		
Urban area	69	27
Suburban area	71	28
Rural area	61	37
Region		
East	68	26
Midwest	73	26
South	67	30
West	64	34
Politics		
Republican	65	33
Democrat	76	23
Independent	64	30

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

^aIncludes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.88

Adults and teenagers reporting keeping a handgun or rifle in the home

By type of community, United States, 1996

	Adults				Teenagers			
	"Do you (or your spouse) keep a handgun or rifle in your home, or not?"				"Do your parents or any other family members keep a handgun or rifle in your home, or not?"			
	Community				Community			
	Total	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Total	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Yes, keep handgun or rifle in home	41%	31%	34%	64%	54%	42%	50%	68%
Handgun	27	24	22	40	33	29	29	40
Rifle	33	20	27	59	41	27	35	58
Unspecified firearm	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	2	1	1
No, do not keep handgun or rifle in home	57	67	64	34	39	51	41	27
Don't know/not sure	2	2	2	1	7	8	9	5

Note: See Note, table 2.5. For a discussion of public opinion sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: YWCA, *Families Taking Action: A YWCA Survey About Making Homes and Communities Safer* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1996), p. 58. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.89

Reasons adults and teenagers report for keeping a handgun or rifle in the home

By sex and type of community, United States, 1996^a

by sex and type of community, United States, 1999															
Adults								Teenagers							
"What is the <u>main</u> reason for keeping a gun in your home?"								"What do you think is the <u>main</u> reason that this person or these people decided to keep a gun in your home?"							
Community								Community							
Sex								Sex							
Urban								Urban							
Non-urban								Non-urban							
Total	Male	Female	Handgun	Rifle	Handgun	Rifle	Total	Male	Female	Handgun	Rifle	Handgun	Rifle		
For hunting or recreation	46%	50%	40%	25%	44%	35%	56%	62%	69%	53%	38%	62%	60%	81%	
For protection from criminals	37	32	44	66	42	39	26	51	50	53	67	53	63	44	
As part of a collection	5	4	5	3	5	6	5	20	23	15	18	22	29	24	
Animal control	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	14	9	4	6	18	17	
Because of their job/because my job or spouse's job	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	8	8	9	12	5	12	6	
Some other reason	10	12	7	4	6	15	10	10	10	12	15	15	8	9	
Not sure	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	3	6	8	6	5	1	

Note: See Note, table 2.5. Percents are based on those who reported they have a handgun or rifle in the home in table 2.88. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: YWCA, *Families Taking Action: A YWCA Survey About Making Homes and Communities Safer* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1996), p. 60. Reprinted by permission.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 3.114

Number and rate (per 100,000 population) of violent crime and murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, and number and percent of firearm-related violent crime and weapon-related murder and nonnegligent manslaughter

By State, 1994

State	by State, 1994													
	Violent crime ^a		Firearm-related violent crime		Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter									
			Number	Percent of all violent crime	Number	Rate	Percent of all violent crime	Percent of all murder and nonnegligent manslaughter						
								Firearm-related	Handgun-related	Shotgun-related	Rifle-related	Knife-related	Fists/feet-related	
United States, total ^b	1,864,168	716.0	552,669	29.6%	23,305	9.0	1.3%	70.0%	56.5%	4.3%	3.3%	12.5%	5.3%	
Alabama	28,844	683.7	7,085	24.6	501	11.9	1.7	74.5	62.9	7.4	4.2	10.8	6.2	
Alaska	4,644	766.3	1,262	27.2	38	6.3	0.8	64.9	51.4	5.4	5.4	18.9	16.2	
Arizona	28,653	703.1	10,313	36.0	426	10.5	1.5	72.6	54.4	4.1	5.5	11.2	5.5	
Arkansas	14,598	595.1	5,014	34.4	294	12.0	2.0	72.4	51.9	8.9	6.1	9.9	3.1	
California	318,395	1,013.0	87,634	27.5	3,703	11.8	1.2	75.2	66.1	4.4	3.8	11.5	4.2	
Colorado	18,632	509.6	4,883	26.2	199	5.4	1.1	63.5	53.9	3.9	1.7	16.3	5.6	
Connecticut	14,916	455.5	3,640	24.4	215	6.6	1.4	73.6	64.8	2.3	3.2	13.9	6.5	
Delaware	3,961	561.0	830	21.0	33	4.7	0.8	46.2	23.1	0.0	0.0	15.4	7.7	
District of Columbia ^c	15,177	2,662.6	4,974	32.8	399	70.0	2.6	77.4	76.2	0.8	0.0	11.8	1.8	
Florida	160,016	1,146.8	45,415	28.4	1,165	8.3	0.7	54.8	37.3	2.8	2.3	13.1	4.8	
Georgia	47,103	667.7	17,167	36.4	703	10.0	1.5	72.6	62.2	4.9	2.7	12.7	4.9	
Hawaii	3,091	262.2	459	14.8	50	4.2	1.6	48.0	38.0	6.0	4.0	12.0	14.0	
Idaho	3,238	285.8	907	28.0	40	3.5	1.2	60.0	50.0	0.0	10.0	17.5	10.0	
Illinois	112,928	960.9	42,492	37.6	1,378	11.7	1.2	69.0	55.3	1.3	1.1	12.5	5.4	
Indiana	30,205	525.1	7,293	24.1	453	7.9	1.5	74.0	61.4	5.8	1.6	12.1	4.2	
Iowa	8,914	315.1	1,481	16.6	47	1.7	0.5	47.7	25.0	13.6	2.3	22.7	9.1	
Kansas ^d	12,226	478.7	NA	NA	149	5.8	1.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Kentucky ^d	23,165	605.3	NA	NA	244	6.4	1.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Louisiana	42,369	981.9	17,210	40.6	856	19.8	2.0	82.8	72.0	3.5	3.9	7.3	3.8	
Maine	1,611	129.9	159	9.9	28	2.3	1.7	40.7	29.6	11.1	0.0	22.2	14.8	
Maryland	47,457	948.0	17,106	36.0	579	11.6	1.2	70.3	65.8	2.9	1.0	13.0	5.7	
Massachusetts	42,749	707.6	5,676	13.3	214	3.5	0.5	65.0	30.5	2.5	2.0	15.8	3.4	
Michigan	72,751	766.1	25,130	34.5	927	9.8	1.3	72.3	52.4	7.3	3.6	11.5	4.4	
Minnesota	16,397	359.0	3,633	22.2	147	3.2	0.9	57.2	42.8	8.7	5.8	20.3	5.8	
Mississippi	13,177	493.7	5,911	44.9	409	15.3	3.1	79.0	72.1	3.1	2.2	11.4	3.1	
Missouri	39,240	743.5	15,358	39.1	554	10.5	1.4	64.3	51.3	5.3	3.4	12.2	4.1	
Montana ^d	1,516	177.1	NA	NA	28	3.3	1.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Nebraska	6,322	389.5	1,598	25.3	51	3.1	0.8	60.0	33.3	6.7	20.0	6.7	13.3	
Nevada	14,597	1,001.9	4,587	31.4	170	11.7	1.2	66.3	55.6	5.3	4.1	10.7	11.8	
New Hampshire	1,328	116.8	182	13.7	16	1.4	1.2	66.7	53.3	0.0	13.3	20.0	6.7	
New Jersey	48,544	614.2	12,622	26.0	396	5.0	0.8	54.0	49.5	2.0	0.5	16.9	10.9	
New Mexico	14,708	889.2	4,418	30.0	177	10.7	1.2	61.7	45.8	5.6	9.3	15.9	6.5	
New York	175,433	965.6	45,215	25.8	2,016	11.1	1.1	68.1	61.3	1.9	1.4	14.6	6.0	
North Carolina	46,308	655.0	15,822	34.2	772	10.9	1.7	63.8	51.4	5.4	6.5	14.1	5.4	
North Dakota	522	81.8	40	7.7	1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Ohio	53,930	485.8	16,466	30.5	662	6.0	1.2	72.8	59.5	5.5	1.2	9.0	6.2	
Oklahoma	21,225	651.5	5,745	27.1	226	6.9	1.1	70.0	52.4	8.8	7.5	13.7	5.7	
Oregon	16,067	520.6	4,266	26.5	150	4.9	0.9	65.3	46.0	5.3	8.7	20.0	6.0	
Pennsylvania	51,425	426.7	16,003	31.1	712	5.9	1.4	66.5	59.7	3.1	2.0	14.0	8.2	
Rhode Island	3,744	375.5	618	16.5	41	4.1	1.1	51.2	41.5	4.9	4.9	19.5	4.9	
South Carolina	37,756	1,030.5	10,183	27.0	353	9.6	0.9	72.2	55.7	7.1	5.7	11.4	5.4	
South Dakota	1,641	227.6	291	17.7	10	1.4	0.6	44.4	33.3	0.0	11.1	11.1	22.2	
Tennessee	38,705	747.9	13,479	34.8	482	9.3	1.2	70.1	59.1	6.2	3.3	14.8	5.5	
Texas	129,838	706.5	43,319	33.4	2,022	11.0	1.6	73.3	54.2	5.9	4.0	13.3	4.8	
Utah	5,810	304.5	1,270	21.9	56	2.9	1.0	68.3	52.4	4.8	6.3	14.3	4.8	
Vermont	562	96.9	104	18.6	6	1.0	1.1	33.3	16.7	16.7	0.0	33.3	16.7	
Virginia	23,437	357.7	6,800	29.0	571	8.7	2.4	73.3	64.1	4.4	3.0	11.7	5.4	
Washington	27,317	511.3	7,271	26.6	294	5.5	1.1	62.8	50.2	1.4	7.8	14.7	6.8	
West Virginia	3,931	215.8	796	20.2	99	5.4	2.5	77.8	57.6	11.1	8.1	4.0	5.1	
Wisconsin	13,748	270.5	4,705	34.2	227	4.5	1.7	52.9	47.1	3.1	2.2	18.2	10.2	
Wyoming	1,297	272.5	209	16.1	16	3.4	1.2	62.5	37.5	6.3	18.8	12.5	18.8	

Note: See Note, table 3.113. Firearm-related figures are projections based on Uniform Crime Reports data showing incomplete reports from the States and the District of Columbia. Not all States report each year; therefore comparisons between years should not be undertaken, except for States that have reported consistently.

For detailed information on State and Federal restrictions on the purchase, carrying, and ownership of firearms, see table 1.110.

^aIncludes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, robbery, aggravated assault, and rape.

^bFirearm-related violent crime figures for "United States, total" are projections based on reports from 47 States and the District of Columbia.

^cData on weapons used were provided by the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia.

^dKansas, Kentucky, and Montana did not provide data on weapons used in violent crimes.

Source: Table provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by the National Rifle Association of America, Institute for Legislative Action; data were made available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Table 3.115

Number and rate (per 100,000 population) of robbery and aggravated assault, and percent of weapon-related robbery and aggravated assault

By State, 1994

State	Robbery							Aggravated assault				
	Number	Rate	Percent of all violent crimes	Percent of all robberies			Number	Rate	Percent of all violent crimes	Percent of all aggravated assaults		
				Firearm-related	Knife-related	Strongarm-related				Firearm-related	Knife-related	Personal weapons-related
United States, total ^a	618,817	237.7	33.2%	41.5%	9.5%	39.3%	1,119,950	430.2	60.1%	24.0%	17.8%	26.3%
Alabama	7,223	171.2	25.0	25.2	24.6	25.6	19,633	465.3	68.1	24.1	24.3	26.6
Alaska	886	146.2	19.1	40.0	12.9	38.8	3,302	544.9	71.1	25.5	20.7	29.9
Arizona	6,601	162.0	23.0	40.2	10.4	39.5	20,161	494.7	70.4	35.7	16.5	21.5
Arkansas	3,158	128.7	21.6	51.6	6.9	34.2	10,118	412.5	69.3	30.3	13.8	32.8
California	112,160	356.8	35.2	39.7	9.8	38.2	191,548	609.4	60.2	20.5	12.7	38.8
Colorado	3,910	106.9	21.0	35.3	9.2	42.7	12,944	354.0	69.5	24.9	16.5	21.9
Connecticut	6,150	187.8	41.2	38.4	10.0	42.2	7,745	236.5	51.9	13.5	15.8	35.7
Delaware	889	125.9	22.4	34.5	4.4	51.5	2,505	354.8	63.2	18.1	25.9	11.9
District of Columbia	6,311	1,107.2	41.6	42.7	7.8	30.4	8,218	1,441.8	54.1	23.7	24.1	13.1
Florida	45,871	328.8	28.7	41.0	6.6	44.6	105,679	757.4	66.0	23.9	18.7	15.3
Georgia	15,703	222.6	33.3	51.5	5.5	30.5	28,249	400.4	60.0	29.5	22.1	17.0
Hawaii	1,221	103.6	39.5	13.2	5.1	79.3	1,461	123.9	47.3	16.3	11.8	54.4
Idaho	209	18.4	6.5	30.0	17.4	38.2	2,673	235.9	82.6	29.5	24.6	14.8
Illinois	43,788	372.6	38.8	43.9	8.2	40.1	63,849	543.3	56.5	34.4	22.4	4.7
Indiana	7,490	130.2	24.8	46.6	7.9	37.7	20,216	351.5	66.9	16.1	10.2	50.5
Iowa	1,327	46.9	14.9	27.8	9.0	48.5	6,874	243.0	77.1	14.9	14.6	44.5
Kansas ^b	3,060	119.8	25.0	NA	NA	NA	8,070	316.0	66.0	NA	NA	NA
Kentucky	3,595	93.9	15.5	38.8	11.0	41.8	17,976	469.7	77.6	15.7	7.8	51.7
Louisiana	11,530	267.2	27.2	60.5	7.4	25.3	28,060	650.3	66.2	33.2	18.1	21.2
Maine	278	22.4	17.3	26.0	8.7	59.2	987	79.6	61.3	4.4	14.8	49.2
Maryland	20,147	402.5	42.5	53.9	7.4	31.9	24,696	493.3	52.0	22.8	21.4	15.6
Massachusetts	10,160	168.2	23.8	25.4	19.2	44.4	30,550	505.7	71.5	9.1	16.3	34.9
Michigan	21,733	228.9	29.9	51.4	6.1	26.8	43,371	456.7	59.6	29.1	17.8	11.2
Minnesota	5,370	117.6	32.7	23.0	7.4	60.5	8,155	178.6	49.7	25.0	26.7	19.4
Mississippi	4,336	162.5	32.9	52.4	12.0	28.0	7,220	270.5	54.8	44.2	19.5	19.2
Missouri	12,178	230.7	31.0	48.2	6.7	37.3	24,553	465.2	62.6	36.4	15.0	17.2
Montana ^b	280	32.7	18.5	NA	NA	NA	975	113.9	64.3	NA	NA	NA
Nebraska	1,223	75.4	19.3	35.9	10.8	46.3	4,548	280.2	71.9	23.7	15.0	29.3
Nevada	5,134	352.4	35.2	51.1	9.1	32.3	8,292	569.1	56.8	21.1	12.4	41.5
New Hampshire	308	27.1	23.2	24.1	9.6	59.0	597	52.5	45.0	9.5	17.3	50.5
New Jersey	22,762	288.0	46.9	33.7	9.5	49.5	23,414	296.2	48.2	19.4	21.2	29.0
New Mexico	2,329	140.8	15.8	35.9	10.5	46.4	11,336	685.4	77.1	29.9	20.9	24.6
New York	86,617	476.7	49.4	34.7	14.7	40.3	82,100	451.9	46.8	16.2	24.6	24.1
North Carolina	12,811	181.2	27.7	43.3	7.8	39.6	30,391	429.9	65.6	31.4	19.6	21.9
North Dakota	71	11.1	13.6	10.0	8.6	18.6	301	47.2	57.7	6.1	13.6	46.3
Ohio	20,821	187.5	38.6	41.5	5.8	43.4	27,216	245.1	50.5	25.0	16.8	27.7
Oklahoma	4,174	128.1	19.7	40.3	8.6	45.1	15,209	466.8	71.7	24.6	14.3	32.1
Oregon	4,264	138.2	26.5	35.6	10.5	45.0	10,320	334.4	64.2	24.4	16.9	25.6
Pennsylvania	22,497	186.7	43.7	44.0	7.0	44.2	25,071	208.0	48.8	21.2	15.0	40.7
Rhode Island	870	87.3	23.2	26.7	11.5	54.8	2,560	256.8	68.4	13.2	16.5	30.7
South Carolina	6,817	186.1	18.1	38.0	9.9	41.0	28,595	780.4	75.7	25.0	22.8	13.8
South Dakota	135	18.7	8.2	29.5	9.0	55.7	1,193	165.5	72.7	18.1	25.7	37.8
Tennessee	10,735	207.4	27.7	53.0	6.4	33.6	24,943	482.0	64.4	28.9	17.5	21.1
Texas	37,643	204.8	29.0	46.2	8.8	36.0	81,071	441.1	62.4	29.0	19.8	24.9
Utah	1,213	63.6	20.9	36.9	8.7	40.1	3,735	195.8	64.3	18.8	18.0	25.8
Vermont	71	12.2	12.6	28.6	19.0	28.6	325	56.0	57.8	20.3	21.1	13.5
Virginia	8,704	132.8	37.1	45.7	7.3	38.0	12,294	187.6	52.5	18.1	21.6	33.3
Washington	7,464	139.7	27.3	33.4	9.0	49.1	16,329	305.6	59.8	26.2	16.6	28.1
West Virginia	772	42.4	19.6	33.6	7.9	53.3	2,690	147.6	68.4	15.7	17.0	47.1
Wisconsin	5,739	112.9	41.7	54.5	7.7	32.2	6,590	129.7	47.9	20.3	16.0	43.1
Wyoming	79	16.6	6.1	17.7	10.1	59.5	1,042	218.9	80.3	16.2	18.1	39.0

Note: See Notes, tables 3.113 and 3.114.

Source: Table provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by the National Rifle Association of America, Institute for Legislative Action; data were made available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

^aFirearm-related violent crime figures for "United States, total" are projections based on reports from 48 States and the District of Columbia.

^bKansas and Montana did not provide data on weapons used in robberies and aggravated assaults.

Table 3.123

Offenses in Federal parks known to park rangers and park police

By offense, 1995

Offense	Total offenses	
	Park rangers	Park police
Total, all offenses	87,166	17,450
Part I offenses, total		
<u>Homicide</u>	4,717	1,292
Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	12	3
Manslaughter by negligence	1	0
<u>Forcible rape</u>		
Rape by force	21	8
Attempted forcible rape	13	8
<u>Robbery</u>		
Firearm	9	20
Knife or cutting instrument	7	19
Strong arm; hands, fist, feet, etc.	9	30
Other dangerous weapon	4	40
<u>Aggravated assault</u>		
Firearm	18	24
Knife or cutting instrument	8	26
Other dangerous weapon	34	69
Hands, fist, feet, etc.	104	35
<u>Burglary</u>		
Forcible entry	527	65
Unlawful entry ^a	150	11
Attempted forcible entry	73	4
<u>Larceny-theft^b</u>	3,454	855
<u>Motor vehicle theft</u>		
Automobiles	91	57
Trucks and buses	16	0
Other vehicles	29	5
<u>Arson</u>		
Structural	22	12
Mobile	10	0
Other	105	1
Part II offenses, total	82,449	16,158
Other assaults	235	175
Forgery and counterfeiting	19	4
Fraud	89	6
Embezzlement	14	1
Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing	318	493
Vandalism	3,511	777
Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.	1,763	573
Prostitution and commercialized vice	28	23
Sex offenses	378	276
Drug sale/manufacture	864	222
Drug possession	2,960	3,950
Offenses against family and children	160	10
Gambling	4	3
Driving while intoxicated	1,783	630
Liquor laws	5,551	1,222
Drunkenness	1,529	108
Disorderly conduct	2,799	848
Archaeological Resource Protection Act violations	301	4
All other offenses	58,456	5,256
Suspicion	703	1,545
Curfew and loitering	366	23
Runaways	72	9
Thefts	546	0

Note: See Note, table 3.122.

^aNo force used.^bExcludes motor vehicle theft.

Source: Table provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Table 3.124

Percent distribution of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters known to police

By type of weapon used, United States, 1964-94

	Total number of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters	Total ^a	Type of weapon used					Unknown or not stated
			Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Blunt object (club, hammer, fists, feet, etc.) ^b	Personal weapons (hands, etc.) ^b	Other ^c	
1964	7,990	100%	55%	24%	5%	10%	3%	2%
1965	8,773	100	57	23	6	10	3	1
1966	9,552	100	59	22	5	9	2	1
1967	11,114	100	63	20	5	9	2	1
1968	12,503	100	65	18	6	8	2	1
1969	13,575	100	65	19	4	8	3	1
1970	13,649	100	66	18	4	8	3	1
1971	16,183	100	66	19	4	8	2	1
1972	15,832	100	66	19	4	8	2	1
1973	17,123	100	66	17	5	8	2	2
1974	18,632	100	67	17	5	8	1	1
1975	18,642	100	65	17	5	9	2	2
1976	16,605	100	64	18	5	8	2	3
1977	18,033	100	62	19	5	8	2	3
1978	18,714	100	64	19	5	8	2	3
1979	20,591	100	63	19	5	8	2	3
1980	21,860	100	62	19	5	8	2	4
1981	20,053	100	62	19	5	7	2	3
1982	19,485	100	60	21	5	8	2	3
1983	18,673	100	58	22	6	9	2	3
1984	16,689	100	59	21	6	8	3	4
1985	17,545	100	59	21	6	8	3	4
1986	19,257	100	59	20	6	9	2	4
1987	17,859	100	59	20	6	8	2	4
1988	18,269	100	61	19	6	8	2	4
1989	18,954	100	62	18	6	7	2	4
1990	20,045	100	64	18	5	7	2	4
1991	21,505	100	66	16	5	7	2	4
1992	22,540	100	68	14	5	6	2	5
1993	23,271	100	70	13	4	6	2	5
1994	22,076	100	70	13	4	7	2	5

Note: See Note, table 3.109. In trend tables "constructed" or "adapted" by SOURCEBOOK staff from *Crime in the United States*, the data were taken from the first year in which the data were reported. It should be noted that the number of agencies reporting and the populations represented vary from year to year.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program requests that additional information be transmitted to the FBI when a murder has been committed. The actual number of offenses presented in the tables displaying characteristics of murders known to the police may differ from figures in other tables that reflect data from only the initial report on the offense.

^aBecause of rounding, percents may not add to total.^bThis category includes beatings and strangulations. "Pushed" also is included in personal weapons.^cThis category includes fire, poison, explosives, narcotics, asphyxiation, etc.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 1964, p. 104, Table 16; 1965, p. 108, Table 16; 1966, p. 107, Table 20; 1967, p. 112, Table 20; 1968, p. 108, Table 20; 1969, p. 106, Table 21; 1970, p. 188, Table 21; 1971, p. 114, Table 21; 1972, p. 188, Table 24; 1973, p. 8; 1974, p. 18; 1975, p. 18; 1976, p. 10; 1977, p. 11; 1978, p. 12; 1979, p. 11; 1980, p. 12; 1981, p. 11; 1982, p. 11; 1983, p. 10; 1984, p. 10; 1985, p. 10; 1986, p. 10; 1987, p. 10; 1988, p. 12; 1989, p. 11; 1990, p. 12; 1991, p. 18; 1992, p. 18, Table 2.10; 1993, p. 18, Table 2.11; 1994, p. 18, Table 2.11 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 3.125

Percent distribution of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters known to police

By type of weapon used and region, 1994

Region	Total ^a	Type of weapon used			
		Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Unknown or other dangerous weapon	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ^b
Total	100.0%	70.0%	12.7%	12.0%	5.0%
Northeast	100.0	65.9	14.9	12.2	6.9
Midwest	100.0	68.5	12.4	13.7	5.4
South	100.0	70.9	12.2	12.2	4.7
West	100.0	72.4	12.3	10.2	5.1

Note: See Notes, tables 3.109 and 3.124. In this table, strangulations are classified in the "unknown or other dangerous weapon" category rather than in the category "personal weapons," as was done in table 3.124. For a list of States in regions, see Appendix 3.

^aBecause of rounding, percents may not add to total.

^b"Pushed" is included in personal weapons.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1994* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1995), p. 18, Table 2.9.

Table 3.126

Murders and nonnegligent manslaughters known to police

By type of weapon used and age of victim, United States, 1994

Age of victim	Total	Type of weapon used										
		Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Blunt object (club, hammer, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ^a	Poison	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other weapon or weapon not stated ^b
Total	22,076	15,456	2,801	912	1,165	10	10	196	22	287	113	1,104
Infant (under 1)	257	10	6	10	132	3	1	4	0	4	25	62
1 to 4	470	51	16	24	251	1	2	37	1	9	16	62
5 to 8	103	36	14	6	19	1	0	11	0	3	2	11
9 to 12	120	70	16	4	10	1	0	7	0	3	0	9
13 to 16	944	795	85	15	10	0	0	4	0	5	3	27
17 to 19	2,308	2,013	157	27	26	0	0	5	0	16	1	63
20 to 24	4,088	3,399	363	73	71	0	1	11	4	25	9	132
25 to 29	3,233	2,479	389	89	81	1	0	15	3	34	9	133
30 to 34	2,917	2,071	415	116	118	0	1	18	1	43	6	128
35 to 39	2,249	1,468	372	136	103	0	2	9	2	37	7	113
40 to 44	1,565	1,005	237	90	91	2	0	18	3	22	9	88
45 to 49	1,007	640	156	71	61	0	1	8	2	16	4	48
50 to 54	681	412	139	41	21	1	2	11	0	9	4	41
55 to 59	444	265	87	32	24	0	0	2	1	8	4	21
60 to 64	342	185	75	34	15	0	0	2	0	7	3	21
65 to 69	284	127	69	33	18	0	0	6	2	9	4	16
70 to 74	244	106	58	22	18	0	0	5	1	10	2	22
75 and older	434	114	102	65	71	0	0	17	1	14	4	46
Unknown	386	210	45	24	25	0	0	6	1	13	1	61

Note: See Notes, tables 3.109 and 3.124.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1994* (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1995), p. 18, Table 2.11.

^a"Pushed" is included in personal weapons.

^bIncludes drownings.

Table 3.148

Percent distribution of aggravated assaults known to police

By type of weapon used, United States, 1964-94

	Total number of aggravated assaults	Total ^a	Type of weapon used			
			Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Other weapons (clubs, blunt objects, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)
1964	159,524	100%	15%	40%	23%	22%
1965	185,115	100	17	36	22	25
1966	208,043	100	19	34	22	25
1967	229,470	100	21	33	22	24
1968	255,906	100	23	31	24	22
1969	280,902	100	24	30	25	22
1970	300,263	100	24	28	24	23
1971	333,084	100	25	27	24	24
1972	349,245	100	25	26	23	25
1973	382,586	100	26	25	23	27
1974	409,886	100	25	24	23	27
1975	436,172	100	25	24	25	27
1976	459,761	100	24	24	26	27
1977	485,078	100	23	23	27	26
1978	531,006	100	22	23	28	27
1979	586,914	100	23	22	28	27
1980	622,879	100	24	22	28	27
1981	603,161	100	24	22	28	26
1982	611,134	100	22	23	28	26
1983	604,406	100	21	24	29	26
1984	594,440	100	21	23	31	25
1985	663,891	100	21	23	31	25
1986	794,573	100	21	22	32	25
1987	792,987	100	21	21	32	25
1988	784,053	100	21	20	31	27
1989	894,776	100	22	20	32	27
1990	967,050	100	23	20	32	26
1991	988,353	100	24	18	31	27
1992	1,056,570	100	25	18	31	26
1993	994,439	100	25	18	31	26
1994	1,036,553	100	24	18	32	26

Note: See Notes, tables 3.109 and 3.124.

^aBecause of rounding, percents may not add to total.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 1964, pp. 9, 92; 1965, pp. 8, 94; 1966, pp. 9, 96; 1967, pp. 11, 100; 1968, pp. 10, 96; 1969, pp. 10, 94; 1970, pp. 12, 104; 1971, pp. 12, 100; 1972, pp. 10, 102; 1973, pp. 11, 104; 1974, pp. 20, 160; 1975, pp. 20, 160; 1976, pp. 13, 153; 1977, pp. 21, 153; 1978, pp. 21, 188; 1979, pp. 20, 170; 1980, pp. 21, 73; 1981, pp. 20, 144; 1982, pp. 22, 149; 1983, pp. 23, 152; 1984, pp. 23, 145; 1985, pp. 23, 147; 1986, pp. 22, 147; 1987, pp. 23, 146; 1988, pp. 24, 150; 1989, pp. 23, 154; 1990, pp. 24, 156; 1991, p. 32, Table 2.23 and p. 192; 1992, p. 32, Table 2.23 and p. 196; 1993, p. 32, Table 2.24 and p. 196; 1994, p. 32, Table 2.24 and p. 196 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 3.149

Percent distribution of aggravated assaults known to police

By type of weapon used and region, 1994

Region	Total ^a	Type of weapon used			
		Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Other weapons (clubs, blunt objects, etc.)	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)
Total	100.0%	24.0%	17.8%	32.0%	26.2%
Northeast	100.0	15.9	20.9	33.7	29.5
Midwest	100.0	28.5	18.0	34.2	19.2
South	100.0	26.4	19.1	32.8	21.8
West	100.0	22.4	13.8	28.3	35.4

Note: See Note, table 3.109. For a list of States in regions, see Appendix 3.

^aBecause of rounding, percents may not add to total.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States*, 1994 (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1995), p. 32, Table 2.24.

Table 3.167

Law enforcement officers assaulted

By circumstances at scene of incident and type of weapon, United States, 1994^a

Circumstances at scene of incident	Type of weapon				
	Total	Firearm	Knife or cutting instrument	Other dangerous weapon	Personal weapon
Total	64,912	3,168	1,513	7,210	53,021
Percent of total	100%	4.9	2.3	11.1	81.7
Disturbance calls (family quarrels, man with gun, etc.)	20,508	941	708	1,648	17,211
Percent	100%	4.6	3.5	8.0	83.9
Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects	897	68	36	161	632
Percent	100%	7.6	4.0	17.9	70.5
Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects	978	253	34	137	554
Percent	100%	25.9	3.5	14.0	56.6
Attempting other arrests	13,211	391	209	1,223	11,388
Percent	100%	3.0	1.6	9.3	86.2
Civil disorders (mass disobedience, riot, etc.)	743	11	13	122	597
Percent	100%	1.5	1.7	16.4	80.3
Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners	7,456	46	69	405	6,936
Percent	100%	0.6	0.9	5.4	93.0
Investigating suspicious persons and circumstances	6,415	455	148	763	5,049
Percent	100%	7.1	2.3	11.9	78.7
Ambush (no warning)	383	181	8	77	117
Percent	100%	47.3	2.1	20.1	30.5
Mentally deranged	1,071	68	98	116	789
Percent	100%	6.3	9.2	10.8	73.7
Traffic pursuits and stops	5,762	278	52	1,499	3,933
Percent	100%	4.8	0.9	26.0	68.3
All other	7,488	476	138	1,059	5,815
Percent	100%	6.4	1.8	14.1	77.7

Note: These data are based on 10,626 agencies reporting assaults to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program for all 12 months of 1994. These agencies cover approximately 85 percent of the total population.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 1994*, FBI Uniform Crime Reports (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1996), p. 71.

^aPercents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 3.183

Results of airline passenger screening

United States, 1977-95

	Persons screened (in millions)	Weapons detected						Persons arrested	
		Firearms	Handguns	Long guns	Other	Explosive/ incendiary devices	Other dangerous articles	For carrying firearms/ explosives	For giving false information
1977	508.8	2,034	1,730	64	240	5	NA	810	44
1978	579.7	2,058	1,827	67	164	3	NA	896	64
1979	592.5	2,161	1,962	55	144	3	NA	1,060	47
1980	585.0	2,022	1,878	36	108	8	NA	1,031	32
1981	598.5	2,255	2,124	44	87	11	NA	1,187	49
1982	630.2	2,676	2,559	57	60	1	NA	1,314	27
1983	709.1	2,784	2,634	67	83	4	NA	1,282	34
1984	775.6	2,957	2,766	100	91	6	NA	1,285	27
1985	992.9	2,987	2,823	90	74	12	NA	1,310	42
1986	1,055.3	3,241	2,981	146	114	11	NA	1,415	89
1987	1,095.6	3,252	3,012	99	141	14	NA	1,581	81
1988	1,054.9	2,773	2,591	74	108	11	NA	1,493	222
1989	1,113.3	2,879	2,397	92	390	26	NA	1,436	83
1990	1,145.1	2,853	2,490	59	304	15	NA	1,337	18
1991	1,015.1	1,919	1,597	47	275	94	NA	893	28
1992	1,110.8	2,608	2,503	105	NA	167	2,341	1,282	13
1993	1,150.0	2,798	2,707	91	NA	251	3,867	1,354	31
1994	1,261.3	2,994	2,860	134	NA	505	6,051	1,433	35
1995	1,263.0	2,390	2,230	160	NA	631	4,414	1,194	68

Note: Screening consists of "the systematic examination of persons and property using weapons-detecting procedures or facilities (electronic or physical search) for the purpose of detecting weapons and dangerous articles and to prevent their unauthorized introduction into sterile areas or aboard aircraft." (Source, 1993, p. 42.) Prior to 1992, the firearm category of "other" included items such as starter pistols, flare pistols, and BB guns. Beginning in 1992, this category was expanded and now also includes stunning devices, chemical agents, martial arts equipment, knives, bludgeons, and certain other designated items. From 1992 to 1994, the method of counting "explosive/incendiary devices" was revised. Individual items were counted rather than packages (i.e., one box of firecrackers counted as 20 firecrackers; one box of ammunition counted as 50 cartridges).

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Semiannual Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of the Civil Aviation Security Program, July 1 to December 31, 1978*, Exhibit 10; *July 1 to December 31, 1982*, Exhibit 10; *July 1 to December 31, 1984*, Exhibit 7; *July 1 to December 31, 1989*, p. 11 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation); and U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, *Annual Report to Congress on Civil Aviation Security, January 1, 1993-December 31, 1993*, p. 9; *January 1, 1995-December 31, 1995*, p. 11 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 3.184

Crime insurance policies in effect on Dec. 31, 1995 and insurance claims paid by the Federal Crime Insurance Program in the 12 months prior to Dec. 31, 1995

By type of policy and coverage, United States

Type of policy and coverage	Policies in effect on Dec. 31, 1995			Claims paid in 12 months prior to Dec. 31, 1995	
	Number	Amount of insurance (in thousands)	Annual written premiums	Number	Amount
Total	15,188	\$138,341	\$3,337,015	456	\$1,413,147
Residential policies	13,600	117,215	1,499,705	283	571,259
Commercial policies	1,588	21,126	1,837,310	173	841,888
Robbery	193	1,435	267,118	29	115,884
Burglary	828	9,619	704,257	76	451,197
Combination	567	X	865,935	X	X
Robbery	X	3,542	X	30	117,611
Burglary	X	6,530	X	38	157,197

Note: The Federal Crime Insurance Program was established by Congress in 1970. It is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through its Federal Insurance Administration, which is authorized to offer Federal Crime Insurance policies in States in which it is concluded that there exists a critical problem in the availability of crime insurance. Policies, offered both to individuals and businesses, cover losses due to robbery and burglary. Program authorization ended Sept. 30, 1995. No new policies of insurance and no renewals have been issued subsequent to that date. Existing policies are serviced until they expire, through Sept. 30, 1996.

"Annual written premiums" are the payments that would be received if all policies were in effect for the entire year. A "combination" policy provides separate coverage limits for robbery and burglary.

Source: Table provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Insurance Administration.



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Survey of Criminal History Information Systems, 1993

with Supplementary Information on Presale Firearm Checks, 1994

Criminal Justice Information Policy

Data quality audits of State criminal history repository, 1993 (Table 20):

- During the past five years, an audit of the State criminal history repository's database (other than ongoing systematic sampling) has been conducted in 33 States and two territories to determine the level of accuracy and completeness of the criminal history file.

- Of the jurisdictions where audits have been performed, in 27 States and the District of Columbia, another agency conducted the audit; in five States and Puerto Rico the repository conducted its own audit; and in one jurisdiction the audit was conducted with a combination of an outside agency and the repository.

- In 30 of the jurisdictions (29 States and the District of Columbia) where audits were conducted, changes were made as a result of the audit to improve data quality of the records. In three jurisdictions, changes were underway prior to the audit or are currently in the planning stage.

- Twenty-seven States and three territories have data quality audits planned or scheduled for the next three years.

- Forty-five States and five territories have initiatives underway at the repository or contributing agencies to improve data quality. Initiatives include audit activities (28); automation changes (38); disposition or arrest reporting enhancements (37); felony flagging (23); fingerprint enhancements (32); agency interfaces (34); legislation (19); plan development (27); establishment of task forces/advisory groups (24); implementation or improvement of tracking numbers (23); and training (38).

Presale criminal history record checks on potential firearms purchasers

Purchasers determined to be ineligible to purchase firearms in alternative States, 1993 (Table 22):

- Of the jurisdictions reporting the total number of purchasers determined to be ineligible, the denials ranged from 7,540 in Florida to 11 in the Virgin Islands.

- The factor resulting in denial most frequently was a disqualifying conviction. This accounted for 7,200 of the denials in Florida. Other reasons for denials were: under indictment for a disqualifying crime; fugitive from justice; unlawful user of or addicted to controlled substances; adjudicated mental defective or committed to a mental institution; illegal alien; under age; invalid permit; non-resident; firearms that were being purchased were stolen; dishonorable discharge from the armed services; and exceeded the lawful handgun limits.

- About one-third of the jurisdictions took some form of action against the individual at the State level. Other jurisdictions may have taken action at the local level. Types of action included seeking issuance of a warrant; providing information to State or local prosecutors or law enforcement authorities; providing information to Federal prosecutors or law enforcement authorities; and providing the information to other requesting criminal justice agencies.

Costs of implementing and operating programs for presale criminal history record checks on potential firearm purchasers, 1993 (Table 24):

- Of the jurisdictions conducting presale records checks in 1993 that were able to specifically quantify start-up costs of their programs, the costs ranged from \$200 expended in South Dakota for training to \$7,500,000 in California.

- Programs that are not fee-supported or that the fees do not totally support the program are generally supplemented by the operating budgets or general funds of the jurisdiction.

Search methods used in conducting criminal history checks on potential firearm purchasers, 1993 (Table 25):

- Almost all jurisdictions have minimum data elements which must be submitted to conduct the records search. Nineteen States and Guam conduct records checks on firearms purchasers based on name and date of birth or name only. Eight States conduct searches based on name, sex and date of birth. Eleven jurisdictions augment name, sex and date of birth information with race. Eight additional jurisdictions (seven States and the District of Columbia) require some combination of name and date of birth with race, sex, Social Security Number, driver's license number, originating agency number, or password. Two jurisdictions, New York and Puerto Rico also require fingerprints.

- All but five of the jurisdictions (two States and three territories) use a computer-based soundex searching capability. This enables the computer to identify likely candidates based on the phonetic sound of the name, rather than only the spelling.

- The statutes in 13 States and two territories authorized the release of information to individual firearms dealers, although in three jurisdictions, the information was released to in-state firearms dealers only.

- The statutes in 28 States permitted giving "sale approval" or "no sale" information directly to firearms dealers; although nine States restricted this information to in-state firearms dealers only, while one State authorized the release only to out-of-state firearms dealers.

U.S. Attorney General's estimated goals/timetables for criminal history record sharing in a national instant background check system, 1994 (Table 26):

- Up to 25% of all current and shareable records (records available through the Interstate Identification Index(III)) will be available in 51 jurisdictions (47 States and four territories) no later than December 1998; the records in the remaining five jurisdictions will be available no later than December 2000. A total of 25 States currently share at least 25% of their records through III.

- Up to 50% of all current and shareable records will be available in 45 States and four territories no later than December 1998; the records in the remaining seven jurisdictions will be available no later than December 2000. A total of 17 States currently share at least 50% of their records through III.

- Up to 75% of all current and shareable records will be available in 35 States and four territories no later than December 1998; the records in the remaining 17 jurisdictions will be available no later than December 2000. A total of nine States currently share at least 75% of their records through III.

- Up to 80% of all current and shareable records will be available in 31 States and three territories no later than December 1998; the records in the remaining 22 jurisdictions will be available no later than December 2000. A total of seven States currently share at least 80% of their records through III.

- One hundred percent of all current and shareable records will be available in nine States no later than December 1998; 100% of the records in the remaining 47 jurisdictions will be available no later than December 2000. One State (Virginia) currently shares 100% of its records through III.

Fingerprint cards and dispositions received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1993 (Table 27):

- Over 4.6 million fingerprints were received by the FBI in 1993. Of that number, almost 4.2 million were for criminal justice purposes, and approximately 414,000 were for noncriminal justice purposes. New York submitted the highest number of both criminal justice (503,500) and noncriminal justice (54,200) fingerprints. Florida was a participant in the National Fingerprint File in 1993, and therefore submitted only the first fingerprint card of an individual to the FBI.

- Almost 2.7 million final dispositions were received by the FBI in 1993, with Georgia submitting the highest number (825,000). Twelve States (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Missouri, Montana, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia and Wyoming) submit most dispositions by tape with Nebraska also scheduled to begin tape submissions in 1994.

Criminal history records of Interstate Identification Index (III) participants maintained by the State criminal history repository and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1993 (Table 28):

- Approximately 12.4 million III records are indexed with the State's identification (SID) pointers. Over 3.8 million records are maintained by the FBI for the States. Only 18% of the total records available through III in 1993 were maintained by the States.

Explanatory Notes for Table 21A

The notes below expand on the data in Table 21A. The explanatory information was provided by the respondent.

* Note: States appearing in this table have been designated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Treasury Department, as States that currently have laws that qualify as alternatives to the five-day waiting period requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103-159, November 30, 1993). 59 *Federal Register* 140, p. 37534 (July 22, 1994). Numbers for firearms checks have been rounded to the nearest 10.

- ** 1 Prior to the sale of the handgun, a criminal records check of the potential purchaser is conducted using an *instant name check* system.
- 2 Prior to the sale of the handgun, a name check of the potential purchaser is conducted that is *not* an instant name check.
- 3 Prior to the sale of the handgun, the potential purchaser must submit an application and fingerprints to the appropriate authority.
- 4 Prior to the sale of the handgun, the potential purchaser must obtain a permit (Firearm Owners Identification Card) that is fingerprint verified.
- 5 Prior to the sale of the handgun, the potential purchaser must obtain a permit that is based upon a name search only.

- † A All firearms
- H Handguns only
- O Other firearms

^a Up to 24 hours is permitted if the instant check does not respond.

^b Instant check system did not begin until 1994.

^c Except shotguns and antiques.

^d The waiting period applies to handguns only.

^e At least 30 days are required, but not more than 60 days.

^f The Honolulu Police Department does not utilize information derived from an FBI fingerprint check to deny a permit. This is due in part to the length of time to process the fingerprints. The check, however, is utilized as a basis for retrieval of firearms from those individuals prohibited from ownership.

^g The purchaser is required to wait three days when purchasing a handgun and one day when purchasing a long gun.

^h All checks are conducted through the county sheriffs' offices, so totals are not available at the State repository level. The State repository can determine the number of times that purpose code "F" (for firearms checks) was used. For 1993, the total was 9,579; however, a number of factors could skew the number, including the use of another purpose code for a firearms check, duplicate inquiries on the same person, and inability of the system to distinguish inquiries for "permits to carry" from inquiries for "permits to purchase".

ⁱ Checks are conducted for assault weapons and for some handguns approved by the Handgun Review Board.

^j Prior to issuing a license to purchase a handgun, a criminal history record check is conducted by the local police or sheriff's department, depending upon the purchaser's residency. The purchaser is then required to return to the local agency and have the handgun "inspected"/registered. All data on the sale and registration is forwarded to and indexed in the State criminal records repository.

^k Guns 30 inches or less in length are considered handguns in Michigan.

^l Figures represent the actual purchases made or attempted to be made; more may have been approved but never purchased.

^m Checks are made by the local sheriffs' departments, and the outcome of the checks is not reported to the State repository.

ⁿ Figures represent the checks conducted by the State repository; since the handgun permit checks are performed by local law enforcement, there is no way to measure all of the criminal history checks conducted for purchase of handguns.

^o Potential purchasers are required to wait until both a State and a Federal fingerprint check can be completed.

^p Figure represents name checks conducted for the purpose renewals only.

^q Up to six months are permitted for the initial permit investigation.

^r Criminal history record checks are also conducted for the purchase of long guns in New York City.

^s The figure represents the total number of fingerprint checks conducted for the purchase of firearms; breakdowns for approvals and denials are not available.

^t At least two days are required, but not more than five days.

Table 21A: Procedures for presale criminal history record checks on potential firearm purchasers by States with "alternative" systems, 1993

State	Eligibility practices**	Waiting period	Types of firearms regulated†	Number of firearm checks, 1993			
				Fingerprint checks		Name checks	
				Approved	Denied	Approved	Denied
California	2-Non-instant name check	15	A			635,690	6,509 ^b
Colorado	1-Instant name check	^a	H				
Connecticut	2-Non-instant name check	14	A			44,770	297
Delaware	1-Instant name check	0	A ^c			14,170	500
Florida	1-Instant name check	3 ^d	A			311,380	7,538/ 180 pending
Guam	3-Fingerprint check	30-60 ^e	A	3,650	40		
Hawaii	4-Permit	14	A	5,000	0 ^f	7,730	197
Idaho	1-Instant name check						
Illinois	1-Instant name check and 5-Permit (name-based)	1-3 ^g	A			202,780	1,160
Indiana	2-Non-instant name check	7	H			123,150	45
Iowa	1-Instant name check and 5-Permit (name-based)	3	H				^h
Maryland	2-Non-instant name check	7	O ^j			35,000	377
Massachusetts	5-Permit (name-based)		A				
Michigan	5-Permit (name-based)		H ^k			108,020	3,200 ^l
Missouri	2-Non-instant name check ^m						
Nebraska	5-Permit (name-based)		H			3,090	185/ 510 pending ⁿ
New Jersey	3-Fingerprint check and 5-Permit (name-based)	indefinite ^o	A	24,730	900	28,120 ^p	49
New York	4-Permit	180 ^q	H,O ^r		29,670 ^s		
Oregon	3-Fingerprint check	15	H	50,850	264		
Tennessee	5-Permit (name-based)	15	A				
Utah	1-Instant name check	0	H				
Virgin Islands	2 and 3 - Other approvals and 4-Permit		A			150	11
Virginia	1-Instant check		A			211,140	1,739
Wisconsin	1-Instant name check	2-5 ^t	H			41,150	308

Explanatory Notes for Table 21B

The notes below expand on the data in Table 21B. The explanatory information was provided by the respondent.

* Note: States appearing in this table have been designated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Treasury Department, as States that currently have laws that qualify as alternatives to the five-day waiting period requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103-159, November 30, 1993). 59 *Federal Register* 140, p. 37534 (July 22, 1994). Numbers for firearms checks have been rounded to the nearest 10.

** N = Name check
F = Fingerprint check

^aProcedures require that private commitments, as well as commitments to State mental facilities, be included in the check.

^bSpecified juvenile offenses are also included in the check.

^cProcedures also require a determination that the potential purchaser is not a "clear and present danger" to himself or others and that the potential purchaser is not "wanted" in the State of Illinois.

^dCourts are also checked for disposition information.

^eThe statewide warrant database is also checked.

Table 21B: Data elements and databases used for presale record checks on potential firearm purchasers by States with "alternative" systems, 1993

State	Data elements used in search of criminal history database	DATABASES CHECKED							
		State repository records	National Crime Information Center	Interstate Identification Index	FBI-CJIS files	State mental health records	Civil restraining order files	INS	Probation/parole/pretrial release status
California	Name, DOB	N	N	N		N ^a	N		N
Colorado		N	N	N			N		N
Connecticut	Name, DOB	N		N					
Delaware	Name, DOB, SSN, Dr. Lic.	N	N	N					
Florida	Name, DOB, race, sex, SSN	N	N	N			N		
Guam	Name, fingerprints				F, N				
Hawaii	Fingerprints if no name identification	F, N	N		F	N			
Idaho	Name, DOB	N	N	N			N		
Illinois	Name, DOB	N	N	N		N ^a			N ^c
Indiana	Name, DOB	N							
Iowa	Name, DOB	N	N	N					
Maryland	Name, DOB, SSN, Dr. Lic.	N	N	N	N			N	N ^d
Massachusetts	Name, DOB	N	N	N			N		N
Michigan	Name, DOB	N	N	N					N
Missouri									
Nebraska	Name, DOB	N	N	N					
New Jersey	Name, DOB, fingerprints	F, N	N	N	F				F
New York	Fingerprints	F			F	N			F
Oregon	Fingerprints if no name identification	F	N	N		N ^a	N		N
Tennessee	Name, DOB			N					
Utah	Name, DOB	N	N	N					N ^e
Virgin Islands	Name, DOB	N	N						
Virginia	Name, DOB	N	N	N		N	N		
Wisconsin	Name, DOB	N		N					N

Explanatory Notes for Table 22

The notes below expand on the data in Table 22. The explanatory information was provided by the respondent.

- * Note: States appearing in this table have been designated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Treasury Department, as States that currently have laws that qualify as alternatives to the five-day waiting period requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103-159, November 30, 1993). 59 *Federal Register* 140, p. 37534 (July 22, 1994).
- ** Information was received from State-level repository. Additional information available from local "Chief Law Enforcement Officers" (CLEO's) may not be included on this table.
- ... Not available.
- † F = Federal
S = State/Local
- ^a Figure represents potential purchasers who were ineligible because they were under age.
- ^b Colorado's alternative system was not implemented until 1994. Under both the pre-Brady system and the alternative system, sale approvals have been granted in 92% of the cases and denials have occurred in 8% of the cases.
- ^c Upon request, list of "nonapprovals" is provided to other criminal justice agencies.
- ^d The alternative system was approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in July 1994.
- ^e Information is provided only if there is an outstanding warrant.
- ^f Figure represents potential purchasers who were ineligible because their permits were invalid—e.g., expired, revoked, etc., including revocations due to felony convictions.
- ^g Figure includes potential purchasers who were ineligible because they were non-residents (3), under 21 (3), or because the firearms were stolen (144).
- ^h The alternative system was not implemented until 1994.
- ⁱ Figure includes potential purchasers who were ineligible because they were dishonorably discharged from the armed services (1), or because they attempted to exceed the lawful handgun limits (264).

Table 22: Purchasers determined to be ineligible to purchase firearms in "alternative" States, 1993

State	Potential purchasers determined to be ineligible							Action taken by State repository regarding purchasers determined to be ineligible**		
	Total	Disqualifying convictions/ indictment	Fugitives	Unlawful users or addicted to controlled substances	Adjudicated mental defective or committed to mental institution	Illegal aliens	Other	Sought issuance of a warrant	Provided information to Federal/ State/local prosecution or law enforcement authorities†	No action taken by State repository
California	6,509	5,861			429		219 ^a		S, F	
Colorado ^b										
Connecticut	297									X
Delaware	468		32						S	
Florida	7,538	7,200	321		17					X ^c
Guam	40	39			1					X
Hawaii	197									X
Idaho ^d	...								S ^e	
Illinois	1,160	63					1,097 ^f			
Indiana	45	45								
Iowa	...									
Maryland	377									
Massachusetts	...									
Michigan	3,200									
Missouri	...									
Nebraska	185	185							S, F	
New Jersey	949	949						X		
New York	...									
Oregon	264	104/5	5				150 ^g			
Tennessee ^h	...									X
Utah ^h	...									X
Virgin Islands	11	6		4	1					X
Virginia	1,739	1,148/270	47		5	4	265 ⁱ			
Wisconsin	308	308								X

Explanatory Notes for Table 23

The notes below expand on the data in Table 23. The explanatory information was provided by the respondent.

* Note: States appearing in this table have been designated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Treasury Department, as States that are subject to the Federal five-day waiting period requirements of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Public Law 103-159, November 30, 1993). 59 *Federal Register* 140, pp. 37533-34 (July 22, 1994).

** Information was received from State-level repository. Additional information available from local "Chief Law Enforcement Officers" (CLEO's) may not be included on this table.

† F = Federal
S = State/Local

... Not available.

* Local law enforcement agencies conduct the checks; therefore, the information is not available at the State repository level.

^a "Brady checks" are processed by individual county and local law enforcement agencies. Legislation was passed that transferred the responsibility to a Handgun Clearance Center to be established within the Arizona Department of Public Safety; implementation details were not available at the time the survey response was completed.

^b Additional potential purchasers may have been found ineligible as a result of checking databases other than the State repository database.

^c Although Rhode Island does operate in compliance with the Brady Act, the State has for some time applied a mandatory seven-day waiting period on the purchase of all firearms. During that time, local law enforcement conducts checks of criminal history records. During 1993, a total of 10,325 checks were conducted of which 201 potential purchases were denied.

^d Local authorities also are notified if the potential purchaser has a State or National Crime Information Center (NCIC) warrant outstanding.

^e Background checks are not done currently.

Table 23: Presale criminal history record checks by States subject to the Federal waiting period*, February 28 - March 18, 1994

State	Number of criminal record background checks conducted for purchase of handguns	Number of criminal record background checks resulting in denials to purchase handguns	Number of criminal record background checks resulting in approvals to proceed with purchase of handguns	Number of applications pending processing	Action taken by State repository regarding purchasers determined to be ineligible**	
					Provided information to Federal/State/local prosecution or law enforcement authorities†	No action taken by State repository
Alabama*						X*
Alaska	1,448	51	1,394	3		X*
American Samoa	0	0	0	0		X
Arizona* ^a						X*
Arkansas	950	9	631	310		X
District of Columbia	30	...	...	...		X
Georgia	9,213	...	...	...		X
Kansas	1,628	71	1,557	0	S, F	
Kentucky	3,823	138	3,685	0	S, F	
Louisiana*						X*
Maine	1,554	10 ^b	0	0		X
Minnesota*						X*
Mississippi	...					X
Montana*						X*
Nevada	2,416	29	2,387	0	S, F	
New Hampshire	...					X
New Mexico	1,272	26	1,246	0	S	
North Carolina	12,000	...	...	...		X*
North Dakota	428	13	413	2	F	
Ohio	3,604	38	3,566	0	S	
Oklahoma*	...					X
Pennsylvania	...					X
Puerto Rico	...				F	
Rhode Island	...					
South Carolina	4,305	190	4,102	13	S ^d	
South Dakota*						X*
Texas	53,395	...	...	...		X*
Trust Territory of the Pacific ^c						
Vermont	600	...	...	...	F	
Washington*						X*
West Virginia	...	16			S	
Wyoming	1,050	33	1,013	4		X*



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991

- Inmate characteristics
- Family characteristics
- Recidivism
- Drug/alcohol use
- Gang membership
- HIV/AIDS
- Sentence /time served
- Gun possession and use
- Victims of violent inmates
- Prison programs

46% of violent inmates carried or used a weapon when they committed the offense

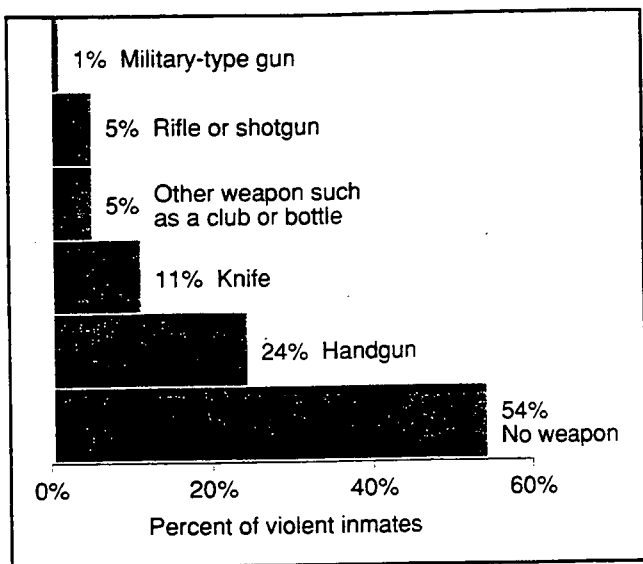


Fig. 36

An estimated 2,100 inmates, representing fewer than 1% of all violent inmates, were armed with a military-type weapon, such as an Uzi, AK-47, AR-15, or M-16.

Weapon use was strongly related to the inmate's age when the offense occurred. Weapons were carried or used by —

- 52% of inmates age 24 or younger
- 44% of those age 25 to 34
- 39%, age 35 to 44
- 33%, age 45 or older.

Weapon use did not vary significantly between the sexes or among racial and ethnic groups. Among violent inmates, the same percentage (46%) of men and women carried a weapon. White inmates (43%) were about as likely as black inmates (47%) and Hispanic inmates (48%) to have been armed.

About two-thirds of all armed violent inmates carried guns. Of these, 56% actually fired their gun when they committed the offense.

More than half of the inmates who committed murder, robbery, or assault carried a weapon

Current offense	Percent of violent inmates			
	Any weapon	Gun	Knife	Other weapon
Murder	64%	45%	14%	5%
Negligent manslaughter	47	32	12	3
Rape	17	5	10	2
Other sexual assault	6	2	3	1
Robbery	51	36	10	5
Assault	57	33	16	8

Fig. 37

Inmates armed with a gun differed little from those with a knife in how they used their weapon

How weapon was used	Percent of violent armed inmates		
	Gun	Knife	Other weapon
To kill the victim	14%	15%	11%
To injure the victim	11	18	23
To scare the victim	54	51	43
For protection	30	29	27
To get away	12	14	15
Other reasons	6	5	6
Not used	8	9	11

Fig. 38

Most inmates who carried a weapon while committing the crime used it

- More than 90% of the violent inmates who carried a weapon actually used it to commit the offense.
- Among inmates who had a weapon at the time of the offense —

52% used it to scare the victim
14%, to injure the victim
14%, to kill the victim.

- 29% of the violent inmates who carried a weapon used it for self-protection; 13% used it to get away after committing the crime.

61% of violent inmates said that they or their victims were drinking or using drugs at the time of the crime

Percent of inmates reporting that they or their victims were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at time of the offense

Violent offense	Percent of inmates reporting that they or their victims were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at time of the offense		
	Inmate	Victim	Inmate or victim
All	50%	30%	61%
Homicide	52	46	70
Sexual assault	42	19	47
Robbery	52	19	61
Assault	50	42	68

Fig. 39

- 30% of the violent inmates said their victims were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Homicide and assault were the crimes for which the largest percentage of inmates reported drug or alcohol use by the victim or themselves at the time of the offense.

1 in 6 inmates committed their offense armed with a gun, and half of them fired it

Type of firearm	Percent of inmates			
	Ever owned or possessed	Owned or possessed in month before arrest	Armed when committing current offense	Fired during current offense
Any firearm	43%	24%	16%	8%
Handgun	34	18	13	6
Rifle or shotgun	29	12	3	2
Military-type	8	3	<1	<1
Other	7	<1	<1	0

Fig. 40

Handguns were the most commonly owned and used firearm

More than 40% of all inmates reported they had owned or possessed a firearm at some time in their lives. While 34% of the inmates owned a handgun, 29% owned a rifle or shotgun, and 8% a military-type weapon. Sixteen percent of all inmates admitted to using or having a gun while committing their current offense — 13% a handgun, 3% a rifle or shotgun, and 1% a military-type weapon.

36% of inmates convicted of homicide, robbery, or assault were armed with a gun

- 42% of the inmates who committed a homicide were armed with a gun, while 36% fired the gun.
- 34% of the robbers were armed, while 6% fired the gun.
- 31% of the inmates who committed an assault were armed, while 25% fired the gun.

Inmates who had committed sexual assault, property, drug, or public-order offenses (excluding weapons violations) were the least likely to be armed (less than 5%) or to fire a gun (1% or less).

More than a fifth of the inmates reported ever having or using a gun while committing a crime

When asked about using guns in the past, 23% of the inmates said they had committed at least one crime with a firearm — 19% had used a handgun, 5% a shotgun or rifle, and 1% a military-type weapon. Half of the inmates who had ever possessed a firearm, had used a firearm to commit a crime.

Male inmates (23%) were more likely than female inmates (12%) to have used or possessed a gun in a crime.

Relatively fewer Hispanic inmates (18%) than white (22%) or black (25%) inmates said they had a gun while committing a crime.

10% of inmates had stolen at least one gun, and 11% had sold or traded stolen guns

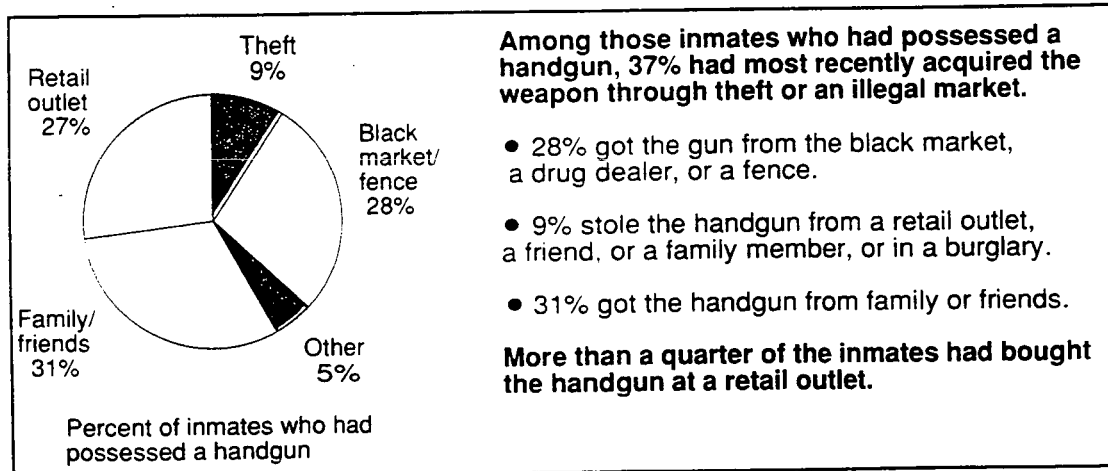


Fig. 41



1995

Uniform Crime Reports

Release Date, Sunday, October 13, 1996

As in previous years, firearms were the weapons used in approximately 7 of every 10 murders committed in the Nation. Of those murders for which weapons were reported, 59 percent were by handguns, 5 percent by shotguns, and 3 percent by rifles. Other or unknown types of firearms accounted for another 5 percent of the total murders. Among the remaining weapons, knives or cutting instruments were employed in 13 percent of the murders; personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) in 6 percent; blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.) in 5 percent; and other dangerous weapons, such as poison, explosives, etc., in the remainder. (See Table 2.13.) A state-by-state breakdown of weapons used in connection with murder is shown in Table 20.

Table 2.7—Victim/Offender Relationship by Age, 1995
[Single Victim/Single Offender]

Age of Victim	Age of Offender			
	Total	Under 18	18 and over	Unknown
Total	10,032	967	8,390	675
Under 18	1,265	304	893	68
18 and over	8,655	655	7,418	582
Unknown	112	8	79	25

Table 2.8—Victim/Offender Relationship by Race and Sex,¹ 1995
[Single Victim/Single Offender]

Race of Victim	Total	Race of Offender				Sex of Offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
White Victims	4,954	4,124	699	60	71	4,443	440	71
Black Victims	4,764	281	4,422	15	46	4,165	553	46
Other Race Victims	253	50	44	153	6	224	23	6
Unknown Race	61	21	10	—	30	30	1	30

Sex of Victim	Total	Race of Offender				Sex of Offender		
		White	Black	Other	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown
Male Victims	7,382	3,077	4,055	155	95	6,503	784	95
Female Victims	2,589	1,378	1,110	73	28	2,329	232	28
Unknown Sex	61	21	10	—	30	30	1	30

¹ Data based on 10,032 incidents.

Historical statistics on relationships of victims to offenders showed that the majority of murder victims knew their killers. During the 1990s, however, the relationship percentages have changed: in 1995, 15 percent of victims were killed by strangers, and 39 percent of victims were killed by persons whose relationships were unknown, for a collective total of 55 percent. Less than half of murder victims in 1995 were related to or acquainted with their assailants, 11 and 34 percent, respectively. Among all female murder victims in 1995, 26 percent

were slain by husbands or boyfriends. Three percent of the male victims were killed by wives or girlfriends.

Considering circumstances, arguments resulted in 28 percent of the murders during the year. Eighteen percent occurred as a result of felonious activities such as robbery, arson, etc., while another 1 percent were suspected to have been the result of some felonious activity. Six percent were juvenile gang killings, which were up 38 percent in volume over the past 5 years. Table 2.14 shows murder circumstances for the same timeframe.

Table 2.9—Murder, Types of Weapons Used, 1995

[Percent distribution by region]

Region	Total all weapons ¹	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Unknown or other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)
Total	100.0	68.0	13.0	12.8	6.3
Northeastern States ..	100.0	65.2	15.5	11.7	7.6
Midwestern States ..	100.0	67.9	12.3	14.7	5.2
Southern States	100.0	68.3	12.0	13.1	6.6
Western States	100.0	70.6	12.1	11.7	5.6

¹ Because of rounding, percentages may not add to totals.**Table 2.10—Murder Victims, Types of Weapons Used, 1991–1995**

Weapons	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total	21,676	22,716	23,180	22,084	20,043
Total Firearms	14,373	15,489	16,136	15,463	13,673
Handguns	11,497	12,580	13,212	12,775	11,198
Rifles	745	706	757	724	637
Shotguns	1,124	1,111	1,057	953	917
Other guns	30	42	37	19	29
Firearms—not stated	977	1,050	1,073	992	892
Knives or cutting instruments	3,430	3,296	2,967	2,802	2,538
Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	1,099	1,040	1,022	912	904
Personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) ¹	1,202	1,131	1,151	1,165	1,182
Poison	12	13	9	10	12
Explosives	16	19	23	10	190
Fire	195	203	217	196	166
Narcotics	22	24	22	22	22
Drowning	40	29	23	25	29
Strangulation	327	314	331	287	232
Asphyxiation	113	115	111	113	135
Other weapons or weapons not stated	847	1,043	1,168	1,079	960

¹ Pushed is included in personal weapons.**Table 2.11—Murder Victims, Types of Weapons Used, 1995**

Age	Total	Weapons										
		Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Blunt objects (clubs, hammers, etc.)	Personal ¹ weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	Poison	Explosives	Fire	Narcotics	Strangulation	Asphyxiation	Other ² weapon or weapon not stated
Total	20,043	13,673	2,538	904	1,182	12	190	166	22	232	135	989
Percent distribution	100.0	68.2	12.7	4.5	5.9	.1	.9	.8	.1	1.2	.7	4.9
Under 18 ³	2,428	1,482	148	73	391	4	28	53	5	32	66	146
Under 22 ³	5,445	3,998	408	139	439	5	30	63	8	51	68	236
18 and over ³	17,278	12,013	2,353	816	763	8	162	108	17	195	68	775
Infant (under 1)	249	8	3	14	143	1	5	3	2	1	33	36
1 to 4	411	61	14	22	194	2	19	21	1	4	21	52
5 to 8	103	41	5	4	15	—	3	16	1	2	2	14
9 to 12	103	67	7	6	9	1	1	5	—	3	1	3
13 to 16	953	789	72	16	17	—	—	8	1	14	8	28
17 to 19	2,116	1,788	175	43	36	—	1	3	—	16	1	53
20 to 24	3,559	2,922	323	82	66	1	7	12	4	34	7	101
25 to 29	2,814	2,147	349	80	75	1	17	9	1	20	9	106
30 to 34	2,526	1,744	375	104	108	—	14	14	2	38	8	119
35 to 39	1,966	1,246	337	106	108	1	17	16	4	27	7	97
40 to 44	1,517	956	226	91	107	—	24	9	2	15	7	80
45 to 49	993	592	165	80	58	2	30	7	1	13	2	43
50 to 54	645	368	101	52	33	2	22	8	—	10	8	41
55 to 59	471	247	89	49	37	—	13	4	—	7	4	21
60 to 64	352	178	70	30	25	—	8	4	—	3	4	30
65 to 69	292	140	59	29	23	1	4	3	—	3	2	28
70 to 74	222	80	44	27	27	—	5	10	1	5	3	20
75 and over	414	121	87	54	73	—	—	9	2	12	7	49
Unknown	337	178	37	15	28	—	—	5	—	5	1	68

¹ Pushed is included in personal weapons.² Includes drowning.³ Does not include unknown ages.

Table 2.21—Robbery, Percent Distribution, 1995

[By population group]

	Group I (55 cities, 250,000 and over; population 39,629,000)	Group II (136 cities, 100,000 to 249,999; population 20,081,000)	Group III (341 cities, 50,000 to 99,999; population 23,166,000)	Group IV (616 cities, 25,000 to 49,999; population 21,191,000)	Group V (1,481 cities, 10,000 to 24,999; population 23,280,000)	Group VI (5,839 cities under 10,000; population 20,038,000)	County agencies (3,637 agencies; population 74,008,000)
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Street/highway	62.9	54.8	50.9	42.6	38.8	31.0	36.5
Commercial house	10.7	12.9	13.1	13.8	13.6	14.0	16.1
Gas or service station	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.3	3.9	3.4	3.9
Convenience store	2.9	5.8	6.2	7.9	9.0	10.5	9.2
Residence	9.9	10.6	9.7	10.5	11.8	12.4	15.9
Bank	1.1	1.7	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.1
Miscellaneous	10.8	12.0	15.4	19.3	20.7	26.3	16.3

¹ Because of rounding, percentages may not add to totals.

Firearms were the weapons used in 41 percent of robberies in 1995. Strong-armed tactics were used in another 41 percent, knives or cutting instruments in 9 percent, and other dangerous weapons in the remainder. A comparison of 1994 and 1995 robbery totals by weapon showed those by strong-arm tactics decreased 3 percent; those by firearms were down 8 percent; those by knives or cutting instruments declined 10 percent; and those by other dangerous weapons dropped 12 percent. A state-by-state breakdown of weapons used in robberies in 1995 is shown in Table 21.

Table 2.22—Robbery, Types of Weapons Used, 1995

[Percent distribution by region]

Region	Total all weapons ¹	Armed			Strong- armed
		Firearms	Knives or cutting instru- ments	Other weapons	
Total	100.0	41.0	9.1	9.2	40.7
Northeastern States	100.0	33.3	11.7	10.4	44.6
Midwestern States	100.0	45.6	7.8	9.0	37.7
Southern States	100.0	45.1	6.5	8.9	39.6
Western States	100.0	38.9	10.4	8.4	42.2

¹ Because of rounding, percentages may not add to totals.

Law Enforcement Response

The 1995 robbery clearance rate was 25 percent nationally. The highest robbery clearance rate—40 percent—was registered by rural county law enforcement agencies. In suburban counties, the rate was 28 percent, and in the Nation's cities, it was 24 percent. (See Table 25.) Regional robbery clearance percentages ranged from 21 percent in the Northeast to 27 percent in the South. (See Table 26.)

Persons under the age of 18, exclusively, were the offenders in 20 percent of all 1995 robbery clearances. This age group accounted for 22 percent of the suburban county clearances, 20 percent of those in the Nation's cities, and 14 percent of those by rural county agencies. (See Table 28.)

Two percent fewer persons were arrested for robbery in 1995 than in 1994. For the 2-year period, arrests of adults for robbery also declined 2 percent, and those of juveniles decreased 1 percent. The number of robbery arrests dropped 3 percent in the Nation's cities but increased 11 percent in the rural counties and 1 percent in suburban counties.

Considering the 5-year period, 1991–1995, total arrests and arrests of males for robbery were each down 7 percent, while arrests of females were up 3 percent. For the same timespan, arrests of persons 18 years of age and older decreased 15 percent, but juvenile arrests rose 18 percent.

Sixty-four percent of all robbery arrestees in 1995 were under 25 years of age, and 91 percent were males. Fifty-nine percent of those arrested were black, 39 percent were white, and the remainder were of other races.

For the second consecutive year, aggravated assaults declined 1 percent to a total of 1,099,179 offenses in 1995. Aggravated assaults in 1995 accounted for 61 percent of the violent crimes.

Geographic distribution figures show that 40 percent of the aggravated assault volume was accounted for by the most populous Southern Region. Following were the Western Region with 25 percent, the Midwestern Region with 20 percent, and the Northeastern Region with 15 percent. Among the regions, only the Midwest registered an increase in the number of reported aggravated assaults. (See Table 4.)

The 1995 monthly figures show that the greatest number of aggravated assaults was recorded during July, while the lowest volume occurred during February.

Table 2.23—Aggravated Assault by Month, 1991–1995

[Percent distribution]

Months	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	6.9	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.6
February	6.6	7.3	6.5	7.0	7.1
March	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.1
April	8.1	8.7	8.3	8.5	8.3
May	9.1	9.2	8.9	8.8	8.8
June	9.3	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.8
July	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.5	9.4
August	9.9	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.3
September	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.9	8.9
October	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.8
November	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.7	7.6
December	7.6	7.4	8.6	7.3	7.4

The Nation's cities collectively experienced a decrease of 3 percent in the aggravated assault volume from 1994 to 1995. Among city population groupings, both cities with populations over a million and cities with populations from 250,000 to 499,999 recorded 5-percent declines. The number of aggravated assaults decreased 1 percent in suburban counties but increased 6 percent in the rural counties during the same 2-year period. (See Table 12.)

Five- and 10-year trends for the country as a whole showed aggravated assaults 1 percent higher than in 1991 and 32 percent above the 1986 experience. (See Table 1.)

Rate

There were 418 reported victims of aggravated assault for every 100,000 people nationwide in 1995, the lowest rate since 1989. The rate was 2 percent lower than in 1994 and 3 percent below the 1991 rate. The 1995 rate was, however, 21 percent above the 1986 rate.

Higher than the national average, the rate in metropolitan areas was 459 per 100,000 in 1995. Cities outside metropolitan areas experienced a rate of 369, and rural counties, a rate of 187.

Regionally, the aggravated assault rate was 319 per 100,000 people in the Northeast, 359 in the Midwest, 474 in the South, and 481 in the West. Compared to 1994 rates, 1995 aggravated assault rates were down in all regions except the Midwest, which registered a 3-percent increase. (See Table 4.)

Nature

Thirty-three percent of the aggravated assaults in 1995 were committed with blunt objects or other dangerous weapons. Of the remaining weapon categories, personal weapons such as hands, fists, and feet were used in 26 percent of the assaults; firearms in 23 percent; and knives or cutting instruments in the remainder.

Three of the four categories of weapons decreased in use during 1995, with personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.) showing the only increase, less than 1 percent. Those aggravated assaults involving firearms decreased 9 percent; assaults with knives or cutting instruments, 2 percent; and those with blunt objects or other dangerous weapons, 1 percent.

Table 2.24—Aggravated Assault, Types of Weapons Used, 1995

[Percent distribution by region]

Region	Total all weapons ¹	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Other weapons (clubs, blunt objects, etc.)	Personal weapons
Total	100.0	22.9	18.3	32.9	25.9
Northeastern States	100.0	14.3	21.1	35.3	29.3
Midwestern States	100.0	25.4	19.7	34.0	20.9
Southern States	100.0	25.4	18.8	34.3	21.5
Western States	100.0	22.1	14.4	29.2	34.3

Table 20.—Murder, State, Types of Weapons, 1995

State	Total murders ¹	Total firearms	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	Firearms (type unknown)	Knives or cutting instruments	Other weapons	Hands, fists, feet, etc.
Alabama	459	346	309	10	27	—	46	38	29
Alaska	48	24	17	6	1	—	9	10	5
Arizona	429	325	249	18	21	37	35	39	30
Arkansas	258	190	130	10	27	23	22	32	14
California	3,531	2,593	2,288	140	125	40	405	369	164
Colorado	199	117	95	8	8	6	38	25	19
Connecticut	150	102	96	2	—	4	19	17	12
Delaware ²	9	4	1	—	2	1	4	1	—
District of Columbia ³	332	269	—	—	—	—	35	28	—
Florida	1,037	615	415	26	28	146	115	262	45
Georgia	649	454	389	21	32	12	88	70	37
Hawaii	56	25	19	6	—	—	9	8	14
Idaho	48	28	13	3	5	7	8	8	4
Illinois ²	810	601	517	14	16	54	86	62	61
Indiana	350	248	190	11	18	29	42	37	23
Iowa	44	17	11	—	3	3	8	10	9
Kansas ²	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	258	163	114	17	19	13	27	48	20
Louisiana	715	568	480	19	32	37	65	54	28
Maine	18	10	5	4	—	1	3	4	1
Maryland	599	433	397	14	15	7	85	53	28
Massachusetts	208	109	53	2	1	53	59	35	5
Michigan	791	559	284	38	61	176	85	115	32
Minnesota	181	115	98	5	9	3	34	21	11
Mississippi	194	142	122	6	13	1	22	19	11
Missouri	433	314	242	21	21	30	50	50	19
Montana ²	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	21	13	8	2	3	—	3	3	2
Nevada	159	104	94	3	6	1	16	31	8
New Hampshire	18	8	7	—	1	—	5	1	4
New Jersey	409	239	231	3	3	2	61	63	46
New Mexico	109	71	63	1	1	6	20	11	7
New York	1,522	1,012	916	22	47	27	241	156	113
North Carolina	671	448	349	36	59	4	87	106	30
North Dakota	6	3	1	—	2	—	1	2	—
Ohio	525	335	297	7	23	8	65	86	39
Oklahoma	386	138	105	15	17	1	33	197	18
Oregon	124	72	59	7	6	—	19	27	6
Pennsylvania ²	677	476	424	16	33	3	78	73	50
Rhode Island	32	23	16	—	1	6	5	2	2
South Carolina	292	175	135	8	21	11	56	37	24
South Dakota	9	1	1	—	—	—	5	2	1
Tennessee	451	307	253	9	37	8	63	54	27
Texas	1,652	1,143	838	62	119	124	228	188	93
Utah	73	50	36	5	3	6	7	12	4
Vermont	12	8	1	6	—	1	—	4	—
Virginia	500	351	306	11	20	14	67	48	34
Washington	259	149	111	17	11	10	41	53	16
West Virginia	89	65	48	4	11	2	6	14	4
Wisconsin	218	107	92	2	9	4	29	57	25
Wyoming	10	4	4	—	—	—	2	—	4

¹ Total number of murders for which supplemental homicide data were received.² Complete data for 1995 were not available for the states of Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, and Pennsylvania. See "Offense Estimation," pages 367–368 for details.³ Firearm breakdowns were not provided by the District of Columbia.

Table 21.—Robbery, State, Types of Weapons, 1995

State	Total robberies ¹	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Other weapons	Strong-armed	Agency count	Population
Alabama	6,251	2,396	1,008	1,039	1,808	277	3,881,000
Alaska	902	324	97	89	392	24	530,000
Arizona	7,101	2,974	700	656	2,771	81	3,869,000
Arkansas	3,115	1,561	199	252	1,103	186	2,474,000
California	100,558	40,248	10,653	8,250	41,407	714	31,168,000
Colorado	3,444	1,126	367	569	1,382	145	3,283,000
Connecticut	5,325	1,921	512	462	2,430	99	2,773,000
Delaware ²	92	43	6	4	39	1	29,000
District of Columbia	6,864	2,820	630	327	3,087	2	554,000
Florida	39,488	15,358	2,590	3,051	18,489	378	12,681,000
Georgia	14,031	6,790	913	1,766	4,562	358	6,257,000
Hawaii	1,553	145	97	37	1,274	5	1,187,000
Idaho	263	72	24	38	129	107	1,145,000
Illinois ²	31,632	15,894	1,944	1,571	12,223	4	5,114,000
Indiana	3,159	1,455	256	257	1,191	208	3,168,000
Iowa	1,184	296	110	176	602	178	2,277,000
Kansas ²	1,399	573	135	170	521	2	433,000
Kentucky	3,478	1,337	382	288	1,471	457	3,376,000
Louisiana	11,035	6,731	865	676	2,763	153	3,743,000
Maine	306	59	34	32	181	124	975,000
Maryland	21,326	11,159	1,416	1,395	7,356	146	5,041,000
Massachusetts	8,499	2,000	1,562	1,061	3,876	251	5,158,000
Michigan	17,258	7,989	1,020	3,025	5,224	455	8,239,000
Minnesota	5,677	1,625	417	352	3,283	290	4,498,000
Mississippi	2,504	1,476	121	229	678	56	948,000
Missouri	10,512	4,622	672	863	4,355	190	4,054,000
Montana ²	31	6	5	4	16	4	129,000
Nebraska	1,053	405	78	62	508	239	1,553,000
Nevada	4,946	2,220	445	387	1,894	29	1,495,000
New Hampshire	250	62	24	11	153	70	816,000
New Jersey	22,395	7,163	2,082	1,626	11,524	513	7,880,000
New Mexico	2,063	1,006	256	135	666	45	989,000
New York	71,203	22,709	9,405	9,000	30,089	666	16,187,000
North Carolina	12,765	5,813	932	1,164	4,856	474	7,070,000
North Dakota	63	15	7	24	17	68	549,000
Ohio	17,394	6,997	1,040	1,629	7,728	253	6,964,000
Oklahoma	3,786	1,379	284	262	1,861	285	3,275,000
Oregon	4,217	1,285	448	374	2,110	185	2,874,000
Pennsylvania ²	16,444	7,664	947	713	7,120	4	2,099,000
Rhode Island	912	213	98	67	534	44	990,000
South Carolina	6,420	2,396	682	755	2,587	192	3,602,000
South Dakota	171	62	23	6	80	44	455,000
Tennessee	10,910	6,044	788	1,048	3,030	133	3,396,000
Texas	33,611	14,865	2,919	3,469	12,358	903	18,545,000
Utah	1,182	372	89	165	556	102	1,731,000
Vermont	19	2	6	7	4	17	278,000
Virginia	8,450	3,876	558	837	3,179	343	6,492,000
Washington	6,785	2,040	703	540	3,502	206	5,144,000
West Virginia	780	270	62	49	399	297	1,826,000
Wisconsin	5,381	2,883	347	340	1,811	326	5,035,000
Wyoming	82	25	15	5	37	64	467,000

¹ The number of robberies for which breakdowns were received for 12 months of 1995.² Complete data for 1995 were not available for the states of Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, and Pennsylvania. See "Offense Estimation," pages 367–368 for details.

Table 22.—Aggravated Assault, State, Types of Weapons, 1995

State	Total aggravated assaults ¹	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Other weapons	Personal weapons	Agency count	Population
Alabama	15,454	4,290	3,060	4,102	4,002	277	3,881,000
Alaska	2,933	719	649	658	907	24	530,000
Arizona	19,760	7,029	3,256	5,323	4,152	81	3,869,000
Arkansas	9,405	2,798	1,525	2,002	3,080	186	2,474,000
California	181,965	36,180	23,624	52,710	69,451	714	31,168,000
Colorado	10,158	2,855	2,066	3,080	2,157	145	3,283,000
Connecticut	7,022	841	1,133	2,413	2,635	99	2,773,000
Delaware ²	134	33	39	35	27	1	29,000
District of Columbia	7,228	1,540	1,756	2,932	1,000	2	554,000
Florida	91,996	20,110	17,829	40,262	13,795	378	12,681,000
Georgia	26,230	6,936	5,739	8,604	4,951	358	6,257,000
Hawaii	1,564	256	149	299	860	5	1,187,000
Idaho	3,046	911	683	1,063	389	107	1,145,000
Illinois ²	41,767	12,323	9,467	15,396	4,581	4	3,114,000
Indiana	8,807	886	655	1,751	5,515	208	3,168,000
Iowa	5,947	752	930	1,642	2,623	178	2,277,000
Kansas ²	1,951	568	364	761	258	2	433,000
Kentucky	5,970	1,148	977	2,251	1,594	457	3,376,000
Louisiana	25,835	9,179	4,554	7,189	4,913	153	3,743,000
Maine	901	57	132	308	404	124	975,000
Maryland	25,694	5,430	4,831	10,602	4,831	146	5,041,000
Massachusetts	27,015	2,067	4,080	10,785	10,083	251	5,158,000
Michigan	38,313	10,338	6,932	16,892	4,151	455	8,239,000
Minnesota	7,839	1,969	2,263	1,884	1,723	290	4,498,000
Mississippi	3,529	1,276	617	605	1,031	56	948,000
Missouri	20,073	6,447	3,342	6,567	3,717	190	4,054,000
Montana ²	173	57	44	34	38	4	129,000
Nebraska	4,741	932	715	1,624	1,470	239	1,553,000
Nevada	8,300	1,626	1,030	2,487	3,157	29	1,495,000
New Hampshire	416	54	87	97	178	70	816,000
New Jersey	22,801	3,773	4,727	6,860	7,441	513	7,880,000
New Mexico	6,071	1,827	1,157	1,692	1,395	45	989,000
New York	71,866	10,422	17,445	26,334	17,665	666	16,187,000
North Carolina	30,189	8,871	5,780	8,559	6,979	474	7,070,000
North Dakota	319	21	50	94	154	68	549,000
Ohio	22,178	5,132	3,995	6,462	6,589	253	6,964,000
Oklahoma	16,102	3,439	2,217	4,696	5,750	285	3,275,000
Oregon	10,227	2,287	1,715	3,444	2,781	185	2,874,000
Pennsylvania ²	8,827	2,770	1,766	2,056	2,235	4	2,099,000
Rhode Island	2,432	248	403	972	809	44	990,000
South Carolina	27,168	6,510	6,407	9,902	4,349	192	3,602,000
South Dakota	802	149	185	160	308	44	455,000
Tennessee	20,446	6,143	3,575	6,219	4,509	133	3,396,000
Texas	80,082	21,685	16,918	24,271	17,208	903	18,545,000
Utah	3,753	724	728	1,434	867	102	1,731,000
Vermont	199	67	25	77	30	17	278,000
Virginia	12,565	2,042	2,547	3,405	4,571	343	6,492,000
Washington	14,747	3,569	2,729	4,449	4,000	206	5,144,000
West Virginia	2,581	319	439	494	1,329	297	1,826,000
Wisconsin	7,573	1,234	1,231	1,710	3,398	326	5,035,000
Wyoming	918	132	156	238	389	64	467,000

¹ The number of aggravated assaults for which breakdowns were received for 12 months of 1995.² Complete data for 1995 were not available for the states of Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, and Pennsylvania. See "Offense Estimation," pages 367-368 for details.

Section V

Weapons Used in Violent Crime

The surge in the level of violent crime in the Nation over the past decade corresponded with a significant rise in firearm usage by the criminal population. The main focus of this study is to examine this dynamic nationally and regionally and to discuss trends for other types of weapons used in violent crimes. The data in this report are based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) weapon information collected for the offenses of murder, robbery, and aggravated assault. These crimes constitute 95 percent of all violent crimes. Weapon data are not collected for forcible rape. The weapon categories are (1) firearms, (2) knives or cutting instruments, (3) other dangerous weapons, and (4) personal weapons (hands, fists, feet, etc.)

National Experience

During 1994, based on crimes reported to law enforcement agencies, there were 544,880 offenses in the United States in which victims were murdered, robbed, or assaulted with firearms. In other words, nearly 1 out of 3 (31%) murder, robbery, and aggravated assault offenses collectively involved firearms as the weapons used. Further, Table 5.1 shows that from 1985 to 1994 violent crimes committed with firearms increased by a much wider margin than those committed with other weapons. During this 10-year time period, firearm-related offenses were chiefly responsible for the overall 42-percent increase in murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults. When addressing the trends for the remaining weapon types, the increases did not exceed those for the firearm category. In contrast to crimes of violence nationwide, property crime (which is not weapon-oriented) increased only 9 percent during the period 1985 to 1994.

Weapon statistics have been collected since the mid-1970s by the UCR Program for each violent crime offense with the exception of forcible rape. Chart 5.1 shows that considering weapon types, the 1990s have become the decade most prone to firearm use in history for the violent crimes studied. The trends for firearm use in murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults were remarkably similar in pattern. After remaining stable or declining during the period 1980–1985, firearm-related violent crimes followed a distinctive upward trend with the number of firearm-related aggravated assaults showing the greatest increase—76 percent—in 1994 as compared to the 1985 level. (Table 5.1.)

Recently, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, released a study concluding that of the victims of non-fatal violent crimes who faced an assailant armed with a firearm, 17 percent were injured in some manner (pistol-whipped, shot, etc.). Three percent of those confronted with a firearm suffered gunshot wounds. When applying this statistic to the 1994 UCR figure of 528,575 firearm-related robbery and

Table 5.1

Percent Changes in the Numbers of Murders, Robberies, and Aggravated Assaults, by Weapon Types, United States, 1994 over 1985

Offense	Total	Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments	Other dangerous weapons	Personal weapons
Murder	22.8%	46.3%	-25.6%	9.4%	-4.9%
Robbery	24.3%	46.3%	-10.5%	27.8%	15.9%
Aggravated assault	54.8%	75.6%	21.5%	58.2%	63.2%
Total	42.1%	59.5%	11.7%	52.6%	37.5%

Table 5.2

Number of Firearm-Related Violent Crimes and Shooting Victims, United States, 1994

Offense	Firearms used to commit crime	Victims Shot
Murder	16,305	16,305
Robbery and Aggravated Assault ..	528,575	15,857*
Total	544,880	32,162

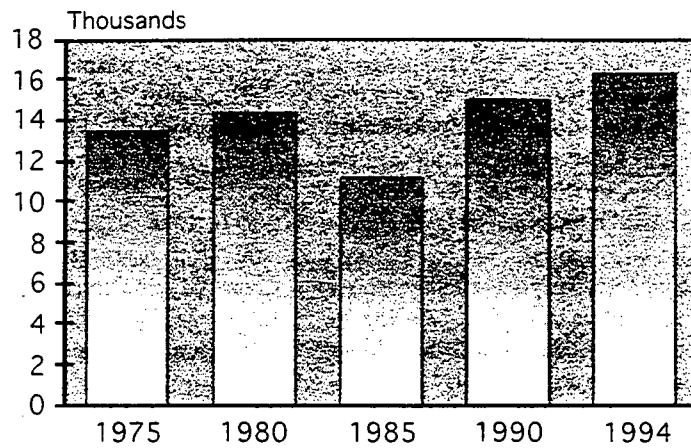
*According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, victims of nonfatal violent crimes are shot and wounded 3 percent of the time when the offender is armed with a firearm.

aggravated assault offenses, an estimated 15,857 offenses involved victims who suffered gunshot wounds. Moreover, when including firearm-related murders during 1994, there were an estimated 32,162 offenses where victims were shot (see Table 5.2). It should be noted that the aforementioned figures do not include criminals who have been shot during the commission of a crime.

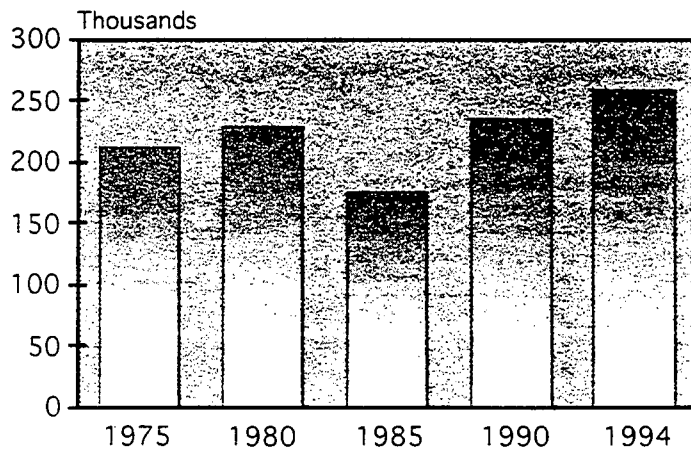
Firearm-related violent crimes that result in injury or death are having a substantial impact on the Nation's public health system. A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Department of Health and Human Services, indicated that 92 percent of patients who required hospitalization due to firearm-related injuries survived. Since firearm-related violent crime is the fastest increasing category, the number of hospital admissions due to these crimes may adversely affect the cost of health care since most of these victims are taken to trauma centers. The American Hospital Association reported in 1994 that approximately 23 percent of the Nation's 6,650 hospitals have trauma centers, up from 11 percent in 1991.

The advent of trauma centers in nearly all major urban areas may have influenced the recent decline in the Nation's

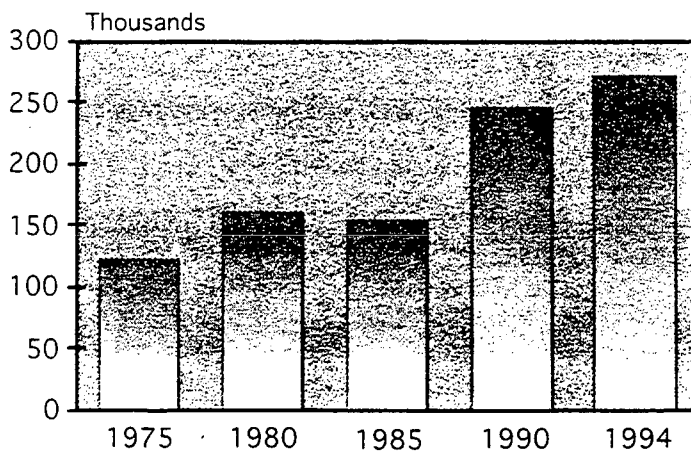
Number of Murders by Firearm, United States, 1975-1994



Number of Robberies by Firearm, United States, 1975-1994



Number of Aggravated Assaults by Firearm, United States, 1975-1994



homicide rate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that of people hospitalized with gunshot wounds, 9 out of 10 survived, as earlier mentioned. This may, in part, account for the recent significant decline in the number of homicides nationwide. Ostensibly, this is an area of criminal justice research that needs further examination.

Accompanying the unprecedented level of firearm usage in the violent crimes studied is the dramatic increase in the number of juveniles arrested for weapon violations. Specifically, estimates for the years 1985 and 1994 show juvenile arrests for this crime increased 113 percent nationwide. As shown in Table 5.3, substantial increases in arrests for weapon violations were experienced by all racial groups over the 10-year timespan. The overall increase for total weapon violation arrests was 43 percent, with adult arrests for this category increasing 30 percent for the 10-year period under consideration. It should also be noted that total juvenile violent crime arrests in 1994 rose considerably—80 percent—as compared to the 1985 total.

Regional Experience

An escalation in the violent crime volume was experienced by every region in the Nation over the past decade, 1985 to 1994. As with the national experience, the upward trend in violent crime for each region was fueled by significant increases

in firearm-related murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults, as shown in Table 5.4. The Midwestern and Western Regions experienced exceedingly large increases for murders and aggravated assaults committed with firearms. When considering the trends for weapon types other than firearms (e.g., knives, clubs, hands, fists, etc.), there were no across-the-board increases as was experienced in the firearm category.

The South, the most populous region in the Nation, had a disproportionately high percentage of firearm-related murders and aggravated assaults during 1994. More specifically, while the South constituted 35 percent of the United States population in 1994, it accounted for 43 percent of murders and 44 percent of aggravated assaults that were firearm-related (see Chart 5.2). In contrast to the Southern Region, the Northeast recorded a disproportionately low number of firearm-related murders and aggravated assaults, 15 percent and 10 percent, respectively. This region accounted for 20 percent of the Nation's population in 1994. The regional percent distribution for firearm-related robberies mirrored the Nation's population distribution percentages.

The Western and Midwestern Regions experienced the most consistency in their proportions of firearm-related murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults in 1994, as delineated in Chart 5.2. The percentage of the total was roughly the same for each crime category.

Table 5.3

**Percent Changes in the Number of Juvenile Arrests
for Weapon Violations, by Race,
United States, 1994 over 1985**

Race	Number of Arrests for Weapon Violations		Percent Change 1994 over 1985
	1985	1994	
White	20,594	39,197	90.3
Black	8,787	22,820	159.7
Other	436	1,488	241.3
Total	29,817	63,505	113.0

Table 5.4

**Percent Increases in the Number of Firearm-Related
Murders, Robberies, and Aggravated Assaults, by Region,
United States, 1994 over 1985**

Region	Murder	Robbery	Aggravated assault
Northeast	49.6%	28.3%	52.0%
Midwest	45.9%	49.7%	79.9%
South	34.8%	57.4%	69.4%
West	71.6%	45.2%	97.0%

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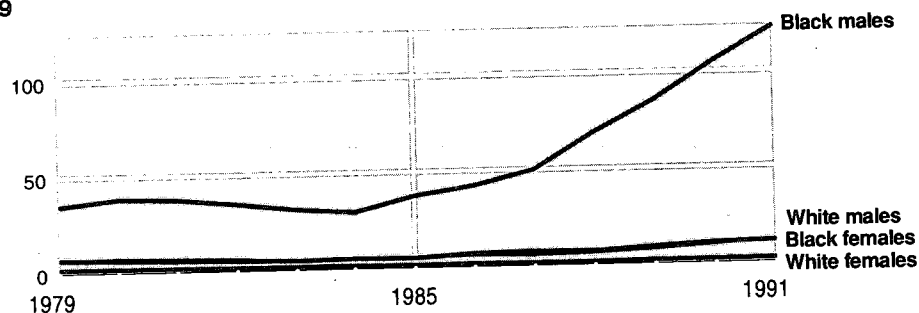
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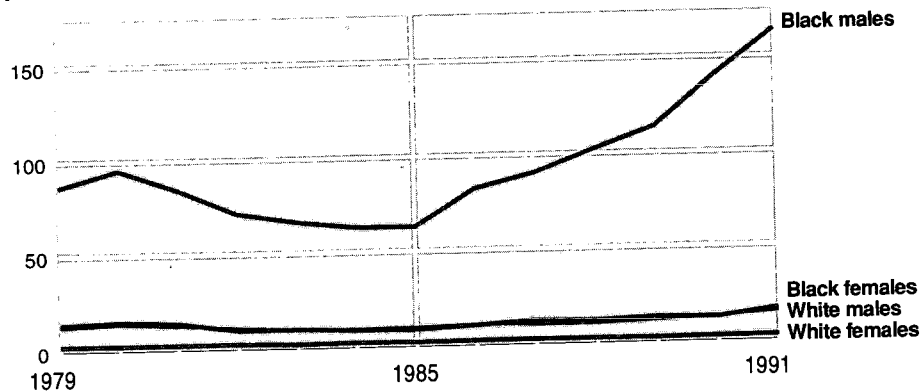
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NCVS redesign:

- Press release, NCJ-151169, 10/94
- Fact sheet, NCJ-151170, 10/94
- Questions and answers, NCJ-151171, 10/94
- Technical background, NCJ-151172, 10/94
- Criminal victimization in the U.S.: 1973-92 trends, NCJ-147006, 8/94
- 1992 (final), NCJ-145125, 4/94
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Firearms and Crimes of Violence

Selected Findings from National Statistical Series

February 1994, NCJ-146844

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

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Introduction

This report presents key findings from Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) surveys relating to crime and the role of firearms. Data from these national surveys describe the extent to which victims confront armed offenders, the consequences of such victimizations, and how offenders obtained and used their firearms. This report also summarizes information that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), under its Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR), obtained from the more than 17,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide. The UCR reports on the amount of firearm involvement in murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

BJS is the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Justice and is responsible for the collection, analysis, and reporting of information relating to criminal victimization and the administration of justice throughout the Nation. Each year since 1973, BJS has conducted interviews with a scientifically designed sample of more than 100,000 persons residing in approximately 40,000 American households. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the means for the public to describe its exposure to crime and the consequences of crime. Victims are asked about the role of firearms in the crimes they experienced.

Since 1972, BJS has conducted nationally representative surveys of offenders in local jails and State prisons. Information is gathered from inmates about their criminal and social backgrounds, histories of drug and alcohol use, and participation in drug and alcohol treatment and other correctional programs. These interviews also provide comprehensive data on the use of weapons and descriptions of the victims of violent incarcerated offenders. Findings from the most recent survey of nearly 14,000 State prisoners were summarized in the BJS report, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*.

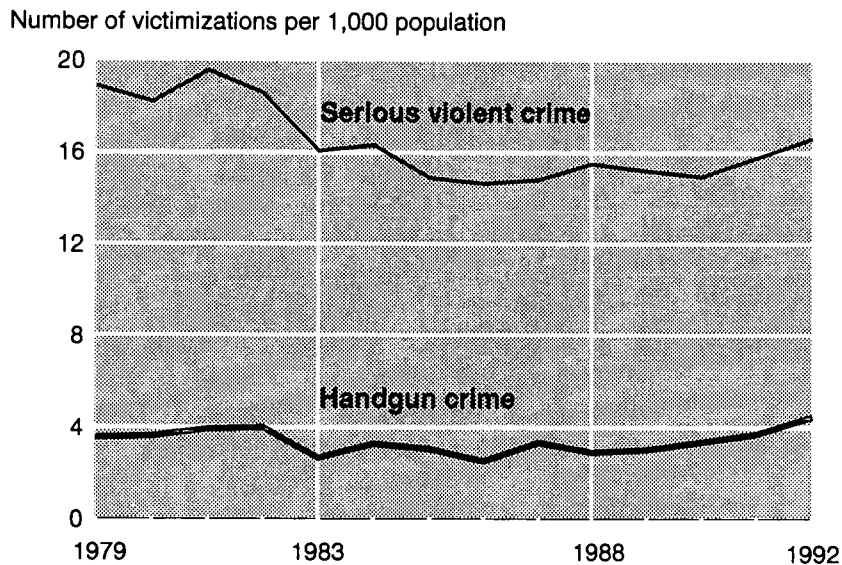
In the coming months, BJS will publish a major report on firearms and crime to provide substantially greater detail on the nature and background of crimes that involve firearms. The report will complement previous BJS reports to the Nation on crime and on drug-related crime.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Acting Director

How often are firearms involved in crime?

The handgun crime rate in 1992 reached the highest recorded level

Rates of serious violent crime and handgun crime victimization, 1979-92



Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1979-92

Note: Serious violent crimes (rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) include handgun crimes.

Each year Americans experience an average of 6.7 million violent crimes — rapes, robberies, and assaults. Victims of violent crime report that in almost 13% of the crimes, the offender was armed with a firearm — an average of about 858,000 armed attacks with firearms each year. In addition, in 1992 more than 16,000 persons were murdered with firearms. (NCVS, UCR)

Between 1987 and 1992 there were just over 40 million violent crimes reported by victims of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. In the same years there were an additional 134,180 murders and nonnegligent manslaughters. (NCVS, UCR)

From 1987 to 1992 victims faced armed offenders in 5.1 million violent incidents and in 85,453 of the murders and nonnegligent manslaughters. In just under 1 million of

these firearm incidents, the victim was either injured (880,000) or killed (85,000). Each year between 1987 and 1992 an average of 161,000 violent crimes with firearm resulted in injury or death. (NCVS, UCR)

Rape victims report that about 6% of their attackers used a handgun

Nationwide, rape victims report a similar amount of weapon use — about 20% of rape victims say that their attacker used a weapon. About a third of these victims, or about 6% of all rape victims, report that the weapon was a handgun. (NCVS)

A recent study of forcible rapes reported to the police in three States found that about 5% of such crimes may involve the use of a firearm. (NIBRS)

Law enforcement agencies nationwide report that each year nearly 600,000 firearm crimes are brought to their attention

In 1992 about a third of all murders, robberies, and aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement agencies were committed with firearms —

more than 16,000 murders, 271,000 robberies, and 278,000 aggravated assaults. (UCR)

Since 1987 the number of violent attacks that involved firearms and that were reported to law enforcement agencies has increased rapidly — up 55% by 1992. The number has grown an average of about 40,000 per year. During the same years, the number of violent crimes without firearms increased 22%.

Violence involving firearms grew 2½ times faster than violent crime that involved no firearms. (UCR)

Between 1987 and 1992 —

the number of crimes with firearms

increased 36% for murder, 59% for robbery, and 52% for aggravated assaults;

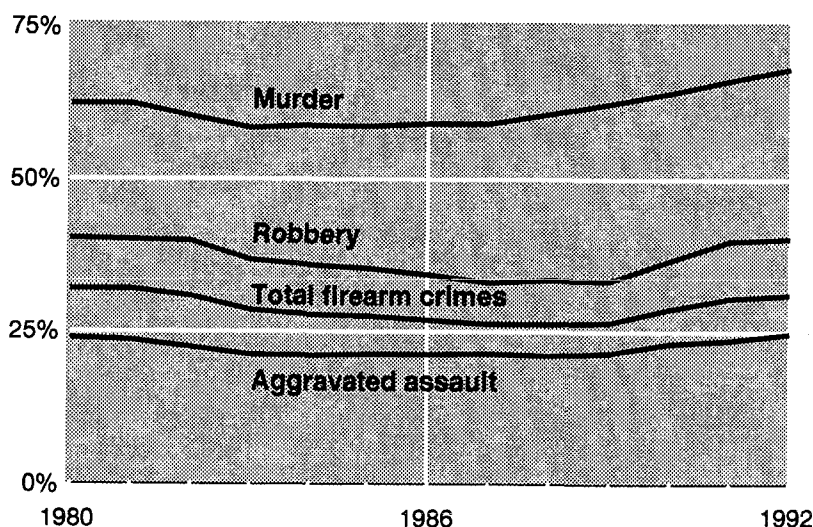
the number of crimes without firearms

decreased 8% for murder, increased 16% for robbery, and increased 26% for aggravated assault.

The number of robberies with firearms grew at nearly 4 times the rate of increase in the number without firearms; the number of aggravated assaults with firearms grew at about twice the rate of increase in such assaults without firearms. (UCR)

Firearms were involved in a larger percentage of murders than in other violent crimes

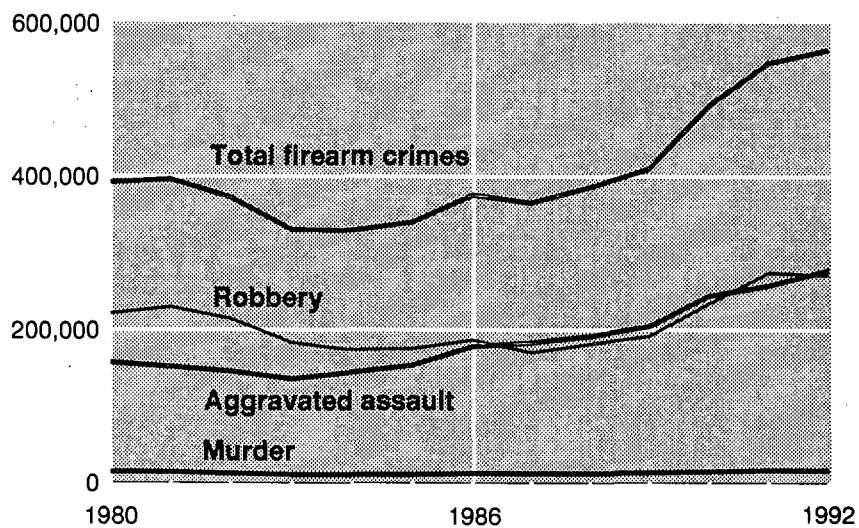
Percent of reported crime involving a firearm



Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1980-92*

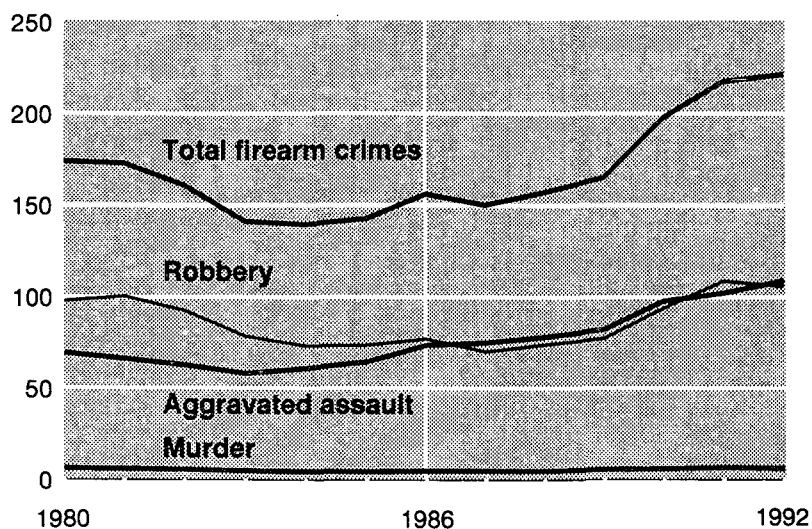
The number of violent firearm crimes reported to law enforcement authorities increased nearly a third from 1980 to 1992, but the number per 100,000 population grew more slowly

Number of violent firearm crimes reported to the police



Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-92

Number of violent firearm crimes reported to the police per 100,000 population



Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-92

Who are the victims of violent firearm crimes?

Rates of victimization involving a handgun were the highest among persons age 16 to 19

For the 1987-92 period, persons age 16-19 had per capita rates of handgun victimization 22% higher than those for persons age 20-24. The rates for those age 16-19 were more than 2 times the rate of those age 25-34, 3 times the rate of those age 35-49, nearly 8 times the rate of those age 50-64, and 17 times the rate of those 65 or older.

(NCVS)

A disproportionate number of young black men die from gunshots

Among 15- to 24-year-old victims of homicides involving firearms, black males account for nearly 60% of the victims. They account for about 7% of all persons in that age group.

(CDC)

Criminals used handguns to murder 290 law enforcement officers in a 6-year period

Between 1987 and 1992, 415 law enforcement officers were killed in a felony; 91%, or 376 officers, were killed by a firearm (including the 290 killed by handguns). Of the firearms used to kill law enforcement officers (excluding the officer's own gun), 77% were handguns, 16% rifles, and 7% shotguns. During the same period 20,351 law enforcement officers were assaulted by offenders with firearms, and more than 1 in 4 of those assaulted were injured.

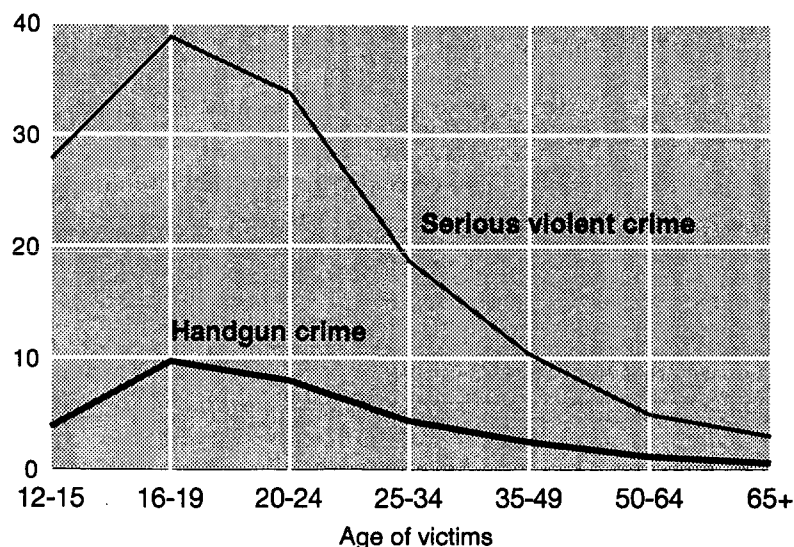
(UCR)

Among the offenders identified in the killing of law enforcement officers, 53% had a prior conviction history, and 22% were on probation or parole at the time of the offense.

(UCR)

Handgun crime, like serious violent crime, affects younger persons more than older persons

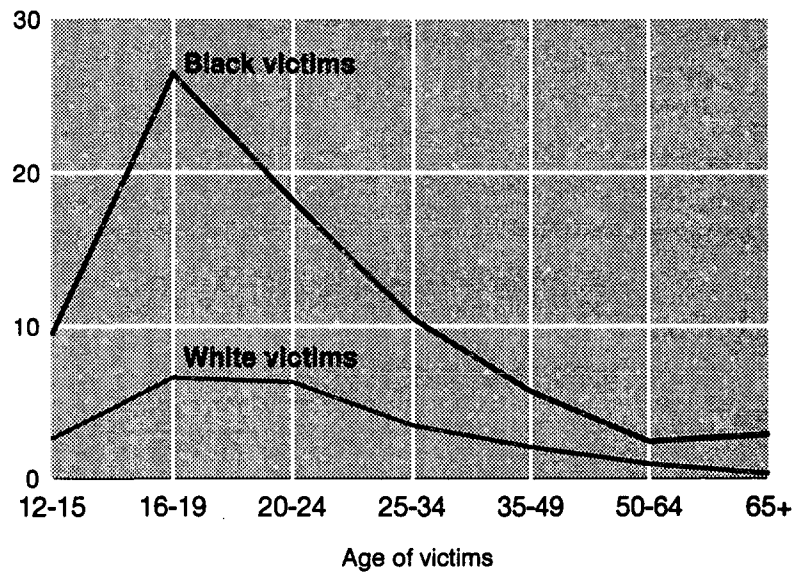
Number of victimizations per 1,000 population



Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1987-92

Blacks are more often victims of handgun crime than whites

Number of victimizations per 1,000 population

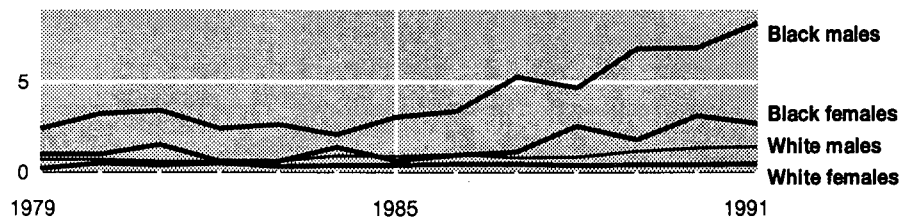


Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1987-92

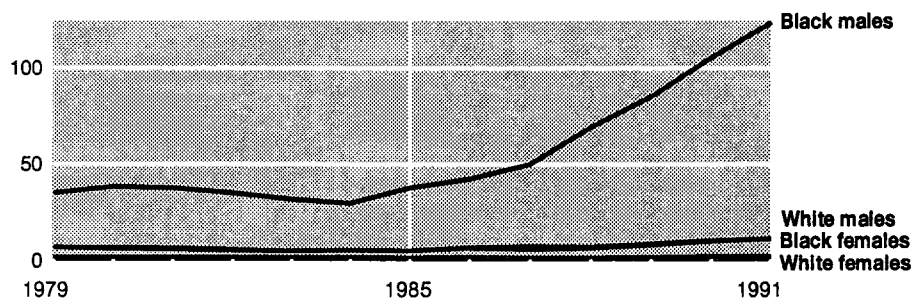
The rates of firearm homicides for young people generally increased from 1979 to 1991, especially for young black males

Number of homicides per 100,000 population

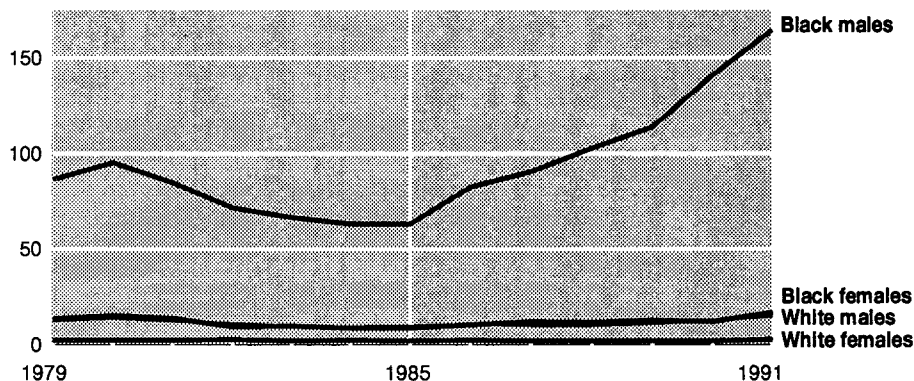
Ages 10-14



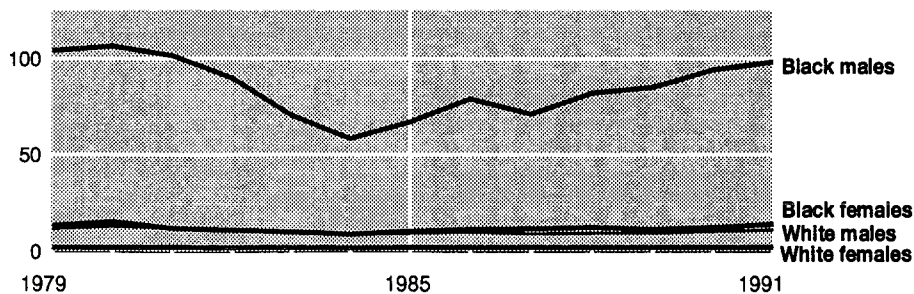
Ages 15-19



Ages 20-24



Ages 25-34



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, 1979-91

What are the characteristics and outcomes of handgun victimizations?

	Percent of handgun crimes	
Victim/offender relationship		
Stranger	72%	• The offender in most handgun crimes is a stranger to the victim.
Acquaintance	17	
Relative	5	
Number of offenders		
1	59%	• Most handgun crimes are committed by offenders acting alone.
2	21	
3 or 4	13	
5 or more	5	
Victim injuries		
None	85%	• 2% of victims who face offenders with handguns are shot.
Minor	10	
Gunshot	2	
Other serious	3	
Medical care received by gunshot victims		
Long hospital stay (8 or more days)	32%	• Of those victims who are injured, almost a third require a hospital stay of 8 or more days.
Moderate hospital stay (3-7 days)	16	
Brief hospital stay (1-2 days)	16	
Emergency room only	28	
Care outside hospital	5	

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1979-87

Between 1987 and 1992 in nearly 400,000 incidents of violence, the victim had a firearm for self-protection

In 35% of these incidents, the offender was also armed with a firearm. About a fifth of the

victims using a gun for self-defense were injured. Among victims defending themselves with a weapon other than a firearm or having no weapon, about half sustained an injury.

(NCVS)

Who uses firearms to commit crimes?

Almost 30% of violent inmates carried a gun during the crime for which they were sentenced to prison

Offense	Percent of State inmates who during the crime for which they were sentenced to prison	
	Carried a gun	Fired a gun
Total	16.3%	7.8%
Violent	28.9%	15.9%
Murder	43.6	37.9
Rape	5.2	.4
Robbery	34.4	5.5
Assault	31.1	24.9
Property	3.2%	.7%
Burglary	3.8	.9
Larceny	2.1	.3
Motor vehicle theft	3.3	.3
Drug	4.2%	.3%
Possession	4.4	.2
Trafficking	4.0	.3
Public-order*	16.1%	2.7%

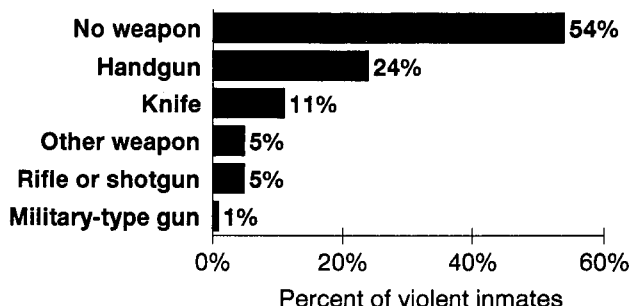
*Public-order offenses include weapons possession or trafficking, driving while intoxicated, gambling and commercial vice, offense against nature and decency, and other such crimes.

An estimated 16% of State prison inmates reported that they carried a firearm when they committed the crime for which they were serving time. Half of those carrying a firearm discharged it during the course of the crime. About 4% of property and drug offenders said they carried a firearm while committing the offense for which they were serving time.

(SSPI)

About a fourth of inmates serving a sentence for a violent crime carried a handgun during the crime

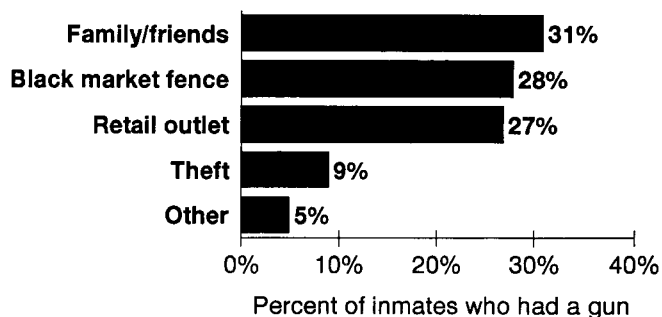
Type of weapon carried by inmates



Source: BJS, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*

More than 1 in 4 inmates who had a handgun said they bought it at a retail shop

Source of last gun obtained by inmate



Source: BJS, *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*

Among offenders who had a prior adult criminal record and who possessed a handgun, 23% obtained the handgun from a retail outlet; among first-time offenders who possessed handguns, 40% obtained the gun from a retail source.

A fourth of all inmates owned or possessed a firearm in the month before their last arrest

More than 40% of all inmates reported that they had owned or possessed a firearm during their lives:

34% had a handgun,
29% a rifle or shotgun, and
8% a military-type weapon.

During the month before their arrest for the crime for which they were serving time, 24% said they had owned or possessed a firearm:

18% had a handgun,
12% a rifle or shotgun, and

3% a military-type weapon. (SSPI)

About 40% of respondents to a nationwide survey conducted as a part of the General Social Survey (GSS) by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) reported owning or possessing a firearm in their household. About 20% of GSS respondents claimed ownership of a handgun; speaking of the month before their arrest, 18% of inmates reported handgun possession. (SSPI, GSS)

A larger percentage of inmates with less severe criminal records had carried or used a firearm during the crime for which they were in prison

About a quarter of State prisoners reported that they had no adult history of sentences to probation or prison. The remainder, about three-fourths of all prisoners, had a prior adult criminal record of sentences to probation or prison. (SSPI)

Offenders serving time in State prisons without a prior history of adult sentences were more likely than inmates with such a history to have carried a gun and to have used it during the offense. Given the absence of a criminal record, the gravity of the current offense, including the possession or use of a firearm during the crime, may have been a major factor leading to a prison sentence. (SSPI)

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Percent of State inmates who during the crime for which they were sentenced to prison —</u>	
	<u>Carried a gun</u>	<u>Fired a gun</u>
First-timers	21.5%	12.8%
Violent	30.7	19.5
Property	4.4	19.5
Drug	3.4	.4
Recidivists	14.4%	6.1%
Violent	27.9	13.9
Property	3.0	.7
Drug	4.3	.3

Almost 6% of inmates in prison for murder were recidivists who had bought the murder handgun at a retail outlet

The 1991 Survey of State Prison Inmates interviewed a national sample of prisoners representing the more than 75,000 offenders serving time for murder or nonnegligent manslaughter. Among these offenders, just under 6% had a prior history of sentences as an adult to prison, jail, or probation and had purchased the handgun used in the offense at a retail store or gunshop. Translated into the 1993 prison population, this 6% represents an estimated 5,000 murderers in State prison.

Background checks deterred inmates from purchasing handguns at a retail shop

More than half of the inmates who got their most recent handgun from an illegal source indicated that they had not bought the weapon at a retail shop because of concerns about a background check (50%), a waiting period (3%), or the necessity of completing Federal forms that could be used to trace the weapon (2%). About 1 in 6 of these inmates said they felt they could purchase the firearm more cheaply from an illegal source.

About a fifth of prison inmates —

- who were first-time adult offenders and
- who had carried or fired a handgun during their offense and
- who had not acquired the gun at a retail gunshop

— said they had avoided a retail purchase of the firearm because of legal requirements (background check, waiting period, or Federal forms). By contrast, about half of recidivist offenders who had carried or fired a handgun

obtained at other than a retail gunshop said they sought to obtain the weapon elsewhere because of those legal requirements.

(SSPI)

A quarter of those inmates who obtained the handgun from family members or friends reported a concern about a background check; an additional quarter of these inmates reported that the cost of the firearm was cheaper than from a retail store.

(SSPI)

More than a third of the States perform criminal records checks or issue permits to buy firearms

In early January, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reported that 18 States were either conducting background checks before firearm sales or granting a firearm purchase permit. Preliminary reports from 11 of these States reveal more than 21,000 denials of purchases in 1993 because of criminal-record checks.

Theft and burglary are major sources of firearms for criminals

A firearm is stolen in more than 340,000 offenses every year. Firearms are stolen in 217,200 household burglaries, 108,800 personal and household thefts, 6,700 motor vehicle thefts, and nearly 8,000 violent crimes.

(NCVS)

How many high school students possess guns?

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a 1991 sample survey of 12,272 high school students nationwide, revealed that 11% of students reported having carried a handgun at least once during the 30 days preceding the survey.
(CDC)

A recent survey of 758 male students in 10 inner-city high schools found that 22% of the students possess firearms. The most common sources for guns are borrowing them from family or friends (53%) or buying them on the street (37%) or from a family member or friend (35%).
(NIJ/OJJDP)

Abbreviations of sources used

- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly*, October 16, 1992
- GSS: General Social Survey, as reported in BJS, *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, 1992, September 1993
- NCVS: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey, especially *Handgun Crime Victims*, July 1990, and *Guns and Crime*, May 1994
- NIJ/OJJDP: National Institute of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples," *Research in Brief*, December 1993
- NIBRS: BJS, *Using NIBRS Data to Analyze Violent Crime: National Incident-Based Reporting System*, October 1993
- SSPI: BJS, *Survey of State Prison Inmates*, 1991, March 1993
- UCR: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-92, or *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted*, 1987-92

Appendix

Table 1. Murders,* robberies, and aggravated assaults in which firearms were used, estimated numbers of offenses and per capita rates, 1980 to 1992

Year	Total estimated firearm crimes		Murders with firearms*		Robberies with firearms		Aggravated assaults with firearms	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1980	392,083	174.0	14,377	6.4	221,170	98.1	156,535	69.5
1981	396,197	172.9	14,052	6.1	230,226	100.5	151,918	66.3
1982	372,477	160.9	12,648	5.5	214,219	92.5	145,609	62.9
1983	330,419	141.2	11,258	4.8	183,581	78.5	135,580	57.9
1984	329,232	139.4	10,990	4.7	173,634	73.5	144,609	61.2
1985	340,942	142.8	11,141	4.7	175,748	73.6	154,052	64.5
1986	376,064	156.0	12,181	5.1	186,174	77.2	177,710	73.7
1987	365,709	150.3	11,879	4.9	170,841	70.2	182,989	75.2
1988	385,934	157.0	12,553	5.1	181,352	73.8	192,029	78.1
1989	410,039	165.2	13,416	5.4	192,006	77.3	204,618	82.4
1990	492,671	198.1	15,025	6.0	233,973	94.1	243,673	98.0
1991	548,667	217.6	16,376	6.5	274,404	108.8	257,887	102.3
1992	565,575	221.7	16,204	6.4	271,009	106.2	278,362	109.1
Percent change, 1980-92	+44.2	+27.4	+12.7	+0	+22.5	+ 8.3	+ 77.8	+ 57.1

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-92

Table 2. Percent of murders,* robberies, and aggravated assaults in which firearms were used, 1980 to 1992

Year	Total for selected crimes		Murders*		Robberies		Aggravated assaults	
	Number	Percent with firearms	Number	Percent with firearms	Number	Percent with firearms	Number	Percent with firearms
1980	1,226,810	32.0%	23,040	62.4%	548,810	40.3%	654,960	23.9%
1981	1,240,370	31.9	22,520	62.4	574,130	40.1	643,720	23.6
1982	1,207,942	30.8	21,010	60.2	536,890	39.9	650,042	22.4
1983	1,159,060	28.5	19,310	58.3	500,220	36.7	639,530	21.2
1984	1,189,050	27.7	18,690	58.8	485,010	35.8	685,350	21.1
1985	1,240,100	27.5	18,980	58.7	497,870	35.3	723,250	21.3
1986	1,397,710	26.9	20,610	59.1	542,780	34.3	834,320	21.3
1987	1,392,890	26.3	20,100	59.1	517,700	33.0	855,090	21.4
1988	1,473,740	26.2	20,680	60.7	542,970	33.4	910,090	21.1
1989	1,551,540	26.4	21,500	62.4	578,330	33.2	951,710	21.5
1990	1,717,570	28.7	23,440	64.1	639,270	36.6	1,054,860	23.1
1991	1,805,170	30.4	24,700	66.3	687,730	39.9	1,092,740	23.6
1992	1,823,210	31.0	23,760	68.2	672,480	40.3	1,126,970	24.7

Note: The rate is the number of crimes per 100,000 population.

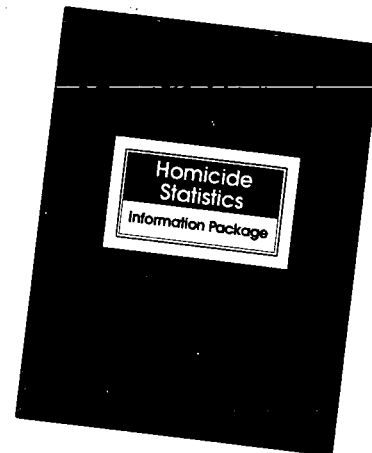
The number of gun crimes is an estimate.

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, *Crime in the United States*, 1980-92

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National Institute of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

*Research
in Brief*

Michael J. Russell, NIJ Acting Director; John J. Wilson, OJJDP Acting Administrator

December 1993

Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples

by Joseph F. Sheley, Ph.D., and James D. Wright, Ph.D.

Violence committed by and against juveniles has come increasingly to define the public's image of the crime problem and the larger political debate over anticrime policy. While evidence documenting the growth of youth violence is abundant, systematic research on the *means* and *methods* of this violence is scarce.

This Research in Brief summarizes the results of a study concerning the number

and types of firearms juveniles possess as well as where, how, and why juveniles acquire and carry firearms. The findings derive from responses to surveys completed by *selected* samples of male inmates (mostly from urban areas) in juvenile correctional facilities in California, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Illinois and male students in 10 inner-city public high schools near the correctional institutions surveyed.

The research focused on serious juvenile offenders and on inner-city students because these groups are popularly thought to engage in and experience violence at rates exceeding those of most other groups.¹ The sites chosen reflect the few instances in which the researchers gained dual entry into both a State's juvenile correction system and at least one adjacent, urban, local school district within a reasonably parallel time period.

Issues and Findings

Discussed in this Research in Brief:

Results of a study of juvenile possession of firearms drawn from voluntary questionnaires anonymously completed by:

- ◆ 835 male serious offenders incarcerated in 6 juvenile correctional facilities in 4 States.
- ◆ 758 male students in 10 inner-city high schools near the facilities.

Both students and inmates came from environments marked by crime and violence.

Key issues: Researchers sought to find out the number and types of arms owned and where, how, and why they were obtained. Because the study focused on serious juvenile offenders and students from schools in high-risk areas, the results are not generalizable to the entire U.S. population.

Key Findings: The study found that:

- ◆ 83 percent of inmates and 22 percent of the students possessed guns.
- ◆ 55 percent of inmates carried guns all or most of the time in the year or two before being incarcerated; 12 percent of the students did so, with another 23 percent carrying guns now and then.
- ◆ The firearms of choice were high-quality, powerful revolvers, closely followed by automatic and semiautomatic handguns and then shotguns.
- ◆ Most of those surveyed thought it would be easy to acquire a gun. Only 13 percent of inmates and 35 percent of students said it would be a lot of trouble or nearly impossible.
- ◆ When asked how they would get a gun, 45 percent of the inmates and 53 percent of the students would "borrow" one from family or friends; 54 percent of the inmates and 37 percent of the

students said they would get one "off the street."

- ◆ Fewer inmates and students said they used hard drugs than expected (43 percent of inmates and 5 to 6 percent of students). Drug use was moderately related to gun activity.
- ◆ More inmates than students reported selling drugs (72 percent of inmates and 18 percent of students). Those who were involved in selling drugs had higher levels of gun ownership and use than those who were not.
- ◆ The main reason given for owning or carrying a gun was self-protection.

The researchers conclude that the fundamental policy problem involves convincing youths they can survive in their neighborhoods without being armed.

Target audience: Law enforcement administrators, school officials, juvenile justice practitioners, researchers, and community groups who work with youth.

A number of schools and neighborhoods can be dangerous places for many young people in America. Knives, revolvers, and even shotguns regularly turn up in searches of school lockers. News reports describe incidents of children being shot on playgrounds or of youths firing rifles as they cruise the streets in cars. The use of weapons in violent incidents has increased fear among citizens of all ages.

In looking for solutions, school administrators and local criminal and juvenile justice officials seek more information about juveniles' use of firearms. To that end, the National Institute of Justice, with joint funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention—two bureaus within the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs—commissioned a study to learn more about the level and nature of juvenile gun possession in high-risk neighborhoods. The researchers asked students in high schools that had experienced a large number of violent incidents, as well as male juveniles involved in serious offenses, about the weapons they carried, why they carried them, and how they acquired them.

The reader should note, however, that the study focused on high-risk areas and an at-risk population. Therefore, the findings are not generalizable, but the data shed new light on a complex problem.

The findings discussed in this report are sobering. For example, many students surveyed in this study claimed they carried firearms to protect themselves from fellow students and had little trouble obtaining the weapons. This report raises serious issues that concern all who are working to diminish violence and crime in our neighborhoods. It should be helpful to those developing policies and strategies to combat the threats to public safety posed by juveniles who illegally carry guns.

Michael J. Russell
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Acting Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

Method

A total of 835 inmates in 6 of the respective States' major correctional facilities (3 in California, 1 each in the remaining States) completed self-administered questionnaires in the spring of 1991. Each site was a standard State facility to which seriously troublesome youth were remanded. The offenses characterizing the inmates in these sites ranged from drug-related crimes (generally trafficking in drugs) to homicide. All but the New Jersey site, whose inmates had profiles like those of inmates in the other institutions, were maximum security facilities (completely enclosed, guarded, razorwired). The institutions' populations ranged from 172 to 850. The percentage of inmates surveyed per institution ranged from 22 to 62 (primarily a function of size of institution), with a mean of 41 percent.

The survey was introduced to the inmates as a national study of firearms and violence among youth. Participation in the study was voluntary and anonymous, and respondents were given \$5 to participate in the project. In all of the correctional facilities in question, administrators announced the study to inmates in all of the smaller facilities' dormitories and to those in about half of the dormitories in the larger facilities. The researchers then discussed the project with them. An average of 95 percent of the inmates addressed by the researchers agreed to participate in the study. At each site, groups of 10 to 20 inmates at a time completed the questionnaire.

In all cases, local high school administrators viewed the topic of guns and violence among students as politically charged. They consented to the research only on the guarantee that their districts and schools would not be identified in the publication of the research results. Responses were obtained from schools in large prominent cities near the correctional facilities serving as research sites. Enrollments in these schools ranged from 900 to 2,100.

Schools selected for study were identified by local school board officials as inner-city schools that had experienced firearms incidents in the recent past and whose

students likely encountered gun-related violence (as victims, perpetrators, or bystanders) out of school. No formal evidence is available by which to document these claims. However, interviews with the faculty and students of these schools during the administration of the survey confirmed the administrators' assessments. In one school, surveyors observed a student taking a gun from his jacket to examine it before responding to a questionnaire item about caliber. Moreover, in the time since administration of the survey, four of the schools have experienced violent episodes sufficient to gain national media attention.

The survey was introduced to students as it was to the inmates—as a voluntary and anonymous national study of firearms and violence among youth. Spanish versions of the survey were offered to students who desired them. Principals were asked to grant the researchers access to 150 to 200 students in each of the schools entered and, within the practical constraints faced by principals and teachers, to make the sample—students in grades 9 through 12—as representative of their pupils as possible.

In six instances, principals arranged for the survey to take place during homeroom periods. These periods were uniform for the student body; thus, theoretically, the study had access to the entire student population. In two schools, the survey was given during the physical education hours, and in two schools, access was given to all students enrolled in social studies courses. In the former two sites, physical education was mandatory and its hours were uniform for all students; thus, here too, the study theoretically had access to all students. In the latter two sites access to the entire student body was more limited. Approximately 95 percent of students addressed by the researchers participated in the study.

The number of students surveyed was 758, an average of 165 per school (within a range of 109 to 229). The percentage of student populations surveyed across schools ranged from 7 to 21 (with a mean of 10 percent; lower percentages were a function of larger schools). In some

schools, the survey was administered to groups of 20 to 30 students at a time. In others, it was given to larger assemblies of 100 to 200 students. In 4 of the 10 schools sampled, students were offered \$5 to participate in the survey. Neither financial inducement nor method of distribution more generally was tied to the percentage of the student body participating in the survey or to response variation across questionnaire items.

Validity, completeness, and consistency issues

With respect to sites more generally, responses to the questionnaire items displayed some variation across correctional facilities, as expected, but reflected no systematic site-to-site patterns. Site differences that did occur could most often be reduced to a single site at variance with the others concerning a given item; no one site appeared conspicuously at odds across all items.

Missing data were expected given that the survey was long, that time limits were imposed on some respondents by their institutions, and that respondents had been told that answering any given item in the survey was discretionary. Despite this, the average percentage of inmate respondents who failed to complete both items in any set of randomly cross-tabulated items was only 1.41 percent (literally, one case) within a range of 0.11 to 4.1 percent; for students the corresponding figure was 3.1 percent within a range of 0.7 to 3.9 percent. Additionally, missing cases on the items used in the present analysis were contrasted with responding cases controlling for research site, race/ethnicity, and age. Missing and responding cases differed little. As a further check, all analyses reported below were rerun substituting predicted values for all missing cases.² The results were substantially unchanged.

Finally, though self-report data are absolutely necessary to studies such as this one, they inevitably raise issues of reliability and validity. Attempts to establish level of reliability in the present study centered on pairs of items, the responses to which were checked for logical consistency. For ex-

ample, respondents who claimed never to have owned a military-style weapon at any time in their lives should not have responded affirmatively to a later item regarding ownership of such a weapon just prior to incarceration. Fourteen such items were examined for the inmate sample, and 11 were examined for the student sample. Inconsistent responses averaged only 2.4 percent within a range of 1.2 to 3.4 percent among the inmate respondents. For the students, they averaged 1.5 percent within a range of 0.7 to 3.1 percent.

To determine how systematic were the inconsistencies, each respondent was scored on the number of inconsistent answers. Inmate respondents received scores between 0 and 14; student respondents received scores between 0 and 11. Only 4 percent of the inmates scored above 2; no inmate scored above 6, and only one scored 6. Only 1 percent of the students scored above 2; no student score exceeded 4.

Validity was more difficult to assess, since there were no official records against which to compare the self-report data. However, indicative of construct validation, respondents who attributed respect from peers to ownership of a gun also felt that friends would look down on them if they did not carry a gun ($r = 0.638$ for inmates; 0.587 for students). The level of use of heroin, crack, and regular cocaine was associated with the extent of commission of property crimes to gain drug money (r ranges between 0.245 and 0.384 for inmates; between 0.395 and 0.453 for students)—a finding consistent with those of previous researchers.³

As has been reported previously,⁴ marijuana seems to have served as a gateway drug to heroin, cocaine, and crack use for the respondents. Among the inmate users of heroin, cocaine, and crack, 79, 80, and 76 percent, respectively, had also used marijuana. Among the student users of heroin, cocaine, and crack, 76, 86, and 88 percent, respectively, had also used marijuana.

In sum, reliability levels seem far above what might be expected for respondents of the type surveyed in the present study and

for the subject matter of interest here. Validity levels clearly fall within an acceptable range, but see "Caveat."

Characteristics of respondents

The average inmate respondent's age was 17, and 84 percent of inmates were non-white. The modal educational attainment level was 10th grade. More than half of the inmates were from cities of at least 250,000 residents. Half had committed robbery; two-thirds had committed burglary. Among the students, 97 percent

Caveat

It should be stressed that these findings are technically not generalizable to other settings and populations. The four States serving as research sites for this study were not a probability sample of States. Moreover, to maximize percentages of respondents involved in the behaviors of interest, the study purposely focused on serious juvenile offenders and on students from especially problematic inner-city schools. Therefore, the 6 correctional facilities and 10 high schools (and by virtue of the voluntary nature of participation in the study, the respondents in those institutions) serving as research sites were not probability samples of their respective universes.

Nonetheless, comparison of inmate respondents' profiles with those known through studies of youth in similar institutions indicates that the present sample was not dissimilar to samples of State maximum-security wards serving as subjects of other studies.⁶ Moreover, a 1984 study of inner-city high school students' criminal activity employed data collected from randomly selected high school students from inner-city, high-crime neighborhoods in four cities⁷ and indicated age and race breakdowns very similar to those found among the student respondents.

were nonwhite, and the mean age was 16. The modal educational attainment level also was 10th grade. All of the student respondents were from cities with populations exceeding 250,000. As expected, the student sample was far less involved in criminal activities. Still, 42 percent of the students reported having been arrested or picked up by the police at least once; 22 percent had been arrested or picked up "many" times; 23 percent reported having stolen something worth at least \$50. Nine percent reported using a weapon to commit a crime.

Exposure to guns and violence

Prior to examining the gun-related behaviors of the respondents, one had to place those behaviors in a larger social context. Inmates and students alike inhabited social worlds characterized by crime and violence. Four in 10 inmates had siblings who had also been incarcerated, and 47 percent had siblings who owned guns legally or illegally. More generally, 79 percent of the inmates came from families in which at least some of the males owned guns; 62 percent had male family members who routinely carried guns outside the home. The pattern was even sharper with respect to the peers of the incarcerated juveniles. Nine out of 10 inmates had at least some friends and associates who owned and carried guns routinely.

Thus, in the street environment inhabited by these juvenile offenders, owning and carrying guns were virtually universal behaviors. Further, in this same environment, the inmate respondents regularly experienced threats of violence and violence itself. A total of 84 percent reported that they had been threatened with a gun or shot at during their lives. Half had been stabbed with a knife.

If the social world of the student sample was less dangerous or hostile, it was only by comparison to that of the inmates. A total of 69 percent of the students had males in their families who owned guns. Two out of five reported that males in their families routinely carried guns outside the home. Gun owning and carrying were also

common among the friends of the student respondents. More than half (57 percent) of the respondents had friends who owned guns; 42 percent had friends who routinely carried guns outside the home.

Like members of the inmate sample, the student respondents were also frequently threatened and victimized by violence. Forty-five percent had been threatened with a gun or shot at on the way to or from school in the previous few years. One in 10 had been stabbed, and 1 in 3 had been beaten up in or on the way to school. Nearly a fifth (17 percent) had been wounded with some form of weapon other than a knife or a gun in or near the school.

Victimization aside, the study data also permit some comment concerning violence in the inner-city schools in which the students were surveyed. Nearly a quarter (22 percent) of the surveyed students reported that carrying weapons to school was common. Nearly half (47 percent) personally knew schoolmates at whom shots had been fired in the previous few years. Fifteen percent personally knew someone who had carried a weapon to school; 8 percent personally knew someone who had brought a gun to school.

The reality of violence in the respondents' worlds shaped or was shaped by their

attitudes about violence. Both samples were asked a series of questions about when they felt it was acceptable ("okay") to shoot someone. Response possibilities were "strongly disagree," "disagree," "agree," and "strongly agree." A total of 35 percent of the inmates and 10 percent of the students agreed or strongly agreed that "it is okay to shoot a person if that is what it takes to get something you want." Was it "okay to shoot some guy who doesn't belong in your neighborhood?" Twenty-nine percent of the inmates and 10 percent of the students agreed or strongly agreed that it was. Elements of insult and injury inevitably increased the perceived acceptance of violent responses. It was considered "okay [agree or strongly agree] to shoot someone who hurts or insults you" by 61 percent of the inmates and 28 percent of the students.

Gun possession

The media depiction of the firearms environment for juveniles is one in which guns of all types, even sophisticated military-style weapons, are widely and easily available. The average inner-city youth seemingly needs only to approach a street source, pay but a few dollars, and depart with a firearm. However, no one has systematically documented any of these per-

Table 1. Inmate and Student Gun Possession (numbers in parentheses)

	Percent of Inmates Who Owned Just Prior to Confinement	Percent of Students Who Owned at Time of Survey
Any type of gun	83 (815)	22 (741)
Target or hunting rifle	22 (823)	8 (728)
Military-style automatic or semiautomatic rifle	35 (823)	6 (728)
Regular shotgun	39 (823)	10 (728)
Sawed-off shotgun	51 (823)	9 (728)
Revolver	58 (823)	15 (728)
Automatic or semiautomatic handgun	55 (823)	18 (728)
Derringer or single-shot handgun	19 (822)	4 (727)
Homemade (zip) handgun	6 (823)	4 (727)
Three or more guns	65 (815)	15 (741)

ceptions, especially with respect to the *types* of guns youth are obtaining. Table 1 presents findings concerning gun possession among members of both samples; at least with respect to the inmate group, the media depiction is largely accurate. A total of 83 percent of the inmates owned at least one firearm just prior to their confinement (67 percent acquired their first gun by age 14). Two-thirds (65 percent) owned at least three firearms just before being jailed. Nearly a quarter of the students (22 percent) possessed a gun at the time the survey was completed. Six percent reported owning three or more guns at the time of the survey.

Carrying guns

Obviously, one need not actually own a gun in order to carry one. Since most of the incarcerated juveniles in the sample (83 percent) owned a gun of their own at the time of their arrest, the distinction may be relatively meaningless for them. But it is easy to imagine high school students who carry guns they do not own (for example, guns that have been borrowed from or otherwise made available by friends and family members, possibly guns that are jointly owned by multiple students). It is possible, in other words, that focusing on ownership results in an *underestimation* of the number of guns in the hands of the students in the study.

In fact, among the inmate sample, carrying a firearm was about as common as owning one; 55 percent carried a gun “all” or “most of the time” in the year or two before being incarcerated, and 84 percent carried a gun at least “now and then,” with the latter figure nearly identical to the percentage who owned a gun. Among the student sample, carrying a gun at least occasionally was *more common* than gun ownership. A total of 22 percent of the students owned a gun at the time of the survey; 12 percent of them reported currently carrying a gun “all” or “most of the time,” and another 23 percent did so at least “now and then,” for a combined percentage of 35 percent who carried firearms regularly or occasionally. Thus, by this more liberal measure, guns were in the hands of one out of three male central-

city high school students surveyed. Beyond this, 3 percent of the students reported carrying a gun *to school* “all” or “most of the time”; an additional 6 percent did so “now and then.”

Firearms of choice

Considerable media attention has been given recently to automatic and military-style weapons in the hands of youth. The findings presented in table 1 permit assessment of this problem. In that table, automatic and semiautomatic weapons (rifles and handguns that automatically place a new round into the firing chamber) are treated in combination because the study’s aim was simply to distinguish rapid-fire arms from traditional arms.

Among the inmate respondents, the revolver was the most commonly owned firearm; 58 percent owned a revolver at the time of their present incarceration. These were not small handguns. The most common calibers among the most recently owned handguns of this sample were the 0.38 and the 0.357. Closely following the revolver in popularity were automatic and semiautomatic handguns, typically chambered for 9mm or 0.45 caliber rounds; 55 percent owned one at the time of their incarceration.

The shotgun, whether sawed-off or unaltered, also represented a major weapon of choice. More than half the sample (51 percent) had possessed such a weapon; 39 percent had owned a regular shotgun. (A bit fewer than half the inmates, 47 percent, reported that they personally had cut down a shotgun or rifle to make it easier to carry or conceal at some point in their lives.) Next in popularity were the military-style automatic and semiautomatic rifles that have figured so prominently in recent media accounts. More than a third of the inmates (35 percent) owned one at the time they went to prison. Other types of guns—regular hunting rifles, derringers, zip guns, etc.—found little favor; fewer than a quarter said they owned this type of firearm when they were incarcerated.

Table 1 shows similar patterns of ownership, although on a considerably diminished scale, for the high school students.

The most commonly owned weapon was the automatic or semiautomatic handgun (18 percent), followed by the revolver (15 percent). Shoulder weapons of all sorts were less likely to be owned by the students than were handguns; still, 9 percent owned a sawed-off shotgun, 10 percent an unmodified shotgun, and 6 percent a military-style rifle.

Absent additional data, it is hard to be certain which aspects of the pattern of ownership reflected preferences and which aspects reflected availability. Considering the ease with which the juveniles obtained firearms and the number and variety of guns apparently in circulation in their communities (see below), it is a reasonable assumption that they carried what they preferred to carry and that differential availability had little or nothing to do with it. There was an evident preference for concealable firearms (handguns and sawed-off shotguns), but hard-to-conceal shoulder weapons, whether military-style or not, were also quite common.

To gain some sense of what juveniles seek in a weapon, the study asked respondents (both samples) what features they considered “very important” in a handgun. The profile of desirable features was remarkably similar in both groups. Among inmates, the three highest rated traits were firepower, quality of construction, and untraceability, followed by ease of firing and accuracy. Among the students, quality of construction was the highest rated trait, followed by being easy to shoot, accurate, and untraceable. Neither inmates nor students indicated much preference for small, cheap guns, nor were they attracted to such ephemeral characteristics of weapons as “scary looking” or “good looking.” The preference, clearly, was for hand weapons that were well-made, accurate, easy to shoot, and not easily traced.

Obtaining a gun

Media accounts suggest that most types of guns are relatively abundant and readily accessible to juveniles. In fact, 70 percent of the inmates felt that upon release they could get a gun with “no trouble at all,” a sentiment expressed by 41 percent of the

students as well. An additional 17 percent of the inmates and 24 percent of the male students said it would be "only a little trouble." Only 13 percent of the inmates and 35 percent of the students perceived access to guns as a "lot of trouble" or "nearly impossible."

We also asked both groups of respondents how they would go about getting a gun if they desired one. Most felt there were numerous ways but that family, friends, and street sources were the main sources (see table 2). Forty-five percent of the inmates and 53 percent of the students would "borrow" a gun from a family member or friend. Thirty-six percent and 35 percent of the inmates and students, respectively, would "buy" one from family or friends. Half of the inmates (54 percent) and a third of the students (37 percent) would "get one off the street."

Drug dealers and addicts were the major suppliers after family, friends, and other street sources, this for both inmates (35 percent) and students (22 percent). Purchasing a gun at a gunshop (or asking someone else to do so (see below) was perceived by 28 percent of the students as a reliable method; only 12 percent of the inmates considered it so (or viewed it as necessary). Theft was twice as likely to be mentioned by the inmates as by the students although, relative to other sources, it was prominent for neither group.

By way of partial confirmation of these findings (also see table 2), when asked where they *actually had obtained* (bought, borrowed, or stolen) the most recent handgun they had ever possessed, more than half of the inmates who had possessed handguns checked a friend (30 percent) or street source (22 percent). Only 6 percent

listed family member as the source. Drug dealers and drug addicts were the sources of 21 percent of the guns. The picture differed somewhat for the students. Friends (38 percent) and street sources (14 percent) were important, but family members (23 percent) were also primary sources. Drug dealers and addicts were rarer sources (8 percent).

The two sets of findings in table 2, then, point to illegal and fairly close sources of guns; if family or friends could not supply a gun, an apparently abundant blackmarket network could be found on the street.

While relatively few inmates mentioned theft as a means to obtain a gun upon release, far more had actually stolen guns, usually from homes or cars. More than half had stolen a gun at least once in their lives. In contrast, only 8 percent of the students had ever stolen a gun. Most of the thefts involved revolvers (50 percent of the inmates), but substantial numbers of inmates reported stealing other types of guns: shotguns (41 percent), automatic or semi-automatic handguns (44 percent), and military-style rifles (30 percent). When the inmates sold or traded the guns they had stolen, they generally did so to friends or other trusted persons.

Thus, these juveniles both supplied guns to and obtained guns from an informal network of family, friends, and street sources. It seems likely, then, that theft and burglary were the ultimate source of many of the guns acquired by the juveniles surveyed, but only occasionally the proximate source. Buttressing this point, it was found that although half of the inmates had stolen guns at some time, only 24 percent had stolen their most recently obtained handgun.

Though by no means the preferred method of acquisition, purchasing a gun through legitimate channels was fairly common among respondents. Federal law bars juveniles from purchasing firearms through normal retail outlets, but the law is readily circumvented by persuading someone who is of legal age to make the purchase in one's behalf. A total of 32 percent of the inmates and 18 percent of the students had asked someone to purchase a gun for them in a gun shop, pawnshop, or other retail

Table 2. Means of Obtaining Guns

	Percent of Inmates	Percent of Students
Likely Source If Desired*	(N = 738)	(N = 623)
Steal from a person or car	14	7
Steal from a house or apartment	17	8
Steal from a store or pawnshop	8	4
Borrow from family member or friend	45	53
Buy from family member or friend	36	35
Get off the street	54	37
Get from a drug dealer	36	22
Get from an addict	35	22
Buy from gun shop	12	28
Source of Most Recent Handgun**	(N = 640)	(N = 211)
A friend	30	38
Family member	6	23
Gun shop/pawnshop	7	11
The street	22	14
Drug dealer	9	2
Drug addict	12	6
"Taken" from someone's house or car	12	2
Other	2	4

* Item: "How would you go about getting a gun if you decided you wanted one?" (Multiple responses permitted.)

** Item: "Where did you get your most recent handgun?" Respondents who owned handguns only.

outlet; 49 percent of the inmates and 52 percent of the students mentioned a friend as the person requested to buy a gun; and 14 percent of the inmates and 18 percent of the students had turned to family members. Only 7 percent and 6 percent of the inmates and students, respectively, had sought help from strangers.

It seems, then, that the inmates had access to an informal network that made gun acquisition cheaper and easier; turning to retail channels was possible but generally not necessary. Less streetwise and less hardened, perhaps, the students saw themselves as more dependent on the retail shop if they needed a gun, although only 18 percent had ever used that source.

Cost of a gun

Aside from convenience, there is another good reason why juveniles prefer informal and street sources over normal retail outlets. Guns obtained from informal and street sources are considerably less expensive. The substantial majority of handguns and conventional shoulder weapons obtained by juveniles in a cash transaction with an informal source were purchased for \$100 or less; most of the military-style rifles obtained from such sources were purchased for \$300 or less (table 3). Considering the general quality of the firearms in question (see above), the cash prices paid on the street were clearly much less than the normal cost paid by the relatively few respondents who obtained the guns through regular retail outlets.

The decision to carry a gun

The popular fear is that juveniles carry guns to prey on the rest of society. For the inmate sample, this fear is well-founded; 63 percent had committed crimes with guns. Forty percent had obtained a gun specifically for use in crime. Of those who reported committing "serious" crimes, 43 percent were "usually" or "always" armed with a gun during the process.

Use in crime, however, was not the most important factor in the decision to own or carry guns, either for inmates or students. Nor was the gun principally a totem whose primary function was to impress one's

Table 3. Cost of Most Recent Firearm (for respondents who purchased gun for cash)*

Gun Type	Inmates			Students		
	Total	Retail	Informal	Total	Retail	Informal
Handguns						
Less than \$50	41%	17%	21%	21%	0%	25%
\$50-\$100	24%	22%	48%	53%	27%	58%
More than \$100	35%	61%	31%	26%	73%	17%
Number	235	23	201	64	11	48
Military-Style Rifles						
Less than \$100	22%	28%	21%	28%	0%	29%
\$100-\$300	48%	7%	50%	21%	40%	45%
More than \$300	30%	65%	29%	51%	60%	35%
Number	165	14	151	38	5	31
Rifles or Shotguns						
Less than \$100	54%	32%	51%	47%	25%	52%
\$100-\$150	13%	14%	20%	29%	25%	28%
More than \$150	33%	54%	29%	24%	50%	20%
Number	153	19	134	30	4	25%

*By way of interpretation of the results, of 235 inmates whose most recently acquired gun was a handgun paid for in cash, 41 percent paid \$50 or less and 35 percent paid \$100 or more; likewise, among 38 students whose most recently acquired gun was a military rifle that had been purchased for cash, 51 percent paid \$300 or more for it. "Retail" means a gun shop, pawn shop, or other retail outlet; "informal" is a cash purchase from any other source.

peers. Impressing peers or others was among the least important reasons for purchasing a gun, regardless of weapon type and for students and inmates equally.

Instead, reasons for carrying a gun were dominated by themes of self-protection and self-preservation. The most frequent circumstances in which inmates carried guns were when they were in a strange area (66 percent), when they were out at night (58 percent), and whenever they thought they might need self-protection (69 percent). Likewise, for any of the types of guns acquired by either inmates or students, the desire for protection and the need to arm oneself against enemies were the primary reasons to obtain a gun.

As the findings displayed in table 4 indicate, for example, 74 percent of the inmates who had obtained a handgun cited protection as a primary reason for their most recent purchase, and 52 percent cited armed enemies as a major factor. Use in

crime (36 percent) and to "get someone" (37 percent) were relatively, though obviously not wholly, unimportant. The theme of self-protection was also evident in the circumstances in which the inmate respondents had actually fired their guns. Three-quarters had fired a gun at a person at least once. Sixty-nine percent had fired in what they considered self-defense. More than half had also fired shots during crimes and drug deals. Better than 6 in 10 had fired their weapons in fights and to scare someone.

Dealing guns

Given the means and sources of firearms acquisition for both inmates and high school students, it is obvious that there is a large, informal street market in guns, one in which the inmate respondents were regular suppliers as well as frequent consumers. Forty-five percent could be described as gun dealers in that they had

Table 4. "Very Important" Reasons for Most Recent Gun Acquisition

Gun Type	Percent Stating That Each Reason Was "Very Important"	
	Inmates	Students
Military-Style Guns	(N = 365)	(N = 108)
Protection	73	75
Enemies had guns	60	42
Use in crimes	40	(item not asked)
To get someone	43	25
Friends had one	20	16
To impress people	10	9
To sell	11	6
Handguns	(N = 611)	(N = 210)
Protection	74	70
Enemies had guns	52	28
Use in crimes	36	(item not asked)
To get someone	37	13
Friends had one	16	7
To impress people	10	10
To sell	10	4
Rifles or Shotguns	(N = 523)	(N = 121)
Protection	64	59
Enemies had guns	47	29
Use in crimes	35	(item not asked)
To get someone	37	20
Friends had one	16	5
To impress people	10	7
To sell	10	8

bought, sold, or traded a *lot* of guns. Of those who described themselves as dealers, the majority reported their most common source as theft from homes or cars and acquisitions from drug addicts. Sixteen percent had bought guns out-of-State for purposes of gun dealing; another 7 percent had done so in-State; and nearly 1 in 10 had stolen guns in quantity from stores or off trucks during shipment.

There were two very different types of "gun dealers" in the sample. One group (77 percent) comprised juveniles who occasionally came into possession of surplus firearms and then sold or traded them to street sources. They may have come across firearms in the course of burglaries or break-ins, or taken firearms from drug addicts in exchange for drugs, but they

were not systematically in the business of gun dealing. The other group (23 percent) was more systematic in its gun-dealing activities and looked on gun deals as a business, seeking (if need be) to purchase guns both in- and out-of-State to supply their consumers. This group would include (one assumes) the one inmate in five who had gone (a few times or many times) to places with "very easy gun laws" to buy up guns for resale in his own neighborhoods. Those who had dealt guns, whether systematically or not, were more involved in gun use and criminal activity than those who had not dealt guns. They were more likely to carry a gun generally, more likely to own all types of weapons, more involved in shooting incidents, and more accepting of shooting someone to get something they wanted.

Drug use and gun activity

Much of the recent attention given to drugs and violence has centered on the use and sale of so-called hard drugs, specifically heroin, cocaine, and crack. Such drug use was not pervasive among the student respondents. Any use of hard drugs was reported by only 5 or 6 percent. Even among the inmates, percentages of users were moderate to low; only 43 percent had used cocaine, 25 percent crack, and 21 percent heroin. Combining results across types of drugs, complete abstinence from hard drugs was found to be characteristic of 93 percent of the high school students and 47 percent of the inmates. Further, the vast majority of users reported only occasional use.

With respect to the drugs-guns nexus, two important findings should be noted. First, substantial numbers of nonusers engaged in all the gun-related behaviors reported by respondents. For example, 72 percent of the inmates who had never used heroin had fired a gun at someone. A second and related finding is that inmate heroin users were generally more likely than nonusers to have been involved in most aspects of gun ownership and use, though the level of use among users was unrelated to the level of firearm activity. However, users of cocaine and crack were generally no more likely to have engaged in gun activity than nonusers. While the number of drug users among the students was too small to permit reliable analyses, the link between drugs and gun activity seemed more pronounced among members of this group.

Drug dealing and gun activity

The majority of inmates (72 percent) and a surprising percentage of high school students (18 percent) had either themselves dealt drugs or worked for someone who did. Firearms were a common element in the drug business. Among those who had dealt drugs or had worked for dealers, 89 percent of the inmates and 75 percent of the students had carried guns generally. Of the inmate dealers, 60 percent were very likely to carry guns during drug transactions, and 63 percent had fired guns during

those transactions. Moreover, 43 percent of the inmates reported that all or most of the drug dealers they knew also dealt in guns. Nearly half of the inmates who had ever stolen guns had also sold at least some of them to drug dealers. Six percent of those who had dealt guns had bought guns from drug dealers.

For inmate respondents, whether or not drug users, involvement in drug sales was associated with higher levels of every type of gun activity examined in this study. Student drug sellers reported higher levels of firearm activity than nonsellers who were not also users. However, differences between those who combined use and sales and those who only sold were not great; to the extent differences existed, they favored those who were involved in both use and sales. Taking the findings regarding drug use, drug sales, and gun activity together, it seems that dealers, addicts, and drugs were common and, in many instances, highly influential pieces in the illicit firearms market of the respondents. Judged by the findings from the study's selected samples, the street economy is not made up of specialists so much as of a generalized commerce in illegal goods wherein guns, drugs, and other illicit commodities are bought, sold, and traded.

Gangs and guns

The notion of a link between gangs and gun-related violence is common in most discussions of crime in the Nation's urban centers. Part of the problem with assessing the accuracy of this perception is the difficulty encountered in classifying the many forms that gangs take. Since the present study was not directed specifically at this issue, it is not possible to resolve the problem fully here. However, it was possible to classify gangs broadly through use of variables central to most discussions of gang typology and actual research on gangs.⁵

Typologies aside, it must be stressed that the gang members mentioned in this report derive from *selected* samples of juvenile gang members who are also sufficiently serious offenders to merit confinement in maximum security facilities as well as

gang members who are also students in inner-city high schools with established problems of violence.

For the present study gangs are classified into three general types:

- Quasi-gang—a group with whom the respondent identifies but does not define as an organized gang.
- Unstructured gang—a group that is considered an organized gang by the respondent but that has fewer than 10 members or has few of the trappings normally associated with gangs (e.g., an "official" name, an "official" leader, regular meetings, designated clothing, and a specified turf).
- Structured gang—a group that is considered an organized gang by the respondent, has at least 10 members, and has at least 4 of the trappings normally associated with gangs. A total of 68 percent of the inmates and 22 percent of the students were affiliated with a gang or quasi-gang.

As with the relation between drugs and guns, it is important to note that substantial portions of the samples who were not affiliated with gangs were heavily involved in gun-related activity. However, for the inmates and to a lesser extent the students as well, movement from nongang member to member of a gang was associated with increases in possessing and carrying guns. Overall, structured and unstructured gang members differed little in relation to these variables. Both exceeded quasi-gang members in gun possession and carrying. Among inmates, for example, 81 percent of both types reported ownership of a revolver; 75 percent of structured gang members and 72 percent of unstructured gang members reported owning an automatic or semiautomatic handgun. Corresponding figures for quasi-gang members were slightly lower—70 percent and 65 percent, respectively.

Of some special interest, findings from both samples indicate that members of structured gangs were less likely than members of unstructured gangs (for students, even less than those of quasi-gangs) to possess military-style rifles. The preferred (or, at least, most commonly owned) weapon for respondents of both samples

was the revolver, although ownership of military-style weapons among gang-affiliated inmates was quite widespread, averaging 53 percent across gang types.

Implications

● *Owning and carrying guns are fairly common behaviors among segments of the juvenile population—in the present study, among youth with records of serious crime and among students in troubled inner-city schools.* Fifty-five percent of the inmate respondents carried a gun routinely before being incarcerated. Twelve percent of the students carried a gun routinely. Thus, while these behaviors were by no means universal, least of all among the students surveyed, neither were they rare.

● *Perhaps the most striking finding is the quality of firearms these youth possessed.* They were well-made, easy to shoot, accurate, reliable firearms. Whether a matter of accessibility or preference, the most likely owned gun of either sample was a hand weapon (automatic or not) of large caliber. At the time of their incarceration, 55 percent of the inmate respondents owned automatic or semiautomatic handguns; 35 percent owned military-style automatic rifles. Comparable figures for the student sample were 18 and 6 percent, respectively.

● *For the majority of respondents, self-protection in a hostile and violent world was the chief reason to own and carry a gun.* Drug use and sales are seriously implicated in the youth-gun problem, but, at least with respect to the respondents in this study, to characterize either as directly causal is likely incorrect. The same may be said of the association between gangs and guns. While the link is apparent, it is not at all clear whether gangs *cause* gun use or whether they simply offer safety and a sense of belonging to youth who are already well acquainted with guns and perceive the need for them.

To the extent a violent social world prevails for people like those in the selected samples, the preference for high-quality, powerful firearms should not be surprising. Given the evidently heavy flow of firearms of all sorts through the respondents'

communities, guns of this type will ultimately find favor among both perpetrators and their possible victims. To the extent that antiviolen policy departs from changing the general social conditions that make arms-possession seem necessary and even desirable to juveniles, policy by necessity leans toward dissuading youth from pursuing so many and such lethal weapons. In this vein, the study findings shed some light on the potential for curbing youth violence through controlling gun distribution at the point of retail sale.

● *The handgun (and, secondarily, the shotgun) was the most commonly owned firearm among the respondents.* Much of the recent policy debate over firearms has concerned the wisdom of banning sales (and ownership) of military-style combat rifles to the general public. More than a third of the inmate respondents (though only 1 in 20 students) claimed to have possessed such a weapon at the time they were incarcerated. Yet it would seem highly specialized assault rifles are generally ill-suited for the day-to-day business of self-protection and crime. Outfitted with high-capacity magazines or clips, these weapons are bulky, relatively hard to handle, and very difficult to conceal on the street. Further, the firepower such weapons represent would rarely be in demand. For most offensive and defensive purposes, hand weapons are better suited.

● *Controls imposed at the point of retail sale likely would be ineffective, at least by themselves, in preventing the acquisition of guns by juveniles studied here because they rarely obtain their guns through such customary outlets.* Indeed, most of the methods of obtaining guns reported by the juveniles are already against the law. Informal commerce in small arms involving purchases and trades among private parties (most likely family members and friends) is difficult to regulate, is exploited by juveniles as well as adults to obtain guns, and successfully subverts legal measures designed to prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. In the final analysis, the problem may not be that the appropriate laws do not exist but that the laws that do exist apparently are not or cannot be enforced, and that persons involved in firearms transactions with juveniles are

not concerned with the legality of the transaction.

● *Judging by the present findings, handguns of all types, and even military-style rifles, are readily available through theft from legitimate sources and can be had at relatively little cost.* Again judging by the present findings, theft seems a major avenue by which guns enter the black market. Most of the inmate respondents, for example, had stolen guns themselves, though most had purchased or traded for the gun they owned at the time they were incarcerated. If theft is indeed such an important piece of the gun-supply puzzle, the approximately 72 million handguns currently possessed by legitimate private owners represent a potentially rich source for criminal handgun acquisition.

● *Therefore, an effective gun ownership policy, of necessity, must confront the issue of firearms theft.* At a minimum, there should be programs to educate the gun-owning public concerning the importance of securing their firearms.

Ultimately, from the viewpoint of policy, it may matter less where juveniles get their guns than where they get the idea that it is acceptable to use them. The problem is less one of getting guns out of the hands of juveniles and more one of reducing motivations (for the sample, primarily self-preservation) for youth to arm themselves in the first place. Convincing juveniles not to own, carry, and use guns will therefore require convincing them that they can survive in their neighborhoods without being armed.

Notes

1. Altschuler, D., and P. Brounstein. 1991. "Patterns of Drug Use, Drug Trafficking and Other Delinquency Among Inner City Adolescent Males in Washington, DC." *Criminology* 29:589-621. See also Cernkovich, S., P. Giordano, and M. Pugh. 1985. "Chronic Offenders: The Missing Cases in Self-Report Delinquency Research." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 76:705-32.
2. Anderson, A.B., A. Basilevsky, and D. Hum. 1983. "Missing Data: A Review of the Literature." In *Handbook of Survey Research*, P. Rossi, J. Wright, and A. Anderson, eds. New York: Academic Press. 415-94.

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6. See Beck, A., S. Kline, and L. Greenfeld. 1988. *Survey of Youth in Custody, 1987*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Fagan, J., E. Piper, and M. Moore. 1986. "Violent Delinquents and Urban Youths." *Criminology* 24:439-71. Fagan, J., E. Piper, and Y. Cheng. 1987. "Contributions of Victimization to Delinquency in Inner Cities." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 78:586-613. Wright, J.D., and P. Rossi. 1986. *Armed and Considered Dangerous*. Hawthorne, New York: Aldine. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 1988. *Profile of State Prison Inmates, 1986*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
7. See Fagan, J., E. Piper, and M. Moore. 1986. "Violent Delinquents and Urban Youths." *Criminology* 24:439-71. Fagan, J., E. Piper, and Y. Cheng. 1987. "Contributions of Victimization to Delinquency in Inner Cities." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 78:586-613.

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National Institute of Justice

Research in Brief

February 1994

Firearms and Violence

by Jeffrey A. Roth

Approximately 60 percent of all murder victims in the United States in 1989 (about 12,000 people)—were killed with firearms. According to estimates, firearm attacks injured another 70,000 victims, some of whom were left permanently disabled. In 1985 (the latest year for which data are available), the cost of shootings—either by others, through self-inflicted wounds, or in accidents—was estimated to be more than \$14 billion nationwide for medical care, long-term disability, and premature death. Among firearms, handguns are the murder

weapon of choice. While handguns make up only about one-third of all firearms owned in the United States, they account for 80 percent of all murders committed with firearms.¹

Teenagers and young adults face especially high risks of being murdered with a firearm. Figures for 1990 from the National Center for Health Statistics indicated that 82 percent of all murder victims aged 15 to 19 and 76 percent of victims aged 20 to 24 were killed with guns. The

risk was particularly high for black males in those age ranges. The firearm murder rate was 105.3 per 100,000 black males aged 15 to 19, compared to 9.7 for white males in the same age group. This 11:1 ratio of black to white rates reflects a perplexing increase since 1985, when the firearm murder rate for black males aged 15 to 19 was 37.4 per 100,000. Among 20- to 24-year-old black males, the rate increased from 63.1 to 140.7. For several years before 1985, the rates for black males in these age groups had been

Issues and Findings

Discussed in the Brief: The current status of research and evaluations concerning firearms and violent crime, as reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior.

Key issues: Most murders involve firearms, and young minority men are at especially high risk of being murdered with a gun. Innovations in laws, law enforcement, public education, and technology all show promise of reducing gun murders by selectively making firearms less available to persons likely to use them in violence, less accessible in situations where violence is likely to occur, or less lethal. Evaluations are needed to test the effectiveness of these innovations.

Key findings:

- ◆ Firearms are used in about 60 percent of the murders committed in this country, and attacks by firearms injure thousands of others. The risk of being murdered with a firearm falls disproportionately

on young people, particularly young black men.

- ◆ Greater gun availability increases the rates of murder and felony gun use, but does not appear to affect general violence levels.

- ◆ Self-defense is the most commonly cited reason for acquiring a gun, but it is unclear how often these guns are used for self-protection against unprovoked attacks.

- ◆ According to the latest available data, those who use guns in violent crimes rarely purchase them directly from licensed dealers; most guns used in crime have been stolen or transferred between individuals after the original purchase.

- ◆ In robberies and assaults, victims are far more likely to die when the perpetrator is armed with a gun than when he or she has another weapon or is unarmed.

- ◆ Several strategies may succeed in reducing gun murders, but rigorous evaluations are needed to ascertain their effectiveness. Among these are reducing firearm lethality (e.g., by banning certain

types of ammunition), reducing unauthorized use (e.g., through combination locks on triggers, or sentence enhancements for burglary and fencing violations that involve guns), and educating the public about safe use and storage.

- ◆ Evaluation findings indicate that the following kinds of laws can reduce gun murder rates when they are enforced: prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons, extending sentences for robbery and assault when a gun is used, and restrictive licensing requirements for handgun ownership.

- ◆ Where there is local support, priority should be given to three enforcement objectives: disrupting illegal gun markets; reducing juveniles' access to guns; and close cooperation between the police and the community to set priorities and enforce laws, in order to reduce the fears that lead to gun ownership for self-defense.

Target audience: Federal, State, and local government policymakers, law enforcement practitioners, and community organizations.

Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior

Violence is universally recognized as a pervasive part of contemporary American society and of our Nation's past as well. Many of the attempts to understand the phenomenon have been made in response to specific situations, such as the lawlessness of the Prohibition era, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the urban riots of the mid-1960's. Other attempts at understanding violence singled out particular causes for analysis. In none of these studies, however, was the full body of research on violence reviewed comprehensively, and none of them took an interdisciplinary approach.

The Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior was set up to meet the need for a more comprehensive assessment of what is known about violent behavior. It was established in response to a request made by three Federal agencies: the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NSF asked for a review of current knowledge about the causes of violent behavior and recommendations for future research. The other two agencies shared these goals, but their areas of interest reflected their particular missions. As the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, NIJ wanted to find out about means to prevent and control violent crime. The CDC wanted assistance in setting priorities for preventing injuries and deaths caused by violence.

Created in 1989, the panel reviewed research on "interpersonal violence"—events involving at most a few perpetrators and victims. This limitation excluded suicide and self-mutilation as well as large-scale collective and State violence. The focus was on describing, understanding, and controlling violence in the United States. Research in biomedical, psychological, and other social

sciences was reviewed. The work of the panel was intended both to help guide future research and evaluation projects aimed at prevention and control and to suggest strategic directions for violence control policy.

The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the panel were published in Volume 1 of *Understanding and Preventing Violence*, published by the National Academy Press. Three volumes of background papers commissioned by the panel are forthcoming. The panel concluded that numerous, often interacting factors give rise to violent events. Although the underlying interactions are not well understood, attention to the factors suggests many promising preventive interventions. Testing and evaluating these interventions creates opportunities to prevent particular types of violence while gaining better understanding of them. The panel made recommendations in a number of areas, among them development of problem-solving initiatives to control and understand violence; better statistical systems for measuring violence; and a program of research to identify underlying causes. This Research in Brief is one of a series that summarizes the panel's findings.

NIJ is committed to implementing the recommendations of the panel. Its commitment has begun through support for the Program on Human Development and Criminal Behavior, a longitudinal, multi-community research project that is exploring the factors associated with violence. In addition, the panel's recommendations have helped shape the goals of NIJ research and evaluation activities and its long-range plans for research.

Copies of *Understanding and Preventing Violence* are available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20418 (800-624-6242).

decreasing. The recent increases have not been paralleled for females, whites, or older black males, nor have they been matched in non-gun murder rates or even firearm suicide rates for young black males. (The latter are higher among whites than among blacks but have risen recently for both races.)²

For these reasons, the Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior devoted substantial attention to issues surrounding firearms and violence, relying on a commissioned background paper,³ critical commentary on a draft of that paper, and its own review of published research literature. This report summarizes the panel's conclusions.

Research findings

Any firearm murder follows a particular chain of events: One person acquires a firearm; two or more people come within reach of the firearm; a dispute escalates into an attack, the weapon is fired; it causes an injury; and the injury is serious enough to cause death. While that sequence probably seems obvious, thinking about gun murders as a chain of events draws attention to a series of risks that should be measured and questions that should be considered in designing strategies to reduce murders or other violent events that involve guns.

Some potentially useful distinctions should be made at the outset:

1. *Availability* of guns refers to the overall number of guns in society and the ease of obtaining them.
2. *Possession* of a gun simply means ownership, regardless of how the weapon is stored, carried, or used.
3. *Access* to a gun as a weapon of violence means its immediate availability at the site of a violent event and depends on how the gun is stored or carried.
4. *Allocation* of guns refers to the distribution of gun possession among people who have and people who have not demonstrated high potentials for violent behavior.

5. *Lethality* of guns or other weapons means the likelihood that a person injured by the weapon will die as a result.

Each of these distinctions raises specific issues about the relationship of guns to violence.

How is gun availability related to violence levels?

Speculation about the relationship between gun availability and violence levels takes two directions. On one hand, greater availability of guns may deter some potential perpetrators of violent crimes out of fear that the intended victim may be armed. On the other hand, greater availability of guns may encourage people who are contemplating committing a violent crime to carry it out but first to arm themselves to overcome their fear of retaliation. Greater gun availability may also increase violence levels if guns kept at home or in cars are stolen during burglaries, enter illegal markets, and encourage criminals to attack victims they would pass up without being armed. Guns kept in homes may also be used in family arguments that might have ended nonviolently if guns were not available.

How are these conflicting speculations resolved in actual practice? The best way to answer this question would be to measure violent crime levels before and after an intervention that substantially reduced gun availability. However, opportunities to evaluate the effects of such interventions have arisen in only a few jurisdictions. (The results are discussed, along with those of other evaluations, on pages 5 and 6.)

Because evaluation opportunities have been rare, researchers have used four less powerful approaches to study how gun availability affects violence and its consequences. The findings, while somewhat tentative and not entirely consistent, suggest that greater gun availability increases murder rates and influences the choice of weapon in violent crimes, but does not affect overall levels of nonfatal violence.

The first research approach asks how differences in violence across American cities

are related to variations in gun availability, controlling for other relevant factors.

These studies generally find small positive correlations between measures of gun availability and both felony gun use and felony murder. However, they find no consistent relationship between gun availability and overall rates of violent crime.

The second approach used was a comparison of two jurisdictions. The neighboring cities of Seattle and Vancouver have similar economic profiles and were found to have similar rates of burglary and assault. However, Seattle, with its less restrictive gun possession laws, had a 60 percent higher homicide rate and a 400 percent higher firearm homicide rate than Vancouver. It is not clear whether the differences in gun laws accounted for all the variation between the two cities in homicide rates, or whether differences in culture were also contributing factors.

The third approach relies on cross-national statistical comparisons. These studies have generally reached one of the conclusions found in studies of American cities: a small positive correlation between gun availability and homicide rates. The finding is difficult to interpret, however, in view of differences by country in culture and in gun regulations. For example, murder rates are low in Switzerland, where militia requirements make possession of long guns by males nearly universal. This seems to suggest there is no positive correlation between gun availability and murder rates. But this interpretation is clouded because in Switzerland access to guns is limited: militia members are required to keep their guns locked up and to account for every bullet.

The fourth approach relies on analyses of trends over time. Studies using this method have found no correlations between gun availability and rates of violent crime. But trends are subject to a variety of influences, which may mask a relationship that would emerge in the aftermath of some new law or other intervention that substantially reduced gun availability. Evaluation findings about such interventions are discussed later in this report, but more such

evaluations are needed to obtain better answers to this question.

How do people obtain possession of guns they use in violent crime?

Although available data on how guns are obtained are fragmented, outdated, and subject to sampling bias, they suggest that illegal or unregulated transactions are the primary sources of guns used in violence. For example, only 29 percent of 113 guns used in felonies committed in Boston during 1975 and 1976 were bought directly from federally licensed dealers (27 of the 29 percent were obtained by legally eligible purchasers). Between the manufacturer and the criminal user, 20 percent of the guns passed through a chain of unregulated private transfers, while 40 percent were stolen. Most of the illegal suppliers found in this sample were small-scale independent operators who sold only a few guns per month, rather than large organizations or licensed dealers working largely off the books.⁴

More recent data were available on how incarcerated felons in 10 States obtained the guns they used in committing crime. The figures revealed that in 1982 only 16 percent of those who used guns in criminal activities reported buying them from licensed dealers. Twice as many (32 percent) reported stealing the gun, and the rest borrowed or bought it from friends or acquaintances. Thefts and illegal purchases were not surprisingly most common among the incarcerated felons who said they acquired their guns primarily to commit crimes.⁵

More up-to-date information on how juveniles obtain guns will be available in the forthcoming report of a study sponsored by NIJ.⁶ The researchers studied samples of juveniles who were imprisoned for serious violent crime and students who attended inner-city high schools.

How does gun access affect the consequences of violent events?

Researchers have studied how the presence of a gun affects the consequences of two types of violent crime—personal robbery and assault. Both types of crime may begin

with a threat to use violence. Studies have examined how the likelihood of three outcomes of the threat—escalation to an actual attack, to injury, and to death—changes if the robber or assaulter posing the threat is armed with a gun.

A study of personal robberies revealed that escalation from threat to attack is *less likely* if the robber is armed with a gun than if he or she is unarmed.⁷ A similar pattern was found in assaults.⁸ Perhaps the reason is that robbers armed with guns are less nervous, or victims confronted with guns are too frightened to resist, or both. Either effect could reduce the risk of escalation from threat to attack.

One implication of the lower escalation rate when guns are used is that robbery and assault victims are less likely to be injured when the perpetrator has a gun. When data reported through the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) between 1973 and 1982 are combined, they reveal that among victims who survive attacks, the chance of injury was 14 percent when the offender was armed with a gun. It was higher when a gun was not used—25 percent when the offender was armed with a knife, 30 percent when unarmed, and 45 percent when armed with another weapon.⁹

How does gun use affect the chance that a violent crime will end in the victim's death?

The overall fatality rate in gun robberies is an estimated 4 per 1,000—about 3 times the rate for knife robberies, 10 times the rate for robberies with other weapons, and 20 times the rate for robberies by unarmed offenders.¹⁰ For assaults, a crime which includes threats, the most widely cited estimate of the fatality rate is derived from a 1968 analysis of assaults and homicides committed in Chicago. The study, prepared for the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, reported that gun attacks kill 12.2 percent of their intended victims. This is about 5 times as often as in attacks with knives, the second most deadly weapon used in violent crimes.¹¹ With one exception, more recent studies have generally concluded

that death was at least twice as likely in gun assaults as in knife assaults.¹²

While researchers who have looked at the question generally concur that victims injured by guns are more likely to die than victims injured by other weapons, an important question remains: how much of this greater lethality reflects properties of the gun, and how much reflects greater determination to kill by those who choose guns over other weapons for their violent acts? The question is significant for public policy because even the removal of all guns from society would not prevent homicides if the greater lethality of gun injuries were due entirely to violent gun users' greater determination. They would simply achieve their goal using other weapons.

The relative importance of weapon type and user determination in affecting the deadliness of gun attacks has not been definitively established because researchers cannot directly measure user determination. Indirect measures indicate that firearms are sometimes fired at people without a premeditated intent to kill. The question is how often? If the motivations of gun murderers and knife murderers systematically differed, then systematic differences in the surrounding circumstances would be expected. In fact, however, the gun and knife murders in the 1968 Chicago sample occurred under similar circumstances—largely arguments in which alcohol and temporary rage, not single-minded intent, were most likely to have influenced the killer's behavior. More than 80 percent of gun victims in the sample received only a single wound, a finding which suggests that killers and assaulters who used guns failed to use the full capabilities of their guns to achieve the goal of killing.¹³ The interpretation of these statistics has been questioned on methodological grounds, however; and, in any event, the interactions among circumstances, motivation, and weapon choice in murder may well have changed since 1968.

The study of personal robberies, discussed above, suggests at least one reason other than lethal intentions why some robbers

use guns: to enable them to attack certain types of victims, such as businesses and groups of teenage males, who would otherwise be relatively invulnerable. Guns are used more often to rob these types of victims than to rob women and the elderly, who are considered more vulnerable. Serial killers are considered the most intent of all killers, but they have rarely used guns. People who killed in violent family fights seem unlikely to have carefully considered their weapon choices; more likely, they resorted to the nearest available weapon, including hands or feet. Even among incarcerated felons, those interviewed in the 10-State survey cited above, 76 percent of those who fired guns in criminal situations claimed to have had no prior intention of doing so.¹⁴

These observations and findings strongly suggest that properties of weapons, rather than intentions of attackers, account for at least some of the difference in lethality between guns and other weapons. However, the apportionment is not precise, and questions have been raised about the methodologies used in the studies.¹⁵ Measuring more precisely how much of the lethality difference arises from different intentions rather than from the choice of a gun remains a problem for future research.

Does use of a gun in self-defense reduce the injury risk of violent events?

Self-defense is commonly cited as a reason to own a gun. This is the explanation given by 20 percent of all gun owners and 40 percent of all handgun owners contacted for a household survey conducted in 1979.¹⁶ Just how often potential victims of violence defend themselves with guns is unclear, in part because "self-defense" is a vague term. Among a sample of prisoners, 48 percent of those who fired their guns while committing crimes claimed they did so in self-defense. At a minimum, victims use guns to attack or threaten the perpetrators in about 1 percent of robberies and assaults—about 70,000 times per year—according to NCVS data for recent years. These victims were less likely to report being injured than those who either defended themselves by other means or took no self-protective measures at all. Thus, while 33 percent of all surviving

robbery victims were injured, only 25 percent of those who offered no resistance and 17 percent of those who defended themselves with guns were injured. For surviving assault victims, the corresponding injury rates were, respectively, 30 percent, 27 percent, and 12 percent.¹⁷

For two reasons, these statistics are an insufficient basis for the personal decision whether or not to obtain a gun for self-protection. First, the decision involves a trade-off between the risks of gun accidents and violent victimization. Second, it is not entirely clear that the relatively few robberies and assaults in which victims defended themselves with guns are typical of these types of crimes and that the lower injury rates resulted from the self-defense action rather than some other factor. Perhaps offenders lost the advantage of surprise, which allowed victims not only to deploy their guns but also to take other evasive action. More detailed analysis of gun self-defense cases is needed to measure both the frequency and consequences of different self-defense actions using guns.

Policy implications

Currently, firearm sales and uses are subject to Federal, State, and local regulations that are intended to reduce gun-related criminal activity. The Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 is intended to control the *allocation* of guns by requiring that dealers obtain Federal licenses; by prohibiting them from selling guns through the mail or across State lines to anyone except other licensed dealers; and by barring sales to high-risk-category individuals such as minors, felons, and drug users. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, resources available to enforce the Act declined during the 1980's, and the news media have reported instances of convicted felons and active drug dealers obtaining Federal dealers' licenses that have permitted them to purchase guns in large quantities.

Changing the allocation of guns from high-risk to low-risk individuals is one of four strategies that have been attempted to reduce gun-related violent crimes. To

Table 1. Evaluation Status of Strategies and Interventions for Reducing Gun Violence

Strategy and Intervention	Evaluated?	Effective?
Strategy 1: Alter gun uses or storage		
Place and manner laws		
Restrict carrying		
Bartley-Fox Amendment	Yes	Yes
Enhance sentences for felony gun use		
Michigan	Yes	Partial*
Pennsylvania	Yes	Partial*
Increase probability of sentences for felony gun use		
Operation Triggerlock	No	?
Civil/administrative laws		
Owner liability for damage by gun	No	?
Technological		
Enhance/maintain firearm detectability	No	?
Metal detectors in dangerous places	No	?
Enhance visibility of dangerous illegal uses	No	?
Shields for vulnerable employees	No	?
Public education		
Safe use and storage	No	?
Role in self-defense	Yes	?
Strategy 2: Change gun allocation		
Civil/administrative laws		
Permissive licensing of owners (e.g., all but felons, drug users, minors, etc.)	No	?
Waiting periods for gun purchases	No	?
Restrict sales to high-risk purchasers		
Gun Control Act of 1968	Yes	No
Law enforcement		
Disrupt illegal gun markets	No	?
Mandatory minimum sentences for gun theft	No	?
Technological		
Combination locks on guns	No	?
Strategy 3: Reduce gun lethality		
Protective clothing in dangerous encounter	No	?
Reduce barrel length and bore	No	?
Reduce magazine size	No	?
Ban dangerous ammunition	No	?
Strategy 4: Reduce gun availability		
Restrictive licensing systems		
D.C. Firearms Control Act of 1977	Yes	Yes
Restrict imports	No	?
Prohibit ownership	No	?

*Reduced gun homicides, no consistent effect on gun robberies, gun assaults, or non-gun homicides.

reduce high-risk uses of guns, some States have enacted "place and manner" laws to prevent carrying or concealing guns in public, or to enhance sentences for felonies in which guns are used. Other legal strategies are intended to reduce the *availability* of guns through restrictive licensing that permits only selected categories of people (such as police and private security officers) to possess guns. Legally required waiting periods for gun purchases are intended both to facilitate verification that purchasers belong to the permitted categories and to reduce "impulse buying" by people who may have temporary violent intentions.

Some States have attempted to reduce the *lethality* of available weapons by banning sales of certain categories of weapons used in violent crimes. These categories include concealable "Saturday night specials" or high-capacity "assault weapons," both of which have proven difficult to define in practice.

The high lethality of gun injuries and the heavy involvement of guns in murder have prompted an intense public debate and a search for strategies to reduce gun homicides. Legal, technological, and public education approaches may all have roles to play. (Table 1 lists these within the categories of the four strategies.) However, the effectiveness of any of these strategies in reducing gun murders depends on the strength of two influences that counteract each other:

- The behavioral response—the extent to which people behave in ways that reduce the level or severity of gun violence because of newly available protective technology, public education campaigns, or the threat of legal punishment.
- Substitution effects—the extent to which the desired behavioral responses are offset by high-risk behaviors such as use of more lethal guns, disarming of gun combination locks by gun thieves, or the assignment by drug organizations of juveniles to gun-using roles because they are subject to lighter penalties than adults.

Because the strength of these two effects cannot be predicted in advance, evaluation is needed to identify the effects of any of

the four types of strategies/interventions. Most of them have not been evaluated, and some of the evaluations have produced unclear results. (See Table 1.) However, studies of the four strategies have yielded some valuable information:

● **Strategy 1: Alter gun uses.** Both "place and manner" laws and sentence enhancements for felony gun use have been shown to be effective in States (Michigan and Pennsylvania) where they have been evaluated. But neither legal approaches (such as making owners or manufacturers liable for damages caused by the gun) nor technological approaches that make guns and their illegal uses more visible have been evaluated. Some public education initiatives have been evaluated, but the findings have been called into question because of measurement problems.

● **Strategy 2: Change gun allocation.** An evaluation of the effect of the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 was conducted in two States where restrictions against in-state purchases should make interstate trafficking the major source of guns used in crime. The evaluation did not find that the Act reduced gun use in assaults or homicides. However, a later evaluation of a crackdown to enforce the Federal law in the District of Columbia did show a 6-month reduction in gun homicides. Neither technological innovations, such as built-in combination locks that permit only the legal owner to fire the gun, nor law enforcement approaches, such as disruption of illegal gun markets or mandatory minimum sentences for gun theft, have been evaluated.

● **Strategy 3: Reduce gun lethality.** Neither legal nor technical restrictions that would reduce gun lethality have been evaluated.

● **Strategy 4: Reduce gun availability.** The results of several evaluations indicated that the 1977 District of Columbia Firearms Control Act, which prohibited handgun ownership by virtually all private citizens, reduced gun robberies, assaults, and homicides for several years. More intrusive legal restrictions on imports, manufacture, or ownership have not been evaluated.

The following evaluation findings are especially significant:

- The Massachusetts 1974 Bartley-Fox Amendment, which prescribed a 1-year sentence for unlicensed public carrying of firearms, decreased gun assaults, gun robberies, and gun homicides during the 2-year period in which it was evaluated.
 - Several State mandatory add-ons to felony sentences for use of a gun have reduced gun homicides, but whether they have discouraged gun use in robberies and assaults is not clear.
 - The decrease in Washington, D.C., gun homicides following passage of the 1977 D.C. Firearms Control Act appears to have been maintained until the mid-1980's when, according to a recent study, the rise of crack markets was accompanied by a substantial increase in gun homicides.¹⁸
 - The 1968 Federal Gun Control Act, which prohibited Federally licensed gun dealers from selling guns to certain designated "dangerous" categories of people, failed to reduce firearm injuries or deaths, apparently because of lax enforcement.
- Evaluations of firearm laws suggest that enforcement is critical to their effectiveness. Therefore, while public debate continues over the wisdom of enacting new gun laws, the Panel concluded that priority should be given to three aspects of enforcing existing laws:
- Disrupting illegal gun markets by means of undercover buys, sting operations, and other tactics at the wholesale and retail levels.
 - Reducing juveniles' access to guns through better enforcement of the Federal ban on gun dealers' sales to minors and through disruption of the illegal or unregulated channels through which juveniles obtain guns.
 - Close police-community cooperation in setting priorities and enforcing gun laws, as a means of reducing the fears that lead to gun ownership for self-defense.

Long-term efforts are needed to design and implement these and other enforcement tactics so they are both effective and acceptable to the local community; to test them in carefully controlled evaluations; to

refine them as indicated by the evaluation findings; and to replicate the evaluations in different community settings.

Notes

1. Confusion frequently arises in discussions of firearms (a generic term equivalent to "guns") used in violence because of inconsistencies between legal and popular classifications of firearms. The Code of Federal Regulations governing firearms distinguishes between rifles, shotguns, and handguns. Rifles are designed to fire solid bullets, and shotguns are commonly used to fire shells that contain small pellets, called "shot." Rifles and shotguns are frequently grouped together as "long guns," a term referring to their design, which generally requires that the user fire from the shoulder. Long guns may be shortened by sawing off the barrel, which makes them easier to conceal for use in crime. Handguns include pistols and revolvers designed to be fired with one hand. No Federal regulations require registration of handguns or long guns that shoot only one bullet or shell with each squeeze of the trigger; most such guns require reloading after six shots at most. Federal registration and taxes are required to own a machinegun, a weapon that can be made to shoot "automatically" (more than once) by holding the trigger in a squeezed position. Ammunition clips holding many bullets can be attached to machineguns or "semi-automatic" pistols and rifles (that is, weapons designed to accept ammunition clips, many of which can be converted to fire automatically), allowing them to fire 15 or 32 shots without reloading. Such weapons are sometimes popularly called "assault weapons," a term that has no precise definition.

2. Fingerhut, Lois A., "Firearm Mortality Among Children, Youth, and Young Adults 1-34 Years of Age, Trends and Current Status: United States, 1985-1990," National Center for Health Statistics, *Advance Data*, 231, March 23, 1993. The article contains additional details of firearms mortality. Unpublished data from the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that in 1991 the firearm homicide rate increased still further, to 123.6 per 100,000 black males aged 15 to 19 and to 164.4 per 100,000 for those aged 20 to 24. These data were not available when the panel study was conducted.

3. Cook, Philip J., "The Technology of Personal Violence." In M. Tonry, ed., *Crime and Justice*, Volume 14. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1991.

4. Moore, Mark H., "Keeping Handguns From Criminal Offenders," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 455 (1981):92-109.

5. Wright, James D., P.H. Rossi, and K. Daly, *The Armed Criminal in America: A Survey of Incarcerated Felons*, National Institute of Justice Research Report, Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, 1983.

6. Sheley, Joseph F., and James D. Wright, *Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples*, Research in Brief, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, forthcoming.

7. Cook, Philip J., "Reducing Injury and Death Rates in Robbery," *Policy Analysis* 6(1) (1980):21-45. The study focus was personal robberies reported in the National Crime Victimization Survey.

8. Kleck, Gary, and Karen McElrath, "The Effects of Weaponry on Human Violence," *Social Forces*, 69(3) (1991):1-21. This study also used data from the National Crime Victimization Survey.

9. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *The Use of Weapons in Committing Crimes*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1986.

10. Cook, Philip J., "Robbery Violence," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 78(2) (1987):357-376.

11. Newton, G.D., and F.E. Zimring, *Firearms and Violence in American Life: A Staff Report Submitted to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence*, Washington, D.C.: National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 1969.

12. The exception is Kleck and McElrath, "The Effects of Weaponry on Human Violence."

13. Zimring, Frank E., "Is Gun Control Likely to Reduce Violent Killings?" *The University of Chicago Law Review*, 35 (1968):721-737.

14. Wright, J.D., P.H. Rossi, and K. Daly, *Under the Gun: Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America*, Hawthorne, New York: Aldine Publishing Company, 1983:15.

15. See, for example, Wright, Rossi, and Daly, *Under the Gun: Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America*.

16. Decision-Making Information, Inc., *Attitudes of the American Electorate Toward Gun Control*, Santa Ana, California: Decision-Making Information, Inc., 1979.

17. Kleck, Gary, "Crime Control through the Private Use of Armed Force," *Social Forces*, 35 (1988):1-22. See Table 4, p. 8.

18. Loftin, C., D. McDowall, B. Wiersema, and T. J. Cottey, "Effects of Restrictive Licensing of Handguns on Homicide and Suicide in the District of Columbia," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 325 (December 1991): 1615-1620.

Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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January 1997

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was created by:

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Guns & Crime Statistics Information Package

Introduction

From 1899 to 1993, about 223 million guns became available in the United States, including 79 million rifles, 77 million handguns, and 66 million shotguns (BJS, *Guns Used in Crime: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, July 1995). In 1993, the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) estimated that 1.3 million victims of violent crime (29 percent) faced an offender with a firearm. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports, 68 percent of the murders in 1995 were committed with firearms, of which four out of five were with a handgun. These figures evidence the rising tide of gun availability and use nationwide, particularly as the weapon of choice in a large percentage of crimes.

The purpose of this information package is to provide a one-stop resource for those seeking statistics on guns and crime, not to address the divisive issues surrounding the gun debate. The package contains selected statistical tables from four major sources of national data: the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). In addition, this package contains the following:

- A matrix of Federal statistical data related to guns and crime.
- Copies of the BJS reports *Firearm Injury from Crime: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*; *Guns Used in Crime: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*; *Guns and Crime*; *Weapons Offenses and Offenders: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*; and *Firearms and Crimes of Violence*.
- Copies of the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) *Firearms and Violence*; *Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples*; *Understanding and Preventing Violence: A Public Health Perspective*; *Arrestees and Guns: Monitoring the Illegal Firearms Market*; and *Youth Violence, Guns, and Illicit Drug Markets*.

- Hawaii Department of the Attorney General Crime Prevention Division's *Crimes Committed with Firearms in the State of Hawaii, 1983-1992*; New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services' *Assault Weapons and Homicide in New York City*; and Virginia Criminal Justice Research Center's *Guns and Violent Crime*.
- A diskette with Lotus spreadsheets from selected BJS reports.
- A topical search on guns and crime. This search of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) data base yielded the 30 most representative citations on homicide. Each title contains a full bibliographic citation, annotation, and abstract.
- A list of further resources on guns and crime. This list provides contact information and a description of additional organizations that can provide further assistance with guns and crime research, in addition to online resources for statistics on guns and crimes.
- A list of the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Programs in each State. These contacts can provide assistance with obtaining State and local-level data on guns and crime.

About the Guns & Crime Data Sources

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, is the Nation's primary source for criminal justice statistics. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. These data are critical to Federal, State, and local policymakers in combating crime and ensuring that justice is both efficient and

evenhanded. BJS maintains more than two dozen major data collection programs from which it publishes and distributes reports nationwide. In this package, data are presented from eight BJS programs:

- National Crime Victimization Survey
- Survey of State Prison Inmates
- Criminal Records Data Quality Program
- Federal Justice Statistics Program
- National Corrections Reporting Program
- National Judicial Reporting Program
- National Pretrial Reporting Program
- National Prisoner Statistics

Guns and crime data pertaining to pretrial release, sentencing, and case processing are not contained in this package. However, a list of the BJS publications on these topics with ordering information is included.

U.S. Department of the Treasury Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) operates the National Firearms Tracing Center, which was created in 1972 as a centralized point for research on firearms transactions. The National Firearms Tracing Center has been a useful source of weapons data assisting in local police investigations. Through the resources of the National Firearms Tracing Center, local police officers can develop important investigative leads based on records of manufacture, distribution, purchase, and transfer of firearms. The Center aids the firearms industry as well as law enforcement. The purpose of the National Firearms Tracing Center is threefold: to identify a suspect to a crime by linking that person to a firearm, to establish the stolen status of a weapon, and to establish proof of ownership of a weapon. In addition, the ATF's Office of Public Affairs annually releases data on firearm manufacturing, importing, and exporting practices. These statistics depict global trends in gun availability, gun preferences by corporations and owners, and sale trends in the firearm industry.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of over 16,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime brought to their attention. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the program and issued periodic assessments of the nature and type of crime in the Nation. Although the program's primary objective is to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management, its data have, over the years, become one of the country's leading social indicators. The Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR), part of the UCR Program, includes detailed information about each homicide, including race, sex, and age of the victims and offenders; victim-offender relationship; murder weapon; and circumstances surrounding the murder.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Center for Health Statistics

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the Federal Government's principal vital and health statistics agency, covering the full spectrum of concerns in the health field from birth to death, including injury and homicide with firearms. The NCHS mission includes data collection, analysis and dissemination, research in statistical and survey methodology, and cooperative programs with State, national, and international organizations.

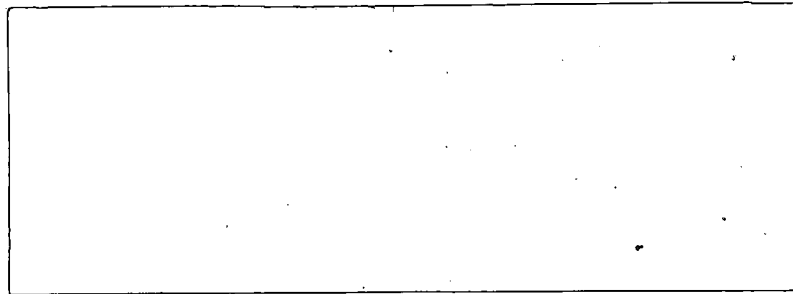
This information package provides an overview of guns and crime statistics and research. For additional information beyond what is presented in this package, call or write the BJS Clearinghouse:

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Guns & Crime

The NCJRS library currently contains over 130,000 documents including journals, government publications, magazines, and unpublished materials. The collection includes documents in the areas of courts, police, corrections, statistics, victims, drugs, juvenile justice, and much more.

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How to interpret these abstracts

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

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English title	→ TTIT: Differentiated Case Management: Implementation Manual
Personal author	→ PAUT: Cooper, C.; Solomon, M.; Bakke, H.
Corporate author	→ CORP: American University College of Public and International Affairs
Sponsoring agency	→ SPON: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance
Date of publication	→ PDTE: 1993
Country of origin	→ ORIG: United States
Grant number	→ GNUM: 89-DD-CX-K023
Type of resource	→ TYPE: Training Materials
Annotation	→ ANNO: This guide focuses on issues that must be addressed by jurisdictions that plan to implement a differentiated case management program.
Abstract	→ ABST: Differentiated Case Management (DCM) is a technique courts can use to tailor the case management process, and thus the allocation of judicial system resources, to the needs of individual cases. Following a listing of the goals and objectives of differentiated case management, this manual identifies and discusses the benefits of a DCM program.
Number of pages	→ PAGE: 144 p
Language	→ LANG: English
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ACCN = NCJRS accession number	CLSS = Document class
TTIT = English title	ORIG = Country of origin
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** DOCUMENT 1 OF 30 **

ACCN: 159909
TITL: Gun-Related Violence (From Trends, Risks, and Interventions in Lethal Violence: Proceedings of the Third Annual Spring Symposium of the Homicide Research Working Group, P 265-278, 1995, Carolyn Block and Richard Block, eds.)
PAUT: Roth, S F
SPON: US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20850; DO document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 14 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: NIJ Research Report, See NCJ-154254 for complete document.
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This paper discusses trends in gun-related violence in New York State and compares those figures with national statistics.

ABST: Nationally, the number of unintentional injuries and deaths and suicides exceeds the number of intentional killings involving firearms. In New York State, of the 2,422 deaths caused by firearms, 1,820 were homicides, 572 suicides, and 30 accidental shooting deaths. In the country as a whole, the proportion of all homicides that involved firearms increased dramatically beginning in the mid-1980's. The danger of firearms is compounded by the involvement of juveniles in firearm-related crime. This paper discusses characteristics of offenses committed with firearms, the firepower of weapons being used by violent criminals, and the need for law enforcement to control the illegal gun market. New York State initiatives to reduce gun-related crime involve intervening in illegal gun sales, restricting possession of assault weapons, improving handgun registration information, restricting gun possession by high-risk groups, and deterring negligent firearm storage. The paper also outlines actions to be taken at the Federal level to ensure uniform national regulation of firearms. 6 references and 6 figures

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** DOCUMENT 2 OF 30 **

ACCN: 159889
TITL: Easing Concealed Firearms Laws: Effects on Homicide in Three States
JCIT: Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, V 86, N 1 (Fall 1995), P 193-206
PAUT: McDowall, D; Loftin, C; Wiersema, B
SPON: US Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control Atlanta, GA 30333;
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 14 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
GNUM: R49-CCR-306268
TYPE: Legislation/policy analysis

ANNO: This study examines the impact of the liberalized licensing laws for the carrying of concealed weapons on homicides in Florida, Mississippi, and Oregon.

ABST: One type of law that applies to licensing for the carrying of a concealed weapon is "may issue" licensing. Under this policy, legal authorities grant licenses only to those citizens who can establish a compelling need for carrying a gun. Another approach is the nondiscretionary or "shall issue" system. Under this policy the authorities must provide a license to any applicant who meets specified criteria. Adoption of a "shall issue" policy usually increases the number of persons with permits to carry concealed guns. This study examines the "shall issue" laws in Florida, Mississippi, and Oregon and their impact on homicides. Similar to existing evaluations of "shall issue" licensing, this study used an interrupted time-series design to estimate average homicide levels before and after "shall issue" policies began. In addition, the study analyzed monthly homicide counts and examined only large urban areas within the three States. To determine whether the laws influenced gun deaths differently, firearm homicides were separated from homicides by other means. For all areas except Miami, the study examined the period between January 1973 and December 1992. The Miami analysis was confined to January 1983 through December 1992. The study results led the authors to two conclusions, one stronger than the other. The stronger conclusion is that "shall issue" laws do not reduce homicides, at least in large urban areas. The weaker conclusion is that "shall issue" laws raise levels of firearms murders. Reasons for these conclusions are discussed, along with implications for policy. 4 tables and 51 footnotes

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** DOCUMENT 3 OF 30 **

ACCN: 159326
TITL: Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America
PAUT: Kleck, G
SALE: Aldine de Gruyter Publishing Co. 200 Sawmill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532; BK book.
PDTE: 1991
ORIG: United States
PNUM: ISBN 0-202-30419-1
TYPE: Issue overviews

PAGE: 517 p
LANG: English

ANNO: Major issues concerning the relationships among guns, gun control, and violence are examined, with emphasis on the disputes regarding gun control.

ABST: Existing research and the author's own research are used to examine issues such as the ideology of the gun debate, who owns guns and why, the consequences of people owning and using guns for defense against criminals, the effects of guns on the incidence of violent crime, the involvement of firearms in suicide and accidents, and the impacts of gun laws on crime rates. Data sources include police-based crime statistics, victim surveys, public opinion polls, and the advocacy materials of groups that support and oppose gun control. The analysis concludes that the common rationale for gun control rests on an unduly simplified conception of the role of weapons in violence and that levels of general gun ownership appear to have no significant net effect on rates of homicide, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault, even though they do apparently affect the fraction of robberies and assaults committed with guns. General gun ownership levels also seem to have no net effect on suicide rates and appear to be unrelated to rates of fatal gun accidents. Nevertheless, a valid rationale exists for some kinds of gun control. Gun owner license laws appear to reduce gun accidents, and purchase permit laws seem to reduce murder. Prohibitions of gun possession by convicted criminals may reduce aggravated assaults and robberies, while bans on possessions by mentally ill persons may reduce suicides. Strict carry laws may reduce robbery and homicide. Beyond these and other exceptions, the gun controls currently in operation seem to have no net impact on total rates of violence. Recommendations, tables, index, and approximately 500 references

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** DOCUMENT 4 OF 30 **

ACCN: 157875
TITL: Homicide, Handguns, and the Crime Gun Hypothesis: Firearms Used
in Fatal Shootings of Law Enforcement Officers, 1980 to 1989
JCIT: American Journal of Public Health, V 84, N 4 (April 1994), P
561-564
PAUT: Wintemute, G J
PDTE: 1994
ORIG: United States
TYPE: Applied research
PAGE: 4 p CLSS: article
LANG: English

ANNO: This study examined the use of handguns owned by civilians in
the shooting deaths of law enforcement officers between 1980 and
1989.

ABST: The analysis was based on life tables generated for each
year's cohort of new handguns to estimate gun-years at risk,
analogous to person-years, for rate and relative risk calculation.
Of 735 firearm homicides of police officers during the study
period, 435 were committed with 428 civilian-owned handguns.
Revolvers were used more often than pistols. For both types of
handgun, .22-caliber weapons were least often used in police
homicides, while .32-caliber pistols and .38-caliber revolvers were
used most often. Forty-six percent of the handguns included in this
sample had a barrel length of three inches or less. U.S. firearms
manufacturers produced 82 percent of the handguns for which a
manufacturer could be identified at all. 1 figure, 1 table, and 24
references

Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse

** DOCUMENT 5 OF 30 **

ACCN: 157560
TITL: In the Line of Fire: Youth, Guns, and Violence in Urban America
PAUT: Sheley, J F; Wright, J D
SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice
Washington, DC 20531; US Department of Justice Office of
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Washington, DC 20531
SALE: Aldine de Gruyter Publishing Co. 200 Sawmill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532; PB paperback.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 192 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
PNUM: ISBN 0-202-30549-X
NOTE: Youth Violence and Guns. Social Institutions and Social
Change an Aldine de Gruyter Series of Texts and Monographs
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This book uses data drawn from juvenile male inmates and male students in inner-city schools to examine issues related to gun-related violence among urban youth.

ABST: The specific questions addressed in this study include respondents' exposure to guns, violence, and crime; respondents' criminal activities and drug activity profiles; respondents' gang membership profiles; gun possession and carrying patterns, including types of guns owned, among urban youth; important features of respondents' handguns; methods and cost of acquiring weapons; motivations for carrying guns and situations in which guns are used; gun sales by respondents; drug use and trafficking and their relationship to crime and gun activity; and correlations between gang membership, guns, and criminal activity. The book also explores the use of firearms by female juvenile inner-city youth, factors associated with weapon-related victimization, and the extent to which suburban youth engage in gun-related activity. The authors urge a policy aimed at reducing the motivation for gun possession by youth, to replace the current focus on taking away the guns they currently own. Chapter notes and tables, 190 references

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** DOCUMENT 6 OF 30 **

ACCN: 157411
TITL: Youth Violence, Guns, and the Illicit-Drug Industry
PAUT: Blumstein, A
SPON: Carnegie Mellon University H. John Heinz III School of Public
Policy and Management Pittsburgh, PA 15213;
SALE: Carnegie Mellon University H. John Heinz III School of Public
Policy and Management Pittsburgh, PA 15213; DO document.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 23 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: Youth Violence and Guns. A revised version of this paper
is scheduled to be published in the Journal of Criminal Law and
Criminology in 1995.
TYPE: Studies/research reports

ANNO: After examining overall crime patterns for the United States
from 1970 through 1994, this study focuses on violent crimes by
youth, the involvement of guns in these crimes, and their
relationship to the illicit-drug industry; policy implications
are drawn.

ABST: The statistical analysis identifies three major changes that
have occurred in the period between 1985 and 1992. First,
homicide rates by youths ages 18 and under have more than doubled,
while there has been no growth in homicide rates by adults 24
years old and older. Second, the number of homicides juveniles
commit with guns has more than doubled, while there has been no
change in non-gun homicides. Third, the arrest rate for nonwhite
juveniles on drug charges has more than doubled, while there has
been no growth in the rate for white juveniles. One explanation
for this array of changes involves a process that derives from
the nature of illegal drug markets. They recruit juveniles and
arm these recruits with the guns that are standard tools of the
trade in drug markets, and then guns and mores on their use
diffuse into the larger community. One policy response would
involve aggressive actions to confiscate guns from juveniles
carrying them on the street. The need is particularly salient in
those communities where the homicide rates have increased
dramatically, probably coincident with the location of drug
markets. A reduction in the size of the illegal drug market could
be pursued through a greater investment in treatment, through
more effective prevention, or through finding other means of
providing drugs to certified addicts. There continues to be a
need to enlist in the legitimate activities of society the large
numbers of people who currently see no role for themselves, and
so resist efforts to become socialized into the larger society's
norms. 13 figures

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** DOCUMENT 7 OF 30 **

ACCN: 156891
TITL: Guns and Violence: An Interpretive Review of the Field
JCIT: Social Pathology, V 1, N 1 (January 1995), P 12-47
PAUT: Kleck, G
PDTE: 1995
ORIG: United States
TYPE: Surveys
PAGE: 36 p CLSS: article
LANG: English

ANNO: This review summarizes the research literature on guns, violence, and gun control.

ABST: In 1991, about 38,000 people in the U.S. were killed with guns and another 130,000 suffered nonfatal gunshot wounds. The prospects of reducing violence by restricting gun ownership and usage depends on how many guns there are, how people get them, why they own them, and how strongly they would resist gun control measures to keep them. Some of the issues addressed here include the prevalence of various types of guns in the U.S., the defensive use of guns by crime victims, the risks of prohibitionist measures, the effects of guns on different stages of assaultive violence, the impact of gun ownership levels on violent crime rates, and the effects of guns on suicide. The article also discusses types of gun controls, public opinion and support for gun laws, and the impact of gun control laws on violence rates. The author points to the empirical support for a few moderate gun controls and recommends a national instant records check to screen for high-risk gun buyers, tighter licensing of gun dealers, and increased enforcement of carry laws. 6 tables, 1 figure, and 166 references

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** DOCUMENT 8 OF 30 **

ACCN: 156323
TITL: Hospitalization Charges, Costs, and Income for Firearm-Related
Injuries at a University Trauma Center
JCIT: Journal of American Medical Association, V 273, N 22 (June 14,
1995), P 1768-1773
PAUT: Kizer, K W; Vassar, M J; Harry, R L; Layton, K D
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 6 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: The cost of inpatient medical care for firearm-related injuries at a university trauma center is quantified.

ABST: This article reviews the results of a retrospective study of all patients with a firearm-related injury who were admitted to the University of California, Davis, Medical Center between January 1, 1990, and December 31, 1992. The foci of the study were hospital inpatient charges, costs, revenues, and net income, according to payer source. Patients who were treated for firearm-related injuries in the emergency department and who expired in or were discharged to home from the emergency department were not included in the study. Information from the trauma registry and hospital finance records were linked for 750 out of a total of 787 consecutive patients admitted to the hospital for firearm-related injuries. The analysis of the data indicates that although a substantial majority, i.e., 70 percent, of the patients with firearm-related injuries did not have private health insurance, the treatment of firearm-related injuries produces net income for this particular university trauma center by virtue of the cost shifting built into its pricing structure. If data from this institution are extrapolated to the Nation, then the actual cost of providing medical care for firearm-related injuries in the United States in 1995 is projected to be \$4.0 billion, the majority of which cost will be paid directly by private health insurance. Tables, references

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** DOCUMENT 9 OF 30 **

ACCN: 156319
TITL: National Estimates of Nonfatal Firearm-Related Injuries
JCIT: Journal of the American Medical Association, V 273, N 22 (June
14, 1995), P 1749-1754
PAUT: Annest, J L; Mercy, J A; Gibson, D R; Ryan, G W
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 6 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Data concerning nonfatal firearm-related injuries
are presented.

ABST: This article reports the results of a study involving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Data were obtained from June 1, 1992, through May 31, 1993 using NEISS. National estimates are presented, based on data from a representative sample of U.S. hospitals, on the number and characteristics of persons with nonfatal firearm-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments. National estimates of all nonfatal gun-related injuries treated in emergency departments are presented first, followed by more detailed national estimates of the number and characteristics of nonfatal firearm-related injuries. Data are compared with prior estimates obtained from earlier studies. Results indicate that an estimated 99,025 persons were treated for nonfatal firearm-related injuries in U S hospital emergency departments during the study period. The rate of nonfatal firearm-related injuries treated was 2.6 times the national rate of fatal firearm-related injuries for 1992. The analysis concludes that nonfatal firearm-related injuries contributed substantially to the overall public health burden of firearm-related injuries. Additionally, although NEISS is useful to monitor the number of nonfatal firearm-related injuries in the United States, the limitations of NEISS are noted. The authors recommend the development of a national surveillance system to provide uniform data on firearm-related morbidity and mortality for use in risk factor research and firearm- and violence-related intervention programs. Tables, references

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** DOCUMENT 10 OF 30 **

ACCN: 155885
TITL: Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms
PAUT: Wright, J D; Rossi, P H
SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice
Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: Aldine de Gruyter Publishing Co. 200 Sawmill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532; PB paperback.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 275 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
GNUM: 82-NIJ-CX-0001
PNUM: ISBN 0-202-30542-2
NOTE: Expanded edition. Social Institutions and Social Change,
An Aldine de Gruyter Series of Texts and Monographs.
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This survey of men who are serving sentences for felony offenses in 11 State prisons throughout the country examines why criminals acquire, carry, and use firearms.

ABST: Self-administered questionnaires were completed by 1,874 felons in State prisons in Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Nevada, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, and Massachusetts. The felons in the sample showed wide variability in their prior criminal weapons behavior. Approximately 40 percent of the sample claimed never to have committed any crime armed with any kind of weapon; these are the unarmed criminals who are used for comparison purposes throughout the analysis. Another one-tenth had committed armed crime, some of them often, but never with a gun. The remaining half of the sample had committed at least one gun crime. Issues discussed based on survey findings are firearms ownership and use, familiarity with guns early in life, reasons why criminals carry guns, the impact on criminals of the likelihood that a potential victim may be carrying a gun, what felons look for in firearms, the market for criminals' guns, and gun control and criminal gun use. Five potentially important policy implications are suggested by the survey findings. First, because criminals acquire and use guns as much for self-protection, viable social policies should address the issue of reducing the violence and routine carrying of guns that appear to be endemic to many impoverished urban neighborhoods. Second, a major source of supply to the illicit firearms market is through theft from persons who own and use firearms legally; cutting down on the theft of firearms ought to be a second goal of social policy. Third, gun-control measures that attempt to interdict the retail sale of weapons to criminals through legitimate channels miss as many as five-sixths of the criminal firearms transactions. Fourth, sentence-enhancement

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policies that would punish more heavily crime in which guns are used are largely irrelevant to the more predatory guns users. Fifth, some of the more often discussed gun-control measures, such as a ban on cheap handguns, may prove to have counter-productive consequences, as some criminals switch to more lethal weapons. Extensive tabular data, a 66-item bibliography, and a subject index

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** DOCUMENT 11 OF 30 **

ACCN: 155284
TITL: Weapons Offenses and Offenders
PAUT: Greenfeld, L A; Zawitz, M W
CORP: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington,
DC 20531;
SALE: Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse P.O. Box 179, Dept.
BJS-236 Annapolis Junction, MD 20701; DO document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 8 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: BJS Selected Findings November 1995.
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: FBI data for 1983 indicate that State and local law enforcement agencies made 262,300 arrests in which a weapons offense was the most serious charge, a 54 percent increase since 1974.

ABST: During the last 20 years, the proportion of all arrests that were for weapons offenses remained fairly constant during the period. Weapons arrestees are predominantly male, age 18 or over, and white. However, weapons arrest rates per 100,000 are highest for teenagers and for blacks. Arrests of juveniles represent an increasing proportion of weapons arrests. The number of Federal weapons offenses investigated and prosecuted has increased at least fourfold since 1980. Average prison sentence lengths for Federal weapons offenders have increased, while those for State offenders have decreased. Among the defendants in felony weapons cases in the 75 largest counties in 1992, two-fifths were on probation, parole, or pretrial release at the time of the offense, and one-third had previously been convicted of a felony. Weapons charges as an addition to other charges are more common at the Federal level than the State level. Figures, tables, map, and 26 references

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** DOCUMENT 12 OF 30 **

ACCN: 155069

TITL: Juvenile Crime in New Orleans: An Analysis of Weapons Use Among Our City's Juvenile Offenders (From Reports on Juvenile Crime, Charles C Foti, Jr -- See NCJ-155066)

PAUT: Foti, C C, Jr; Hayes, H D

SALE: Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office 2800 Gravier Street New Orleans, LA 70119; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.

PDTE: 1992

PAGE: 37 p

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: In examining the prevalence of juvenile weapon use in New Orleans, this study found that juvenile offenders used relatively sophisticated and dangerous weapons, that juveniles obtained their weapons quite easily, and that juveniles used guns for protection from a violent environment.

ABST: Data were obtained from 110 juveniles held at the Juvenile Detention Center at Orleans Parish Prison. Attitudes and perceptions of these juveniles were very different from those of law-abiding juveniles. About 65 percent felt it was acceptable to shoot someone who had hurt or insulted them or their families. Of the 110 juveniles, 42 percent said they had owned or possessed a military-style automatic or semiautomatic rifle, 57 percent said they had owned or possessed a sawed-off shotgun, and 72 percent said they had owned or possessed an automatic or semiautomatic handgun. Of 36 juveniles who reported paying cash for a gun, 11 paid someone off the streets and 15 paid a junkie. Most juveniles carried guns for self-protection, especially at night. Recommendations to reduce juvenile violence and improve the juvenile justice system are offered that pertain to school safety, student crime watch programs, crisis intervention, and violence prevention. 38 references, 16 footnotes, and 7 tables

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** DOCUMENT 13 OF 30 **

ACCN: 153743
TITL: Guide to Illinois Firearm Data
PAUT: Block C R; Olson, D E; Mata, A J
SALE: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority 120 South
Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606; DO document. National
Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department F, Rockville, MD
20850; DO Document.
PDTE: 1992
ORIG: United States
NOTE: Revised Edition
TYPE: Technical assistance reports

PAGE: 146 p
LANG: English

ANNO: This report presents current information about sources of various types of data on the availability of firearms in Illinois, the quality of that data, and the availability of the data to users.

ABST: The report focuses on data on firearm owners and dealers, firearms, and firearms and crime. For each topic, the report details the data sources, the steps involved in obtaining the data, and how to use and interpret the data. The text notes that the main source of data on how many people own firearms is data kept by the Firearm Owner's Identification section of the Illinois State Police's Division of Forensic Services and Identification. The major source of data on firearms dealers is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The only way to measure the number of firearms bought by Illinois residents is to examine the records of Illinois firearms dealers. Data from reports made by law enforcement agencies and surveys of crime victims provide information on crimes committed with firearms. Forms and appended tables, procedures, and addresses of contacts

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** DOCUMENT 14 OF 30 **

ACCN: 151829

TITL: Firearms Production in America: A Listing of Firearm
Manufacturers in the United States With Production Histories
Broken Out by Firearm Type and Caliber

CORP: Violence Policy Center Washington, DC 20005;

SALE: Violence Policy Center 1300 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20005;
DO document.

PDTE: 1994

PAGE: 136 p

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

PNUM: ISBN 0-927291-02-9

NOTE: 1994 Edition

TYPE: Reference material

ANNO: This document contains production information pertaining to
American firearm manufacturers for the period between 1975 and
1992.

ABST: Production figures were obtained under the Freedom of
Information Act from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
(ATF). Manufacturers whose annual output did not exceed 1,000
firearms for any given year were not included in this study, which
also did not cover imported weapons. This document lists
manufacturers alphabetically by licensee name or most commonly
known trade or product name. Manufacturers include companies that
produce finished firearms as well as those that produce components
that the ATF counts as firearms, i.e., receivers. Caliber listings
include not only all handguns produced of that caliber, but
intermediate calibers that are greater than the previous caliber
listing (for example, 40-caliber pistols are included under the 45-
caliber listing).

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** DOCUMENT 15 OF 30 **

ACCN: 151617
TITL: Rapid Fire: Weapons and Violence in the U.S.
CORP: Florida Department of Law Enforcement Tallahassee, FL 32302;
SALE: Florida Department of Law Enforcement P O Box 1489 Tallahassee,
FL 32302; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National
Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box
6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 4 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: SAC Notes
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This report summarizes the relationship between
firearms and violence in the United States, with emphasis on
data from Florida.

ABST: In the last 40 years, the number of guns in the United
States has quadrupled. In Florida, the violent crime rate has
increased 11 percent over the past 5 years. In 1993,
approximately 172,450 violent crimes in Florida involved the
use of weapons, including 54,072 involving the use of
firearms. The Florida Department of State issued 196,555
concealed weapons permits between October 1987 and January
1994. An estimated 290,000 firearms were sold in Florida
last year. According to the Florida Opinion Poll, 52 percent
of Florida residents are extremely concerned about crime;
another 31 percent are concerned about crime. Current
Federal laws make it illegal to sell or dispose of a firearm
to certain individuals. The Brady Bill became effective in
February 1994 and establishes a waiting period and
background check for handgun purchases. Florida requires
record checks for the sale or delivery of all firearms, not
just handguns. A subsequent article will focus on
comparisons between Florida and other States with respect to
firearms policies. Figures

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** DOCUMENT 16 OF 30 **

ACCN: 151529
TITL: Gangs and Guns: A Task Force Report From the National Gang Crime
Research Center
PAUT: Knox, G W; Houston, J G; Laskey, J A; Laske, D L; McCurrie, T F;
Tromanhauser, E D
SALE: National Gang Crime Research Center Chicago State University 9501
S. King Drive, HWH 329 Chicago, IL 60628; DO document.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 114 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Six gang researchers at three universities collaborated to conduct an extensive study of gangs and guns in the midwest that involved 1,206 respondents, 504 of whom were gang members.

ABST: Social contexts of the study included eight county jails in both rural and urban areas of Iowa and Illinois (891 inmates), matched pair design samples from a Chicago public high school (87 gang and 87 nongang students) and an inner-city program (36 gang and nongang members), and 58 gang members in a private suburban probation program. The jail study showed that gang problems in the midwest had a large ripple effect; that gang membership significantly differentiated many variables about firearms, violence, behavior, and beliefs; that gang membership could be predicted with 81 percent accuracy using discriminant analysis; and that gang density was higher than levels previously estimated in a national assessment of gangs in corrections. Gang member profiles in the high school and in the inner-city program were similar to those found in other social contexts. The probation study found that 69 gang members in the suburban-based probation program had the same gang profile as in other settings, although suburban gang members joined the gang primarily for social rather than economic reasons. In general, gang members in all settings studied exhibited high-risk profiles with respect to guns and violence. A gang risk continuum was observed that showed a consistent violence escalation effect from the lowest risk level (nongang member with no gang friends) to the highest risk level (active gang member). Implications of the findings for understanding the relationship between gangs and guns and their relevance to the correctional environment are discussed. 21 references, 25 tables, and 6 figures

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** DOCUMENT 17 OF 30 **

ACCN: 151526
TITL: Weapon-Related Victimization in Selected Inner-City High School
Samples
PAUT: Sheley, J F; McGee, Z T; Wright, J D
CORP: Tulane University New Orleans, LA 70118;
SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice
Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice
Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department
F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document. National Institute of
Justice/ NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000, Department F,
Rockville, MD 20850; MF microfiche.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 20 p CLSS: document
ORIG: United States LANG: English
GNUM: 94-IJ-CX-0033
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: National victimization survey data indicate that
over 2 million teenagers are victims of violent crime annually;
this survey explored the issue of weapon-related victimization
among inner-city youths attending high schools with histories of
violence.

ABST: Surveys were completed by 1,591 students, 758 males and 833
females, in 120 inner city public high schools in California,
Louisiana, New Jersey, and Illinois. In all cases, local high
school administrators viewed the issue of guns and violence among
students as highly politically charged. They consented to the
survey only with the guarantee that their districts and schools
would not be identified in research results. The average age of
respondents was 16 years, and the modal educational attainment
level was 10th grade. Of those surveyed, 75 percent were black,
16 percent Hispanic, 2 percent white, and 7 percent other. All
respondents were from cities with populations exceeding 250,000.
About 31 percent of respondents reported having been arrested or
picked up by the police at least once. Respondents were asked
whether they had been shot at with a gun, stabbed with a knife,
or injured with a weapon other than a gun or a knife while at
school or in transit to and from school over the past few years.
Survey findings revealed that exposure to a dangerous environment
significantly raised the risk of weapon-related victimization for
respondents. Sociodemographic characteristics were not highly
predictive of violent victimization. Victimization status did not
differ significantly among respondents across racial and ethnic
lines, age categories, and grade levels. Only sex seemed to
affect victimization, with males significantly more likely to
have experienced a shooting, stabbing, or other weapon-related
assault. Respondents with arrest records, those who had stolen

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something worth at least \$50, and those who had used a weapon to commit a crime were more likely to have been victimized. The dangerous environment outside school was related to violent victimization, but the dangerous environment inside school was less obviously related. The authors conclude that schools do not generate weapon-related violence as much as they represent the location where violence spawned outside the school environment is enacted. 17 references and 3 tables

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** DOCUMENT 18 OF 30 **

ACCN: 150855
TITL: Kansas City Gun Experiment
PAUT: Sherman, L W; Rogan, D P; Shaw, J W
SPON: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice
Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Box 6000 Rockville, MD
20850; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National
Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box
6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 11 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
GNUM: 91-DD-CX-K056
NOTE: NIJ Research in Brief
TYPE: Program/project evaluations

ANNO: To learn whether vigorous enforcement of existing gun control laws could reduce gun-related crime, NIJ sponsored an evaluation of the Kansas City Police Department's Weed and Seed program and learned that more than two gun crimes were prevented for every gun seized in one violent Kansas City neighborhood.

ABST: For 29 weeks from July 7, 1992 to January 27, 1993, police patrols were increased in locations identified by computer analysis as having large amounts of gun crime in the target area. Assigned officers focused exclusively on gun detection through proactive, directed patrol and were not required to answer calls for services. A comparison of the 29 weeks before the program began and the 29 weeks while the program was active revealed a 65 percent increase in the guns seized and that gun crimes declined 49 percent. Traffic stops were the most productive means of finding illegal guns, producing an average of 1 gun discovered for every 28 stops. One gun was seized for each 84 officer-hours. Two-thirds of the persons arrested for gun carrying were not residents of the target area. Finally, gun crimes did not increase significantly in any of the surrounding seven patrol beats. Results revealed that such a program can be successful and that directed patrols were about three times more cost-effective in removing guns from the street than were routine police activity. A citywide version of this program was implemented in Indianapolis in October 1994.

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** DOCUMENT 19 OF 30 **

ACCN: 150231
TITL: Patterns of Adolescent Firearms Ownership and Use
JCIT: Justice Quarterly, V 11, N 1 (March 1994), P 51-74
PAUT: Lizotte, A J; Tesoriero, J M; Thornberry, T P; Krohn, M D
SPON: US Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention Washington, DC 20531; US Department of
Health and Human Services National Institute on Drug Abuse
Rockville, MD 20857
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 24 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
GNUM: 86-JN-CX-007; 5 RO1 DA05512-02; SES-8912264
TYPE: Applied research

ANNO: This study used data from the Rochester Youth Development Study, a nine-wave panel design in which teenage students and their caretakers were interviewed every 6 months, to analyze patterns of adolescent gun ownership and use.

ABST: The data used in this study were obtained from 675 boys and their caretakers who were in grades 9 and 10 during Wave 4 of the study, the first point at which information on firearms ownership was collected. The results showed that 10 percent of the sample owned guns; 27 percent owned guns only for hunting and target shooting, 30 percent for protection, and 10 percent for both reasons. Protection gun owners were more likely than others to be involved in activities that threatened their own and others' safety. They were more likely to carry sawed-off long guns, they carried guns at substantially higher rates, and they used guns more frequently to commit crimes. They were also more likely to belong to gangs, to sell drugs, and to commit both minor and street crimes. The delinquency rate of sport gun owners was only slightly higher than that of boys who did not own guns. 4 tables, 12 notes, and 26 references

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** DOCUMENT 20 OF 30 **

ACCN: 150192
TITL: Crimes Committed With Firearms in the State of Hawaii, 1983-1992
JCIT: Crime Trend Series, V 2, N 1 (April 1994), complete issue
PAUT: Green, T M; Richmond, J B; Taira, J E
CORP: Hawaii Crime Prevention Division Dept. of the Attorney General
Honolulu, HI 96813;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice
Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department
F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document. National Institute of
Justice/ NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000, Department F,
Rockville, MD 20850; MF microfiche.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 12 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This report presents statistics regarding homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, and other crimes committed with firearms in Hawaii between 1983 and 1992.

ABST: During that period, 35 percent of all homicide victims were killed with a firearm; 71 percent of these were killed with a handgun. The proportion killed by firearms increased from 32 percent in 1983 to 40 percent in 1992. The total number of robberies and the number of robberies committed with a firearm generally declined from 1983 to 1992; however, from 1991 to 1992, the total number of robberies increased 17 percent and the number of robberies committed with a firearm increased 64 percent. From 1983 to 1992, the number of aggravated assaults increased 53 percent, and the number committed with a firearm increased 12 percent. The percentage of aggravated assaults committed with a firearm was smaller in 1992 than in 1983. Arrests for weapons violations increased 83 percent from 1983 to 1992. Figures

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** DOCUMENT 21 OF 30 **

ACCN: 150116
TITL: Firearm Violence and Public Health: Limiting the Availability of
Guns
JCIT: Journal of the American Medical Association, V 271, N 16 (April
27, 1994), P 63-76
PAUT: Anonymous
PDTE: 1994
ORIG: United States
TYPE: Legislation/policy analysis

PAGE: 14 p CLSS: article
LANG: English

ANNO: Firearm violence has reached epidemic proportions in the United States and represents a public health emergency since it accounts for 20 percent of all injury deaths and is second only to motor vehicle accidents as a cause of fatal injury.

ABST: Firearm violence cost an estimated \$19 billion in 1990, in addition to direct health care costs, and such violence disproportionately affects young people. In particular, homicide is the leading cause of death for young black men between 15 and 34 years of age and the second overall leading cause of death for individuals between 15 and 24 years of age. Suicide rates for both children and adolescents have more than doubled over the past 30 years, due primarily to increased firearms use. Gun control laws, such as the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, are useful but will not totally prevent the use of guns by criminals and others who are legally prohibited from owning guns. The following more stringent gun control measures should be considered: implementing a national licensing system for firearms possession; limiting the manufacture, sale, and distribution of military-style assault weapons; increasing taxes on firearms and ammunition; tightening Federal licensing requirements for gun dealers; limiting the number of guns an individual can buy; implementing a gun return program; implementing a firearm fatality and injury reporting system; and educating the public about the dangers of guns. Newspaper clippings are included that reflect the effects of firearm violence and the debate over gun control. 15 references

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** DOCUMENT 22 OF 30 **

ACCN: 149721
TITL: Assault Weapons and Homicide in New York City
PAUT: Haskin-Tenenini, K; Jones, P; Blake, J; Roth, S
CORP: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of
Justice Systems Analysis Albany, NY 12203;
SALE: ational Institute of Justice/NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000,
Department F, Rockville, MD 20850.; MF microfiche.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 7 p CLSS: document
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: From Public Policy Report for May 1994.
TYPE: Studies/research reports

ANNO: This study examines the use of assault weapons in
homicides committed in New York City during 1993.

ABST: For the purposes of this study, an assault weapon is defined by New York State Assembly Bill 40001. It is any centerfire, semiautomatic shotgun or pistol capable of having loaded in its magazine chamber more than six cartridges for a long gun or 10 cartridges for a pistol. The analysis focused on the 271 homicides investigated by the New York City Police Department in 1993 in which a firearm was discharged and recovered. An assault weapon was recovered for 68 homicide incidents (25 percent). A particular firearm was positively identified with the killing 169 times (62 percent). This involvement was established through a match between ballistic evidence found in the deceased or at the homicide scene and an assault weapon recovered. It was determined that assault weapons were used in at least 43 homicide cases. Thus, assault weapons were involved in 16 percent of the 271 homicides where discharged firearms were recovered and 25 percent of the 169 homicides where a recovered firearm was positively linked with ballistic evidence from the crime. If the victims of the assault weapons homicides identified by this analysis represent the same proportion of all firearms homicide victims, then the number of possible homicide victims against whom assault weapons were used in New York City in 1993 could range from 240 (15.9 percent) to 383 (25.4 percent). 4 tables

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** DOCUMENT 23 OF 30 **

ACCN: 148950
TITL: Federal Firearms-Related Offenses
PAUT: Carlson, K; Pittayathikhun, T
CORP: Abt Associates, Inc Cambridge, MA 02138;
SPON: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington,
DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Box 6000 Rockville, MD
20850; DO document. National Institute of Justice/National
Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box
6000 Department F, Rockville, MD 20850.; DO Document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 2 p.
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: From BJS Crime Data Brief, June 1995.
TYPE: Statistical data

ANNO: This report presents data on Federal firearms-related
offenses for 1993.

ABST: The firearms involvement of offenders convicted in a U.S.
district court includes defendants sentenced for a weapons
offense, either as the most serious charge or as an offense
accompanying a more serious crime, such as homicide or robbery,
and a defendant who received a more severe sentence for carrying
or possessing a firearm at the time of their crime. Among Federal
offenders whose only offense was a firearms offense, 47 percent
were persons prohibited from having firearms, and 23 percent
violated Federal laws that govern dealing in firearms. Among
Federal offenders convicted of firearms offenses and other, more
serious offenses, 82 percent used or carried a firearm during
another crime; and 10 percent were persons prohibited from having
firearms. In 1993 Federal convicted offenders whose cases
involved firearms were more often persons with previous time in
prison or jail. A total of 95 percent of Federal offenders
involved with firearms were men, compared to 83 percent without
such involvement. A total of 46 percent of Federal offenders
involved with firearms were African-Americans, compared to 30
percent of those uninvolved. Eighty-eight percent of Federal
offenders involved with firearms were U.S. citizens; 73 percent
of offenders not involved were citizens. Fifty-one percent of
offenders involved with firearms, but 39 percent of those with no
involvement, were aged 30 or under. 2 tables

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** DOCUMENT 24 OF 30 **

ACCN: 148201
TITL: Guns Used in Crime
PAUT: Zawitz, M W
CORP: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington,
DC 20531;
SALE: Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse P.O. Box 179, Dept.
BJS-236 Annapolis Junction, MD 20701; DO document. National
Institute of Justice/National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000 Department F, Rockville, MD
20850.; DO Document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 7 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Selected Findings, July 1995.
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This report presents statistics on the use of guns in crime;
of almost 2 million violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and
aggravated assault reported in 1993, about 582,000 were committed
with firearms.

ABST: The research reported here shows that 70 percent of the
murders committed in 1993 were committed with firearms. Although
most crime is not committed with guns, most gun crime is committed
with handguns. Reports indicate that there are 223 million guns
legally available to the general public; in addition, stolen guns,
60 percent of which are handguns, provide a ready source of weapons
for criminals. Over 75 percent of guns traced by the Bureau of
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in 1994 were handguns, and almost a
third were less than 3 years old. Inmates reported they prefer
concealable, large-caliber guns. Juvenile offenders seem more likely
to possess firearms than adults. Most guns used in homicides are
large-caliber revolvers, but the number of large-caliber semiautomatic
guns is increasing. 8 tables, 1 figure, and 18 references

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** DOCUMENT 25 OF 30 **

ACCN: 148077

TITL: Shooting in the Dark: Estimating the Cost of Firearm Injuries

JCIT: Health Affairs, V 12, N 4, special issue (Winter 1993), P 171-185

PAUT: Max, W; Rice, D P

PDTE: 1993

PAGE: 15 p CLSS: article

ORIG: United States

LANG: English

TYPE: Issue overviews

ANNO: The author discusses the methodology for estimating losses due to firearm injuries.

ABST: The methodology involves estimating direct and indirect costs and life years lost. Direct costs include spending for hospitals and long-term care, physician and other professional services, rehabilitation, medications, emergency transportation, medical equipment, supplies, and home modifications. Indirect costs means the value of lost productivity. This methodology is applied to firearm injury data from 1985. Estimates are then updated for 1990, taking into account changes in the number of injuries, patterns of health care use, and inflation. In 1990, losses due to firearm injuries totaled an estimated \$20.4 billion--\$1.4 billion in direct health care costs, \$1.6 billion in lost productivity due to injury, and \$17.4 billion in lost productivity due to premature death. These figures likely are underestimations, as they are based on old data and on many assumptions necessitated by data gaps. Yet, they are critical to any rational debate on firearm policy. To create a more informed policy, data collection must be refined. Chart, 7 tables, 33 references

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** DOCUMENT 26 OF 30 **

ACCN: 147003
TITL: Guns and Crime
PAUT: Rand, M R
CORP: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington,
DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Box 6000 Rockville, MD
20850; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National
Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box
6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 2 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: Handgun crimes accounted for about 13 percent of all
violent crimes in 1992, when offenders armed with handguns
committed a record 931,000 violent crimes.

ABST: The rate of nonfatal handgun victimization was 4.5 per
1,000 persons age 12 or older, compared to the previous
record of 4.0 in 1982. Males were twice as likely as females
to be victims of handgun crimes, and blacks three times as
likely as whites. Each year during 1987-92, 62,200
individuals, or about 1 percent of all victims of violence,
used a firearm to defend themselves. Another 20,300 used a
firearm to defend their property during a theft, household
burglary, or motor vehicle theft. In most cases, the
offenders they confronted were either unarmed or were armed
with weapons other than firearms. One-fifth of these victims
suffered an injury. Reported firearm thefts averaged about
341,000 annually during 1987-92. Sixty-four percent of these
thefts occurred during household burglaries, while 32
percent occurred during larcenies away from or at or near
the home. Unlike the record rate of handgun crimes in 1992,
the overall rates for violent crimes were well below the
1981 peaks. Tables

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** DOCUMENT 27 OF 30 **

ACCN: 146844
TITL: Firearms and Crimes of Violence: Selected Findings From National Statistical Series
CORP: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: National Institute of Justice/NCJRS Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20850; DO document. National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 16 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Statistical data

ANNO: This statistical report presents key findings from Bureau of Justice Statistics surveys relating to crime and the role of firearms; data from the national surveys describe the extent to which victims confront armed offenders, the consequences of victimization, and how offenders obtain and use firearms.

ABST: Survey data indicate that an average of 6.7 million violent crimes occur yearly in the United States. Violent crime victims report that the offender had a firearm in almost 13 percent of the crimes. In 1992, more than 16,000 persons were murdered with firearms. Between 1987 and 1992, over 40 million violent crimes were reported by victims of rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Over the same period, victims faced armed offenders in 5.1 million violent incidents and in 85,453 murders and non-negligent manslaughters. An average of 161,000 violent crimes with firearms resulted in injury or death. Rape victims reported that about 6 percent of their attackers used a handgun. Law enforcement agencies nationwide indicated that 600,000 firearm crimes were brought to their attention yearly. Firearms were involved in a larger percentage of murders than in other violent crimes, and the number of violent firearm crimes reported to law enforcement authorities increased by nearly one-third between 1980 and 1992. Rates of victimization involving handguns were the highest among persons between 16 and 19 years of age. Further, a disproportionate number of young black men died from gunshots. Handgun crimes, like all serious violent crimes, affected young people more than older persons. Between 1987 and 1992, criminals used handguns to murder 371 law enforcement officers. In addition, almost 30 percent of violent inmates carried a gun during the crime for which they were sentenced to prison. Theft and burglary were major sources of firearms for criminals, and a survey of male high

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school students found that 22 percent possessed firearms. An appendix contains additional data on violent crimes involving the use of firearms. 5 tables and 9 figures

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** DOCUMENT 28 OF 30 **

ACCN: 145533
TITL: FIREARMS AND VIOLENCE
PAUT: Roth, J A
CORP: US Department of Justice National Institute of Justice
Washington, DC 20531;

SALE: National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice
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F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document. National Institute of
Justice/ NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000, Department F,
Rockville, MD 20850; MF microfiche.
PDTE: 1994 PAGE: 7 p CLSS: document
ORIG: United States LANG: English
NOTE: NIJ Research in Brief
TYPE: Literature reviews

ANNO: This paper reviews the current status of research and
evaluations concerning firearms and violent crime, as
reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences Panel on the
Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior.

ABST: Results revealed that firearms are used in about 60
percent of the murders committed in this country, and
attacks by firearms injure thousands of others. Young
people, especially young black men, are at particularly high
risk of being murdered with a firearm. In robberies and
assaults, victims are far more likely to die when
perpetrators have guns than when they have another weapon or
are unarmed. Greater availability of guns increases the
rates of murder and gun use during the commission of
felonies, but does not appear to affect general violence
levels. Self-defense is the reason most often cited for
acquiring a gun, but it is unclear how often these guns are
used for self-protection against unprovoked attacks. The
latest available data also reveal that those who use guns in
violent crimes rarely purchase them directly from licensed
dealers; most guns used in crime have been stolen or
transferred between individuals after the original
purchase. The findings of evaluations indicate that several
kinds of laws can reduce gun murder rates when they are
enforced: prohibitions on carrying concealed weapons,
extending sentences for robbery and assault when a gun is
used, and restrictive licensing requirements for handgun
ownership. Where local support exists, law enforcement
efforts should place priority on disrupting illegal gun
markets, reducing juveniles' access to guns, and close
police-community cooperation. Chart and reference notes

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** DOCUMENT 29 OF 30 **

ACCN: 145324
TITL: Effects of Offender Weapon Use and Victim Self-Defense on Robbery Outcomes
PAUT: Rand, M R
CORP: US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington, DC 20531;
SALE: Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse P.O. Box 179, Dept. BJS-236 Annapolis Junction, MD 20701; DO document.
PDTE: 1995 PAGE: 23 p
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: This report addresses two factors associated with robbery outcomes: offender's weapon use and victims' actions during the robbery.

ABST: Robbery is defined as completed or attempted theft directly from a person by force or threat of force and with or without a weapon. For this study, the only type of robbery considered was that committed by a stranger. Data for 1987-92 from the National Crime Victimization Survey were analyzed. Two-thirds of the robberies committed by strangers were completed, i.e., resulted in property loss. In a third of the robberies, the victim was injured. Robberies in which the offender attacked without prior threat (mugging robberies) exhibited many differences from confrontational robberies, which began with the offender threatening the victim. Mugging robberies constituted 36 percent of robberies committed by strangers and accounted for 40 percent of all completed robberies, 67 percent of all injuries, and 66 percent of all serious injuries sustained. Mugging and confrontational robberies committed with handguns and knives had similar rates of completion. Robbers armed with handguns were the most likely in both mugging and confrontational robberies to take property from their victims. In confrontational robberies, victims who defended themselves in some way were less likely to lose property than victims who took no action, regardless of offender weapon, but victims who defended themselves against offenders armed with guns were more likely than those who took no actions to be injured during the crime. Across all weapon types, the most dangerous actions for victims were attacking, threatening, or resisting the offender. 10 tables

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** DOCUMENT 30 OF 30 **

ACCN: 143308
TITL: FIREARM MORTALITY AMONG CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS 1-34
YEARS OF AGE, TRENDS AND CURRENT STATUS: UNITED STATES, 1985-90
JCIT: Advance Data, N 231 (March 23, 1993), complete issue
PAUT: Fingerhut, L A
SALE: National Institute of Justice/ National Criminal Justice
Reference Service Paper Reproduction Sales, Box 6000, Department
F, Rockville, MD 20850; DO Document. National Institute of
Justice/ NCJRS Microfiche Program Box 6000, Department F,
Rockville, MD 20850; MF microfiche.
PDTE: 1993 PAGE: 20 p CLSS: article
ORIG: United States LANG: English
TYPE: Surveys

ANNO: A previous report released by the National Center for Health Statistics documented the level of firearm mortality among children, youth, and young adults between 1 and 34 years of age from 1979 through 1988, and the current report revises the 1985-1988 data using newly available intercensal population estimates and 1990 data.

ABST: In 1990, 19,722 persons between 1 and 34 years of age died as a result of firearm injuries, a figure representing 17.6 percent of all deaths for that age range. Among children between 10 and 14 years of age, 560 died from firearm injuries, accounting for one of every eight deaths. Among teenagers between 15-19 years and young adults between 20-24 years, one of every four deaths was caused by firearm injuries. For adults between 25 and 34 years of age, one of six deaths was due to firearms. Within these age groups, variations by race and sex were large. The majority of homicides among teenagers and young adults between 15-34 years resulted from the use of firearms. The age-specific proportion of suicides due to firearms was lower than the proportion of homicides. Consistent with earlier patterns, virtually no change occurred from 1985 to 1990 in the overall firearm death rate among young children between 1 and 9 years of age. For children aged 10 to 14 years, however, the firearm death rate increased by 18 percent over the period. The total firearm death rate among teenagers between 15 and 19 years of age increased by 77 percent from 1985 to 1990, to 23.5 deaths per 100,000. The firearm death rate among persons 20 to 24 years of age was 36 percent higher in 1990 than in 1985. By ages 25-34, the upward trend in age-specific firearm mortality slowed considerably. Sixty percent of all deaths among persons between 1 and 34 years of age resulted from intentional and unintentional injuries in 1990, and about 30 percent of those external deaths were from

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firearms. 7 references, 6 tables, and 6 figures

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