

**NLWJC - Kagan**

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**Crime - Gun Tracing**

Crime-gun tracing

**Gun Tracing Q&A**  
**February 22, 1999**

**Q: Over the weekend, the Treasury Department released a report on its gun tracing efforts. What were the major findings of the report?**

**A:** Yesterday, the Treasury Department released its second major report on President Clinton's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 27 cities across the nation. Among the report's major findings were:

- Over 25 percent of guns recovered by law enforcement in the 27 cities moved rapidly from retail sale to point of recovery by law enforcement. This short "time to crime" suggests that these guns were likely to have been illegally trafficked.
- Over 11 percent of guns used in crime were possessed by juveniles (age 17 and under), and over 32 percent were possessed by youths ages 18-24.
- Over half (51 percent) of the guns used in crimes by juveniles and youths ages 18-24 were acquired by intermediaries such as straw purchasers acting on behalf of the real buyer.
- Semi-automatic pistols were predominant among crime guns in each of the 27 cities, and constitute over half (52 percent) of all trace requests.
- Over one-third of traffickers involved in illegal trafficking investigations had prior felony convictions.

The 27 cities included in the YCGII report are: Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport (CT), Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Gary, Houston, Inglewood (CA), Jersey City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond (VA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio, St. Louis, Seattle, Tucson, and Washington, DC.

The President's FY 2000 budget includes an additional \$11.2 million for YCGII for more tracing and new ATF agents to bolster trafficking investigations-- bringing the total funding for this initiative to \$45.2 million.