

# 2016

# Firearms

## Used in the Commission of Crimes

This report is available online at  
<http://oag.ca.gov/publications#crime>

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California Penal Code section 34200<sup>1</sup> requires that the Attorney General provide to the Legislature on or before April 15 of each year a written report on the specific types of firearms used in the commission of crimes based upon information obtained from state and local crime laboratories. The report shall include all of the following information regarding crimes in which firearms were used:

- (a) A description of the relative occurrence of firearms most frequently used in the commission of violent crimes, distinguishing whether the firearms used were handguns, rifles, shotguns, assault weapons, or other related types of weapons.
- (b) A description of specific types of firearms that are used in homicides or street gang and drug trafficking crimes.
- (c) The frequency with which stolen firearms were used in the commission of the crimes.
- (d) The frequency with which fully automatic firearms were used in the commission of the crimes.
- (e) Any trends of importance such as those involving specialized ammunition or firearms modifications, such as conversion to a fully automatic weapon, removal of serial number, shortening of barrel, or use of a suppressor.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) produces this annual report based on data obtained from state and local crime laboratories. The 2016 annual report only includes data from DOJ crime laboratories, and therefore focuses on crimes committed in rural areas of California. Data from major cities, including those crime laboratories that serve the urban and heavily populated areas of California, are not included in this report.

During 2016, data collected from DOJ's Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) crime laboratories revealed that 89 of the 645 completed examinations involved firearms that are qualified for inclusion in this report. Small inconsistencies in data totals are artifacts of automatic data extraction and data that may fit multiple categories.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously California Penal Code section 12039.

## Purpose

This report is prepared by the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) for the California Legislature as directed by California Penal Code section 34200. The report details specific types of firearms used in the commission of various crimes.

## Scope

This report includes firearms examined during 2016 in the BFS regional criminalistics laboratories.

Because BFS principally serves the rural areas of California, the data in this report may not represent gun-use trends within urban areas or within California as a whole.

## Firearm Types (Figures 1 and 2)

The 89 qualifying firearms examined during the reporting period included 77 handguns (86.5 percent), eight rifles (9 percent), and four shotguns (4.5 percent). Four firearms (4.5 percent) were assault weapons (as defined in Penal Code sections 30510 and 30515) and two firearms (1 percent) were classified as a short-barreled shotguns or rifles. The most commonly encountered calibers were 9mm Luger and 40 S&W, followed by 45 ACP and 22 rimfire (see Figure 2).

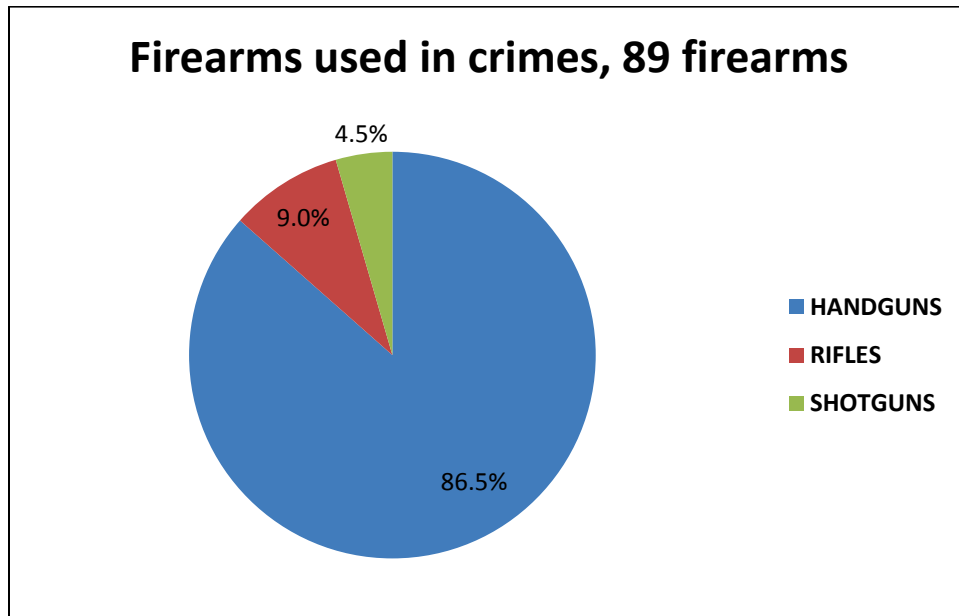
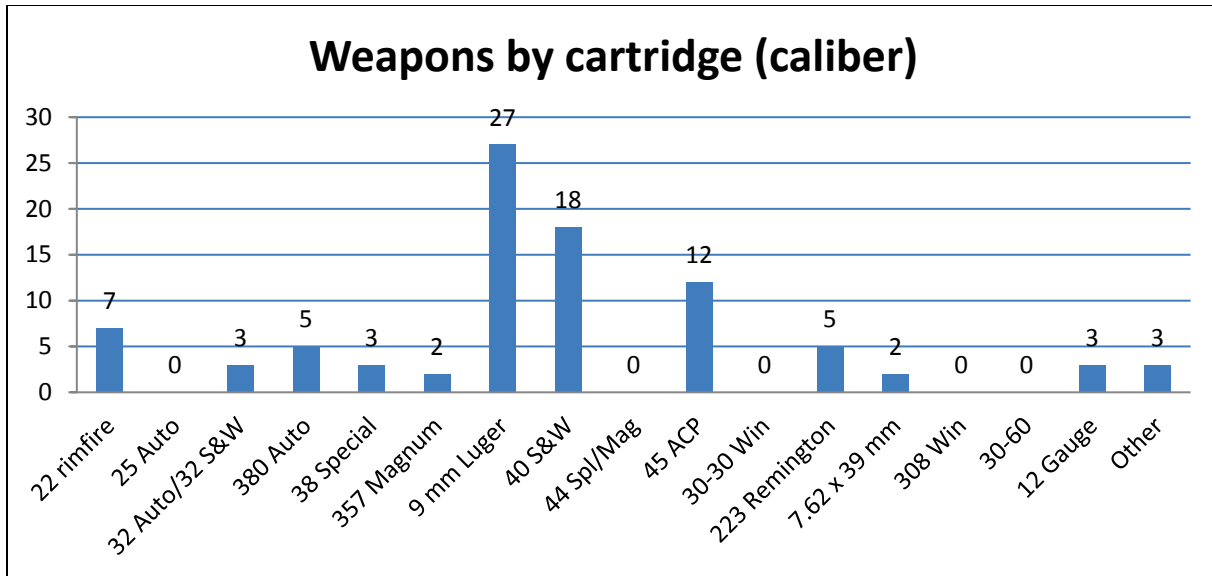


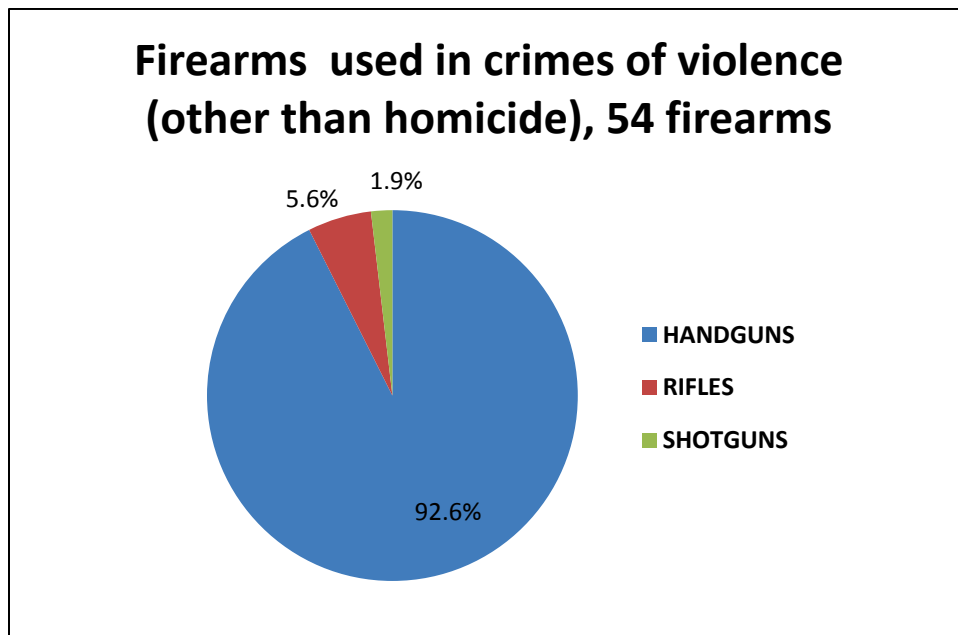
Figure 1



**Figure 2**

### Crimes of Violence other than Homicide (Figure 3)

Fifty-four of the firearms examined were submitted in cases involving crimes of violence other than homicide. These 54 firearms included 50 handguns (92.6 percent), three rifles (5.6 percent) and one shotgun (1.9 percent).



**Figure 3**

## Homicides (Figure 4)

The 30 firearms that were submitted in homicide cases included 25 handguns (83.3 percent), three rifles (10.0 percent), and two shotguns (6.7 percent). There were no fully automatic firearms linked to homicides.

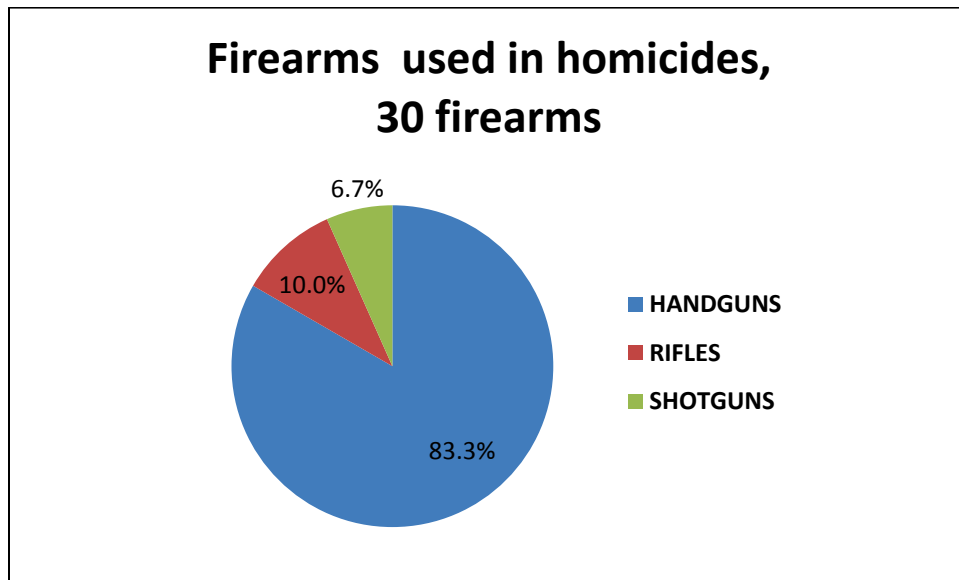


Figure 4

## Street Gang Crimes

Five handguns were identified as being related to street gang crimes.

## Drug Trafficking Crimes

One rifle and one shotgun (approximately 2.3 percent of the total), were identified as being used in drug trafficking crimes.

## **Special Cases**

### **California Assault Weapons**

Four of the firearms examined in 2016 were identified as California Assault Weapons (as defined in Penal Code §§ 30510 and 30515) (see Figure 5).

### **Stolen Firearms**

None of the firearms examined were confirmed to have been reported stolen. Ownership status was not determined for many of the firearms examined.

### **Serial Numbers Removed**

Six firearms were submitted with the serial numbers removed.

### **Fully Automatic Firearms (Machine Guns, Submachine Guns or Fully Automatic Conversions)**

One firearm exhibiting fully automatic fire was examined this year, but this was due to a malfunction, not design.

### **Short Barreled Shotguns or Rifles**

Two of the examined firearms were classified as a short-barreled or short overall-length shotgun or rifle.

### **Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents**

Five firearms identified as being related to officer-involved shooting incidents were all handguns.

### **Suppressors**

No firearms equipped with suppressors (silencers) were examined this year.

### **No unusual ammunition**

There were no reported examinations of armor piercing, exploding, frangible, Glazer-type, incendiary or tracer ammunition.

## California Assault Weapons by Year (Figure 5)

California assault weapon use has remained at a relatively low proportion of total firearm use since this annual report commenced in 1998.

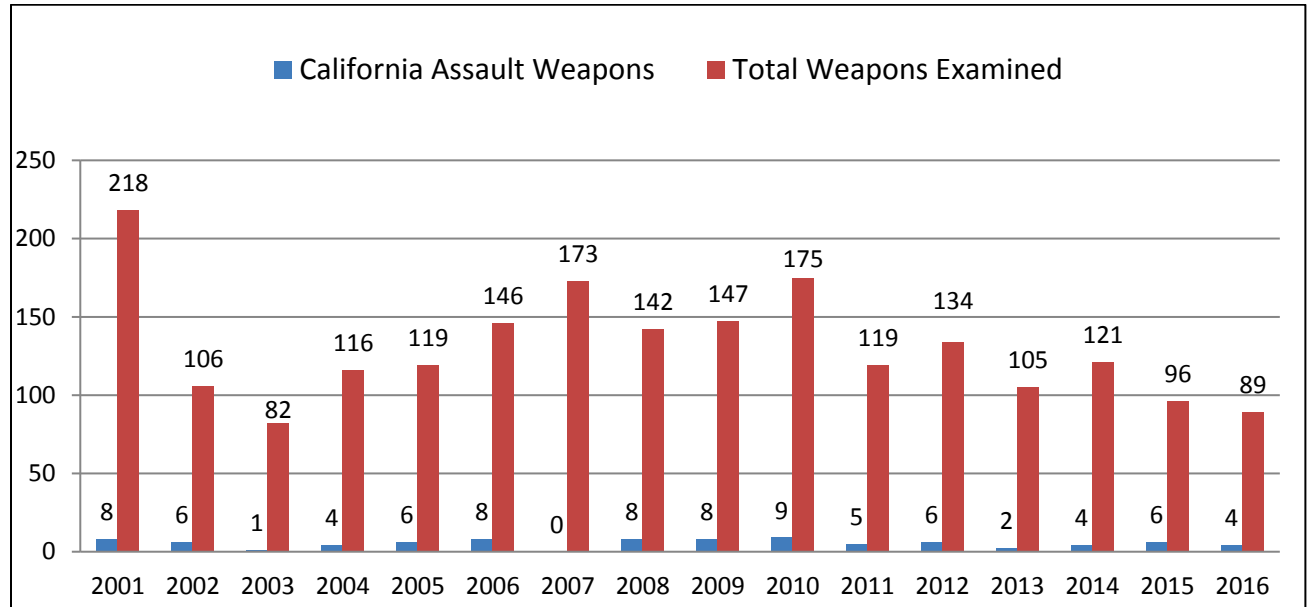


Figure 5