

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2010
FIREARMS

USED IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES



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F I R E A R M S
USED IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES

This report is available online at
<http://ag.ca.gov/publications/index.php#firearms>

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California Penal Code section 12039 requires the Attorney General to provide a report to the Legislature on the specific types of firearms used in the commission of crimes. This report details the number and type of firearms used most frequently in the commission of violent, homicidal, street, and drug trafficking crimes in 2010. Also included is the frequency with which stolen and fully automatic firearms were used in the commission of these crimes. Although legislation for this report states that the data should be based on information obtained from local and state crime laboratories, the legislation does not require local laboratories to report this information to the Department of Justice. Therefore, local law enforcement agencies submit this information voluntarily, which limits the data received for inclusion in this report.

Purpose

This report is prepared by the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS), for the Legislature as directed by California Penal Code section 12039. The report details the specific types of firearms used in the commission of various types of crimes.

Scope

This report includes only firearms that were linked to violent crimes, which were examined in the BFS Regional Criminalistics Laboratories during 2010.

Because BFS serves principally 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)

Of the 175 firearms reported, there were 158 (90.3 percent) handguns, 12 (6.9 percent) rifles, 4 (2.3 percent) shotguns, and 1 (0.6 percent) full-auto firearm. Of these 175 firearms, 9 (5.1 percent) were assault weapons (as defined in California Penal Code section 12276) and none were classified as short-barreled shotguns or rifles. The most commonly encountered caliber was 9 mm Luger, followed by 45 Automatic Colt Pistol (ACP), 40 Smith and Wesson (S&W), and 380 Automatic.

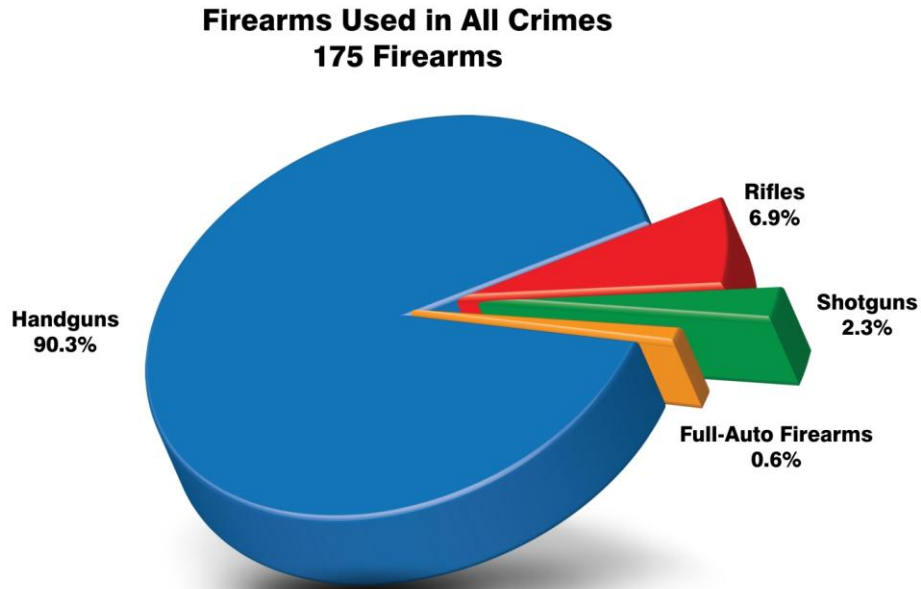


Figure 1*

*Percentages may not total 100 percent because of rounding.

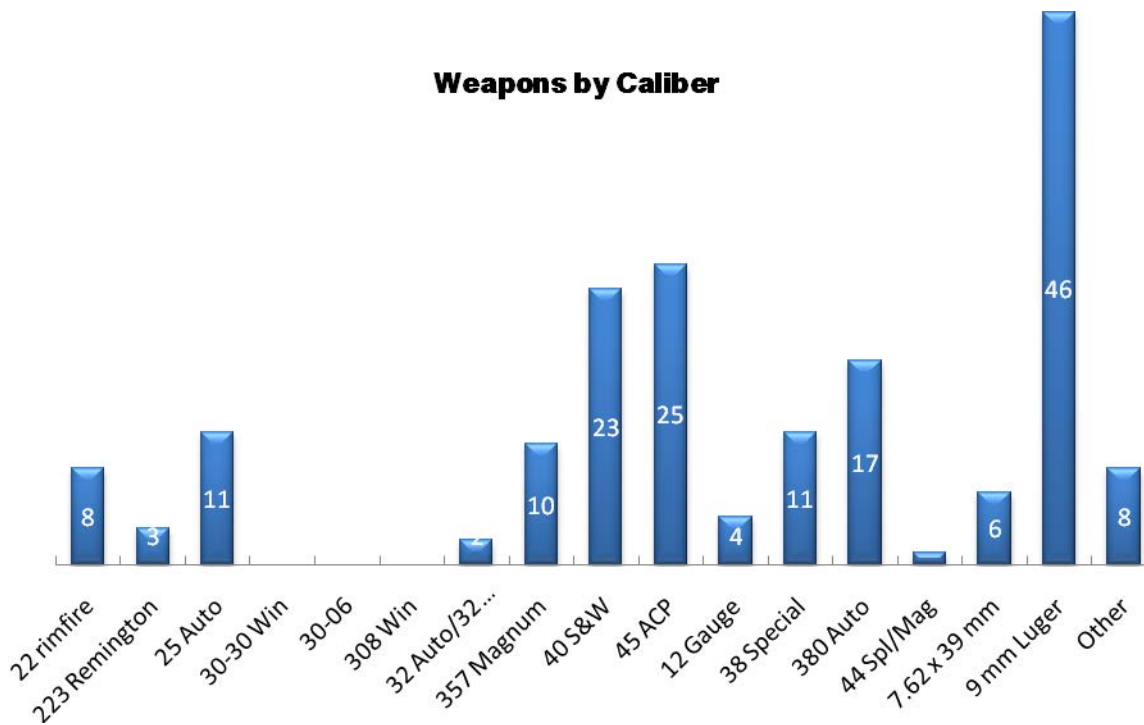


Figure 2

Crimes of Violence Other than Homicide (Figure 3)

Of the firearms examined, 104 (59 percent of the total) were submitted in cases involving crimes of violence other than homicide. There were 91 (87.5 percent) handguns, 8 (7.7 percent) rifles, 4 (3.8 percent) shotguns, and 1 (1.0 percent) full-auto firearm.

**Firearms Used in Crimes of Violence (other than Homicide)
104 Firearms**

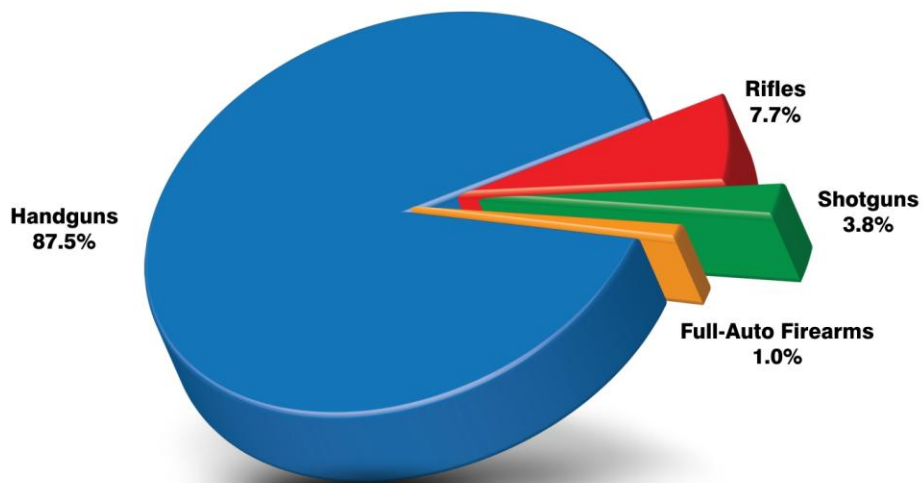


Figure 3

Homicides (Figure 4)

Of the 50 firearms (28.6 percent of the total) linked to homicides, there were 45 (90.0 percent) handguns, 4 (8.0 percent) rifles, 1 (2.0 percent) shotgun, and no full-auto firearms.

**Firearms Used in Homicides
50 Firearms**

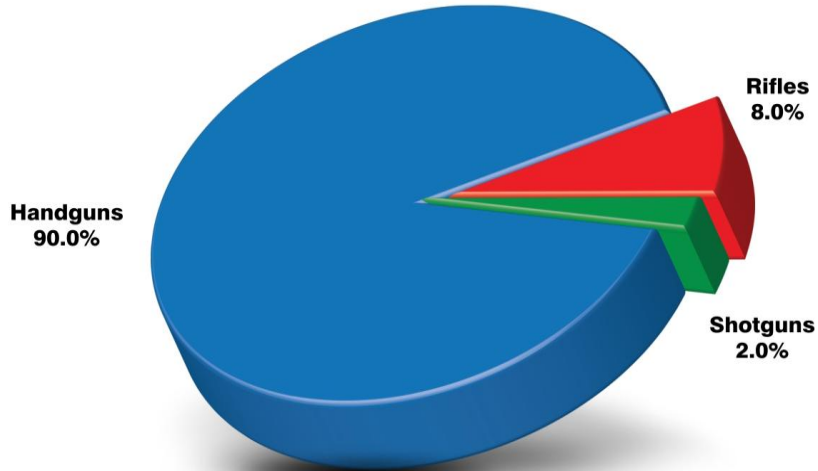


Figure 4

Drug Trafficking Crimes (Figure 5)

Of the 28 firearms (16 percent of the total) reported as being used in drug trafficking crimes, there were 27 (96.4 percent) handguns, 1 (3.6 percent) rifle, and no shotguns or full-auto firearms.

**Firearms Used in Drug Traffic
28 Firearms**

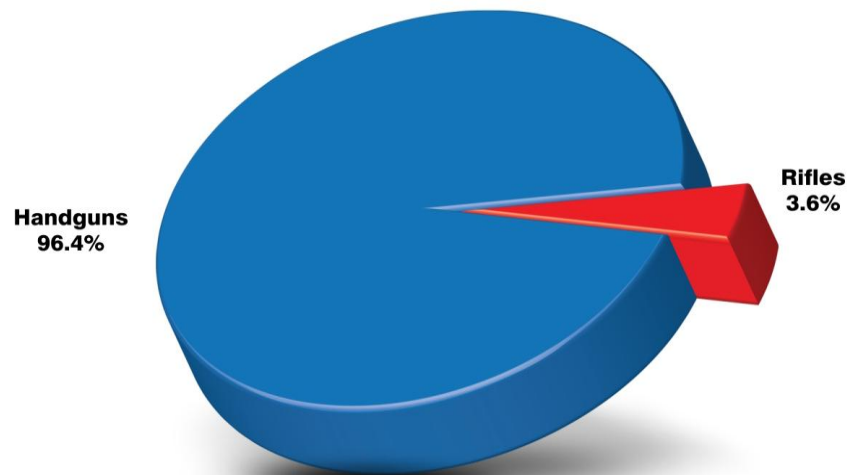


Figure 5

Street Gang Crimes (Figure 6)

Of the 12 firearms (6.9 percent of the total) identified as being related to street-gang crimes, 11 (91.7 percent) were handguns and 1 (8.3 percent) was a shotgun. No rifles or full-auto firearms were reported in this group of 12 firearms.

**Firearms Used in Street Gang Crimes
12 Firearms**

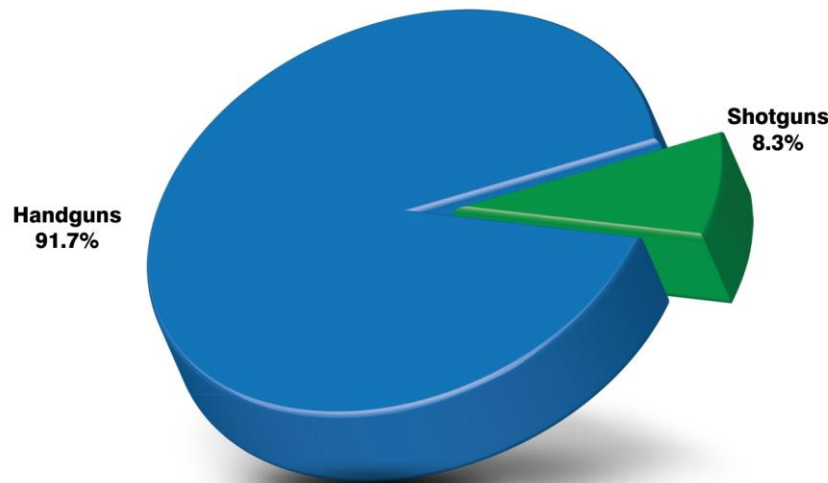


Figure 6

Special Cases (Figure 7)

California Assault Weapons - Nine of the firearms reported in 2010 were identified as California Assault Weapons (as defined in California Penal Code section 12276).

Stolen Firearms - Of the firearms examined in these cases, two were confirmed to have been reported stolen. For many of the other firearms examined, ownership status was not determined.

Serial Numbers Removed - Twelve firearms (6.9 percent of the total) were submitted with their serial numbers removed or obliterated.

Full-Auto Firearms (Machine Guns, Sub-Machine Guns, or Full-Auto Conversions) - One full-auto firearm (0.6 percent of the total) was reported.

Short-Barreled Rifles or Shotguns - None of the examined firearms was classified as a short-barreled rifle or shotgun.

Officer-Involved Shooting Incidents - Of the 12 (6.9 percent of the total) firearms identified as being related to officer-involved shooting incidents, there were six handguns, four rifles, and two shotguns.

Silencers - No firearms equipped with silencers were examined.

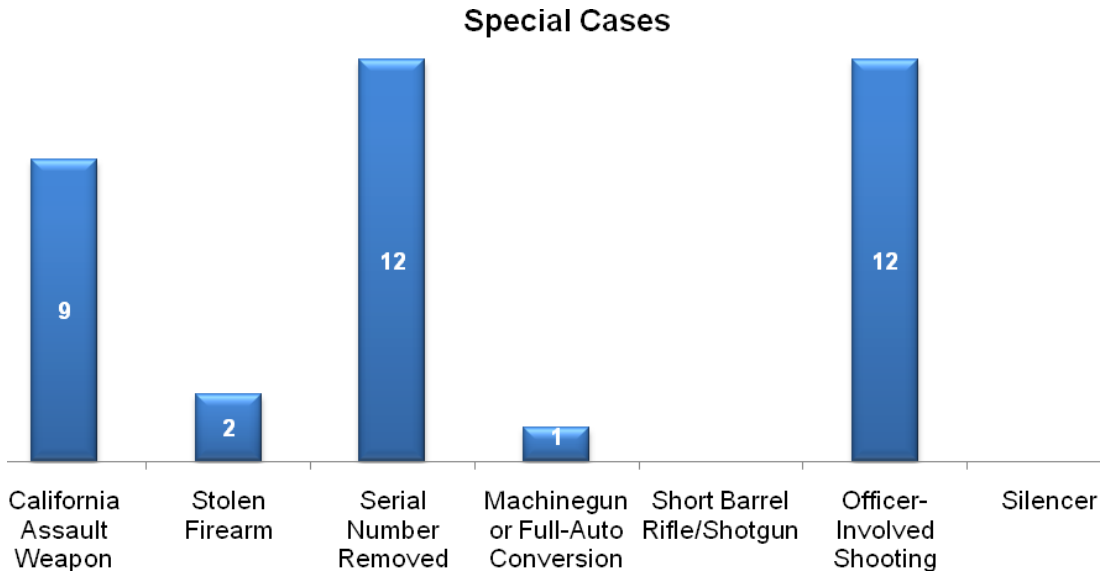


Figure 7

There was no reported use of armor piercing, exploding, frangible, Glazer-type, or incendiary ammunition.

California Assault Weapons by Year (Figure 8)

California Assault Weapon use has continued at a relatively low level since this information was first reported in 1999.

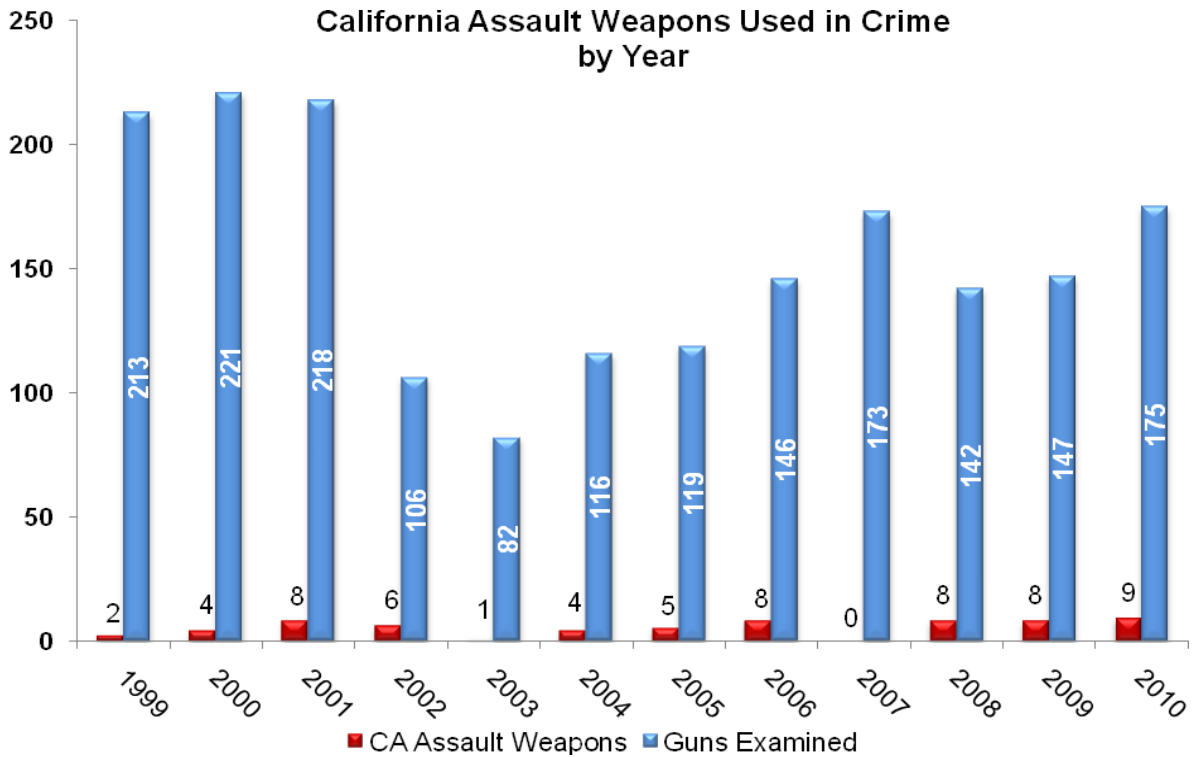


Figure 8

