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# ARRESTEES AND GUNS: MONITORING THE ILLEGAL FIREARMS MARKET

## FINAL REPORT

MAY 1996

Scott H. Decker, Ph.D.  
Criminology and Criminal Justice  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
598 Lucas Hall  
8001 Natural Bridge Road  
St. Louis, MO 63121  
(314) 516-5038

Susan Pennell, Director  
Ami Caldwell  
Criminal Justice Research Division  
San Diego Association of Governments  
401 B Street, Suite 800  
San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 595-5383

This research was supported by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), grant no. 95-IJ-R-014. Points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute of Justice or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Survey data and records of the manufacture and sale of guns have generated a good deal of information about the number of guns, characteristics of their owners, and the motives for gun ownership and use. Despite this, knowledge about the important relationship between offenders and gun markets remains sketchy. The purpose of this report is to expand our knowledge of how offenders obtain guns, their reasons for doing so, and the nature of the gun market. Our orientation throughout this report is to depend on the insights of those closest to the illegal firearms market, active offenders involved in recent crimes.

This research reports on the results of a firearms questionnaire administered to arrestees in eleven large American cities. Building on the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program of the National Institute of Justice, more than 7,000 interviews were administered during the first six months of 1995. Interviews were conducted with three important population subgroups, including adult males, adult females, and juvenile males. This research examines four specific topics: (1) access to guns, or how they are obtained, (2) availability of guns, or how easy they are to obtain, (3) use of guns, particularly the motive for use, and (4) the values associated with gun ownership and use. We focused on the role of gangs, drug markets, and drug use, as well as a variety of cultural and demographic variables whose association with firearms violence has been the object of considerable speculation. Because of the nature of our sample, the data presented here enable us to move beyond speculation and begin to offer a solid empirical foundation for our understanding of the illegal firearms market.

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**CHAPTER 1**  
**FIREARMS AND VIOLENCE**

# CHAPTER 1

## FIREARMS AND VIOLENCE

Firearm violence is a broad field. Often, firearm violence is regarded as synonymous with gun control. This may be due to the perception that gun control laws focus on the owner of firearms. However, evidence is mounting that the use of guns by offenders is of greater concern. Our study is designed to learn more about this issue by interviewing active offenders.

In the decade beginning with 1985, urban America experienced a dramatic surge in gun-related violence. Increasingly, that violence was concentrated among young, minority males in large cities. This problem provoked a variety of responses, including a call from Attorney General Janet Reno in 1995 to mobilize federal, state and local resources in an effort to reduce levels of gun violence. The Attorney General was joined in this effort by a broad coalition of groups – public health professionals, school officials, drug and alcohol prevention personnel, elected officials, community activists and officials in the criminal justice system. Efforts to control gun violence have broad implications; as Sheley and Wright (1995) have noted that the problem of gun violence serves to define general perceptions of crime on the part of the public.

Despite agreement about the negative consequences of firearm violence, there is considerable debate about firearms and firearms policy in America. Clearly, the effect of policies and laws to regulate the possession and ownership of firearms is controversial (Kleck 1991, Albus and Messner 1995). On the one hand, Kleck (1991) argues that firearms possession by the general public produces a large public good, and the prevention of personal and household victimization through the defensive use of firearms. Contrary evidence, however, abounds. In an early study, McDowall (1991) argued that high levels of firearms density contribute to increased homicide rates. The debate about regulating

firearms has gained increased precision, focusing on specific policies in well-defined jurisdictions. The efforts of the District of Columbia have received considerable attention in this analysis, both because of the restrictive gun laws implemented there and the high rates of homicide experienced in the nation's capitol (Webster, et al., 1992). The evidence from a number of sophisticated analyses is unequivocal, restricting access to firearms is associated with declining rates of violence – specifically homicide – committed with guns (Loftin, McDowall, Wiersma, and Cottey 1991, Loftin 1993, Sloan, Kellermann, Reay, Ferris, Koepsell, Rivara, Rice, Gray, and LoGerfo, 1988).

Less emotionally charged issues are also controversial. For example, there is no agreement about the number of guns available to Americans. Estimates of gun availability show considerable diversity, dependent upon the methods of estimation (Kleck, 1991; Cook, 1991). The reasons for ownership are also the subject of some controversy. It is unclear whether guns are owned primarily for sport, protection or other reasons (Lizotte and Bordua 1980, Lizotte, Tesoriero, Thornberry, and Krohn, 1994). The impact of gun availability is also the subject of controversy. Some contend that when guns are readily available to offenders, the use of weapons in crimes of violence, particularly robbery and assault, increases. Such increases are strongly correlated with increased chance of death and serious injury (Cook, 1991; Zimring, 1967, 1972). There is also evidence that a large number of citizens use guns each year to defend themselves against crime, and limiting access to firearms would impair the ability of many citizens to engage in self-defense (Kleck, 1991).

The debate over the availability and use of firearms has generated quite a bit of research and data. A recent review (Zawitz, 1995) enumerated twenty-one separate federal data sources on firearms. Despite this, little direct evidence exists about a number of issues regarding active criminals and guns. It is this void in our understanding of firearms that this study addresses.

## **FIREARM VIOLENCE**

A Bureau of Justice Statistics (1993) paper reported that a record number of violent crimes were committed with handguns in 1992. Nearly one-million crimes were committed with handguns in 1992, and the nonfatal handgun victimization rate attained its highest level ever, 4.5 per 100,000 residents. And there is mounting evidence that firearms play an especially prominent role in violence among certain population subgroups, particularly males, juveniles and non-whites. From 1987 through 1991, the percent of juvenile homicides committed with a gun increased from 64% to 78%, and in 1991 juveniles accounted for one out of every five persons arrested on weapons charges (Allen-Hagen and Sickmund, 1993). The violent crime arrest rate for black youths is five times higher than that for whites (1,456/100,000 compared to 283/100,000), exposing blacks to firearms violence at much higher rates than their white counterparts (Allen-Hagen and Sickmund, 1993). For every age category, the fraction of all deaths due to firearms is higher for blacks than whites. However, the gap between black males aged 15 to 19 and their white counterparts in the same age group, is greater than for any other age category (Fingerhut, Kleinman, Godfrey, and Rosenberg, 1991; Blumstein, 1994). Harries and Powell (1994) report a strong spatial relationship between “stressed” census tracts (disproportionately comprised of African-American residents) and juvenile gun crime, further underscoring the importance of understanding patterns of gun use for this group.

The widespread availability of guns – especially among young people – motivates the current study. Yet the number of guns in circulation is difficult to determine. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms estimates that in 1990 slightly more than four million new guns entered the American gun market (Reiss and Roth, 1993). Current estimates of the number of guns available in America range from 200 million (Reiss and Roth, 1993) to 250 million (Messner and Rosenfeld, 1993). The widespread availability of firearms has important consequences, and motivates a number of research interests. Moore (1981), using data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, reports that of a sample of 113 handguns, 40 percent were stolen at some point. In many cities, guns are readily

available to children through street corner markets (American Psychological Association, 1993). Street corner availability translates into use for many juveniles. Based on the results of a nationally representative survey of public and private elementary, middle and high school students, it is estimated that one in ten youths aged ten through nineteen have fired a gun at someone or have been shot at themselves (Sommerfeld, 1993). Further, 40% of the respondents to that survey said they knew someone who had been killed or wounded by gunfire. Guns were easily obtained by survey respondents; sixty percent said they could get a handgun, and more than a third said they could do so within 24 hours.

Recent research by Blumstein (1994) has identified the specific contribution made by young people to the homicide rate. He found that the age of homicide victims and perpetrators has declined overall, and that youthful victims (and perpetrators) experienced rapidly escalating rates of involvement in homicide at the same time that rates were declining among their older counterparts. More importantly, the use of guns as the method of inflicting death by youthful offenders doubled while non-gun rates remained essentially flat. Blumstein (17-18) specifically implicates drug markets in this process.

They recruit juveniles, they 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.

Then, in view of the recklessness and bravado that is often characteristic of teenagers, and their low level of skill in settling disputes other than through the use of physical force, many of the fights that would otherwise have taken place can turn into shootings as a result of the presence of guns.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES TO VIOLENCE**

Handgun violence escalated dramatically into the 1990's prompting a response from the public health community that sought to redefine violence specifically as a public health problem. Typically, public health responds to health risks by specifying four approaches: (1) surveillance of the problem, (2) risk group identification, (3) risk group exploration, and (4) program implementation and evaluation (Mercy and O'Carroll 1988).

The public health community has applied traditional epidemiological approaches to the problem of violence. A variety of studies have provided “surveillance” of the problem, implementing violence monitoring systems at emergency rooms, schools, and a variety of community settings. A larger body of research has concentrated on risk group identification and risk factor exploration. This research has documented high rates of firearm violence in urban areas in the United States (Fingerhut et al., 1992), high rates of firearm violence among adolescents and young adults in the United States compared to other nations (Fingerhut and Kleinman 1990), and documented homicide as the leading cause of death among young African-Americans (U.S. Public Health Service 1990). Firearms have been implicated as a primary risk factor in the circumstances of homicides among young people by Rosenberg and Mercy (1986), the Centers for Disease Control (1985), and Callahan, Rivara, and Farrow (1993). Callahan et al., concluded that firearms possession posed a greater risk than all other health behaviors among the members of their detention sample. Other public health approaches have focused on trends in gang-related homicides (Hutson, Anglin, Kyriacou, Hart and Spears 1995), drive by shootings (Hutson, Anglin, and Pratts 1994) in Los Angeles, the nature of gunshot wounds (point of entry, gunshots per patient) in D.C. (Webster, Champion, and Gainer 1992), and firearm deaths in Philadelphia (McGonigal, Cole, Schwab, Kauder, Rotondo and Angood 1993). This research highlighted factors of specific interest to the public health community, including increased demand for emergency services, mortality trends, and a host of issues related to emergency medicine, such as number of bullet wounds, size of entry wound, and increased costs of medical services as a consequence of firearm violence (Max and Rice 1993).

Public health research has documented that a large fraction of the youthful urban population has been exposed to handgun violence, typically with negative consequences. The secondary effects of violence, largely captured in exposure, is an important addition to the knowledge of the impact of firearm violence. In a sample of adolescents and young people in Detroit, Schubiner et al., (1993) found forty-two percent had seen someone shot or knifed and twenty-two percent had seen someone killed. Other observers (Gladstein, Rusonis, and Heald 1992, Fitzpatrick 1993, Healthy People 2000) have documented a

similar observation. While less is known about the specific effects of such exposure, concern exists about increased levels of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety among people exposed to high levels of firearm violence, particularly adolescents.

Absent from the public health literature, however, is full consideration of the role of offending as an independent variable in models that attempt to explain involvement in firearm violence. Such a consideration is crucial because of the high proportion of victims of violence who have prior records of offending, and the role of offending in drawing individuals into situations ripe with the potential for violence.

### **FIREARMS AND OFFENDERS**

We have considerable knowledge about the legal ownership of guns. Wright and Marston (1975), Wright, Rossi and Daly (1983), Lizotte and Bordua (1980), and Kleck (1991) provide some of the best work in this area. Taken together, though, their work does not provide adequate insight into the means by which offenders obtain guns, ease of access to guns, and how offenders participate in legal and illegal gun markets. Indeed, a recent comprehensive review of the gun literature, Kleck (1991, 21) fails to discuss offenders in the subsection titled, "Who Owns Guns?"

The most notable exceptions to this pattern are the surveys of incarcerated male felons conducted by Wright and Rossi (1986) in 1982 and 1983 and interviews conducted by Sheley and Wright (1995) with juveniles in 1991. Using a self-administered questionnaire, Wright and Rossi collected data from just under 1,900 individuals in ten state prison facilities. These institutions were selected from geographically diverse regions of the country. In order to insure that the information received was recent, subjects could not have begun their sentence before January 1, 1979. In all, an 80% response rate was achieved, and demographic characteristics of the sample such as age, race, marital status, education, and occupation compared favorably to those of the general inmate population at each institution.

Based on the results of their interviews, Wright and Rossi developed a seven category descriptive typology. Fifty percent of respondents could be classified as gun criminals, a classification with four sub-categories. The largest category was handgun predators, who accounted for 17% of the total. Three-quarters of the total sample owned at least one gun, and of that group, three-quarters owned handguns. Not surprisingly, a majority of the sample had used a gun in the commission of a crime. Most inmates reported that they owned a gun for protection, and had a preference for small, inexpensive weapons. It is important to note that informal and illegal means dominated the methods by which inmates obtained guns, and most subjects said that a gun could be obtained within a matter of hours.

The Wright and Rossi (1986) survey remains the primary source of knowledge about adult offenders and firearms. Wright and his colleagues recently expanded the horizons of knowledge about this topic by interviewing incarcerated male juveniles and inner city males in four states Louisiana, Illinois, California and New Jersey (Sheley and Wright 1993, 1995, Sheeley, Wright and Smith 1993), as well as a sample of inner city females (Smith, Sheeley, and Wright, 1993). They found gun possession among males to be rather common, and that involvement in drug sales had important effects in increasing gun carrying. However, self-reports of gun carrying were also high among those not involved in drug sales. Similarly, gun possession among females was high, much higher than expected. Their research underscores the role of drug markets in escalating firearm availability, as well as the role of informal networks through which guns become available. Gangs were also implicated in the high levels of firearm availability and use, as well as the values that supported the use of such weapons to solve disputes and arguments. Taken together, these reports suggest the importance of monitoring gun acquisition by those at risk for involvement in gun violence either as victims or offenders.

A number of investigations of the youth firearms market and violence have underscored the ease of obtaining guns and their widespread possession. Fagan's (1990) study of school dropouts in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Diego neighborhoods underscored the widespread availability of guns, particularly to gang members. Weapon use was the focus

of the Fagan et al. (1986) study of youths in high crime neighborhoods in four cities (Boston, Detroit, Memphis and Newark). They found that weapon possession and use was widespread, and nine percent of the respondents reported using a gun to shoot someone. Equally high levels of firearm possession and use among Washington, D.C. high school students were reported by Altschuler and Brounstein (1991). More than a quarter of the sample reported carrying a concealed weapon in the year prior to the survey, and one in ten had used a weapon to threaten another person.

It is imperative that we begin to sketch in the details of how easily offenders obtain guns, their motives for carrying guns, and the nature of local gun markets. In recent review essays, Cook (1991) argued that we need to better understand the illegal gun market, and that interviewing active offenders is an especially appropriate way to do so. Over ten years ago, Moore (1981) concluded that we know very little about the black market of guns, a conclusion supported more recently by Reiss and Roth (1993). Roth (1994: 3) describes the current state of knowledge about gun acquisition by offenders as “fragmented, outdated, and subject to sampling bias.” Finally, in the National Research Council Report on violence, Reiss and Roth (1993) conclude:

One or more surveys are needed to develop accurate estimates of ownership by gun type, of motives and sources for obtaining guns, and especially of gun acquisition patterns among juveniles and criminals. (p. 279)

While past work in this area fills a substantial void in our knowledge about guns and offenders, for a variety of reasons, it does not provide enough answers about the gun market today. First, their work is now dated, much of it more than a decade old. Prison populations have grown substantially since their surveys, and have a very different mix of offenders. Second, the Wright and Rossi results (by far the best results from criminals) predate the existence of large inner-city crack markets and the growth of gangs in urban areas. These two factors have changed the nature of urban crime, creating new markets and motives for gun possession and use. A third compelling reason for paying new attention to the relationship between offenders and guns is the need to develop information closer to the street. Over time, inmates lose touch with the dynamics of street gun markets,

as prices, access, availability, and motives change. The results from interviewing recent arrestees are less likely to be influenced by mnemonic effects or recollections of a street market that has changed since an individual was incarcerated. Finally, a sample of offenders interviewed at the time of arrest will include a large proportion of what Kleck (1991: 46) describes as “relatively weakly motivated, infrequent offenders.” We are interested in the participation of these individuals in illegal gun markets, as they are more likely to be affected by changes in gun laws, price elasticity, and gun availability.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Cook (1983) and Reiss and Roth (1993) highlighted the importance of interviewing active violent criminals to learn more about their patterns of gun acquisition and relationship with legal and illegal gun markets. Learning about these issues from the individuals closest to the streets is essential to advance our understanding of the illegal firearms market in ways that will lead to effective strategies to prevent firearm violence. Cook identified four specific sets of questions to be included in such interviews. First, it is important to understand the methods used by active offenders to obtain guns, including the effect of legal restrictions on gun availability. A second set of questions should focus on substitution effects. That is, do those who use weapons other than guns do so because of preference for a particular weapon or because a gun was not available at the time? Finally, he argued that it is imperative to understand the motives of offenders in deciding to carry a gun.

These questions help guide the current research. We propose three general headings under which information from offenders about guns should be organized: (1) Access, (2) Availability, and (3) Use. These areas are described below.

The first set of questions examine firearm access, specifically addressing the question of how offenders acquire guns. As Cook (1983) has observed, it is important to know the effect of laws regulating the sale of guns on the patterns of acquisition of such weapons among offenders. This segment of the questionnaire will address this issue, by identifying the primary methods used by offenders and their associates to obtain guns. While there is

evidence to suggest illegal avenues provide guns for a large number of offenders through the commission of burglaries or guns fenced through drug sellers and informal street markets (Wright and Decker, 1994), more conclusive evidence is needed about this issue. Many offenders may get guns from friends, especially in the case of gang members. Guns may also be available in the household. Other offenders may obtain firearms from more organized distribution systems, such as pawn shops, licensed gun dealers or illegal gun dealers. Clearly, understanding the methods used by active criminals to obtain firearms is crucial to a better understanding of the relationship between firearms and crime, and the key to designing successful intervention strategies.

The second set of questions focuses on **firearm availability**, specifically the ease with which they are obtained by active offenders. Little is known about the ease (or conversely, the difficulty) with which different kinds of firearms can be obtained by offenders. In all probability, weapon choice is influenced strongly by how difficult it is to obtain a specific gun. However, preference for a specific type of gun may be strong enough to cause some offenders to wait for their choice in guns. There also may be important variations in the ease of procurement and preference by individual, offense, and neighborhood characteristics. For example, we lack basic information about how long it takes to find a gun on the illegal market. In short, some types of guns may be more easily obtained by certain groups of people (juvenile offenders, for example), types of offenders (those charged with drug offenses), and in certain neighborhoods. Understanding these issues is crucial to the formulation of effective intervention strategies.

**Firearm use** will be the focus of the third part of the study. Here we seek to learn whether arrestees have used a gun either in the commission of a crime or legally. In addition, the motives (such as protection, retaliation, or the commission of a crime) behind gun use are also important to understand, particularly as those motives may be linked to the commission of specific kinds of offenses. Offenders are frequently victims of gun crime, and we will organize information about their firearm victimization under this heading.

Our work is framed in the context of the issues and findings raised above. However, we seek answers to these questions from the offenders who most affect and are most affected by these issues – recent arrestees. We also obtained information about the attitudes of arrestees toward the use of guns and the victimization experience of arrestees.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**  
**OF THE STUDY**

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This study is based on results from interviews with arrestees in eleven American cities. These interviews were conducted in conjunction with the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program of the National Institute of Justice. Each year DUF conducts interviews with nearly 30,000 arrestees in 23 large American cities. DUF has been operational since 1987, and is designed to learn about the drug histories of recent arrestees. The DUF interview solicits information about recent drug use, lifetime drug use, and culminates with the collection of a urine sample to validate self reports.

Data for the current study were collected in conjunction with the DUF program during the first six months of 1995. Adult males who are charged with serious offenses (felonies and non-traffic misdemeanors) are eligible to be interviewed, and are selected from the central booking facility of each DUF site. All adult females are interviewed, regardless of offense seriousness or type. Interviews of juvenile males and females are conducted at the juvenile detention facility in a number of DUF cities and all charges are eligible for interview. Each quarter, approximately 220 interviews are completed with adult males and 100 from adult females. Some sites also interview juveniles and set a goal of 100 completed interviews with juvenile males and as many as possible with juvenile females. In addition to drug use self-reports of drug use, interviewees are asked to provide urine specimens, which are screened by Enzyme Multiplied Immune Test (EMIT™) for recent use of a broad class of illicit drugs. All interviews are voluntary and confidential, contributing to the high response rates, over ninety percent for both interview and urinalysis in most cities.

#### **SAMPLE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Arrestees in eleven large American cities (Atlanta, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, St. Louis, San Diego, and Washington, D.C.)

were interviewed for this study. These cities provide broad geographic representation of the country, and include diverse ethnic and racial population groups. In addition, St. Louis, Detroit, Atlanta, New Orleans, Washington and Miami consistently record extraordinarily high rates of violent crimes, typically ranking in the top ten for violent crime rate in American cities. Table 2.1 displays the rate per 100,000 citizens for violent crime, murder, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as the rank of each city for this crime category among the largest 100 American cities.

The data in Table 2.1 provide compelling evidence that the arrestees included in our sample come from cities with extremely high rates of violence. Indeed, cities in our sample include those with the first, second and third highest rates of violent crime. Further evidence of the importance of the cities included in the study can be seen in the data for murder and robbery, two crimes in which firearm use figures prominently. We interviewed arrestees from the cities with the six highest homicide rates in the nation for 1993. And in the case of robbery, seven of the cities out of the highest fourteen rates have been included in our study. It is important to note that every city in our sample exceeds the U.S. rate of violence, even those cities that rank low among the 100 largest cities. Because our sample includes cities with rates of violent crime in excess of the U.S. average, we expect to gain insights into the illegal firearms market that would not be revealed by examining cities with lower levels of such crimes.

There are a number of advantages in using DUF sites for data collection. First, DUF is a well-established system of data collection (Reardon 1993, Wish and Gropper 1990). It has been in operation at least six years in each of the sites, and employs a large pool of skilled, experienced interviewers. Second, DUF is unique in that it is the only data collection system with regular access to recent arrestees. Only arrestees who have been off the street less than 48 hours are eligible for interview. The opportunity to interview people who have been arrested recently – individuals who have yet to be confined for their current offense and are therefore “closer” to the street – should provide current information about the availability of, access to, and market conditions for firearms. While DUF provides access to many hard-core criminals arrested for serious crimes, it also provides access to the

Table 2.1  
1993 CRIME RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS  
AND RANK OF DUF FIREARM SITES

City (Rate/Rank)	CRIME TYPE			
	<u>Violent Crime</u>	<u>Murder</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Aggravated Assault</u>
Atlanta	4,041/1	50/6	1,501/5	2,368/2
Denver	1,054/60	15/57	374/66	586/59
Detroit	NA	57/4	1,332/6	1,274/17
Indianapolis	1,666/31	18/43	543/47	968/28
Los Angeles	2,374/14	31/20	1,090/12	1,204/20
Miami	3,893/2	34/16	1,901/2	1,204/20
New Orleans	2,039/19	80/1	1,054/14	845/36
Phoenix	1,146/54	15/57	331/70	757/43
St. Louis	3,874/3	69/3	1,608/4	2,116/5
San Diego	1,160/52	12/72	401/62	718/59
Washington, DC	2,921/10	79/2	1,230/8	1,558/10
<b>U.S. Rate</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>440</b>

Note For each crime, the city's rank is listed above the rate. For example, Atlanta has the highest rate of violent crime, 4,041 per 100,000 residents.

important subgroup Kleck (1991, 46) identifies as "...weakly motivated, infrequent offenders." Finally, DUF provides access to a large number of subjects; our interviews included 4,638 adult males, 1,870 adult females, 1,352 juvenile<sup>1</sup> males and 176 juvenile females, a sample total of 8,035.

The distribution of cases by age and sex categories is provided in Table 2.2. This is the largest sample ever collected from individuals involved in crime regarding firearms possession, access, use and values. As such, it provides the opportunity to examine new and important insights into the illegal firearms market. Each site provided a substantial number of cases for adult males, and except for Miami, large numbers of cases for adult

<sup>1</sup> For our purposes, a juvenile is anyone eighteen years of age or older.

females. In seven of the sites, data were collected from juvenile detention facilities, the other sites included data from juveniles (under eighteen years of age) who were detained at the adult facility where data was collected. The availability of nearly 1,400 juvenile males allows for enough cases in important categories of behavior, such as drug use and gang membership. Only three sites (Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Indianapolis) specifically collected information from juvenile females. For all but the most basic prevalence issues, juvenile female arrestees are not included in the analyses to follow.

Table 2.2

DISTRIBUTION OF DUF FIREARMS CASES  
BY SITE, AGE AND SEX

<u>City</u>	<u>Adult Males</u>	<u>Adult Females</u>	<u>Juvenile Males</u>	<u>Juvenile Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Atlanta	383	186	17	3	589
Denver**	471	215	194	65	945
Detroit	379	99	16	3	497
Indianapolis <sup>1</sup> **	223	108	108	36	475
Los Angeles*	511	238	281	1	1031
Miami	385	--	--	--	385
New Orleans	475	182	19	7	683
Phoenix**	499	298	188	59	1044
St. Louis	452	197	141	3	793
San Diego*	455	169	202	--	826
DC*	<u>437</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>787</u>
TOTAL	4,670	1,871	1,337	177	8,055

\* Juvenile male interview site.

\*\* Juvenile male and female interview site.

<sup>1</sup> Indianapolis data are available for the first quarter only.

One of the difficulties in research involving low base rate behaviors in the general population is finding samples with high enough frequencies of the behavior in question. Examples of this dilemma abound in criminal justice; however, the use of an arrestee sample goes a long way toward solving this problem, particularly for questions concerning firearms. Sheley and Wright (1993) found low levels of gun ownership even among students in "high risk" neighborhoods; only twenty-two percent acknowledged that they had a gun, a finding similar to that of Fagan (1985). This stands in contrast to the results from inmates, 83% of whom reported that they had a gun prior to their arrest. Thus a large sample of recent arrestees should provide a suitable number of respondents who own and use guns, somewhere between the lower rates found in the general population and the considerably higher rates among incarcerated offenders.

## **MEASUREMENT ISSUES**

### **Representativeness**

One concern about DUF samples pertains to their representativeness of the arrestee population. If the arrestees who arrive at DUF interview sites are not representative of the arrestee population at large, the results of such interviews cannot be generalized to the arrestee population. There is evidence that DUF samples are representative of the population of arrestees. Chaiken and Chaiken (1993) analyzed DUF samples across the 23 cities, comparing them on the basis of demographic and arrest charge characteristics. They concluded that the sample of arrestees interviewed in the DUF program was not significantly different than the entire pool of arrestees across all DUF cities (Chaiken and Chaiken 1993). Using five years of DUF data from St. Louis, Decker (1992a, 1992b) examined the difference between race, age, sex, charge and arrest location (using police district), characteristics of DUF interviewees, and all arrestees in St. Louis. Like the Chaikens, he found that the St. Louis DUF sample did not differ significantly from the pool of arrestees in the city of St. Louis. Similar results are reported by Pennell for San Diego (1994). Further evidence of the correspondence between the DUF sample and the arrestee population is found in the work of Harrell (1992). Washington, D.C. conducts urinalysis and interviews of all arrestees modeled along DUF procedures. D.C. also participates in

the DUF program, enabling direct comparisons of the two samples. Harrell found no statistically significant differences between the two samples on any relevant characteristic. These results lend confidence that findings obtained using DUF samples are largely representative of arrestee populations. This conclusion strengthens the use of the current data to expand our knowledge about arrestees and firearms.

### **Validity and Reliability**

A central issue in establishing the utility of any study is the integrity of measurement. This is a particularly important issue for studies that depend on self-reports of socially undesirable or illegal behavior. Harrell (1985) reported that socially desirable behavior is generally exaggerated, while problematic behaviors tend to be underreported. Fortunately, there is specific evidence to address the latter concern; generally, self-reported measures of criminal involvement and specifically for drug use.

Sheley and Wright (1995) noted that self-reported measures of criminal involvement are generally quite good, and cite impressive literature to support their contention. Self-reports of criminal and delinquent behavior generally are correlated strongly with external measures such as official arrest records, lie detector tests, and conviction histories. The Sheley and Wright measures of internal and external validity are quite strong, an important conclusion for our own study as they focus specifically on many gun measures similar to our own. Using a paired comparison technique, they determined that the logical consistency of responses was consistent across measures within each sample (students and inmates). They also report logical consistency of responses by comparing answers to questions of declining seriousness, finding that answers were rank-ordered in the expected direction.

Recent research has highlighted the reliability and validity of the DUF data with regard to self-reported drug use. Rosenfeld and Decker (1995) found strong indicators of reliability in self-reports and urinalysis measures of cocaine and opiate use. Data from consecutive years reproduced itself at consistently high levels (.95 or above), leading to the conclusion that the data systems were not fraught with measurement error. And in a related study

(Rosenfeld et al., 1993), they found considerable measurement stability across time within drug type when self-reports and urinalysis results were compared.

It is possible (even likely with a sample such as our own) that the measurement system is reliable, but lacks validity. For the DUF measurement system, this too, can be addressed with empirical data. Mieczkowski (1990) examined the correspondence between self-reported and urinalysis measures of cocaine, opiate and marijuana use in the DUF data. He concludes that the correspondence between the two measures was strong, stronger than would be expected by chance, even though there was some variation by drug type. He observed that this is consistent with the findings of the majority of research in this area. Further, Rosenfeld and Decker (1993) compared self-reported and urinalysis measures of cocaine use across thirteen DUF cities and within a single city across twelve quarters. The cross-sectional measures were correlated at .91, and the longitudinal measures were correlated at .92, suggesting that the validity of self-reports is quite strong. Using results from the convergent-discriminant validity test, Rosenfeld and Decker (1994) determined that measures of drug use across measurement systems (DUF, Drug Abuse Warning System Emergency Room mentions, and Drug Abuse Warning System Medical Examiner reports) were strong within drug type, strong enough to establish the external validity of self-reports of drug use within the DUF system.

Issues of reliability and validity can also be addressed with our data. One means of establishing the reliability of measurement is to perform a test-retest or split-half procedure. If data contain a considerable amount of measurement error, measures of the same variable will fail to show convergence. To examine this issue directly, we split the sample by quarter, comparing the results of the first quarter of data collection to those from the second quarter for several measures of drug use, gun possession and use, as well as demographic factors. In no case did the results diverge by more than five percent; most comparisons were within a single percentage point. For example, the age and sex distributions from each quarter were nearly identical, and the correspondence for behavioral measures is equally strong. Thirty-nine percent of respondents in the first quarter told our interviewers that they had ever owned a gun, while thirty-four percent

admitted this during the second quarter. The percent of respondents from each quarter who said that they had owned a gun in the last thirty days differed by a single percent, a result similar to that for those admitting gang membership, and purchasing or selling drugs within the past year.

The external validity of these data can be established by examining the correspondence between the results of our own study and those that have examined closely related populations. Considerable research exists about the prevalence of firearms among the general population; indeed, the General Social Survey collects such a measure at the household level each year. As noted in Chapter 1, a number of studies have documented levels of firearm ownership, use and victimization among samples of high school students, residents of juvenile detention facilities, and inmates in state correctional facilities. We contend that arrestees are an intermediate population with regard to firearm ownership; they should fall somewhere between the general public and serious criminals in their level of firearm ownership. Indeed this is the case. Table 2.3 displays the results from a number of surveys of the public, high school students, incarcerated juveniles and adult prisoners. Thirty-seven percent of our sample reported ever owning a firearm, while twelve percent responded affirmatively when asked if they had owned a gun in the last thirty days. Surveys of imprisoned males show high levels of firearm possession, as high as eighty-three percent for Sheley and Wright (1995) and seventy-five percent for Wright and Rossi (1986). General population surveys report respondent levels of ownership as high as twenty-nine percent. Further, self-reports of possession in the thirty days prior to arrest and possession at the time of arrest from our sample are consistent with those found in earlier research. These findings place our sample between the higher levels of firearm ownership reported by inmates and the lower level found in general populations samples. Thus, the external validity of the arrestee sample appears quite strong.

Table 2.3  
WEAPONS PREVALENCE IN PRIOR RESEARCH

<u>Author</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Prevalence</u>	
CDC <sup>1</sup>	1991	1990 YRBS HS students nationally rep.sample	1/gun past 30 days	Males	32%
				Females	8%
				Total	20%
Sheeley and Wright <sup>2</sup>	1991	incar. juv offenders in 4 states 10 inner city high schools near det. centers	Owned prior to incar.	Males	83%
				Owned at survey	Males
Kern <sup>3</sup>	1992-3	incar. juv and adult offenders in VA	Ever possessed	Juveniles	70%
				Adults	48%
			Carried at last crime	Juveniles	11%
				Adults	12%
Lizotte et al. <sup>4</sup>	1988	RYDS	Ownership	Males	10%
McNab et al. <sup>5</sup>	1992-3	Juv. court cases HS students	Ever carried illegally	Juv Det	58%
				HS	20%
			Carried last 30 days	Juv.Det	71%
HS	20%				
Wright and Rossi <sup>6</sup>	1982-3	11 adult pris. in 10 states	Ever own Owned at arrest	Adult males	75%
				Adult Males	57%
Kleck <sup>7</sup>	1989	Gallup Gun	Ownership	Households	32%
	1989	Time/CNN	Ownership	Households	23%
	1973-7	GSS	Ownership	Households	48%
	1982	GSS	Ownership	Households	51%
	1984	GSS	Ownership	Households	45%
	1984	GSS	Ownership	Respondents	29%
GSS <sup>8</sup>	1993		Ownership	Households	42%
				Respondents	28%
BJS Inmate Survey <sup>9</sup>	1991	Prison interviews	Ever owned Owned month prior to arrest	Inmates	43%
				Inmates	24%
Callahan <sup>10</sup>	1990	Detention interviews	Ever owned	Juv. detainees	59%

1. "Weapon-carrying Among High School Students – United States, 1990." 1991 MMWR, 40, 681-684.
2. "Gun Acquisition and Possession in Selected Juvenile Samples." *Research in Brief*, NIJ, December, 1993.
3. "Guns and Violent Crime." *Criminal Justice Research Center*. Department of Criminal Justice Services. State of Virginia. January, 1994.
4. "Patterns of Adolescent Firearms Ownership and Use." 1994. *Justice Quarterly*, 11:51-75.
5. "Correlates of Gun-carrying Among Adolescents in South Louisiana." Centers for Disease Control. 1994.
6. *Armed and Considered Dangerous*. 1986 New York: Aldine De Gruyter.
7. 1991. *Point Blank*. New York: Aldine De Gruyter.
8. 1994. *General Social Survey*.
9. 1993. *Survey of State Prison Inmates, 1991*. 1993. Bureau of Justice Statistics.
10. 1990. "Youth in Detention and Handguns." *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 1993.

## DESCRIBING THE SAMPLE

The descriptive characteristics of the sample are enumerated in Table 2.4. The sample includes 8,055 individuals who were interviewed within forty-eight hours of their arrest. In addition, we include large numbers of arrestees from important population subgroups, such as juvenile males, as well as subgroups (adult females) about whom virtually nothing is known regarding their firearm possession, use and victimization. Our description of the sample includes a number of relevant behavioral characteristics, such as drug use, most serious charge at time of arrest, gang membership and drug sales. It would be no surprise that a sample of over 8,000 individuals collected by means of a sophisticated and long-standing data collection system should produce a useful sample. Our data represent such a sample.

More than half (55%) of the arrestees in our sample were black. Approximately a quarter were white, while twenty percent were Hispanic, and a small fraction fell into other racial categories. This is not a snapshot of the racial distribution of arrestees nationwide. However, it is not far off in its reflection of the racial composition of arrestees. And DUF cities were specifically chosen so as to maximize the racial composition of the sample. Indeed, the sample includes sizable enough black, Hispanic, and white respondent groups to draw meaningful conclusions about their firearms behavior.

We next turn to the distribution of cases by gender. Well over ninety percent of arrestees in the U.S. are male, and only seventy-five percent of our sample is male. By utilizing the DUF sampling strategy, we have oversampled female arrestees, insuring that there will be adequate numbers of women about whom meaningful conclusions can be drawn. And while much is known about male possession and use of firearms, virtually no prior study has examined the patterns and preferences of their females counterparts with regards to firearms.

The age distribution of our sample bears special mention. Of the eleven cities included in our sample, seven specifically included juveniles in their DUF catchment strategy. Given their increased levels of involvement in firearm violence, we sought to maximize the size

of the juvenile male sample by deploying such a strategy. Despite that, the average age of our respondents was 27.5, older than the average age of arrestees nationwide. Only eighteen percent of the sample was under the age of sixteen, far smaller than for all arrestees. And the modal category for members of our sample was ages twenty-one to twenty-nine. It should not be surprising, however, that a sample of serious offenders – individuals whose behavior had caused the police to arrest them, process them through booking procedures and detain them in a holding facility – would be older than the general arrestee population.

The behavioral characteristics of the sample are described in the second panel of Table 2.4. Here we examine drug use (measured by urinalysis), most serious charge, self-reported gang membership, and self-reported participation in the drug market, either as seller or purchaser.

Table 2.4  
 DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
 OF THE DUF SAMPLE  
 Demographic Characteristics

<u>SEX</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	6007	75%
Females	2048	25%
(n=8055)		
<u>ETHNICITY</u>		
Black	4,380	55%
White	1,907	24%
Hispanic	1,578	20%
Other	142	2%
(n=8007)		
<u>AGE</u>		
13 and under	376	5%
14-16	948	13%
17-20	1,076	14%
21-29	2,360	29%
30-39	2,302	27%
40-49	758	9%
50-59	173	2%
60+	45	1%
(n=8038)		

Table 2.4 (continued)  
Behavioral Characteristics

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	<u>Percent Positive</u>
Cocaine	37%
Opiates	6%
Marijuana	30%
Amphetamines	4%
Any Drug (n=8055)	64%
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE	
<u>Crime Type</u>	
Property crime	33%
Violent crime	29%
Drug crimes	18%
Probation/Parole Violations	5%
Other (n=8020)	15%
GANG MEMBERSHIP	
Current membership (n=7782)	7%
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES	
Sold in last year (n=7785)	19%

The DUF program has been in existence since 1987. It has consistently reported high levels of drug use within its sample. The arrestees in the eleven cities we chose are no exception to this conclusion. Sixty-four percent (64%) of the sample tested positive for at least one illicit drug. Cocaine was the drug individuals were most likely to test positive for, as thirty-seven percent of the arrestees tested positive for some form of cocaine.<sup>2</sup> Marijuana is the drug of second choice among members of this sample, as thirty percent

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<sup>2</sup> The test used to detect cocaine in the urine is unable to distinguish between crack and powder cocaine use. Self-reports, however, make it abundantly clear that crack cocaine is the primary form in which the drug is administered by members of our sample.

## **CHAPTER 3**

# **NATIONAL RESULTS**

## CHAPTER 3

### NATIONAL RESULTS

This chapter of the report reviews the results of our study. A number of demographic and behavioral characteristics are examined. Demographic characteristics include age and sex; behavioral measures include selling illegal drugs, gang membership, drug use (measured by urinalysis), and most serious charge at arrest.

The first set of results are presented in Table 3.1. This table is important, both for its findings as well as the road map it provides for future tables. Most of the subsequent tables adopt a similar format, examining the age-sex variables first, then the behavioral measures. In addition, the findings in the first table are consistent with those in future tables.

Measures of lifetime, thirty day, 24 hour and time of arrest firearm possession are presented in Table 3.1. The most striking finding in this table is how little the age-sex measures add to our understanding of firearm ownership. The central question for each bivariate relationship (adult males and ever owned a firearm, for example) is how much different from the overall sample is the subgroup being examined. And for both adult and juvenile males, very little difference is found from the sample total for any of the ownership prevalence measures. Females, adult and juvenile, report understandably lower prevalence rates than their male counterparts. The case for juvenile males, whose participation in the illegal firearms market as users, sellers, and buyers, has been ably documented in the first chapter of this report, is especially striking. For each ownership measure, juvenile males were about as likely to own a gun as was the entire sample. This suggests that it is not just being a young male that elevates risk for involvement in firearm violence; other factors play an important role.

We begin to get a sense of what those “other factors” may be in examining the bottom half of Table 3.1. Surprisingly, neither testing positive for cocaine nor being charged with a violent offense made little difference for any of the firearm prevalence measures. The finding with regard to drugs is consistent with that of Sheley and Wright (1995) who found that self-reported drug use was not especially powerful in discriminating between those involved in illegal firearm ownership and use and those who were not. However, self-reports of gang membership or selling illegal drugs alter the picture considerably. For individuals who admitted either of these behaviors, the probability of owning a firearm rose considerably over the sample. This finding is not a mere artifact of the bravado that may often accompany admitting involvement in such illegal behaviors. Questions about drug sales and gang membership were asked at the end of the interview so as not to allow subjects to first create an image, then create responses that confirm that image in their eyes and those of the interviewer. Regardless of the time period (lifetime, thirty days, within twenty-four hours of arrest, or at the time of arrest) members of the sample who told interviewers that they had sold illegal drugs in the past year or were currently a gang member were between two and four times as likely to own a firearm as was the case for the entire sample. This is a finding that will resurface in this report.

Table 3.1  
FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=7,701)	37%	35%	7%	3%
Adult males	42%	35%	4%	3%
Adult females	22%	29%	1%	1%
Juvenile males	42%	36%	5%	3%
Juvenile females	13%	—	—	—
Sold illegal drugs in the last year	65%	47%	11%	4%
Admitted gang member	68%	51%	12%	5%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	35%	32%	3%	2%
Most serious charge at arrest:				
Property crime	39%	34%	4%	3%
Violent crime	37%	36%	4%	3%
 HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?		<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=2,833)		14%	14%	72%
Adult males		13%	13%	75%
Adult females		12%	13%	76%
Juvenile males		20%	17%	63%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year		23%	18%	59%
Admitted gang member		31%	24%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine		13%	12%	75%
Most serious charge at arrest:				
Property crime		13%	15%	82%
Violent crime		15%	14%	71%
 WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?				
Sample (n=2,861)				
Hunting or target shooting	22%			
Bonafide job	2%			
Protection/self defense	66%			
To get someone	1%			
Use in the drug trade	5%			
Use in other criminal activity	4%			
Other reasons	7%			

The second section of Table 3.1 examines how often respondents reported carrying a gun. The table is based only on those individuals who reported ever owning a firearm. Overall, fourteen percent of the sample reported that they carried a gun “all or most of the time.” Little difference was found between this sample average and the percentage of adult or juvenile males. A similar result emerged for those who tested positive for cocaine and whether the most serious charge was for a property or violent crime. However, consistent with the results discussed above, selling drugs or – even more – belonging to a gang nearly doubled the percentage of individuals who said they carried a gun “all or most of the time.”

The final issue explored in Table 3.1 focuses on the motivation for carrying a gun. Here again, only those individuals who report ever owning a gun are included in the table. Fully two-thirds of the sample reported that protection or self-defense was their primary motivation for having a gun. Twenty-two percent reported that “hunting or target shooting” was their primary reason, and ten percent reported miscellaneous illegal reasons (“use in the drug trade,” for example).

The analysis now moves to an examination of access to firearms; that is, how arrestees had obtained their most recent firearm (Table 3.2). The modal response, 56%, reported that they had paid cash for the handgun they had obtained most recently. This response masks whether they bought that handgun in a legal or illegal market. There is considerable evidence though, especially given the nature of our sample, that the illegal market was the primary source for such cash transactions. A large fraction of arrestees have prior criminal records of the sort that would prevent them from participating in the legal market, and the ease with which firearms could be obtained by the arrestees we interviewed suggests that the illegal market is a far more likely source for purchasing handguns than is the legal market. The second largest category was those individuals who claimed that their most recent handgun was a gift from some unspecified individual. A variety of other means of acquisitions (theft, borrowing, trading) were reported, though each was rather small.

Table 3.2  
ACCESS TO FIREARMS

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?  
(n=1,890)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	5%
Rented it	1%
Borrowed/held it	10%
Traded	8%
Paid cash	56%
It was a gift	15%
Other	5%

We were also concerned with how easy it would be for arrestees to obtain firearms. After all, the members of our sample represent a group that poses considerable threats to public safety. Many of them were arrested for very serious crimes, and a large number of them were involved in illegal drug use and sales, not to mention gang membership. The data that bear on this issue are presented in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3  
AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	Sample (n=7,695)	55%	26%
Adult males	54%	27%	19%
Adult females	54%	22%	24%
Juvenile males	59%	30%	11%
Sold drugs in the last year	77%	15%	8%
Admitted gang member	78%	17%	6%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	55%	25%	20%
Most serious charge at arrest			
Property crime	55%	27%	19%
Violent crime	55%	26%	19%

More than half of the total sample, 55%, responded that it was easy to get a gun illegally. Consistent with earlier findings, little differences between the overall sample and the age-sex subgroups was found. Strikingly, fifty-nine percent of juvenile males, only five percent more than the sample total, reported that it was easy to get a gun illegally. A similar picture emerged (again) for arrestees who tested positive for cocaine or were charged with violent or property crimes. But, nearly one and one-half times the percentage of admitted gang members and individuals who sold illegal drugs answered affirmatively to this question. These findings provide at least partial confirmation for the propositions offered by Blumstein (1994) about the impact of the crack cocaine market on firearms possession.

The analysis proceeds along similar lines by moving to an examination of how long it would take to get a gun. These data are presented in Table 3.4. The modal response, thirty-one percent, said that it would take an arrestee between a week and a month to get a gun. Slightly more than one in five respondents said they could get a gun in one day or less, adding credibility to the notion that the urban firearms market is very accessible to offenders. We then created a dichotomy measuring whether it would take arrestees a week or less, or more than a week to get a gun. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of the sample said they could get a gun in a week or less, a figure matched nearly identically for adult males (38%), juvenile males (36%), those who tested positive for cocaine (38%), individuals charged with property (38%), and violent crimes (35%). Quite a different picture emerged for self-reported drug sellers and gang members. Fifty-four percent of the former group and fifty- nine percent of the latter reported that they could get a gun in less than a week. These findings reinforce the role of gangs and drug markets in increasing access to firearms.

Table 3.4

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	7%
More than a month	25%
Between a week and a month	31%
Between two days and a week	16%
One day or less	21%
(n=1,422)	

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample	37%	63%
Adult males	38%	62%
Juvenile males	36%	64%
Sold drugs in the last year	54%	46%
Admitted gang member	59%	41%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	38%	62%
Most serious charge at arrest		
Property crime	38%	62%
Violent crime	35%	65%

The focus of our analysis shifts from possession and motives for possession to use of a firearm. Responses to the question, "Have you ever used a gun to commit a crime," are presented in Table 3.5. Nearly one-quarter of the sample (23%) responded affirmatively to this question. Consistent with the pattern observed in the earlier tables, those who also reported selling drugs (42%) or being a gang member (50%) reported much higher levels of involvement in gun crimes than did other groups. For the first time however, juvenile males were substantially more involved in the use of a gun in crimes than was the average for the sample of all arrestees. Fully one-third of juvenile males told interviewers that they

had used a gun to commit a crime. This is a more remarkable finding since juveniles, by definition, have fewer years at risk for this behavior.

It is one thing to report using a gun in crime; this can mean merely flourishing or holding the gun. However, firing a gun during a crime is substantially more serious. Of all those who report using a gun in crime, nearly one-third (31%) said that they had fired the gun during a crime in which they had used a gun. (See Table 3.5 below.) For the first time, only gang members were distinguished from the overall result reported for the sample.

Table 3.5  
ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=2,604)	23%	77%
Adult males	21%	79%
Adult females	18%	82%
Juvenile males	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year	42%	58%
Admitted gang members	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	22%	78%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	21%	79%
Violent crime	23%	77%

Table 3.6  
ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE

DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=588)	31%	69%
Adult males	30%	70%
Adult females	32%	68%
Juvenile males	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year	31%	69%
Admitted gang members	37%	63%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	35%	65%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	31%	69%
Violent crime	28%	72%

The use of a gun in crime also entails its “deterrent” capability. That is, in many instances a gun can be used to scare victims, coercing behavior more consistent with the demands of the perpetrator. This may occur in the course of robbery, assault or other forms of intimidation. Such behavior was relatively rare among the members of our sample, as only four percent of the total sample reported ever having used a gun during a crime to “scare” the victim. Gang members and drug sellers employed this tactic far more often, however, as eighteen percent (18%) of the former, and fourteen percent (14%) of the latter group reported ever having done this. The need to demonstrate that firearm use is a distinct possibility is central to the practice of selling drugs or being a gang member. Intimidation of potential rivals lies at the heart of each of these activities, thus their higher self-reports of this behavior.

Table 3.7  
**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME  
 TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,712)	4%	96%
Adult males (n=42)	5%	95%
Adult females (n=21)	2%	98%
Juvenile males (n=48)	6%	94%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=67)	14%	86%
Admitted gang member (n=49)	18%	82%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	5%	95%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	4%	96%
Violent crime	4%	96%

The data in Table 3.8 continue analysis of guns and crime, examining the participation of arrestees in firearm theft. Considerable research (Sheley and Wright 1995) suggests that stealing guns is a primary means by which arrestees obtain guns. The data reported here confirm that stealing guns is an important, though not the most important, means of obtaining guns. Overall, thirteen percent of the sample reported that they had ever stolen a gun. A considerably higher percent of juvenile males, one-quarter of this group, indicated that they had stolen a gun. Yet higher percentages of those gang members (29%) and drug sellers (30%) answered affirmatively to this question. Clearly there is differential involvement in gun theft by age, with young people considerably more likely to report engaging in this behavior. This is most likely a consequence of the involvement of juveniles in burglaries and the inability of juveniles to obtain guns through legal means.

**CHAPTER 4**  
**SITE SPECIFIC DATA**

Table 3.8  
 ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE

HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=2,836)	13%	87%
Adult males	18%	82%
Adult females	13%	87%
Juvenile males	25%	75%
Sold drugs in the last year	30%	70%
Admitted gang member	29%	71%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	18%	82%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	17%	83%
Violent crime	20%	80%

Arrestees have considerable experience in the use of firearms in the commission of crime. But they also experience a considerable volume of firearm victimization. Tables 3.9 through 3.11 present self-reported firearm victimization data for the arrestees in our sample. We examine three progressively more serious means by which one can be victimized by a firearm, threatened, shot at, and injured by guns.

Table 3.9  
 FIREARM VICTIMIZATION

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,715)	59%	41%
Adult males	60%	40%
Adult females	50%	50%
Juvenile males	52%	48%
Sold drugs in the last year	76%	24%
Admitted gang member	74%	26%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	56%	44%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	55%	45%
Violent crime	57%	43%

Table 3.9 presents data that reflect the percentage of arrestees who report ever being threatened with a gun. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of all respondents responded affirmatively to this question. A somewhat lower percentage of juvenile males, fifty-two percent, reported that they had been threatened with a gun. As this question is a lifetime measure of being threatened, it is not surprising that juveniles report lower levels than their adult counterparts as they had fewer years at risk. Little difference was found between the sample average and those who tested positive for cocaine; nor was there a difference for those charged with property or violent crimes. However, similar to the measures of illegal gun acquisition and use, selling illegal drugs and belonging to a gang elevate the percentage of individuals ever threatened with a gun well above the sample average. Nearly three-quarters of the members of each group reported that they had been threatened with a gun. Sampson and Lauritsen (1990) report that the relationship between offending and victimization is a complex one; in particular, the time-order of the relationship is difficult to determine. While our data cannot shed light on the time-order issue, it is clear that those who sell drugs or belong to gangs are at elevated levels of criminal involvement and victimization.

Remarkably, two in five arrestees (41%) reported that they had been shot at. And unlike merely being threatened with a gun, more juveniles (half) report that they have been shot at in their lives. Again, the percentage of those who sold illegal drugs or belonged to a gang was considerably higher than any other category. Sixty-four percent (64%) of drug sellers and seventy-seven percent (77%) of gang members report that they had been shot at. As Hutson et al., (1995) and Decker (1996) have noted, gang involvement has considerable consequences for violent victimization. These data provide confirmation of those findings.

Table 3.10

## FIREARM VICTIMIZATION

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,711)	41%	59%
Adult males	46%	54%
Adult females	24%	76%
Juvenile males	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year	64%	36%
Admitted gang member	77%	23%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	40%	60%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	42%	58%
Violent crime	44%	56%

The final measure of firearm victimization we examine is whether an arrestee has ever been injured by gunshot. Sixteen percent (16%) of the total sample report that they have been injured by gunshot at some time in their lives. Reflecting longer risk for exposure, twenty-one (21%) percent of adult males arrestees have been shot at some point in their lives. Selling drugs and belonging to a gang, as was the case for every prior comparison, provide risk factors well beyond those experienced by other arrestees.

Table 3.11

## FIREARM VICTIMIZATION

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,707)	16%	84%
Adult males	21%	79%
Adult females	9%	91%
Juvenile males	11%	89%
Sold drugs in the last year	24%	76%
Admitted gang member	25%	75%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	18%	82%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	17%	83%
Violent crime	17%	83%

The final section of the analysis examines attitudes toward the use of firearms. We probe issues such as the need for protection, respect garnered among peers through firearm ownership, and retaliation. These attitudinal questions allow us to explore another dimension of the link between arrestees and firearms, the culture of firearms. Beliefs about guns – when to use them and why – provide important insights about the normative structure of firearm perceptions.

The first attitudinal issue we explore concerns the perceived need for a gun to provide protection in the neighborhood of residence. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents answered affirmatively to this question, a sobering statistic. No differences from this sample average were found for any subgroup other than (yet again) drug sellers and gang members. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of those who sold drugs and sixty-four (64%) percent of gang members said they needed a gun for protection in their neighborhood. In some ways this is not surprising. After all, each of these activities place an individual at elevated risk for violence, likely to encounter armed and motivated antagonists.

Table 3.12  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,701)	42%	58%
Adult males	43%	57%
Adult females	43%	57%
Juvenile males	41%	59%
Sold drugs in the last year	58%	42%
Admitted gang member	64%	36%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	45%	55%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	42%	58%
Violent crime	44%	56%

Perceptions about the need for a gun in one's neighborhood may reflect accurate perceptions about individual safety. But the next measure of firearm attitude tells more about peer culture and consequently the role of peers in increasing gun ownership (Table 3.13). Twenty-eight percent (28%) of respondents indicated that this was the case among their peers. Again, a higher fraction of "yes" answers regarding "your crowd respects you if you have a gun" came from those who were gang members (42%) and sold drugs (44%). The ownership of firearms among these groups reflects their increased risk for victimization by rival gang members and potential customers, respectively.

Table 3.13  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS

YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,694)	28%	72%
Adult males	29%	71%
Adult females	25%	75%
Juvenile males	29%	71%
Sold drugs in the last year	44%	56%
Admitted gang member	42%	58%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	30%	70%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	28%	72%
Violent crime	29%	71%

We conclude the analysis section of this report by examining beliefs about the appropriate circumstances under which one can shoot another person. Clearly, attitudes that support the use of guns, beyond self-protective reasons, contribute to support for increased firearm violence. Table 3.14 presents the results of our interview when arrestees were asked whether it was "OK to shoot someone who disrespected you." Overall, nine percent (9%) of arrestees agreed with this statement. However, twice as high a percent of juveniles (18%) agreed with the statement. And twenty-one (21%) percent of drug sellers and thirty-four percent (34%) of gang members agreed. The role of respect among young people,

drug sellers, and gang members plays an important role in attitudes that condone the use of firearms. Among gang members, respect plays an especially central role, because respect is a core gang value (Moore 1978; Vigil, 1988) violated only at great peril.

Table 3.14  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,701)	9%	91%
Adult males	8%	92%
Adult females	5%	95%
Juvenile males	18%	82%
Sold drugs in the last year	21%	79%
Admitted gang member	34%	66%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	8%	92%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	10%	90%
Violent crime	10%	90%

In the next table, we change the scenario of firearm use, substituting physical harm for disrespect. Here we sought to determine whether individuals agreed with the statement that “it is OK to shoot someone who hurt you.” Our intent was to move beyond the protective use of firearms and to understand the support for the retaliatory use of firearms among arrestees. Not surprisingly, a substantial percentage (28%) of arrestees responded affirmatively. There were substantial variations across the subcategories, however. Forty-two percent (42%) of juveniles agreed with the statement, and forty-eight percent (48%) of drug sellers and gang members agreed with the statement. For drug sellers and gang members, retaliation is especially important, because it demonstrates that such individuals will not easily “roll over,” and be easily victimized in the future.

Table 3.15  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=7,696)	28%	72%
Adult males	26%	74%
Adult females	23%	77%
Juvenile males	42%	58%
Sold drugs in the last year	48%	52%
Admitted gang member	48%	52%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine	27%	73%
Most serious charge at arrest:		
Property crime	29%	71%
Violent crime	30%	70%

## CHAPTER 4

### SITE SPECIFIC DATA

#### **Introduction**

This section presents specific findings by city. Comparisons across sites should be considered carefully for several reasons. Wide variability among sites is associated with a number of factors, including definitions and levels of offenses, law enforcement arrest practices, tolerance of the community, and population composition (Chaiken & Chaiken, 1993). For example, the proportion of black arrestees ranged from 16% to 92%, with an overall sample average of 53%. While 37% of the total sample tested positive for cocaine for adults across sites, that figure varied from 28% to 58%. Amphetamine use in the eastern sites was 1% or less compared to 11% to 44% in the west coast sites. Over a third (37%) of all arrestees in the primary sample reported ever owning a gun; among sites the range was from 16% to 47%. Finally, of the seven sites that include male juveniles, the proportions of male youth who reported current gang membership varied from 2% to 41%.

Despite these regional variations, the results are remarkably consistent across sites with respect to the influence of age, drug involvement, and gang membership on gun ownership, weapon behavior, and attitudes about use of firearms.

## ATLANTA - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 589 arrestees, 68% were adult males and 32% were females. The majority were Black (89%). Seventy percent (70%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- About two-thirds of the women and 76% of the men were positive for drugs at time of arrest and 58% of both genders were positive for cocaine.
- Only 2% of the arrestees admitted to current gang membership and 18% of the men and 16% of the women reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 35% admitted to ever owning a gun, 38% of those within the last 30 days, and 10% reported being armed at arrest. Over half of those who had sold illegal drugs stated gun ownership (58%).
- For the total sample, 16% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For females, the figure was 22%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 69% of the arrestees.
- Sixty-percent of the arrestees (60%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally and 40% said it would take less than a week.
- Of the 172 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 19% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 37%.
- Sixty-one percent (61%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 42% reported having been shot at. Just over a quarter of the males (27%) and 13% of the females said they had been injured by gunshot.
- About half of the sample (47%) agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and over a third (36%) agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”
- Just 6% of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 28% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.16

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
ATLANTA, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	400	68%
Females	189	32%
(n=589)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	517	89%
White	54	9%
Hispanic	8	1%
Other	--	--
(n=579)		
AGE		
13 and under	--	--
14-16	1	<1%
17-20	80	14%
21-29	205	35%
30-39	207	35%
40-49	74	13%
50-59	15	3%
60+	5	1%
(n=587)		

Table 4.17

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
ATLANTA, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Percent Positive</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Cocaine	58%	58%
Opiates	4%	2%
Marijuana	34%	16%
Amphetamines	1%	1%
Any Drug	76%	66%
	n=400	n=189

MOST SERIOUS CHARGE

<u>Crime Type</u>		
Property Crime	26%	10%
Violent Crime	18%	21%
Drug Crimes	28%	14%
Other	28%	56%
	n=400	n=189

GANG MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership	2%	2%
	n=398	n=185

PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES

Sold drugs in last year	18%	16%
	n=399	n=187

Table 4.18

FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
ATLANTA, 1995

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=582)	35%	38%	12%	10%
Adult males (n=395)	43%	38%	11%	10%
Adult females (n=187)	18%	37%	15%	10%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=59)	58%	53%	26%	11%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	50%	50%	50%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=126)	37%	32%	10%	9%

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=203)	16%	13%	70%
Adult males (n=171)	15%	15%	70%
Adult females (n=32)	22%	6%	72%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=58)	26%	14%	60%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	33%	33%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=3)	18%	9%	72%

Table 4.19

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
ATLANTA, 1995

	Atlanta (n=204)
Hunting/target shooting	12%
Bonafide job	2%
Protection/self defense	69%
To get someone	2%
Status/to impress	2%
Use in the drug trade	4%
Use in other criminal activity	3%

Table 4.20

ACCESS TO FIREARMS, DUF ARRESTEES  
ATLANTA, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	6%
Rented it	1%
Borrowed/held it	4%
Traded	3%
Paid cash	70%
It was a gift	11%
Other	5%
	n=188

Table 4.21

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
ATLANTA, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=584)	60%	24%	16%
Adult males (n=398)	62%	26%	12%
Adult females (n=186)	54%	21%	25%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	74%	13%	13%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	83%	17%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=338)	60%	25%	15%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	2%	
More than a month	22%	
Between a week and a month	36%	
Between two days and a week	19%	
One day or less	21%	
(n=114)		
	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=114)	40%	60%
Adult males (n=73)	44%	56%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=17)	59%	41%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=64)	45%	55%

Table 4.22

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
ATLANTA, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=172)	19%	81%
Adult males (n=145)	18%	82%
Adult females (n=27)	22%	78%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=51)	37%	63%
Admitted gang members (n=2)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=109)	17%	83%

DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?

Sample (n=31)	35%	65%
Adult males (n=25)	36%	64%
Adult females (n=6)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=18)	33%	67%
Admitted gang members	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=18)	44%	56%

Table 4.23

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
ATLANTA, 1995

HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=32)	38%	63%
Adult males (n=26)	35%	65%
Adult females (n=6)	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=19)	32%	68%
Admitted gang member	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=19)	47%	53%

HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=205)	13%	87%
Adult females (n=33)	9%	91%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=59)	19%	81%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	33%	67%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=127)	13%	87%

Table 4.24

FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
ATLANTA, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=587)	61%	39%
Adult males (n=399)	65%	35%
Adult females (n=188)	52%	48%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	82%	18%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	83%	17%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=340)	61%	39%

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?

Sample (n=587)	42%	58%
Adult males (n=399)	52%	48%
Adult females (n=188)	22%	78%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	64%	36%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	83%	17%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=340)	43%	57%

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?

Sample (n=587)	22%	78%
Adult males (n=399)	27%	73%
Adult females (n=188)	13%	87%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	37%	63%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=340)	23%	77%

Table 4.25

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
ATLANTA, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=586)	47%	53%
Adult males (n=399)	50%	50%
Adult females (n=187)	42%	58%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	66%	34%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	83%	17%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=360)	49%	51%

YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.

Sample (n=584)	36%	64%
Adult males (n=396)	37%	63%
Adult females (n=188)	34%	66%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	54%	46%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=339)	38%	62%

Table 4.26

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
ATLANTA, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=587)	6%	94%
Adult males (n=399)	8%	92%
Adult females (n=188)	3%	97%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=101)	12%	88%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	17%	83%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=340)	6%	94%

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.

Sample (n=585)	28%	72%
Adult males (n=397)	30%	70%
Adult females (n=188)	23%	77%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=100)	41%	59%
Admitted gang member (n=6)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=339)	29%	71%

## DENVER - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 945 arrestees, half were adult males, 23% adult females, 21% male juveniles, and 65 (7%) were female juveniles. For the total sample, about a third were Black, just over a quarter (26%) were White, 38% were Hispanic, and 3% represented “other” ethnic categories. Just over half of all arrestees were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- About two-thirds of the adults and 56% of the juveniles were positive for drugs at time of arrest. Adults were most likely to show positive results for cocaine, but marijuana was most prevalent among the juveniles.
- Twenty-four percent of the male juveniles admitted to current gang membership as did 17% of the female juveniles. From 15% (women) to 29% (male juveniles) of the sample reported having sold illegal drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 44% admitted to ever having owned a gun with 31% of those stating ownership within the last 30 days. Over 70% of the gang members and those who had sold drugs admitted gun ownership. For juvenile females, the percentage was 47% for those who owned in the last 30 days. This group, proportionately, was more likely than the adults and the male juveniles to state they were armed within 24 hours of their arrest and to be armed at the time of arrest.
- For the total sample, 11% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For juvenile girls (18), the figure was 22%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 60% of the arrestees. Just over a quarter (27%) said the most important reason was for hunting or target shooting purposes.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the arrestees said that it is easy to get a gun illegally. For gang members and drug sellers, these percentages were 83% and 76%, respectively. Over half (53%) also stated that it would take less than a week to get a gun.
- Of the 393 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 27% reported having used a gun in a crime. For juveniles (males and females), the figure was 41%. About half of the drug sellers and gang members also had used a gun to commit a crime.
- Sixty percent (60%) of all arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 46% reported having been shot at. Five percent (5%) of the female juveniles and 19% of the adult males said they had been injured by gunshot. For gang members and drug sellers the percentages were 29% and 26%, respectively.
- About half of the sample (44%) agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and just over a quarter (26%) agreed that “your

crowd respects you if you have a gun.” About a third (33%) of the juvenile females agreed with the latter statement.

- Nine percent (9%) of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you.” Juvenile males were most likely to hold this view (18%) along with gang members (28%) and drug sellers (21%). Forty-two percent (42%) of the juvenile males agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you” as did 33% of the juvenile girls. The average for all arrestees who agreed with this statement was 28%.

Table 4.27  
**DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS**  
**DENVER, 1995**

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	665	70%
Females	280	30%
(n=945)		
<b>ETHNICITY</b>		
Black	307	33%
White	245	26%
Hispanic	356	38%
Other	29	3%
(n=937)		
<b>AGE</b>		
13 and under	62	7%
14-16	172	18%
17-20	125	13%
21-29	254	27%
30-39	248	26%
40-49	66	7%
50-59	16	2%
60+	2	0%
(n=945)		

Table 4.28

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
DENVER, 1995

## URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Percent Positive</u>			
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Cocaine	48%	51%	8%	8%
Opiates	6%	6%	0%	0%
Marijuana	30%	22%	54%	35%
Amphetamines	5%	5%	1%	2%
Any Drug	66%	66%	56%	38%
	n=471	n=215	n=194	n=65

## MOST SERIOUS CHARGE

Crime Type

Property crime	16%	13%	12%	15%
Violent crime	12%	12%	11%	11%
Drug crimes	31%	17%	7%	12%
Other	41%	58%	69%	61%
	n=471	n=215	n=194	n=65

## GANG MEMBERSHIP

Current membership	6%	3%	24%	17%
	n=470	n=212	n=191	n=64

## PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES

Sold in last year	23%	15%	28%	23%
	n=470	n=211	n=191	n=64

Table 4.29

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
DENVER, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=938)	44%	31%	10%	5%
Adult males (n=471)	52%	30%	8%	5%
Adult females (n=215)	23%	23%	6%	2%
Juvenile males (n=194)	54%	36%	13%	4%
Juvenile females (n=65)	28%	47%	17%	6%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=209)	73%	44%	16%	7%
Admitted gang member (n=93)	75%	51%	32%	4%
Urinalysis positive for Cocaine (n=225)	38%	27%	7%	5%
Amphetamines(n=22)	40%	29%	8%	--

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=415)	11%	14%	75%
Adult males (n=246)	10%	9%	81%
Adult females (n=49)	10%	12%	78%
Juvenile males (n=102)	13%	25%	62%
Juvenile females (n=18)	22%	22%	56%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=153)	18%	18%	63%
Admitted gang member (n=57)	26%	23%	51%
Urinalysis positive for Cocaine (n=133)	10%	10%	80%
Amphetamines (n=14)	7%	14%	79%

Table 4.30

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
DENVER, 1995

	Denver (n=416)
Hunting/target shooting	27%
Bona fide job	2%
Protection/self defense	60%
To get someone	2%
Status/to impress	5%
Use in the drug trade	6%
Use in other criminal activity	5%
Other reasons	8%

Table 4.31

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
DENVER, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	5%
Rented it	--
Borrowed/held it	11%
Traded	10%
Paid cash	55%
It was a gift	14%
Other	4%
	n=377

Table 4.32

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
DENVER, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	Don't		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Know</u>
Sample (n=937)	58%	21%	20%
Adult males (n=470)	56%	21%	23%
Adult females (n=212)	60%	18%	21%
Juvenile males (n=191)	63%	24%	13%
Juvenile females (n=64)	58%	25%	17%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	76%	16%	8%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	83%	10%	7%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=354)	56%	21%	23%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	5%	
More than a month	19%	
Between a week and a month	24%	
Between two days and a week	25%	
One day or less	28%	
(n=151)		
	<u>Less than</u>	<u>More than</u>
	<u>a week</u>	<u>a week</u>
Sample (n=151)	53%	47%
Adult males (n=67)	49%	51%
Juvenile males (27)	63%	37%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=6)	67%	33%
Admitted gang member (n=9)	78%	22%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=65)	49%	51%

Table 4.33

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
DENVER, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=393)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=232)	21%	79%
Adult females (n=48)	23%	77%
Juvenile males (n=96)	41%	59%
Juvenile females (n=17)	41%	59%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=141)	50%	50%
Admitted gang members (n=51)	53%	47%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=126)	24%	76%
Amphetamines (n=13)	23%	77%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=105)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=48)	29%	71%
Adult females (n=11)	18%	82%
Juvenile males (n=39)	23%	77%
Juvenile females (n=7)	43%	57%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=70)	24%	76%
Admitted gang members (n=27)	30%	70%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=30)	27%	73%
Amphetamines (n=3)	33%	67%

Table 4.34

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
DENVER, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=105)	48%	52%
Adult males (n=48)	54%	46%
Adult females (n=11)	55%	45%
Juvenile males (n=39)	38%	62%
Juvenile females (n=7)	43%	57%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=70)	44%	56%
Admitted gang member (n=27)	44%	56%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=30)	63%	37%
Amphetamines (n=3)	67%	33%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=415)	20%	80%
Adult males (n=245)	20%	80%
Adult females (n=49)	16%	84%
Juvenile males (n=103)	23%	77%
Juvenile females (n=18)	11%	89%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=153)	29%	71%
Admitted gang member (n=57)	30%	70%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=133)	16%	84%
Amphetamines (n=14)	21%	79%

Table 4.35  
**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION**  
**DENVER, 1995**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=939)	60%	40%
Adult males (n=470)	63%	37%
Adult females (n=213)	51%	49%
Juvenile males (n=192)	65%	35%
Juvenile females (n=64)	52%	48%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	81%	19%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	80%	20%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=354)	55%	45%
Amphetamines (n=35)	63%	37%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?		
Sample (n=938)	46%	54%
Adult males (n=470)	50%	50%
Adult females (n=212)	25%	75%
Juvenile males (n=192)	56%	44%
Juvenile females (n=64)	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	65%	35%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	74%	26%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=354)	42%	58%
Amphetamines (n=35)	37%	63%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?		
Sample (n=937)	14%	86%
Adult males (n=470)	19%	81%
Adult females (n=211)	8%	92%
Juvenile males (n=192)	11%	89%
Juvenile females (n=64)	5%	95%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	26%	74%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	29%	71%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=354)	15%	85%
Amphetamines (n=34)	15%	85%

Table 4.36

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
DENVER, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=938)	44%	56%
Adult males (n=470)	42%	58%
Adult females (n=212)	48%	52%
Juvenile males (n=192)	49%	51%
Juvenile females (n=64)	36%	64%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	60%	40%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	74%	26%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=354)	40%	60%
Amphetamines (n=35)	57%	43%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=938)	26%	74%
Adult males (n=470)	26%	74%
Adult females (n=212)	21%	79%
Juvenile males (n=192)	29%	71%
Juvenile females (n=64)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	42%	58%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	43%	57%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=354)	25%	75%
Amphetamines (n=35)	31%	69%

Table 4.37

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
DENVER, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=938)	9%	91%
Adult males (n=470)	7%	93%
Adult females (n=212)	5%	95%
Juvenile males (n=192)	18%	82%
Juvenile females (n=64)	14%	86%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	21%	79%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	28%	72%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=354)	6%	94%
Amphetamines (n=35)	14%	86%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=937)	28%	72%
Adult males (n=470)	23%	77%
Adult females (n=211)	26%	74%
Juvenile males (n=192)	42%	58%
Juvenile females (n=64)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=209)	48%	52%
Admitted gang member (n=76)	54%	46%
Urinalysis positive for		
Cocaine (n=354)	21%	79%
Amphetamines (n=35)	34%	66%

## DETROIT - Interview Results from DUF Firearm Addendum

- Of 497 arrestees, 79% were adult males and 21% were females. The majority were Black (91%). Most (64%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- Over two-thirds of the men (68%) and 78% of the women were positive for drugs at time of arrest and 60% of the women were positive for cocaine.
- Only 2% of the men and 3% of the women admitted to current gang membership and 11% of the men and 15% of the women reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 30% admitted to ever owning a gun, 27% of those within the last 30 days, and 9% reported being armed at arrest. About half of those who had sold illegal drugs and reported gang membership stated gun ownership.
- For the total sample, 17% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 76% of the arrestees.
- Fifty-eight percent of the arrestees (58%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally and 27% said it would take less than a week.
- Of the 77 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 14% reported having used a gun in a crime.
- Sixty-three percent (63%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 43% reported having been shot at. About a quarter of the males (23%) and 10% of the females said they had been injured by gunshot.
- About half of the sample agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and just over a quarter agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”
- Just 4% of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 21% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.38

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
DETROIT, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	395	79%
Females	102	21%
(n=497)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	450	91%
White	39	8%
Hispanic	3	1%
Other	3	1%
(n=495)		
AGE		
13 and under	--	--
14-16	1	<1%
17-20	94	19%
21-29	167	34%
30-39	153	31%
40-49	63	13%
50-59	17	3%
60+	2	<1%
(n=497)		

Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Table 4.39

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
DETROIT, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	<u>Percent Positive</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<u>Drug</u>		
Cocaine	32%	60%
Opiates	6%	15%
Marijuana	42%	18%
Amphetamines	1%	1%
Any Drug	68%	78%
	n=395	n=102
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE		
<u>Crime Type</u>		
Property Crime	12%	9%
Violent Crime	35%	14%
Drug Crimes	12%	10%
Other	41%	68%
	n=395	n=102
GANG MEMBERSHIP		
Current Membership	2%	3%
	n=199	n=102
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES		
Sold drugs in last year	11%	15%
	n=199	n=102

Table 4.40

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
DETROIT, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=301)	30%	27%	10%	9%
Adult males (n=395)	40%	29%	9%	9%
Adult females (n=102)	9%	13%	13%	11%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=37)	49%	38%	17%	—
Admitted gang member (n=4)	50%	—	50%	—
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	22%	21%	3%	3%

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=88)	17%	10%	73%
Adult males (n=80)	15%	11%	74%
Adult females (n=8)	38%	—	63%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=17)	29%	24%	47%
Admitted gang member (n=2)	50%	—	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=29)	24%	10%	66%

Table 4.41

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
DETROIT, 1995

	Detroit <u>(n=89)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	10%
Bona fide job	2%
Protection/self defense	76%
To get someone	1%
Status/to impress	4%
Use in the drug trade	1%
Use in other criminal activity	2%
Other reasons	2%

Percentages may not equal 100 due to multiple responses.

Table 4.42

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
DETROIT, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	8%
Rented it	--
Borrowed/held it	9%
Traded	3%
Paid cash	60%
It was a gift	16%
Other	4%
n=75	

Table 4.43

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
DETROIT, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=301)	58%	22%	20%
Adult males (n=199)	54%	26%	21%
Adult females (n=102)	67%	16%	18%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	70%	24%	5%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	100%	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	55%	24%	21%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	2%
More than a month	57%
Between a week and a month	14%
Between two days and a week	8%
One day or less (n=49)	18%

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=49)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=34)	29%	71%
Adult females (n=15)	20%	80%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=2)	--	100%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=28)	29%	71%

Table 4.44

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
DETROIT, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=77)	14%	86%
Adult males (n=69)	14%	86%
Adult females (n=8)	13%	88%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=16)	31%	69%
Admitted gang members (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=29)	14%	86%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=11)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=10)	20%	80%
Adult females (n=1)	100%	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=5)	40%	60%
Admitted gang members	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=4)	25%	75%

Table 4.45

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
DETROIT, 1995

HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=11)	64%	36%
Adult males (n=10)	60%	40%
Adult females (n=1)	100%	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=5)	80%	20%
Admitted gang member	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=4)	50%	50%

HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=89)	18%	82%
Adult males (n=80)	19%	81%
Adult females (n=9)	11%	89%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=18)	28%	72%
Admitted gang member (n=2)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=30)	10%	90%

Table 4.46

FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
DETROIT, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=301)	63%	37%
Adult males (n=199)	70%	30%
Adult females (n=102)	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	78%	22%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	60%	40%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?		
Sample (n=301)	43%	57%
Adult males (n=199)	55%	45%
Adult females (n=102)	21%	79%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	62%	38%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	42%	58%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?		
Sample (n=301)	18%	82%
Adult males (n=199)	23%	77%
Adult females (n=102)	10%	90%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	22%	78%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	25%	75%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	23%	77%

Table 4.47

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
DETROIT, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=301)	51%	49%
Adult males (n=199)	44%	56%
Adult females (n=102)	65%	35%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	59%	41%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n-136)	52%	48%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=301)	26%	74%
Adult males (n=199)	27%	73%
Adult females (n=102)	24%	76%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	51%	49%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	75%	25%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n-136)	29%	71%

Table 4.48

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
DETROIT, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=301)	4%	96%
Adult males (n=199)	5%	95%
Adult females (n=102)	1%	99%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	14%	86%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	4%	96%

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO  
HURT YOU.

Sample (n=301)	21%	79%
Adult males (n=199)	22%	78%
Adult females (n=102)	21%	79%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=37)	57%	43%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	25%	75%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=136)	24%	76%

**INDIANAPOLIS** - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum (data are for one quarter only)

- Of 475 arrestees, 70% were males and 30% were females. The majority were Black (59%). Forty percent (40%) were White. Half were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- About two-thirds of the men and 71% of the women showed recent drug use at time of arrest and 59% of the women and about half (48%) of the men were positive for cocaine.
- Only 3% of male adults admitted to current gang membership compared to 8% of the boys and 11% of the girls. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the men, 15% of the women, and 19% of the boys reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 43% admitted to ever owning a gun, 40% of those within the last 30 days, and 6% reported being armed at arrest. Seventy-two percent (72%) of those who had sold illegal drugs stated gun ownership.
- For the total sample, 15% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For drug sellers, the figure was 26%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 70% of the arrestees.
- Sixty-two percent of the arrestees (62%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally. For drug sellers, 82% thought it easy to get a gun. For all arrestees, 30% said it would take less than a week.
- Of the 189 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 23% reported having used a gun to commit a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 45%.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 39% reported having been shot at. For adult females, 54% reported having been threatened with a gun. About a quarter of the adult males (24%) and drug sellers said they had been injured by gunshot.
- About half of the sample agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and over a quarter agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”
- Ten percent (10%) of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 35% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.” Over half the drug dealers (53%) held this view.

Table 4.49

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	331	70%
Females	144	30%
(n=475)		
 ETHNICITY		
Black	282	59%
White	191	40%
Hispanic	1	<1%
(n=474)		
 AGE		
13 and under	62	13%
14-16	82	17%
17-20	56	12%
21-29	124	26%
30-39	115	24%
40-49	28	6%
50-59	6	1%
60+	2	<1%
(n=475)		

Table 4.50

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Percent Positive</u>			
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Cocaine	48%	59%	5%	--
Opiates	1%	4%	1%	--
Marijuana	36%	19%	25%	14%
Amphetamines	<1%	1%	--	--
Any Drug	67%	71%	27%	14%
	n=223	n=108	n=108	n=36
<b>MOST SERIOUS CHARGE</b>				
<u>Crime Type</u>				
Property crime	35%	21%	24%	21%
Violent crime	19%	8%	25%	24%
Drug crimes	17%	12%	14%	18%
Other	28%	58%	37%	36%
	n=223	n=108	n=105	n=33
<b>GANG MEMBERSHIP</b>				
Current membership	3%	1%	8%	11%
	n=221	n=108	n=108	n=36
<b>PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES</b>				
Sold in last year	31%	15%	19%	8%
	n=221	n=108	n=108	n=36

Table 4.51

FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=473)	43%	40%	13%	6%
Adult males (n=221)	62%	48%	18%	9%
Adult females (n=108)	31%	26%	--	3%
Juvenile males (n=108)	25%	19%	7%	--
Juvenile females (n=36)	8%	33%	--	--
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=108)	72%	51%	20%	20%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	67%	44%	10%	10%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	49%	35%	11%	8%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=202)	15%	15%	69%
Adult males (n=138)	17%	15%	68%
Adult females (n=34)	9%	15%	76%
Juvenile males (n=27)	11%	19%	70%
Juvenile females (n=3)	67%	--	33%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=78)	26%	21%	54%
Admitted gang member (n=10)	30%	30%	40%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=86)	9%	16%	74%

Table 4.52

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

	Indianapolis (n=202)
Hunting/target shooting	27%
Bona fide job	1%
Protection/self defense	70%
To get someone	2%
Status/to impress	5%
Use in the drug trade	6%
Use in other criminal activity	5%
Other reasons	11%

Table 4.53

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	9%
Rented it	--
Borrowed/held it	13%
Traded	10%
Paid cash	54%
It was a gift	11%
Other	3%

Table 4.54

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	Don't Know		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Know</u>
Sample (n=473)	62%	20%	19%
Adult males (n=221)	68%	13%	19%
Adult females (n=108)	60%	22%	18%
Juvenile males (n=108)	55%	29%	17%
Juvenile females (n=36)	47%	25%	28%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	82%	11%	6%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	67%	27%	7%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	63%	17%	21%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	12%
More than a month	28%
Between a week and a month	30%
Between two days and a week	16%
One day or less	14%

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=127)	30%	70%
Adult males (n=38)	34%	66%
Juvenile males (42)	36%	64%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=19)	26%	74%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	33%	67%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=37)	38%	62%

Table 4.55

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=189)	23%	77%
Adult males (n=126)	25%	75%
Adult females (n=34)	12%	88%
Juvenile males (n=26)	31%	69%
Juvenile females (n=3)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=75)	45%	55%
Admitted gang members (n=9)	56%	44%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=79)	24%	76%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=44)	36%	64%
Adult males (n=31)	29%	71%
Adult females (n=4)	75%	25%
Juvenile males (n=8)	38%	63%
Juvenile females (n=1)	100%	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=34)	41%	59%
Admitted gang members (n=5)	60%	40%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=19)	37%	63%

Table 4.56

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=44)	55%	45%
Adult males (n=31)	58%	42%
Adult females (n=4)	100%	--
Juvenile males (n=8)	25%	75%
Juvenile females	--	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=34)	56%	44%
Admitted gang member (n=5)	60%	40%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=19)	63%	37%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=202)	20%	80%
Adult males (n=138)	21%	79%
Adult females (n=34)	15%	85%
Juvenile males (n=27)	19%	81%
Juvenile females (n=3)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=78)	29%	71%
Admitted gang member (n=10)	60%	40%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=86)	20%	80%

Table 4.57  
**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
 INDIANAPOLIS, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=473)	58%	42%
Adult males (n=221)	72%	28%
Adult females (n=108)	54%	46%
Juvenile males (n=108)	40%	60%
Juvenile females (n=36)	31%	69%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	76%	24%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	73%	27%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	66%	34%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?</b>		
Sample (n=473)	39%	61%
Adult males (n=221)	57%	43%
Adult females (n=108)	18%	82%
Juvenile males (n=108)	34%	66%
Juvenile females (n=36)	11%	89%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	64%	36%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	45%	55%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?</b>		
Sample (n=471)	13%	87%
Adult males (n=221)	24%	76%
Adult females (n=107)	3%	97%
Juvenile males (n=107)	7%	93%
Juvenile females (n=36)	--	100%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	25%	75%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	33%	67%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	18%	82%

Table 4.58

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=473)	49%	51%
Adult males (n=221)	57%	43%
Adult females (n=108)	56%	44%
Juvenile males (n=108)	32%	68%
Juvenile females (n=36)	33%	67%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	66%	34%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	60%	40%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	53%	47%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=473)	26%	74%
Adult males (n=221)	30%	70%
Adult females (n=108)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=108)	19%	81%
Juvenile females (n=36)	22%	78%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	41%	59%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	33%	67%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	31%	69%

Table 4.59

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
INDIANAPOLIS, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=473)	10%	90%
Adult males (n=221)	12%	88%
Adult females (n=108)	4%	96%
Juvenile males (n=108)	10%	90%
Juvenile females (n=36)	8%	92%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	20%	80%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	40%	60%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	9%	91%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=472)	35%	65%
Adult males (n=221)	40%	60%
Adult females (n=107)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=108)	35%	65%
Juvenile females (n=36)	31%	70%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=108)	53%	47%
Admitted gang member (n=15)	80%	20%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=174)	32%	68%

## LOS ANGELES - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 1,031 arrestees, 77% were males and 23% females. Nearly half (46%) were Hispanic, 33% were Black, and 17% were White. Just over half (52%) were in the age group of 21 to 39.
- About two-thirds of the men and 72% of the women were positive for drugs at time of arrest and about half of both genders were positive for cocaine. For women, 13% showed recent amphetamine or crystal meth use. Forty-two percent (42%) of the male juveniles were positive for some drug.
- Nine percent (9%) of the adult males and 6% of the women arrestees admitted to current gang membership. For boys, the percentage was 41%. Just over a third (35%) of the boys also reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 40% admitted to ever owning a gun, 34% of those within the last 30 days, and 8% reported being armed at arrest. For those positive for methamphetamines, the percentage of ever owned was 43%. Gang members (74%), drug sellers (67%), and juvenile males (57%) were more likely to state gun ownership.
- For the total sample, 16% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For juvenile males, the figure was 28%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 70% of the arrestees.
- Sixty-percent (60%) of the arrestees said that it is easy to get a gun illegally and 27% said it would take less than a week. For juveniles, 71% thought it would be easy to get a gun.
- Of the 374 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 30% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 46% and for gang members, 48%.
- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of all arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun with 67% of the arrestees positive for methamphetamine saying they had been threatened. For gang members, the figure was 69%. Nearly half (47%) of all arrestees said they had been shot at, with 60% of the male youth saying they had been shot at. Of all arrestees, 18% reported having been injured by gunshot.
- About half of the sample agreed (46%) with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and over a third (34%) agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.” For both questions, male youth, gang member, and drug sellers were progressively more likely to agree with these statements.

Sixteen percent (16%) of all arrestees and 32% of the boys agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 32% of the total sample agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.60

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	792	77%
Females	239	23%
(n=1031)		
 ETHNICITY		
Black	341	33%
White	176	17%
Hispanic	475	46%
Other	34	3%
(n=1026)		
 AGE		
13 and under	28	3%
14-16	171	17%
17-20	184	18%
21-29	273	26%
30-39	258	25%
40-49	86	8%
50-59	24	2%
60+	7	1%
(n=1031)		

Table 4.61

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	Percent Positive		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>
<u>Drug</u>			
Cocaine	47%	50%	13%
Opiates	10%	11%	1%
Marijuana	22%	15%	33%
Amphetamines	9%	13%	4%
Any Drug	65%	72%	42%
	n=511	n=239	n=281
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE			
<u>Crime Type</u>			
Property crime	31%	22%	27%
Violent crime	18%	13%	32%
Drug crimes	21%	26%	9%
Other	30%	38%	32%
	n=511	n=239	n=278
GANG MEMBERSHIP			
Current membership	9%	6%	41%
	n=505	n=236	n=277
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES			
Sold in last year	18%	19%	35%
	n=505	n=236	n=277

Table 4.62

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
LOS ANGELES, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=1020)	40%	34%	9%	8%
Adult males (n=506)	34%	34%	7%	7%
Adult females (n=237)	34%	29%	8%	8%
Juvenile males (n=277)	57%	37%	13%	10%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=233)	67%	43%	10%	4%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	74%	44%	15%	11%
Urinalysis positive for:				
Cocaine (n=394)	36%	40%	7%	9%
Amphetamines (n=90)	43%	30%	16%	13%

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=408)	16%	15%	68%
Adult males (n=171)	8%	18%	74%
Adult females (n=80)	10%	13%	78%
Juvenile males (n=157)	28%	14%	58%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=156)	26%	17%	57%
Admitted gang member (n=119)	29%	24%	48%
Urinalysis positive for			
Cocaine (n=142)	11%	18%	72%
Amphetamines (n=39)	18%	8%	74%

Table 4.63

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

	<u>Los Angeles</u> <u>(n=409)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	16%
Bona fide job	2%
Protection/self defense	70%
To get someone	2%
Status/to impress	8%
Use in the drug trade	2%
Use in other criminal activity	7%
Other reasons	9%

Table 4.64

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	9%
Rented it	<1%
Borrowed/held it	10%
Traded	7%
Paid cash	46%
It was a gift	21%
Other	6%

Table 4.65

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	Don't		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Know</u>
Sample (n=1017)	60%	27%	13%
Adult males (n=504)	56%	29%	16%
Adult females (n=236)	56%	26%	18%
Juvenile male (n=277)	71%	26%	3%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=232)	84%	12%	3%
Admitted gang member (n=159)	78%	19%	3%
Urinalysis positive for:			
Cocaine (n=394)	58%	26%	15%
Amphetamine (n=90)	53%	31%	16%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	11%
More than a month	22%
Between a week and a month	39%
Between two days and a week	11%
One day or less	16%
n=186	

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=186)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=92)	30%	70%
Juvenile males (n=46)	26%	74%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=35)	43%	57%
Admitted gang member (n=18)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=67)	25%	75%
Amphetamines (n=19)	21%	79%

Table 4.66

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=374)	30%	70%
Adult males (n=158)	27%	73%
Adult females (n=75)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=141)	34%	66%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=146)	46%	54%
Admitted gang members (n=103)	48%	52%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=129)	32%	68%
Amphetamines (n=33)	24%	76%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=111)	27%	73%
Adult males (n=42)	26%	74%
Adult females (n=21)	24%	76%
Juvenile males (n=48)	29%	71%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=67)	25%	75%
Admitted gang members (n=49)	31%	69%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=41)	27%	73%
Amphetamines (n=8)	25%	75%

Table 4.67

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
LOS ANGELES, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=111)	71%	29%
Adult males (n=42)	76%	24%
Adult females (n=21)	76%	24%
Juvenile males (n=48)	65%	35%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=67)	72%	28%
Admitted gang member (n=49)	71%	29%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=41)	73%	27%
Amphetamines (n=8)	75%	25%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=404)	20%	80%
Adult males (n=168)	17%	83%
Adult females (n=80)	18%	83%
Juvenile males (n=156)	25%	75%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=154)	31%	69%
Admitted gang member (n=117)	26%	74%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=141)	21%	79%
Amphetamines (n=38)	11%	89%

Table 4.68

**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
LOS ANGELES, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1021)	59%	41%
Adult males (n=506)	62%	38%
Adult females (n=237)	57%	43%
Juvenile males (n=278)	55%	45%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	77%	23%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	69%	31%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	59%	41%
Amphetamines (n=90)	67%	33%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?</b>		
Sample (n=1019)	47%	53%
Adult males (n=505)	45%	55%
Adult females (n=237)	38%	62%
Juvenile males (n=277)	60%	40%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	70%	30%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	78%	23%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	43%	57%
Amphetamines (n=90)	46%	54%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?</b>		
Sample (n=1019)	18%	82%
Adult males (n=505)	22%	78%
Adult females (n=237)	17%	83%
Juvenile males (n=277)	13%	87%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	22%	78%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	24%	76%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	21%	79%
Amphetamines (n=90)	20%	80%

Table 4.69

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1018)	46%	54%
Adult males (n=504)	42%	58%
Adult females (n=237)	41%	59%
Juvenile males (n=277)	57%	43%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	61%	39%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	69%	31%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	45%	55%
Amphetamines (n=90)	38%	62%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=1016)	34%	66%
Adult males (n=503)	33%	67%
Adult females (n=236)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=277)	40%	60%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	44%	56%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	42%	58%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=391)	36%	64%
Amphetamines (n=90)	26%	74%

Table 4.70

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
LOS ANGELES, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1018)	16%	84%
Adult males (n=505)	10%	90%
Adult females (n=237)	9%	91%
Juvenile males (n=276)	32%	68%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	33%	67%
Admitted gang member (n=160)	43%	57%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	12%	88%
Amphetamines (n=90)	13%	87%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=1018)	32%	68%
Adult males (n=504)	22%	78%
Adult females (n=237)	23%	77%
Juvenile males (n=277)	58%	42%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=233)	55%	45%
Admitted gang member (n=159)	64%	36%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=393)	25%	75%
Amphetamines (n=90)	22%	78%

## MIAMI - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- All 385 arrestees were adult males with 64% between the ages of 21 and 39. Nearly half (46%) were Hispanic, 35% were Black, and 19% were White.
- Just over half (53%) of the arrestees had positive urinalysis results for recent drug use. Cocaine was the most prevalent with 37% cocaine positive.
- Only one arrestee admitted to gang membership and 9% of the arrestees reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- About one out of ten men (20%) admitted to ever having owned a gun. Of those, 41% claimed ownership within the last 30 days. Over half of those who had sold illegal drugs stated gun ownership.
- Of the 76 arrestees, eight percent (8%) reported carrying a gun all or most of the time.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 65% of the arrestees.
- Over half (55%) did not agree that it is easy to get a gun illegally. Only 27% held this view. And 50% of this group thought it would take less than a week to get a gun.
- Of the 76 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 19% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 43%.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 24% reported having been shot at. Just 9% said they had been injured by gunshot.
- About a quarter of the arrestees (29%) agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and 21% agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”
- Eight percent (8%) of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 22% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.71

**DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
MIAMI, 1995**

<b>SEX</b>	<u><b>n</b></u>	<u><b>Percent</b></u>
Adult males	385	100%
<b>ETHNICITY</b>		
Black	133	35%
White	72	19%
Hispanic	179	46%
Other	1	<1%
(n=385)		
<b>AGE</b>		
17-20	55	14%
21-29	117	30%
30-39	132	34%
40-49	55	14%
50-59	17	4%
60+	8	2%
(n=384)		

Table 4.72

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
MIAMI, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	<u>Percent Positive</u>
<u>Drug</u>	<u>Men</u>
Cocaine	37%
Opiates	4%
Marijuana	30%
Amphetamines	--
Any Drug	53%
	n=385
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE	
<u>Crime Type</u>	
Property Crime	29%
Violent Crime	13%
Drug Crimes	14%
Other	44%
	n=385
GANG MEMBERSHIP	
Current Membership	<1%
	n=380
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES	
Sold drugs in last year	9%
	n=380

Table 4.73

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
MIAMI, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Adult males (n=378)	20%	41%	11%	1%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=35)	60%	57%	23%	5%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=142)	18%	42%	8%	--

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Adult males (n=76)	8%	21%	71%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=22)	14%	55%	32%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=26)	8%	19%	73%

Table 4.74

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
MIAMI, 1995

	<u>Miami</u> <u>(n=75)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	27%
Bona fide job	5%
Protection/self defense	65%
To get someone	1%
Status/to impress	--
Use in the drug trade	8%
Use in other criminal activity	3%
Other reasons	11%

Table 4.75

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
MIAMI, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Stole it	10%
Rented it	1%
Borrowed/held it	3%
Traded	1%
Paid cash	73%
It was a gift	7%
Other	4%

Table 4.76

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
MIAMI, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Adult males (n=380)	27%	55%	18%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	64%	33%	3%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=142)	27%	59%	15%
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?			
Couldn't get a gun	2%		
More than a month	26%		
Between a week and a month	22%		
Between two days and a week	37%		
One day or less	13%		
(n=46)			
	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>	
Adult males (n=46)	50%	50%	
Sold drugs in the last year (n=3)	100%	--	
Admitted gang member (n=0)	--	--	
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=17)	59%	41%	

Table 4.77

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
MIAMI, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Adult males (n=75)	19%	81%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=21)	43%	57%
Admitted gang members (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=26)	19%	81%
<b>DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?</b>		
Adult males (n=14)	36%	64%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=9)	44%	56%
Admitted gang members (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=5)	40%	60%

Table 4.78

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
MIAMI, 1995

HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Adult males (n=14)	64%	36%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=9)	78%	22%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=5)	80%	20%

HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Adult males (n=76)	24%	76%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=22)	36%	64%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=26)	27%	73%

Table 4.79

**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
MIAMI, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Adult males (n=381)	39%	61%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	72%	28%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=142)	40%	60%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?</b>		
Adult males (n=380)	24%	76%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	64%	36%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=142)	23%	77%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?</b>		
Adult males (n=380)	9%	91%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	25%	75%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=142)	9%	91%

Table 4.80  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
MIAMI, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Adult males (n=378)	29%	71%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	50%	50%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=140)	31%	69%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Adult males (n=379)	21%	79%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	56%	44%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=141)	22%	78%

Table 4.81  
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
MIAMI, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Adult males (n=378)	8%	92%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	25%	75%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Adult males (n=377)	22%	78%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=36)	50%	50%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=140)	19%	81%

## NEW ORLEANS - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 683 arrestees, 72% were males and 28% were females. The majority were Black (87%). Most (64%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- Just over two-thirds of the men (68%) and 52% of the women were positive for drugs at time of arrest with 52% of the men and 38% of the women showing use of cocaine.
- Only three of the male arrestees admitted to current gang membership and 19% reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 40% admitted to ever owning a gun; of these, 32% within the last 30 days, and 12% reported being armed at arrest. For drug sellers, 72% stated that they had ever owned a gun.
- For the total sample, 15% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 75% of the arrestees.
- Sixty-two percent of the arrestees (62%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally and 47% said it would take less than a week.
- Of the 242 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 17% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 39%.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 39% reported having been shot at. About a quarter of the males (23%) said they had been injured by gunshot.
- Over half of the sample agreed (54%) with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and about a third (33%) agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.” For drug sellers, the figures were 65% and 54%, respectively.
- Just 7% of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” although 25% of the drug sellers held this view. Proportionately more of all arrestees (30%) agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.82

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	494	72%
Females	189	28%
(n=683)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	587	87%
White	83	12%
Hispanic	5	1%
Other	3	<1%
(n=683)		
AGE		
17-20	120	18%
21-29	219	32%
30-39	220	32%
40-49	95	14%
50-59	23	3%
60+	6	1%
(n=683)		

Table 4.83

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	<u>Percent Positive</u>	
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
<u>Drug</u>		
Cocaine	52%	38%
Opiates	7%	3%
Marijuana	30%	14%
Amphetamines	<1%	--
Any Drug	68%	52%
	n=494	n=189
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE		
<u>Crime Type</u>		
Property Crime	36%	32%
Violent Crime	21%	19%
Drug Crimes	7%	6%
Other	35%	43%
	n=494	n=189
GANG MEMBERSHIP		
Current Membership	1%	--
	n=492	n=187
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES		
Sold drugs in last year	19%	6%
	n=492	n=187

Table 4.84

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=679)	40%	32%	13%	12%
Adult males (n=492)	48%	33%	10%	11%
Adult females (n=187)	20%	24%	14%	13%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=105)	72%	42%	17%	9%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	67%	50%	—	—
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	42%	29%	8%	4%

  

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=274)	15%	16%	70%
Adult males (n=236)	15%	15%	70%
Adult females (n=38)	13%	18%	68%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=76)	21%	21%	58%
Admitted gang member (n=2)	—	—	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=138)	12%	12%	75%

Table 4.85

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

	<u>New Orleans</u> <u>(n=274)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	18%
Bona fide job	8%
Protection/self defense	75%
To get someone	--
Status/to impress	4%
Use in the drug trade	3%
Use in other criminal activity	4%
Other reasons	4%

Table 4.86

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	<u>New Orleans</u> <u>(n=274)</u>
Stole it	3%
Rented it	--
Borrowed/held it	8%
Traded	5%
Paid cash	70%
It was a gift	9%
Other	5%

Table 4.87

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=678)	62%	21%	17%
Adult males (n=491)	62%	21%	18%
Adult females (n=187)	63%	22%	16%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	87%	9%	5%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	67%	33%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	63%	22%	15%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	12%
More than a month	27%
Between a week and a month	20%
Between two days and a week	15%
One day or less	26%
(n=108)	

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Adult males (n=64)	47%	53%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=9)	56%	44%
Admitted gang member (n=0)	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=49)	53%	47%

Table 4.88

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995**

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=242)	17%	83%
Adult males (n=209)	19%	81%
Adult females (n=33)	6%	94%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=69)	39%	61%
Admitted gang members (n=2)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=131)	20%	80%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=41)	34%	66%
Adult males (n=39)	31%	69%
Adult females (n=2)	100%	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=27)	37%	63%
Admitted gang members (n=0)	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=26)	38%	62%

Table 4.89

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=41)	46%	54%
Adult males (n=39)	46%	54%
Adult females (n=2)	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=27)	48%	52%
Admitted gang member (n=0)	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=26)	46%	54%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=274)	15%	85%
Adult males (n=236)	17%	83%
Adult females (n=38)	--	100%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=76)	36%	64%
Admitted gang member (n=2)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=138)	18%	82%

Table 4.90

**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=678)	57%	43%
Adult males (n=491)	63%	37%
Adult females (n=187)	43%	57%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=104)	72%	28%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	57%	43%
 <b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?</b>		
Sample (n=679)	39%	61%
Adult males (n=492)	46%	54%
Adult females (n=187)	19%	81%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	61%	39%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	40%	60%
 <b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?</b>		
Sample (n=678)	19%	81%
Adult males (n=491)	23%	77%
Adult females (n=187)	10%	90%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	28%	72%
Admitted gang member (n=3)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=325)	19%	81%

Table 4.91

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=679)	54%	46%
Adult males (n=492)	56%	44%
Adult females (n=187)	50%	50%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	65%	35%
Admitted gang membership (n=3)	100%	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	59%	41%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=679)	33%	67%
Adult males (n=492)	35%	65%
Adult females (n=187)	28%	72%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	54%	46%
Admitted gang membership (n=3)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	35%	65%

Table 4.92

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
NEW ORLEANS, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=679)	7%	93%
Adult males (n=492)	9%	91%
Adult females (n=187)	2%	98%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	25%	75%
Admitted gang membership (n=3)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	7%	93%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=678)	30%	70%
Adult males (n=491)	32%	68%
Adult females (n=187)	26%	74%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=105)	50%	50%
Admitted gang membership (n=3)	67%	33%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=326)	30%	70%

## PHOENIX - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 1,044 arrestees, 48% were adult males and 29% were adult females. There were 188 juvenile males and 59 juvenile females. Over half of the arrestees were White, 24% were Hispanic, and 16% were Black. Sixty percent (60%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- About two-thirds of the men (68%) and 61% of the women were positive for drugs at time of arrest. For boys, the percent positive for any drug was 52% and 32% of the girls, or 19, were drug positive. Except for women, each group was more likely to test positive for methamphetamines than for cocaine.
- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the boys and 15% of the girls admitted to current gang membership. From 20% (women and boys) to 28% (men) of the groups reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 30% admitted to ever owning a gun. Of these, 49% had owned within the last 30 days, and 6% reported being armed at arrest. Gang members (66%) and drug sellers (52%) were more likely to state gun ownership. Those testing positive for methamphetamines (38%) were more likely than cocaine users (31%) to admit to gun ownership.
- Twenty percent (20%) of all arrestees and 25% of juvenile males reported carrying a gun all, or most of the time.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 60% of the arrestees.
- Fifty-six percent of the arrestees (56%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally and 42% said it would take less than a week. Sixty-one percent (61%) of the boys agreed that it is easy to get a gun illegally as did 80% or more of the drug dealers and gang members.
- Of the 288 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 18% reported having used a gun in a crime. For gang members, the percentage was 49%.
- Over half of the arrestees (53%) stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 34% reported having been shot at. The percentage (having been shot at) for juvenile males was 41%, 56% for drug sellers, and 79% for gang members.
- About a third of all arrestees (31%) agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and 22% agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”
- Just 8% of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 21% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.93

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
PHOENIX, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	687	66%
Females	357	34%
(n=1044)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	169	16%
White	599	57%
Hispanic	253	24%
Other	22	2%
(n=1043)		
AGE		
13 and under	79	8%
14-16	166	16%
17-20	78	7%
21-29	301	29%
30-39	323	31%
40-49	79	8%
50-59	17	2%
60+	1	<1%
(n=1044)		

Table 4.94

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
PHOENIX, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	Percent Positive			
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
<u>Drug</u>				
Cocaine	27%	29%	7%	8%
Opiates	8%	9%	2%	2%
Marijuana	30%	20%	44%	19%
Amphetamines	29%	27%	17%	10%
Any Drug	68%	61%	52%	32%
	n=499	n=298	n=188	n=59
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE				
<u>Crime Type</u>				
Property crime	20%	19%	20%	16%
Violent crime	17%	11%	20%	7%
Drug crimes	13%	14%	9%	17%
Other	50%	56%	51%	60%
	n=499	n=298	n=182	n=58
GANG MEMBERSHIP				
Current membership	4%	2%	28%	15%
	n=495	n=294	n=188	n=59
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES				
Sold in last year	28%	20%	20%	24%
	n=495	n=295	n=188	n=59

Table 4.95

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
PHOENIX, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=1034)	30%	49%	13%	6%
Adult males (n=495)	39%	50%	16%	8%
Adult females (n=294)	21%	38%	5%	3%
Juvenile males (n=186)	30%	58%	15%	5%
Juvenile females (n=59)	10%	67%	17%	—
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=252)	52%	61%	24%	10%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	66%	67%	23%	6%
Urinalysis positive for:				
Cocaine (n=239)	31%	46%	14%	5%
Amphetamines (n=264)	38%	54%	16%	8%
HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>	
Sample (n=313)	20%	15%	65%	
Adult males (n=190)	21%	11%	68%	
Adult females (n=61)	18%	16%	66%	
Juvenile males (n=56)	25%	25%	50%	
Juvenile females (n=6)	—	33%	67%	
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=131)	35%	19%	46%	
Admitted gang member (n=48)	46%	25%	29%	
Urinalysis positive for:				
Cocaine (n=73)	22%	12%	66%	
Amphetamines (n=100)	23%	13%	64%	

Table 4.96

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
PHOENIX, 1995

	Phoenix (n=314)
Hunting/target shooting	30%
Bona fide job	--
Protection/self defense	60%
To get someone	--
Status/to impress	4%
Use in the drug trade	3%
Use in other criminal activity	1%
Other reasons	2%

Table 4.97

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
PHOENIX, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	Phoenix (n=269)
Stole it	9%
Rented it	<1%
Borrowed/held it	4%
Traded	13%
Paid cash	55%
It was a gift	18%
Other	1%

Table 4.98

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
PHOENIX, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=1035)	56%	21%	23%
Adult males (n=495)	57%	18%	25%
Adult females (n=294)	51%	22%	28%
Juvenile male (n=187)	61%	25%	14%
Juvenile females (n=59)	49%	36%	15%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=251)	80%	10%	10%
Admitted gang member (n=72)	83%	11%	6%
Urinalysis positive for:			
Cocaine (n=239)	57%	15%	28%
Amphetamines (n=262)	60%	19%	21%

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	3%
More than a month	17%
Between a week and a month	38%
Between two days and a week	11%
One day or less	31%

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=272)	42%	58%
Adult males (n=117)	44%	56%
Juvenile male (n=59)	42%	58%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=59)	63%	37%
Admitted gang member (n=13)	77%	23%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=52)	33%	67%
Amphetamines (n=66)	38%	62%

Table 4.99

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
PHOENIX, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=288)	18%	82%
Adult males (n=174)	16%	84%
Adult females (n=60)	7%	93%
Juvenile males (48)	44%	56%
Juvenile females (n=6)	17%	83%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=114)	31%	69%
Admitted gang member (n=39)	49%	51%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=67)	15%	85%
Amphetamines (n=92)	12%	88%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=53)	32%	68%
Adult males (n=27)	30%	70%
Adult females (n=4)	50%	50%
Juvenile males (n=21)	33%	67%
Juvenile females (n=1)	--	100%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=35)	29%	71%
Admitted gang members (n=19)	37%	63%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=10)	30%	70%
Amphetamines (n=11)	36%	64%

Table 4.100  
**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE**  
**PHOENIX, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=53)	49%	51%
Adult males (n=27)	48%	52%
Adult females (n=4)	100%	--
Juvenile males (n=21)	43%	57%
Juvenile females (n=0)	--	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=35)	51%	49%
Admitted gang members (n=19)	58%	42%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=73)	70%	30%
Amphetamines (n=100)	55%	45%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=314)	25%	75%
Adult males (n=192)	24%	76%
Adult females (n=60)	15%	85%
Juvenile males (n=56)	36%	64%
Juvenile females (n=6)	17%	83%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=131)	43%	57%
Admitted gang members (n=48)	46%	54%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=73)	29%	71%
Amphetamines (n=100)	24%	76%

Table 4.101  
**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION**  
**PHOENIX, 1995**

<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?</b>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1037)	53%	47%
Adult males (n=495)	57%	43%
Adult females (n=296)	52%	48%
Juvenile males (n=187)	49%	51%
Juvenile females (n=59)	31%	69%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	81%	19%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	84%	16%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	55%	45%
Amphetamines (n=265)	61%	39%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?</b>		
Sample (n=1036)	34%	66%
Adult males (n=495)	39%	61%
Adult females (n=295)	23%	77%
Juvenile males (n=187)	41%	59%
Juvenile females (n=59)	20%	80%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	56%	44%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	79%	21%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	33%	67%
Amphetamines (n=264)	40%	60%
<b>HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?</b>		
Sample (n=1036)	9%	91%
Adult males (n=495)	13%	87%
Adult females (n=295)	6%	94%
Juvenile males (n=187)	6%	94%
Juvenile females (n=59)	2%	98%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	16%	84%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	15%	85%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	8%	92%
Amphetamines (n=264)	11%	89%

Table 4.102

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
PHOENIX, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1035)	31%	69%
Adult males (n=495)	35%	65%
Adult females (n=294)	35%	65%
Juvenile males (n=187)	21%	79%
Juvenile females (n=59)	14%	86%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	52%	48%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	51%	49%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	38%	62%
Amphetamines (n=264)	36%	64%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=1035)	22%	78%
Adult males (n=495)	27%	73%
Adult females (n=294)	21%	79%
Juvenile males (n=187)	14%	86%
Juvenile females (n=59)	12%	88%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	41%	59%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	38%	62%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	26%	74%
Amphetamines (n=264)	27%	73%

Table 4.103

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
PHOENIX, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=1033)	8%	92%
Adult males (n=495)	7%	93%
Adult females (n=293)	5%	95%
Juvenile males (n=186)	12%	88%
Juvenile females (n=59)	8%	92%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	18%	82%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	36%	64%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=238)	10%	90%
Amphetamines (n=264)	8%	92%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=1035)	21%	79%
Adult males (n=495)	20%	80%
Adult females (n=294)	19%	81%
Juvenile males (n=187)	26%	74%
Juvenile females (n=59)	17%	83%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=252)	39%	61%
Admitted gang member (n=73)	58%	42%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=239)	23%	77%
Amphetamines (n=264)	21%	79%

## ST. LOUIS - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 793 arrestees, 57% were adult males, 25% were females, 18% were juvenile males. The majority were Black (85%). Fifty-nine percent (59%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- Three-quarters (75%) of the men, 71% the women, and 43% of the boys were positive for drugs at time of arrest. For adults, cocaine was the drug most likely used (men, 48%; women, 62%).
- Just 7% of the men but 23% of the boys admitted to current gang membership. Over a third of the boys (38%), nearly a quarter of the men, and 17% of the women reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 47% admitted to ever owning a gun, 37% of those within the last 30 days, and 6% reported being armed at arrest. Seventy percent or more of those who had sold illegal drugs and admitted being in a gang also stated gun ownership.
- For the total sample, 14% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For male youth, the figure was 25%, and for gang members, 45%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 79% of the arrestees.
- Fifty-nine percent of the arrestees (59%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally. Over half of the juveniles (64%) gave this response. And 39% said it would take less than a week.
- Of the 340 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 26% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 44% and 59% of admitted gang members stated that they used a gun to commit a crime.
- Sixty-four percent (64%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 55% reported having been shot at. Over 60% of the adult males and boys reported having been shot at. Just over a quarter (26%) of all arrestees said they had been injured by gunshot.
- Sixty-percent (60%) of the sample agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and over a third (35%) agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.”

- Of all arrestees, 12% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 42% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.” Three-quarters (75%) of the gang members held this view.
- For juvenile males, 60% of them agreed that “it is OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.104  
 DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
 ST. LOUIS, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	593	75%
Females	200	25%
(n=793)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	663	85%
White	117	15%
Hispanic	1	<1%
Other	1	<1%
(n=782)		
AGE		
13 and under	56	7%
14-16	84	11%
17-20	120	15%
21-29	258	33%
30-39	212	27%
40-49	57	7%
50-59	6	1%
60+	--	--
(n=793)		

Table 4.105

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	Percent Positive		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>
<u>Drug</u>			
Cocaine	48%	62%	8%
Opiates	10%	8%	1%
Marijuana	38%	16%	40%
Amphetamines	<1%	1%	--
Any Drug	75%	71%	43%
	n=452	n=200	n=141
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE			
<u>Crime Type</u>			
Property crime	21%	12%	24%
Violent crime	27%	10%	26%
Drug crimes	22%	13%	18%
Other	30%	66%	32%
	n=452	n=199	n=141
GANG MEMBERSHIP			
Current membership	7%	3%	23%
	n=450	n=197	n=141
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES			
Sold in last year	24%	17%	38%
	n=449	n=197	n=141

Table 4.106

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
ST. LOUIS, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=788)	47%	37%	11%	6%
Adult males (n=449)	57%	35%	10%	7%
Adult females (n=198)	20%	21%	3%	—
Juvenile males (n=141)	52%	52%	17%	7%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=196)	73%	53%	19%	8%
Admitted gang member (n=63)	70%	71%	19%	2%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=347)	38%	31%	9%	3%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=364)	14%	14%	71%
Adult males (n=252)	13%	14%	73%
Adult females (n=39)	5%	8%	87%
Juvenile males (n=73)	25%	18%	58%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=142)	23%	19%	58%
Admitted gang member (n=44)	45%	25%	30%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=131)	12%	11%	76%

Table 4.107

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

	St. Louis <u>(n=368)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	12%
Bona fide job	2%
Protection/self defense	79%
To get someone	1%
Status/to impress	6%
Use in the drug trade	7%
Use in other criminal activity	4%
Other reasons	6%

Table 4.108

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	St. Louis <u>(n=329)</u>
Stole it	6%
Rented it	--
Borrowed/held it	8%
Traded	12%
Paid cash	58%
It was a gift	11%
Other	5%

Table 4.109

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	Don't Know		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Know</u>
Sample (n=788)	59%	25%	16%
Adult males (n=450)	60%	24%	16%
Adult females (n=197)	52%	24%	24%
Juvenile male (n=141)	64%	29%	7%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	71%	21%	7%
Admitted gang member (n=63)	78%	21%	2%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=348)	56%	23%	21%

  

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?	More than a week	
	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Couldn't get a gun	8%	
More than a month	25%	
Between a week and a month	27%	
Between two days and a week	18%	
One day or less	21%	
n=153		
Sample (n=153)	39%	61%
Adult males (n=75)	36%	64%
Juvenile males (n=35)	34%	66%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=29)	62%	38%
Admitted gang member (n=11)	55%	45%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=73)	37%	63%

Table 4.110

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=340)	26%	74%
Adult males (n=237)	27%	73%
Adult females (n=38)	16%	84%
Juvenile males (n=65)	29%	71%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=128)	44%	56%
Admitted gang members (n=41)	59%	41%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=126)	27%	73%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=88)	34%	66%
Adult males (n=64)	38%	63%
Adult females (n=5)	--	100%
Juvenile males (n=19)	32%	68%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=54)	37%	63%
Admitted gang members (n=24)	42%	58%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=32)	50%	50%

Table 4.111

ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=90)	50%	50%
Adult males (n=65)	55%	45%
Adult females (n=6)	33%	67%
Juvenile males (n=19)	53%	47%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=56)	48%	52%
Admitted gang members (n=24)	42%	58%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=34)	50%	50%

HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=367)	20%	80%
Adult males (n=255)	18%	82%
Adult females (n=39)	13%	87%
Juvenile males (n=73)	29%	71%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=143)	27%	73%
Admitted gang members (n=44)	23%	77%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=132)	19%	81%

Table 4.112  
**FIREARM VICTIMIZATION**  
**ST. LOUIS, 1995**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=788)	64%	36%
Adult males (n=450)	70%	30%
Adult females (n=197)	54%	46%
Juvenile males (n=141)	60%	40%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	78%	22%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	71%	29%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=347)	63%	37%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?		
Sample (n=787)	55%	45%
Adult males (n=450)	64%	36%
Adult females (n=197)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=140)	63%	37%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	76%	24%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	86%	14%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=347)	46%	54%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?		
Sample (n=788)	26%	74%
Adult males (n=450)	34%	66%
Adult females (n=197)	11%	89%
Juvenile males (n=141)	18%	82%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	34%	66%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	44%	56%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=347)	23%	77%

Table 4.113

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=788)	60%	40%
Adult males (n=450)	59%	41%
Adult females (n=199)	57%	43%
Juvenile males (n=139)	65%	35%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	71%	29%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	76%	24%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=348)	55%	45%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=790)	35%	65%
Adult males (n=450)	36%	64%
Adult females (n=199)	27%	73%
Juvenile males (n=141)	44%	56%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	45%	55%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	49%	51%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=348)	30%	70%

Table 4.114

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
ST. LOUIS, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=790)	12%	88%
Adult males (n=450)	12%	88%
Adult females (n=199)	6%	94%
Juvenile males (n=141)	19%	81%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	19%	81%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	32%	68%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=348)	11%	89%
IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=789)	42%	58%
Adult males (n=449)	44%	56%
Adult females (n=199)	27%	73%
Juvenile males (n=141)	60%	40%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=196)	63%	37%
Admitted gang members (n=63)	75%	25%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=348)	37%	63%

## SAN DIEGO - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 826 arrestees, 35% were Hispanic, 34% were White, 26% were Black, and 5% were in other ethnic categories. Over half (55%) were between the ages of 21 to 39.
- Just over 80% of the women and 74% of the men showed recent use of drugs. For male juveniles, the figure was 55%. The most prevalent drug for men and women was methamphetamine (42% and 46%, respectively). About half of the juveniles were positive for marijuana (49%) and 17% showed methamphetamine use.
- Admitted gang membership was 12% for all arrestees, but 23% for boys. Just over a quarter (26%) of the boys and 24% of the men reported having sold drugs in the past year.
- About half of all arrestees (47%) reported ever having owned a gun with 28% of those stating ownership in past 30 days, and 4% reporting being armed at arrest. Forty-two percent (42%) of the drug dealers and gang members reported ownership within the past 30 days.
- Of all arrestees, 8% admitted to carrying a gun all or most of the time. For boys, the figure was 12% and for gang members, 18%.
- Nearly half (48%) of all arrestees stated that protection or self-defense was the most important reason for owning a gun.
- About three-quarters (74%) of the drug sellers stated that it is easy to get a gun illegally as did 53% of all arrestees. For juveniles, the percentage was 57%. Similarly, over half (52%) of the drug dealers said it would take less than a week to get a gun, while 30% of all arrestees held this view.
- Of the 360 arrestees who admitted to gun ownership, 22% said they had used a gun in a crime. For juveniles, drug dealers, and gang members, the figures were 28%, 38%, and 46%, respectively.
- Just over half (51%) of all arrestees said that they had been threatened with a gun and 44% stated they had been shot at, but only 12% reported having been injured by gunshot. Amphetamine users, compared to those positive for cocaine, were more likely to have been threatened, shot at, and injured.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of all arrestees agreed that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and 23% agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.” Again, juvenile males, drug sellers, and gang members were progressively more likely to agree.

- Though only 8% of all arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you,” 16% of the boys held this view, as did 31% of the gang members. Similarly, 22% of the sample agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you” but 35% of the juveniles and 46% of the gang members agreed.

Table 4.115

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	657	80%
Females	169	20%
Total n	826	
ETHNICITY		
Black	214	26%
White	280	34%
Hispanic	285	35%
Other	46	5%
Total n	825	
AGE		
13 and under	56	7%
14-16	146	18%
17-20	62	8%
21-29	228	28%
30-39	224	27%
40-49	86	10%
50-59	18	2%
60+	5	1%
Total n	825	

Table 4.116

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	Percent Positive		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Boys</u>
<u>Drug</u>			
Cocaine	27%	37%	5%
Opiates	8%	13%	2%
Marijuana	35%	17%	49%
Amphetamines	42%	46%	17%
Any Drug	74%	81%	55%
	n=455	n=169	n=202
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE			
<u>Crime Type</u>			
Property Crimes	28%	28%	37%
Violent Crime	10%	4%	21%
Drug Crimes	36%	46%	11%
Other	28%	22%	32%
	n=454	n=169	n=188
GANG MEMBERSHIP			
Current Membership	5%	14%	23%
	n=443	n=169	n=201
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES			
Sold drugs in last year	24%	22%	26%
	n=443	n=169	n=201

Table 4.117

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
SAN DIEGO, 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=826)	47%	12%	3%	4%
Adult Males (n=455)	55%	29%	8%	5%
Adult Females (n=169)	31%	31%	4%	6%
Juvenile Males (n=202)	45%	23%	7%	5%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=195)	66%	42%	14%	7%
Admitted gang membership (n=95)	61%	42%	14%	7%
Urinalysis positive for:				
Cocaine (n=195)	45%	30%	5%	2%
Amphetamines (n=305)	51%	25%	7%	5%
HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?		<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample		8%	9%	83%
Adult Males (n=455)		7%	8%	85%
Adult Females (n=169)		6%	11%	83%
Juvenile Males (n=202)		12%	11%	77%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=138)		12%	12%	76%
Admitted gang membership (n=44)		18%	20%	61%
Urinalysis positive for:				
Cocaine (n=87)		8%	7%	85%
Amphetamines (n=152)		7%	7%	87%

Table 4.118

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

	San Diego <u>(n=387)</u>
Hunting/target shooting	35%
Bonafide job	1%
Protection/self defense	48%
To get someone	1%
Status/to impress	5%
Use in the drug trade	5%
Use in other criminal activity	3%
Other reasons	12%

Table 4.119

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	San Diego <u>(n=323)</u>
Stole it	6%
Rented it	1%
Borrowed/held it	16%
Traded	10%
Paid cash	45%
It was a gift	19%
Other	4%

Table 4.120

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

## IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=812)	53%	27%	20%
Adult Male (n=443)	51%	28%	21%
Adult Female (n=168)	52%	23%	25%
Juvenile Male (n=201)	57%	28%	14%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=194)	74%	17%	10%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	68%	18%	14%
Urinalysis positive for:			
Cocaine (n=194)	51%	24%	25%
Amphetamines (n=297)	56%	23%	21%

## HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?

Couldn't get a gun	12%
More than a month	29%
Between a week and a month	29%
Between two days and a week	16%
One day or less	14%
(n=128)	

	<u>Less than a week</u>	<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=128)	30%	70%
Adult Male (n=40)	23%	78%
Juvenile Male (n=44)	30%	70%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=25)	52%	48%
Admitted gang members (n=10)	40%	60%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=32)	34%	66%
Amphetamines (n=43)	33%	67%

Table 4.121

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
SAN DIEGO, 1995**

**HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=360)	22%	78%
Adult Males (n=231)	19%	81%
Adult Females(n=48)	25%	75%
Juvenile Males (n=81)	28%	72%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=131)	38%	62%
Admitted gang members (n=41)	46%	54%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=83)	19%	81%
Amphetamines (n=143)	22%	78%

**DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?**

Sample (n=78)	30%	70%
Adult Males (n=43)	21%	79%
Adult Females (n=12)	33%	67%
Juvenile Males (n=23)	43%	57%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=49)	31%	69%
Admitted gang members (n=19)	42%	58%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=15)	33%	67%
Amphetamines (n=32)	28%	72%

Table 4.122

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
SAN DIEGO, 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=79)	58%	42%
Adult Males (n=44)	61%	39%
Adult Females (n=12)	42%	58%
Juvenile Males (n=23)	61%	39%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=50)	58%	42%
Admitted gang members (n=19)	74%	26%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=16)	63%	37%
Amphetamines (n=32)	63%	37%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=388)	16%	84%
Adult Males (n=244)	14%	86%
Adult Females (n=53)	13%	87%
Juvenile Males (n=91)	25%	75%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=138)	26%	74%
Admitted gang members (n=44)	23%	77%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=87)	11%	89%
Amphetamines (n=152)	17%	83%

Table 4.123

FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample	51%	49%
Adult Males (n=445)	56%	44%
Adult Females (n=169)	41%	59%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	49%	51%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	64%	36%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	73%	27%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=194)	48%	52%
Amphetamines (n=299)	56%	44%

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?

Sample	44%	56%
Adult Males (n=445)	47%	53%
Adult Females (n=169)	28%	72%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	49%	51%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	59%	41%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	76%	24%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=194)	41%	59%
Amphetamines (n=299)	48%	52%

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?

Sample	12%	88%
Adult Males (n=445)	16%	84%
Adult Females (n=168)	2%	98%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	8%	92%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	15%	85%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	14%	86%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=193)	13%	87%
Amphetamines (n=299)	14%	86%

Table 4.124

**ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
DUF ARRESTEES**

**DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION  
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=814))	32%	68%
Adult Males (n=444)	33%	67%
Adult Females (n=169)	25%	75%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	35%	65%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	40%	60%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	54%	46%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=193)	30%	70%
Amphetamines (n=299)	33%	67%

**YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU  
HAVE A GUN.**

Sample (n=811)	23%	77%
Adult Males (n=444)	25%	75%
Adult Females (n=166)	17%	83%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	24%	76%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	33%	67%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	35%	65%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=194)	27%	73%
Amphetamines (n=299)	22%	78%

Table 4.125

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
SAN DIEGO, 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
Sample	8%	92%
Adult Males (n=444)	6%	94%
Adult Females (n=168)	5%	95%
Juvenile Males (n=200)	16%	84%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	17%	83%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	31%	69%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=191)	4%	96%
Amphetamines (n=298)	6%	94%

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.

Sample	22%	78%
Adult Males (n=444)	18%	82%
Adult Females (n=169)	18%	82%
Juvenile Males (n=201)	35%	65%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=195)	35%	65%
Admitted gang members (n=71)	46%	54%
Urinalysis positive for:		
Cocaine (n=193)	18%	82%
Amphetamines (n=299)	19%	81%

## WASHINGTON, DC - Interview Results from DUF Firearms Addendum

- Of 787 arrestees, 56% were adult males, and 23% were females, and 22% were male juveniles. The majority were Black (92%). Over half (54%) were between the ages of 21 and 39.
- About 60% of the men and boys and 70% of the women were positive for drugs at time of arrest and 51% of the women were shown recent use of cocaine.
- Only 2% of the male youth and less than 1% of the men admitted to current gang membership. Eleven percent (11%) of the men and 8% of the boys reported having sold drugs in the last year.
- Of all arrestees, 16% admitted to ever owning a gun, 20% of those within the last 30 days, and 10% reported being armed at arrest. Nearly half (44%) of the reported drug sellers stated gun ownership.
- For the total sample, 8% reported carrying a gun all or most of the time. For those who sold drugs, the figure was 28%.
- The most important reason for having a gun is protection or self-defense, according to 64% of the arrestees.
- Thirty-seven percent of the arrestees (37%) said that it is easy to get a gun illegally.
- Of the 112 arrestees who admitted to ownership, 16% reported having used a gun in a crime. For drug sellers, the percentage was 33%.
- Forty-three percent (43%) of arrestees stated that they had been threatened with a gun and 30% reported having been shot at. For drug sellers, 52% stated they had been shot at. Of all arrestees, 14% said they had been injured by gunshot.
- Just over a quarter (28%) of the arrestees agreed with the statement that “you need a gun for protection in your neighborhood” and 24% agreed that “your crowd respects you if you have a gun.” Drug dealers were more than twice as likely to hold these views.
- Just 6% of the arrestees agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who disrespected you” but 24% agreed that “it’s OK to shoot someone who hurt you.”

Table 4.126

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

SEX	<u>n</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Males	608	77%
Females	179	23%
(n=787)		
ETHNICITY		
Black	717	92%
White	51	7%
Hispanic	12	2%
Other	3	<1%
(n=783)		
AGE		
13 and under	46	6%
14-16	125	16%
17-20	102	13%
21-29	214	27%
30-39	210	27%
40-49	69	9%
50-59	14	2%
60+	7	1%
(n=787)		

Table 4.127

DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

URINALYSIS POSITIVE BY DRUG	Percent Positive		
	Men	Women	Boys
<u>Drug</u>			
Cocaine	33%	51%	4%
Opiates	8%	15%	1%
Marijuana	32%	18%	58%
Amphetamines	--	--	--
Any Drug	62%	70%	60%
	n=437	n=179	n=171
MOST SERIOUS CHARGE			
<u>Crime Type</u>			
Property crime	21%	7%	23%
Violent crime	34%	29%	26%
Drug crimes	11%	20%	21%
Other	34%	44%	30%
	n=437	n=179	n=168
GANG MEMBERSHIP			
Current membership	<1%	--	2%
	n=427	n=177	n=170
PARTICIPATION IN DRUG SALES			
Sold in last year	11%	4%	8%
	n=427	n=178	n=170

Table 4.128

**FIREARM OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995**

PERCENT OF SAMPLE THAT:	<u>Ever Owned</u>	<u>Owned Last 30 Days</u>	<u>Within 24 hrs of Arrest</u>	<u>Armed at Arrest</u>
Sample (n=776)	16%	20%	10%	10%
Adult males (n=429)	21%	21%	9%	9%
Adult females (n=179)	5%	22%	11%	11%
Juvenile males (n=168)	14%	14%	14%	13%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=66)	44%	30%	14%	7%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	25%	--	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	16%	19%	5%	5%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU CARRY A GUN?	<u>All or most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Rarely or never</u>
Sample (n=120)	8%	9%	83%
Adult males (n=89)	9%	7%	84%
Adult females (n=8)	--	25%	75%
Juvenile males (n=23)	9%	13%	78%
Sold illegal drugs in the last year (n=29)	28%	14%	59%
Admitted gang member (n=1)	--	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=37)	11%	3%	86%

Table 4.129

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
REASON FOR HAVING A GUN?  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

	Washington (n=123)
Hunting/target shooting	11%
Bona fide job	3%
Protection/self defense	64%
To get someone	--
Status/to impress	3%
Use in the drug trade	4%
Use in other criminal activity	2%
Other reasons	11%

Table 4.130

ACCESS TO FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR MOST RECENT HANDGUN?

<u>Source</u>	Washington (n=112)
Stole it	3%
Rented it	1%
Borrowed/held it	13%
Traded	1%
Paid cash	50%
It was a gift	21%
Other	12%

Table 4.131

AVAILABILITY (EASE) OF POSSESSING FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

IS IT EASY TO GET A GUN ILLEGALLY?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Sample (n=773)	37%	38%	25%
Adult males (n=425)	40%	36%	24%
Adult females (n=178)	34%	28%	38%
Juvenile male (n=170)	35%	51%	14%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=66)	67%	23%	11%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	50%	25%	25%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=236)	36%	34%	29%
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO GET A GUN?			
Couldn't get a gun	7%		
More than a month	39%		
Between a week and a month	32%		
Between two days and a week	8%		
One day or less	14%		
n=109			
	<u>Less than a week</u>		<u>More than a week</u>
Sample (n=109)	22%		78%
Adult males (n=52)	15%		85%
Juvenile males (n=26)	38%		62%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=8)	38%		63%
Admitted gang member (n=2)	--		100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=32)	19%		81%

Table 4.132

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995**

HAVE YOU EVER USED A GUN TO COMMIT A CRIME?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=112)	16%	84%
Adult males (n=82)	18%	82%
Adult females (n=9)	--	100%
Juvenile males (n=21)	14%	86%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=27)	33%	67%
Admitted gang members (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=37)	14%	86%
DID YOU FIRE THE GUN DURING THE CRIME?		
Sample (n=18)	44%	56%
Adult males (n=15)	40%	60%
Adult females (n=0)	--	--
Juvenile males (n=3)	67%	33%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=9)	44%	56%
Admitted gang members (n=0)	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=5)	20%	80%

Table 4.133

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS USE  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995**

**HAVE YOU USED A GUN DURING THE CRIME TO SCARE THE VICTIM?**

(Of those who reported using a gun to commit a crime, or having a gun with them while committing a crime)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=18)	78%	22%
Adult males (n=15)	73%	27%
Adult females (n=0)	--	--
Juvenile males (n=3)	100%	--
Sold drugs in the last year (n=9)	89%	11%
Admitted gang members (n=0)	--	--
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=5)	60%	40%

**HAVE YOU EVER STOLEN A GUN?**

(Of those who have ever owned or possessed a gun)

Sample (n=121)	5%	95%
Adult males (n=89)	6%	94%
Adult females (n=9)	--	100%
Juvenile males (n=23)	4%	96%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=29)	14%	86%
Admitted gang members (n=1)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=37)	3%	97%

Table 4.134

FIREARM VICTIMIZATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THREATENED WITH A GUN?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=778)	43%	57%
Adult males (n=429)	48%	52%
Adult females (n=179)	41%	59%
Juvenile male (n=170)	31%	69%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=65)	62%	38%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	43%	57%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SHOT AT?		
Sample (n=779)	30%	70%
Adult males (n=430)	39%	61%
Adult females (n=179)	11%	89%
Juvenile male (n=170)	30%	70%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=66)	52%	48%
Admitted gang member (n=4)	25%	75%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	29%	71%
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN INJURED BY A GUNSHOT?		
Sample (n=778)	14%	86%
Adult males (n=429)	20%	80%
Adult females (n=179)	7%	93%
Juvenile males (n=170)	5%	95%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=66)	20%	80%
Admitted gang members (n=4)	--	100%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	14%	86%

Table 4.135

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

DO YOU NEED A GUN FOR PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=774)	28%	72%
Adult males (n=427)	30%	70%
Adult females (n=178)	28%	72%
Juvenile males (n=169)	22%	78%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=66)	58%	42%
Admitted gang members (n=4)	75%	25%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=236)	28%	72%
YOUR CROWD RESPECTS YOU IF YOU HAVE A GUN.		
Sample (n=771)	24%	76%
Adult males (n=427)	24%	76%
Adult females (n=179)	21%	79%
Juvenile males (n=165)	25%	75%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=65)	62%	38%
Admitted gang members (n=4)	25%	75%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	22%	78%

Table 4.136

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1995

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO DISRESPECTED YOU.	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Sample (n=775)	6%	94%
Adult males (n=429)	6%	94%
Adult females (n=179)	3%	97%
Juvenile males (n=167)	10%	90%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=66)	24%	76%
Admitted gang members (n=4)	50%	50%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	6%	94%

IT IS OK TO SHOOT SOMEONE WHO HURT YOU.		
Sample (n=773)	24%	76%
Adult males (n=429)	21%	79%
Adult females (n=179)	23%	77%
Juvenile males (n=165)	32%	68%
Sold drugs in the last year (n=65)	45%	55%
Admitted gang members (n=4)	75%	25%
Urinalysis positive for cocaine (n=238)	23%	77%

# **CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS**

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS

This study of over 7,000 recent arrestees in eleven metropolitan cities represents the first time that this offender population has been asked about their access to, and use of firearms. The results provide an opportunity to gain insights about the illegal firearms market and suggest remedies for intervention.

Clearly, the findings indicate easy and timely access to firearms, usually through illegal means. About a quarter of the arrestees had used a gun to commit a crime and 31% of those stated that they fired the weapon. Positive urinalysis for illicit drugs was not correlated with firearm ownership or behavior regarding firearm usage. However, the selling of illicit drugs and claiming gang membership were strongly associated with firearm ownership and behavior.

The data show that this offender group reports high levels of firearm victimization including having been threatened with a gun, shot at, and injured by gunfire. Again, drug sellers and gang members were most likely to have experienced being victimized.

Attitudes toward the use of firearms suggest a culture in which possession and use of guns are not only tolerated and accepted, but necessary for protection in neighborhoods and to gain respect from peer groups. Exposure to violence through victimization was associated with the likelihood of owning or possessing firearms.

Our research, along with other recent studies, suggest that a reduction in firearm violence requires multi-faceted approaches that address prevention, intervention, and enforcement issues. Most states have legislation barring juveniles from legally possessing firearms. In the past several years, laws have been passed to enhance penalties for illegal firearm possession and commission of crimes with firearms, resulting also in longer sentences. The actual deterrent effect of more convictions and increased incarceration is uncertain or those who are deterred through incarceration are quickly replaced by others. Clearly, our results imply little deterrent effect, particularly among drug sellers and gang members.

Zimring (1993) identifies interventions that include involvement by many agencies and systems. Law enforcement and educational institutions can work cooperatively to enforce zero tolerance and target specific offenders such as gang members, drug sellers, and probation and parole violators. Firearms markets strongly intersect with drug sales and locations where gang members congregate. This suggests that highly focused efforts to interdict firearm sales and possession may pay dividends in public safety. Programs that

make illegal transfer of firearms more difficult, such as firearm traces and destruction of firearms, are paramount. Targeted sweeps of neighborhoods with high levels of firearms crimes are likely to impact firearm violence. Combining heightened awareness of the possession of firearms with traffic stops is a strategy that many police departments have used with success.

Crisis intervention can be offered to victims and witnesses of shootings along with conflict resolution classes to promote peaceful responses to volatile situations. The judiciary can seek support to include gun safety mandates in sentencing decrees, such as relinquishing of firearms for safekeeping in cases adjudicated for domestic violence. The medical and trauma divisions of hospitals can go beyond removing the bullets and provide follow-up counseling and referral to both perpetrators and victims. Kellerman (1995) suggests moving gun policy away from a focus on possession and use of firearms and redirecting efforts on the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of guns. A focus on the product, not the use, could address changes in caliber, design, advertising, and safety requirements. Programs or efforts as described may well be in place in some communities, yet there is little information about their effectiveness for reducing firearm violence. The need for evaluation is imperative to obtain some answers about "what works".

Kellerman also suggests the development of a federal registry similar to the data maintained on highway fatalities, containing information on victims, motivation, and types of firearms. Currently, law enforcement obtains certain types of data on crimes involving weapons. Hospitals and trauma centers maintain similar and other kinds of information on patients with firearm injuries. Most municipalities have no means to correlate the two data sets or how to determine if they contain the same individuals.

The National Research Council emphasizes the need for responses to gun violence to include community grass roots efforts and to consider the underlying problems that create and promote violence, such as poverty, racism, neglect, substance abuse, and lack of opportunity. Violence control policies must be crafted within the context of the affected communities which have different priorities and needs. Communities that are committed to reducing firearm violence must recognize their strengths and witness the significant impact of a grass roots effort like MADD, which began with concerned parents and relatives of victims of drunk drivers. The intensity of MADD's efforts led to far reaching legislation and changes in both attitudes and behavior regarding drinking patterns.

### **A Research Agenda**

Communities and local governments have developed approaches to reduce firearm violence. Information about the programs and their effectiveness is scant and largely anecdotal. More research is needed to assess the impact of such interventions and the feasibility of implementation in other communities. Promising strategies likely exist, but few have been evaluated.

While this study enhanced what is known about illegal gun markets, the tracing of guns is a fertile field for research. Most police departments do not maintain complete and accurate data on firearms retrieved (Sherman,1994).

Finally, the ambiguous societal response to use of firearms must be explored. Young people in this country are given mixed messages regarding the use and context of violence. Cultural attitudes that promote and glorify violence must be examined if we want our youth to develop alternative attitudes and behavior.

This study is demonstrative of the utility of the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) as a research platform. It can provide a timely, accessible means to obtain information about current crime-related issues from the very population most involved. A study such as this one could be conducted on a periodic basis to explore the extent to which gun control and violence prevention interventions are having an impact on the offenders' attitudes and behaviors.

The DUF process could be used to identify opinions regarding legislation, alternatives to incarceration, police behavior, and other issues that affect crime and justice policy and practice.

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**APPENDIX 1**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Interviewer Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Site # \_\_\_\_\_

DUF GUN ADDENDUM

ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Y N DK

1a. Have you ever been:

(ASK 1b FOR EACH SITUATION MARKED "YES" in 1A)

1b. Has it happened in the Past 30 days

	NO	YES	NO	YES
a) threatened with a gun?	1	2	1	2
b) shot at?	1	2	1	2
c) injured by gunshot?	1	2	1	2
d) threatened with some other weapon?	1	2	1	2
e) injured by some other weapon?	1	2	1	2
f) beaten up?	1	2	1	2
g) robbed?	1	2	1	2

2. I'm going to read some statements about guns, and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

Disagree      Agree

a) In your neighborhood, there are lots of guns on the street.	1	2
b) In your crowd, people respect you if you have a gun.	1	2
c) In your neighborhood, it is important to have a gun for protection.	1	2
d) Your friends would look down on you if you did not carry a gun.	1	2
e) If a guy has been wounded by a gun, it shows he is tough.	1	2
f) These days, anyone involved in drug sales will carry a gun.	1	2
g) People who <u>deal drugs</u> always carry guns.	1	2
h) If you want a gun, drug dealers will be able to get one for you.	1	2
i) People who <u>use drugs</u> are more likely to have guns.	1	2
j) Drug dealers are always trying to get bigger and better guns.	1	2
k) It is OK to shoot somebody who doesn't belong in the neighborhood.	1	2
l) It is OK to shoot a person if they have disrespected you.	1	2
m) It is OK to shoot a person if they have done something to hurt you.	1	2
n) It is OK to shoot a person if that's what it takes to get something you want.	1	2
o) Most of your friends have guns.	1	2

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<p>3. Have you ever served in the military?</p>	<table> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	1	2								
NO	YES												
1	2												
<p>4a. Have you ever owned or possessed a gun? (EXCLUDE ANY GUN OWNED OR POSSESSED DURING MILITARY SERVICE.) (IF NO, SKIP TO 15a)</p> <p>4b. About how many?</p> <p>4c. What were your reasons for having a gun? (DO NOT READ LIST; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <p>(IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, ASK 4d.)</p> <p>4d. Which reason was most important? (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE) _____</p>	<table> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER, NOT RANGE)</p> <p>1 For hunting or target shooting 2 As part of a bonafide job 3 For protection/self-defense 4 To get someone 5 For status, or to impress people 6 For use in the drug trade 7 For use in other criminal activity 8 Other _____</p>	NO	YES	1	2								
NO	YES												
1	2												
<p>5a. How many were handguns? (IF NONE, SKIP TO Q6) IF MORE THAN 1 HANDGUN, READ:  Let's talk about the handgun that you acquired most recently.</p> <p>5b. How did you get this handgun? (SHOWCARD A); (IF RESPONSE WAS "1" OR "6", SKIP TO Q6)</p> <p>5c. Which of the following best describes where you got this handgun? (SHOWCARD B); (IF 1,2,3 OR 4, SKIP TO Q6)</p> <p>5d. Why did you get the handgun from (READ RESPONSE FROM 5c) and not from a retail outlet such as a gun shop, store, or pawnshop? (DO NOT READ LIST; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <p>(IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, ASK 5e.)</p> <p>5e. Which reason was most important? (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE) _____</p>	<p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER, NOT RANGE)</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE, SPECIFY TRADE, COST AND OTHER)</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p> <p>1 Financial reasons (e.g., it cost too much; friend or family member could get it cheaper) 2 Wasn't eligible to buy - convicted felon 3 Wasn't eligible to buy - too young 4 Didn't want to fill out all the Federal forms 5 Didn't want to wait for approval/waiting period 6 Didn't want gun to be traced/didn't want purchase to be reported to authorities 7 Didn't want my criminal record checked 8 Other _____</p>												
<p>6. Have you ever owned or possessed: (EXCLUDE ANY OWNED OR POSSESSED DURING MILITARY SERVICE)</p> <p>a. a fully automatic pistol or rifle?</p> <p>b. a semi-automatic pistol or rifle?</p> <p>c. a regular rifle or shotgun?</p> <p>(READ AS WRITTEN): Remember, the information you provide has nothing to do with your case. Your responses are anonymous and confidential.</p>	<table> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	NO	YES	1	2	NO	YES	1	2	NO	YES	1	2
NO	YES												
1	2												
NO	YES												
1	2												
NO	YES												
1	2												

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<p>7a. <b>Were you armed with a gun when you were arrested?</b> (IF NO, SKIP TO 8a) (IF YES, ASK 7b)</p> <p>7b. <b>What kind of gun were you armed with?</b> (SHOW CARD C) (IF MORE THAN ONE, RECORD ALL NUMBERS SEPARATED BY COMMAS) (GO TO 9a.)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER(S) CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p>
<p>8a. <b>Were you armed with a gun at any time in the 24 hours prior to your arrest?</b> (IF NO, SKIP TO 9a) (IF YES, ASK 8b)</p> <p>8b. <b>What kind of gun were you armed with?</b> (SHOWCARD C); (RECORD ALL NUMBERS SEPARATED BY COMMAS)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER(S) CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p>
<p>9a. <b>At the time the police said you did this crime, were you armed with a gun?</b> (IF NO, SKIP TO 10a)</p> <p>9b. <b>What kind of gun did you use or have with you?</b> (SHOWCARD C); (IF MORE THAN ONE, RECORD ALL NUMBERS, SEPARATED BY COMMAS)</p> <p>9c. <b>Did you fire the gun during the crime?</b></p> <p>9d. <b>Did you use the gun-</b> (READ ALL CHOICES; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <p>9e. <b>How did you obtain this gun?</b> (SHOWCARD A)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>1 To scare the victim? 2 To injure the victim? 3 To kill the victim? 4 To get away? 5 For protection? 6 Any other way: _____ 7 Did not use the gun/kept the gun out of site</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE, SPECIFY TRADE, COST AND OTHER)</p>
<p>9f. <b>Where did you get this gun?</b> (SHOWCARD B); (SKIP TO 12a)</p>	<p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p>
<p>10a. <b>In the last 30 days, did you own or possess any gun?</b> (IF NO, SKIP TO 11a) (IF YES, ASK 10b)</p> <p>10b. <b>What kind of gun was it?</b> (SHOWCARD C); (IF MORE THAN ONE, RECORD ALL NUMBERS, SEPARATED BY COMMAS)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER(S) CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p>
<p>11a. <b>Have you ever used a gun to commit a crime or ever had a gun with you while committing a crime?</b> (IF NO, SKIP TO 12a)</p> <p>11b. <b>What kind of gun have you used or had with you while committing a crime?</b> (SHOWCARD C); (IF MORE THAN ONE, RECORD ALL NUMBERS, SEPARATED BY COMMAS)</p> <p>11c. <b>Did you fire the gun during the crime?</b></p> <p>11d. <b>Did you use the gun -</b> (READ ALL CHOICES; CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>_____ (RECORD NUMBER(S) CORRESPONDING TO ARRESTEE'S RESPONSE)</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>1 To scare the victim? 2 To injure the victim? 3 To kill the victim? 4 To get away? 5 For protection? 6 Any other way: _____</p>

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<p>12a. Have you ever stolen a gun?</p> <p>12b. Have you ever kept a stolen gun for your own personal use?</p> <p>12c. Have you ever sold or traded a stolen gun to somebody?</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p>
<p>13. How often do you carry a gun, when you are outside your home? (READ ALL CHOICES) (CIRCLE ONE)</p>	<p>1 all the time 2 most of the time 3 some of the time 4 rarely 5 never</p>
<p>14a. Have you ever used a gun against another person even just to scare or to threaten them? (IF NO, SKIP TO 16)</p> <p>14b. Describe the most recent time you used a gun against another person? (SKIP TO 16) (CIRCLE ONE)</p>	<p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>1 gang fight 2 argument with family or friends 3 at a bar or club 4 to protect or defend yourself 5 to protect or defend someone else 6 someone breaking into your home 7 committing a crime 8 during a drug deal 10 in a shoot-out with police 11 other _____</p>
<p>15a. You said you have never owned or possessed a gun. Do you think you might ever want one? (IF NO, SKIP TO 16)</p> <p>15b. How would you get a gun if you wanted it? (READ ALL RESPONSES; CIRCLE ONE)</p> <p>15c. How long would it take you to get a gun?</p>	<p>NO YES DONT KNOW 1 2 3</p> <p>1 buy it legally 2 buy it illegally 3 trade for it 4 borrow it 5 rent it 6 steal it 7 other: _____</p> <p>1 I couldn't get a gun 2 It would take a month or more 3 It would take between a week and a month 4 It would take between two days and a week 5 It would take a day or less</p>
<p>16. Is it easy for people in your neighborhood to get a gun illegally?</p> <p>17a. Are you currently a member of a gang? (IF YES, SKIP TO 18)</p> <p>17b. Have you ever been a member of a gang?</p> <p>18. Have you purchased any illegal drugs in the past year?</p> <p>19. Have you sold any illegal drugs in the last year?</p>	<p>NO YES DONT KNOW 1 2 3</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p> <p>NO YES 1 2</p>

That's the end of our questions. Thank you for your time.