

A Comparative Analysis of Crime Guns: Implications for Reducing Gun Violence

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PARTNERS

IACP

New Orleans and Prince Georges Police Depts.

State Police agencies in 14 states

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

CRIME LAB AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Overview of Gun Market Research

- Knowledge is more conceptual than empirical
- Majority of trace studies limited to individual municipalities, often in high-regulation states
- Inmate studies typically conducted independent of trace studies
- Gap between first legal sale and use in crime not well understood.
- Our study seeks to address these gaps by joining trace and inmate studies in 3 distinct jurisdictions, and tracking weapons from first legal sale.

How do guns that are used in violent crimes move from first legal sale to use in a crime?

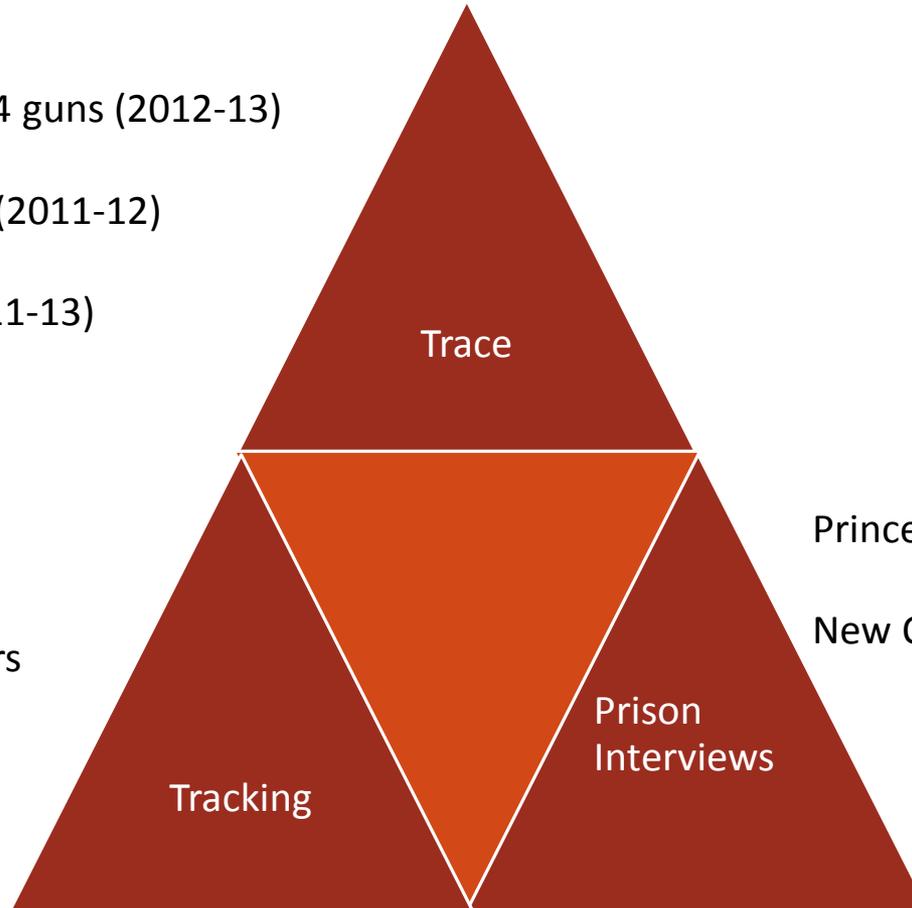


How do guns that are used in violent crimes move from first legal sale to use in a crime?

Prince George's Cty.: 2,034 guns (2012-13)

New Orleans: 3,068 guns (2011-12)

Chicago: 18,455 guns (2011-13)



Prince George's Cty.: 68 inmates

New Orleans: 220 inmates

181 original purchasers

Conclusions

1. Gun recoveries and trace successes vary across jurisdictions, and in some locations, by crime
2. Gun regulations were associated with the proportion of guns purchased in-state and time to recovery, but not with the likelihood of the purchaser and possessor being the same person, or with the likelihood of the gun being bought by a straw-purchaser.
3. First legal owners report that guns that end up being used in violent crimes are stolen, sold to offender, or sold to someone else.
4. Imprisoned gun offenders cited stealing or buying a gun “off the street” as the most likely way to obtain a firearm to use in a crime

1. Gun recoveries and trace successes vary across jurisdictions, and in some locations, by crime

Gun Recoveries

- Across the jurisdictions, less than 20% of violent gun crimes resulted in recovery of firearm
- Firearms more likely to be recovered after homicides; unlikely following armed robberies
- In New Orleans, recovered gun crimes compared to non-recovered gun crimes more likely to involve:
 - Older, white, and female offenders
 - Black victims
 - Single as compared to multiple offenders
 - Result in death and less likely to result in no injury of victim

Unsuccessful Traces

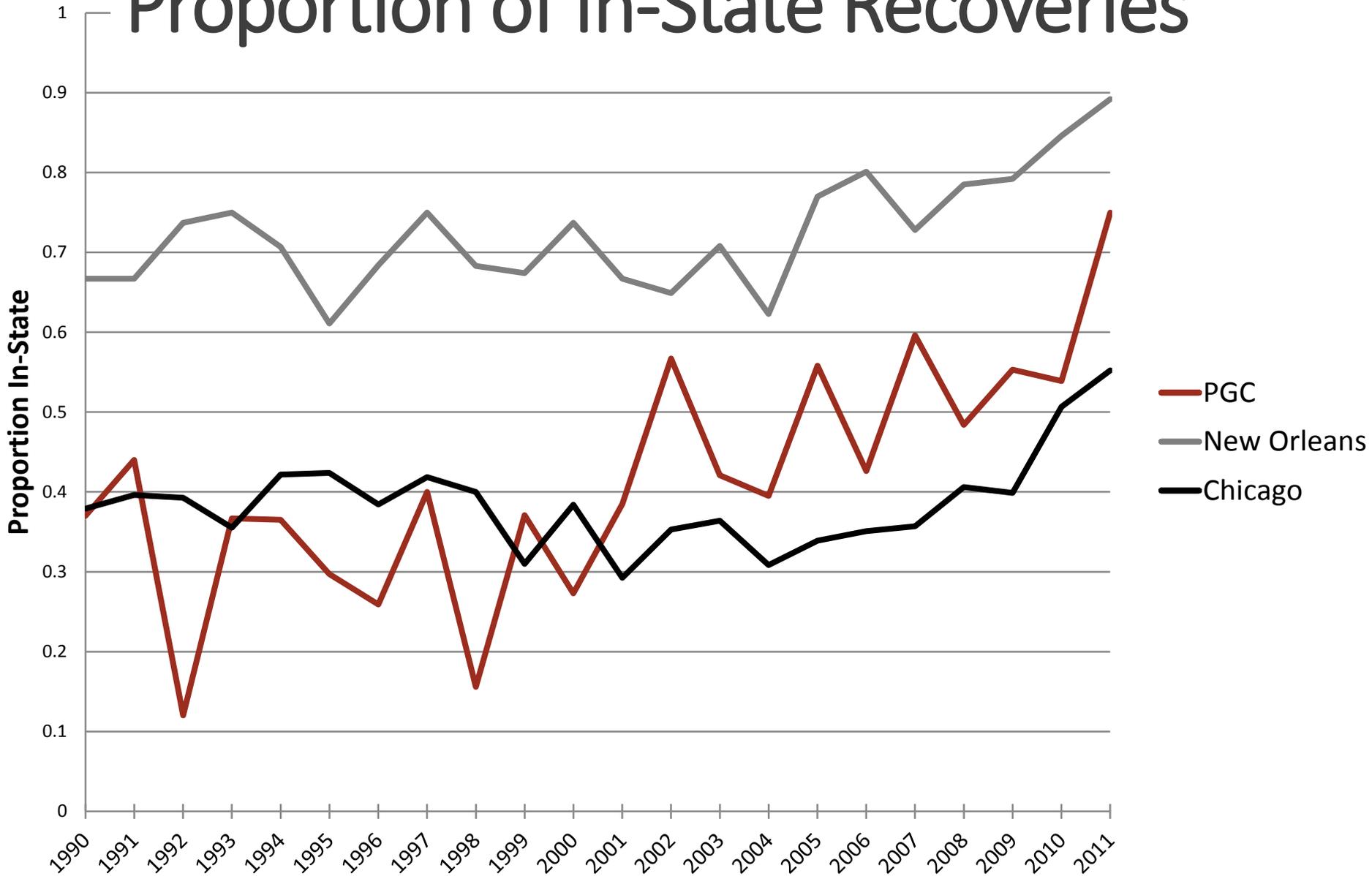
- Of those firearms recovered and submitted for tracing, approximately two-thirds are successfully traced
- The successful trace rate was about 10% greater in New Orleans (77%) compared to Prince George's County (66%) and Chicago (65%)
- The most common reasons for unsuccessful traces differ slightly across jurisdictions

Reasons for trace failure

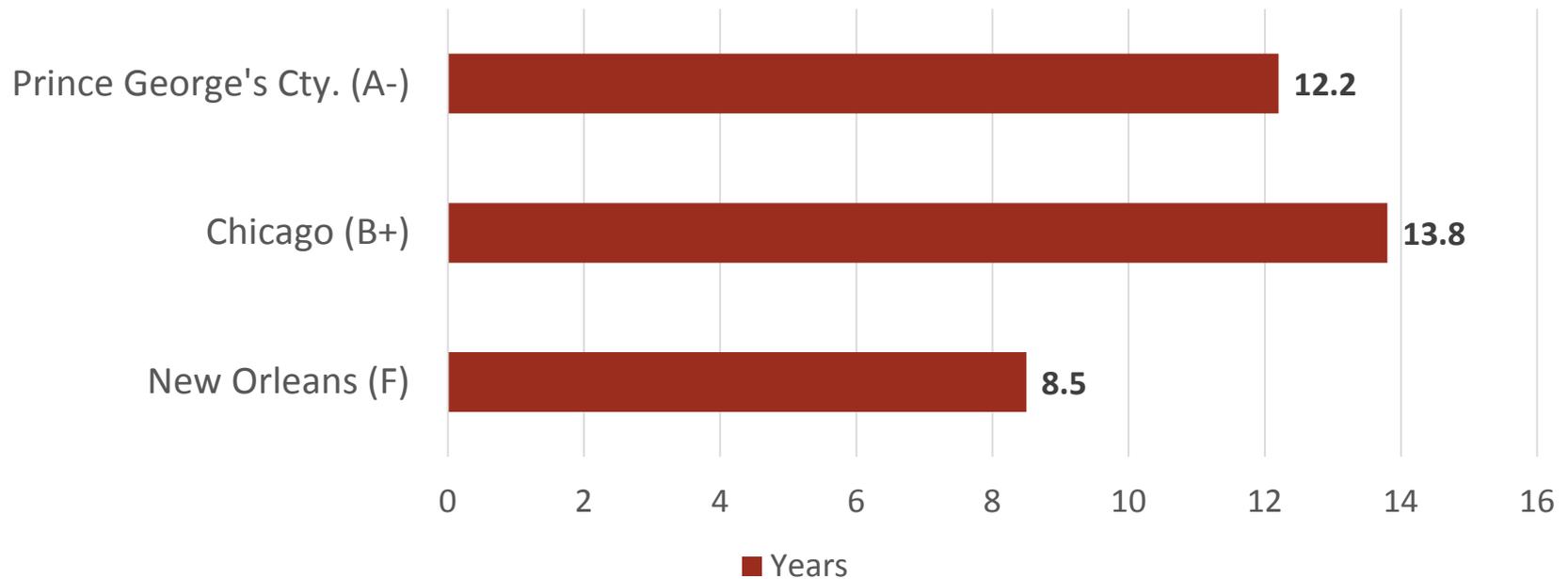
- New Orleans
 - Retail or manufacturer dealer out of business/died (26.4%)
 - Serial number missing, invalid, or obliterated (19.5%)
 - Gun sold before recordkeeping requirements (14.3%)
 - FFL paperwork unavailable (13.9%)
- Prince George's County
 - Gun sold before recordkeeping requirements (26.5%)
 - Retail or manufacturer dealer out of business/died (24.1%)
 - Serial number missing, invalid, or obliterated (15.7%)
 - Information missing from trace request (10.5%)
- Chicago
 - Traced to a business or individual with no record of having a FFL (30.5%)
 - FFL paperwork unavailable (19.8%)
 - Serial number missing, invalid, or obliterated (12.1%)
 - Gun sold before recordkeeping requirements (10.5%)

2. Gun regulations were associated with the proportion of guns purchased in-state and time to recovery, but not with the likelihood of the purchaser and possessor being the same person, or with the likelihood of the gun being bought by a straw-purchaser

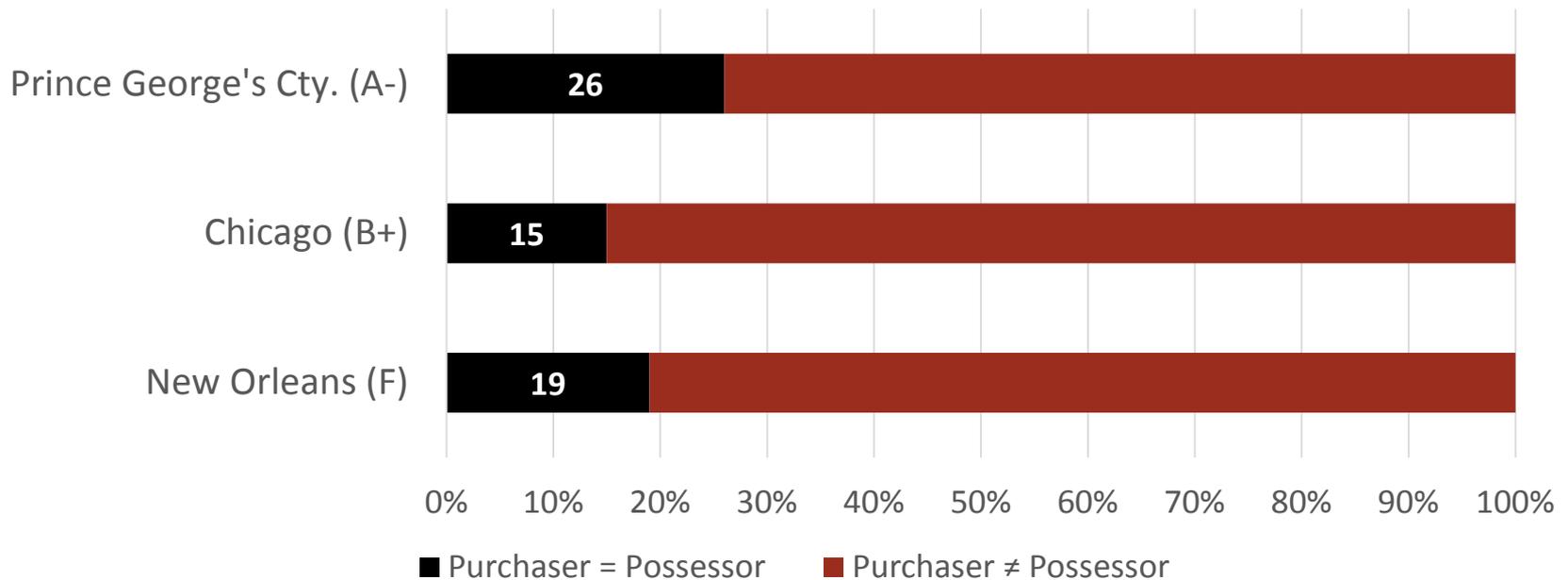
Proportion of In-State Recoveries



Mean Time to Recovery



% Purchaser = Possessor



Movement from first legal sale

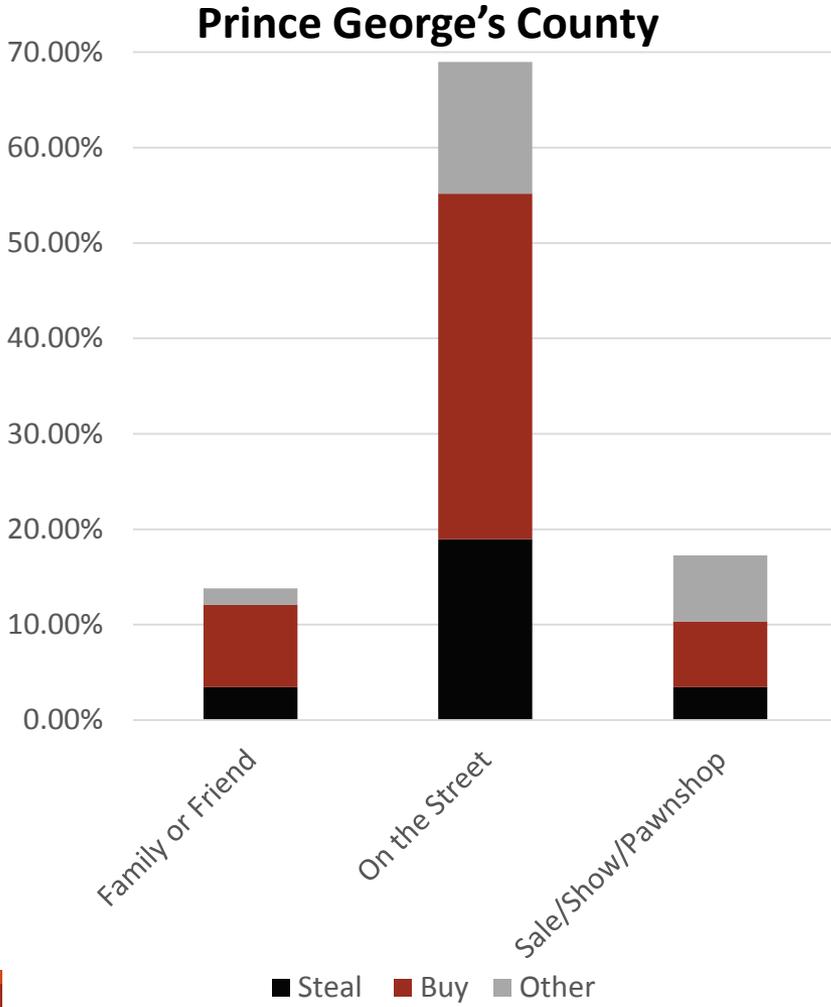
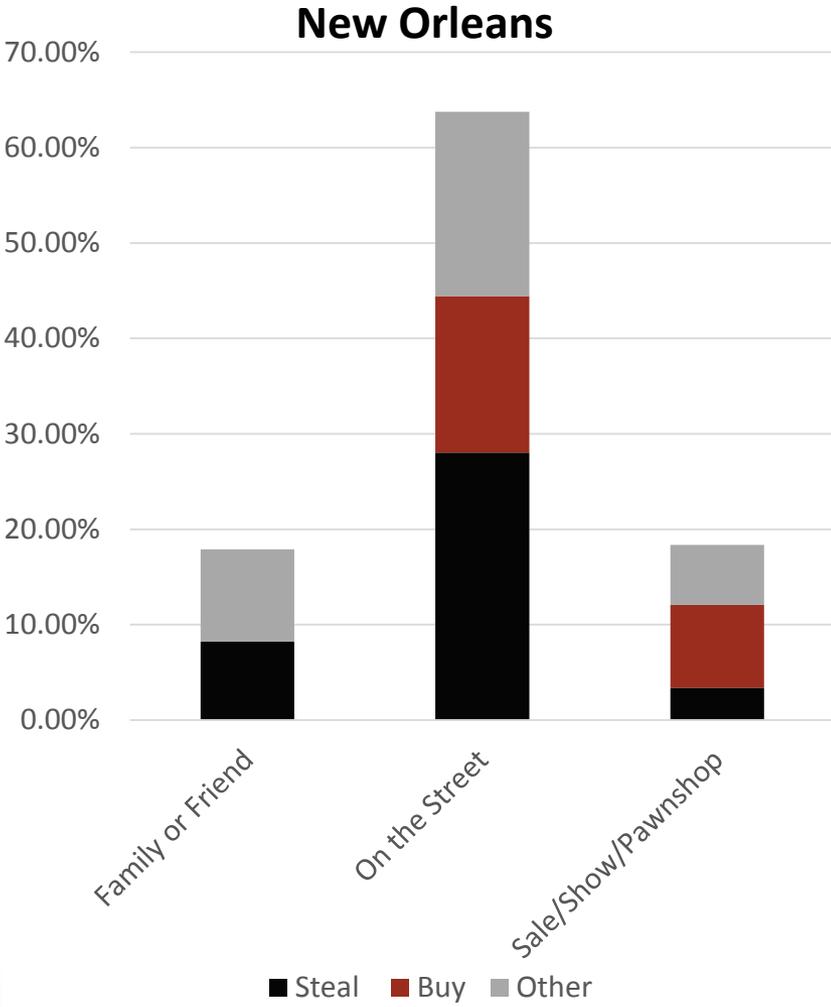
Method	Number	%
Stolen	75	41
Sold/traded to gun store	16	9
Sold/traded at gun show	4	2
Sold to person other than offender	20	11
Sold/transferred to offender	20	11
Transferred to known person	10	6
Transferred to unknown person	2	1
Other	34	19
Total	181	
1st owner same person as offender	21	
1st owner same person as victim	5	

3. Imprisoned gun offenders cited stealing or buying a gun “off the street” as the most likely way to obtain a firearm to use in a crime

Assuming someone wanted to get a weapon to commit a crime:

How would they get this weapon?

Where do you think they would get the gun?



Implications for law enforcement

- Need enforceable tools to address transfers from legal owner to unregulated markets
- Improvements in trace data
- Article in May issue of Police Chief (with Collins and Acosta)
- Use multiple sources of evidence to understand gun markets – tracing, tracking, and surveys
- Use programs of proven effectiveness that address specifics of market
- Use strategies that have reduced crime to disrupt gun markets