

Key Findings: The Chicago Inmate Survey of Gun Access and Use (CIS)

University of Chicago Crime Lab

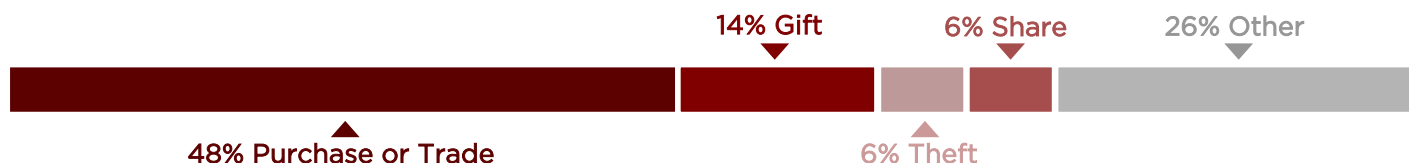
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Survey Overview

This survey included interviews with 221 gun-involved, Chicago-residents serving time in Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) prisons in 2016, and was complemented by police and court records.

To learn more about the survey, visit: <https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/labs/crime>

Method of Acquisition for Gun Possessed Within 6 Months of Arrests



Social networks were important sources of illegally acquired guns, with many guns coming from friends (30%) and acquaintances (13%).

Cooperation with Police Following Gunshot Victimization

39% Knew the identity of their shooter

12% Of those who knew the shooter's identity were willing to talk to police

Contacting Police After Victimization

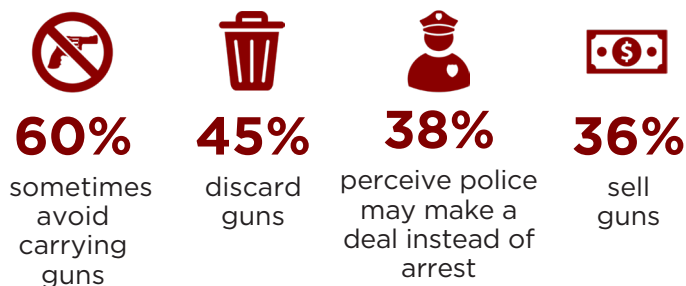
Only 19% of those who were shot reported calling the police themselves, while many more reported that someone else reported the shooting or that police were contacted when they went to the hospital. About 77% said that police interviewed them about the shooting.

Primary Reasons for Not Cooperating

- Neighborhood/gang social norms
- Fear of arrest/outstanding warrants
- Mistrust of police officers

Perception of Legal Risk & Risk Management

How Respondents Reduce Risk of Arrest



Access to Ammunition

Sources of Ammunition

The most common source for acquiring ammunition was purchasing it on the streets (49%). About 15% reported having someone straw purchase ammunition from an FFL, which was higher than the 5% who listed this as a method for obtaining a gun. Respondents perceived there was less risk of getting caught straw purchasing ammunition than a gun.

40% Reported it would take them a day or less to gain access to ammunition

30% Reported it took a day or less to acquire a gun

Time to Crime (TTC)

Most guns in possession at time of arrest had been acquired shortly before: 19% within 5 days, 50% within 9 weeks. Despite recent acquisition, most of the guns had likely been in circulation for years, since the average time from the first legal purchase of a gun to its use in a crime is about 12.4 years in Chicago.

Average time between gun acquisition and gun arrest:

2 MONTHS