

Firearm-Related Activity in Massachusetts 2014-2015



Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security

March 1, 2016

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Security

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Overview

Section 18 ¾ of Chapter 6A of the Massachusetts General Laws mandates that a report be completed by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS) detailing the prevalence of firearm-related crimes, the number of arrests, prosecutions, and points of origins of these illegal firearms. This report will provide statistics on the state of illegal firearms in the Commonwealth for the time period of 2014-2015 to determine if recent laws have had an effect on the number of illegal firearms in the Commonwealth, the number of crimes committed with a firearm, and prosecutions related to these violations. The exact statute reads:

(10) to develop a biennial report to be sent to the clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate, the House and Senate committees on ways and means and the House and Senate chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security not later than March 1 of every even-numbered year. The report shall contain, but not be limited to, the following information: (i) statistics related to firearms crimes; (ii) arrests and prosecutions of firearms-related offenses, to serve as an examination of the effectiveness of the commonwealth's firearms-related regulations; (iii) aggregate data on the source of firearms that have been confiscated and identified as being used in a crime or in an attempted or completed suicide during the report period, including aggregate information on the manufacturer, state of origin and last known point of sale, transfer, loss or theft of such firearms; (iv) an explanation of substantial changes in state and federal firearms-related laws and firearms-related statistics in the commonwealth; and (v) the effectiveness of section 128B of chapter 140.

Methodology and Data Collection

Currently, the data requested is not located within a single data set. For this report, crime statistics and arrest statistics were compiled by utilizing National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, which is voluntarily submitted to the FBI by local, state, campus, and hospital police agencies. NIBRS data includes the nature and types of specific offenses in the incident, characteristics of the victim(s) and offender(s), types and value of property stolen and recovered, and characteristics of persons arrested in connection with a crime incident; not all police agencies submit crime data using NIBRS. (See Appendix Table 1 for a listing of MA contributing NIBRS agencies.) In addition to NIBRS agencies, individual data sets were obtained from the Boston and Lawrence Police Departments. It should be noted that in NIBRS data, it is possible to report multiple offenses and weapons within one incident. For this report, data shall be reported as the total number of firearms utilized during all of the offenses, unless otherwise noted. Information about homicides with a firearm and suicides with a firearm was compiled from the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), as well as from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). In order to examine case statuses and prosecutions of firearm cases, data was received from the Massachusetts Trial Court. Information about the actual firearms recovered was received from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Going forward, EOPSS will work with municipal police departments, the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Commonwealth Fusion Center (CFC), and federal partners to maintain a dataset where this information may be more readily available. In addition, a new data collection tool is being built-out in the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) environment to better collect data on firearm incidents in the Commonwealth. This system will allow law enforcement to enter data in the field in relation to the criminal incidents and the firearms associated with crimes.

Limitations of the Data

As mentioned above, it is difficult to locate and merge data that does not reside within a structured data environment. Currently 317 agencies have the ability to submit NIBRS data (271 contributed in 2015), while 94 agencies are equipped to submit summary / UCR data.¹ For the purpose of this report, agencies that failed to submit data or are not contributing NIBRS data were excluded for the crime and arrest statistics portion of this report. (See Appendix, Tables 1 & 2 for a listing of contributing agencies.) The FBI currently assesses that there are 461 law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts, with 60 of them reporting data through another agency. For example, the Registry of Motor Vehicles is counted as a police agency; however, if the State Troopers assigned to the RMV report crimes, they would do so through the State Police. For this report, NIBRS statistics were available for roughly 60% of MA agencies. It should also be noted that the final 2015 NIBRS submission deadline is not until March 28th, so the dataset will not be complete at the time of the running of this report. (Appendix Table 1 displays agencies that contributed to 2015 and also notes which agencies have not completed the full year's submission as of 2/5/16.) In addition, NIBRS data is subject to data collection errors. The data does go through a process to determine if errors exist; however these error checks are typically running queries to determine if the breadth of the data meets FBI standards rather than determining if the data is entirely accurate. For the prosecution portion, firearm charges were examined for the years 2014-2015. It should be noted that this will not reflect all arrests from this time-frame, but only those resulting in prosecutions completed during these years, as many of the 2014-2015 arrests will not yet have been adjudicated. ATF data was only available for 2014, so only one year of usable data was examined. Subsequent biennial reports will benefit from enhanced data collection tools as a data warehouse will be created in order to compare statistics from before and after the effective date of the signing of House Bill 4376, "An Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence."

¹ UCR is the Uniform Crime Report which is a data set on crime in the United States. UCR data is voluntarily collected by agencies and sent to the FBI who publishes multiple reports based upon the data. UCR was created in 1930 as a national standard of reporting crime data on major violent and property crimes. The FBI has stated that NIBRS data collection will replace UCR collection in the future.

Statistics on Firearm-Related Crimes

For the time period 2014-2015, there were 11,580 firearms used in criminal incidents. In 2014, 6,322 firearms were used in criminal incidents, while in 2015, 5,258 firearms were used in criminal incidents. In NIBRS reporting, the FBI allows for firearm reporting on 15 crime types, while Boston does not limit the types of crimes weapon information can be collected. Accordingly, the data required extensive cleaning and attempting to define incidents to match NIBRS coding when possible. An example would be that Boston had multiple cases of vandalism with a firearm, which were recoded as weapons offenses, where NIBRS agencies may not have included this incident. It should be noted that the statistics represent criminal incidents and do not necessarily reflect an arrest. For example, an incident in which an individual fires shots into the air and no arrest is made would be counted in NIBRS data as a weapons offense, even though no offender information is known.

Figure 1: Firearm-Related Crimes 2014-2015			
Crime Type using NIBRS Categories	2014	2015	Total
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	100	73	173
Kidnapping/Abduction	46	36	82
Rape	16	12	28
Sexual Assault With An Object	0	1	1
Forcible Fondling	1	1	2
Other Sex Offenses	6	1	7
Robbery	1900	1396	3296
Aggravated Assault	1862	1617	3479
Extortion/Blackmail	26	7	33
Weapon Law Violations	2365	2114	4479
Grand Total	6,322	5,258	11,580
Data sources are MA NIBRS statistics, Boston PD data & Lawrence PD data. Data was compiled on 2/5/16 and is a count of total firearms used during criminal incidents.			

As can be seen in Figure 1, Weapon Law Violations were the most frequent incident type. These incidents are typically for violating laws related to the manufacturing, selling, purchasing, transporting, possessing, concealing, or using of firearms. Common incidents within this category are arrests for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and incidents of shots fired. The second most frequent incident type was Aggravated Assaults with a firearm, with 3,479 firearms recorded; these incidents encompass shootings, threats with a firearm, pistol whippings, and incidents of attempted shootings where an identified victim was not struck. The remaining incident type with a significant number of firearms used was Robberies, with 3,296 firearms recorded. Robberies encompass street, commercial, home invasion

and carjacking robberies. While capturing homicide data utilizing NIBRS data is possible, it was assessed utilizing OCME and Department of Public Health data in greater depth and is detailed later in this report.

Sorting the firearm data by reporting agency reveals that the larger cities have more firearms used in crimes, even when considering it on a per capita basis. Boston is at the top of the list with 3,716 firearms, followed by Springfield (1,416), Lawrence (713), Worcester (641), Brockton (588), Lynn (333), Fall River (300), Lowell (272), Holyoke (267) and Fitchburg (240). (See Appendix Table 3 for a complete Town / City list.) When calculating rates of firearm incidents for 2014 per 100,000 residents, the numbers are fairly similar although Lawrence moves to the first position with a rate of 529.43/100,000; Springfield (472.75), Holyoke (358.89), Fitchburg (333.79) and Boston (321.55) round out the top five. Freetown and Palmer moved into the top 15 on a per capita basis, despite being smaller towns. Rates were calculated using 2014 data, as not all agencies have a complete 2015 dataset.

Figure 2: Agencies with over 100 Firearms used in Crimes 2014-2015

Agency	2014	2015	Total	Population	2014 Rate per 100,000
Boston	2109	1607	3716	655,884	321.55
Springfield	728	688	1416	153,991	472.75
Lawrence	414	299	713	78,197	529.43
Worcester	328	313	641	183,016	179.22
Brockton	273	315	588	94,779	288.04
Lynn	155	178	333	92,137	168.23
Fall River	141	159	300	88,712	158.94
Lowell	167	105	272	109,945	151.89
Holyoke	144	123	267	40,124	358.89
Fitchburg	135	105	240	40,445	333.79
Chelsea	71	96	167	38,861	182.70
New Bedford*	142	24	166	94,845	149.72
Pittsfield	70	68	138	43,697	160.19
Chicopee	54	61	115	55,795	96.78
Haverhill	56	56	112	62,488	89.62

Population figures were obtained from the US Census Bureau using 2014 population estimates.

* Indicates missing data.

Figure 3: Agencies with a 2014 rate of over 90 Firearms used in Criminal Incidents

Agency	2014	2015	Total	Population	2014 Rate per 100,000
Lawrence	414	299	713	78,197	529.43
Springfield	728	688	1416	153,991	472.75
Holyoke	144	123	267	40,124	358.89
Fitchburg	135	105	240	40,445	333.79
Boston	2109	1607	3716	655,884	321.55
Brockton	273	315	588	94,779	288.04
Chelsea	71	96	167	38,861	182.70
Worcester	328	313	641	183,016	179.22
Lynn	155	178	333	92,137	168.23
Pittsfield	70	68	138	43,697	160.19
Fall River	141	159	300	88,712	158.94
Lowell	167	105	272	109,945	151.89
New Bedford*	142	24	166	94,845	149.72
Freetown	10	5	15	8,870	112.74
Palmer*	12	3	15	12,183	98.50
Chicopee	54	61	115	55,795	96.78

Population figures were obtained from the US Census Bureau using 2014 population estimates.

* Indicates missing data. Data was calculated for agencies with over 15 total firearms used.

Historical NIBRS Data

In order to determine if the 2014-2015 data is comparable to other years, NIBRS incident data was examined going back to 2010. This dataset does not contain the Boston and Lawrence data, so while the numbers may be lower, they will be consistent across years and in this case represent the number of incidents with firearms, not the number of firearms. The numbers remain very consistent across the time period of 2010-2014, and then drop off in 2015. Agencies continue to submit final 2015 NIBRS data throughout February and March, so at this time it may be too early to determine if this decrease will remain. (See Appendix Table 1 to see reporting status of agencies.)

Figure 4: NIBRS Firearm Incidents by Year 2010-2015	
Year	Number of Firearm Incidents
2010	3,529
2011	3,236
2012	3,320
2013	3,547
2014	3,348
2015	3,016*
Total	19,996
Average	3,333

Data Source: NIBRS data counts are of incidents with a firearm not counts of firearms used in incidents. *Data as of 2/25/16

Homicides and Suicides with a Firearm

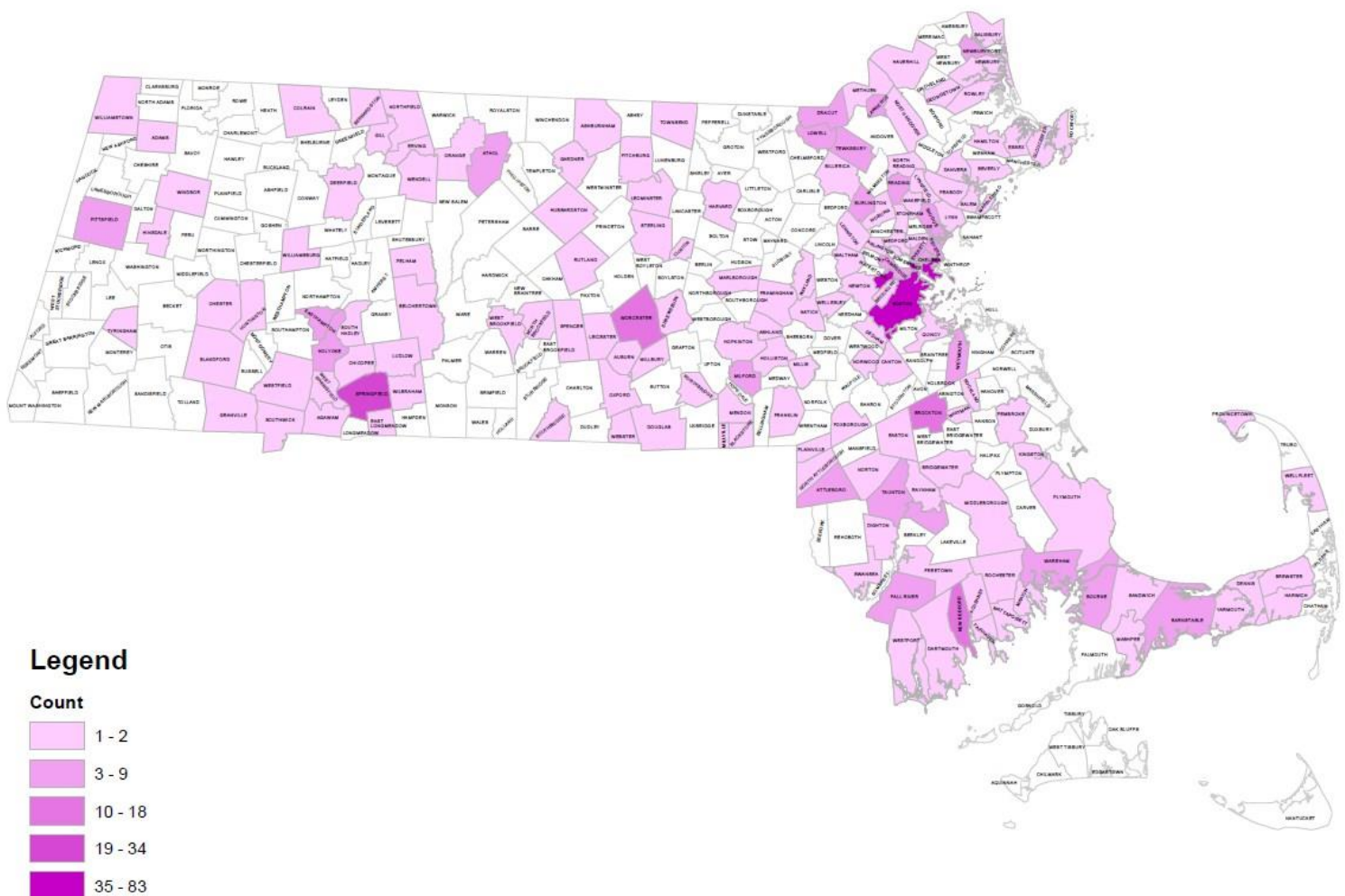
Homicides and suicides with a firearm were examined to determine the prevalence of firearm-related deaths in the Commonwealth. Looking at the last five years, the average number of homicides with a firearm is 101 per year, while the average number of suicides is 124.6. Over 200 lives are taken with a firearm every year in the Commonwealth, with the average age of a homicide victim being 29 years old, and the average age of a person committing suicide with a firearm is 51.79 years old. Firearm-related deaths are far more common among males. Over the last five years, 92.42% of suicides with a firearm have been committed by men while 87.45% of victims fatally shot by others have been men; for a total of 972 males killed with a firearm. The arrestees charged with Homicide with a Firearm are also predominantly male. Using NIBRS data from 2011 through 2015, 97% of homicides with a firearm cleared with an arrest involved the arrest of a male.

Figure 5: Firearm-Related Deaths 2011-2015							
Death Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	5 year Avg
Homicide	134	86	96	93	96	505	101
Suicide	117	151	116	134	114	632	126.4
Total	251	237	212	227	210	1137	227.4

Data Source: OCME Data

When looking at where these incidents were taking place during 2014-2015, only five cities had more than 10 firearm-related deaths: Boston (85), Springfield (31), Worcester (15), Brockton (14) and New Bedford (12). (See Appendix Table 4 for a complete list.) Further examination using data from the Boston Police Department reveals that if the Boston homicide data were broken down by police precincts, (which do not exactly mirror the neighborhoods but are close representations), B2, consisting of most of Roxbury, would have a higher homicide total than any other city besides Springfield. Police district B3, comprised of Mattapan and North Dorchester, would have the same total as Brockton with 13 homicides with a firearm. (For a full list of Boston district homicides see the end of Appendix Table 4B.)

Figure 6: 2014-2015 Total Homicides and Suicides with Firearm



Data Source: OCME data. Data reflects where the injury took place, not place of death. In instances where a place of injury could not be determined, place of death was used, which is often a hospital. OCME data may not exactly match police records. For example Boston police may not count a homicide that occurred in Boston on property patrolled by State Police or MBTA Police.

Boston Shootings Data

Boston had the most firearms used in crimes, the most deaths, and readily publishes data on shootings, so this data was chosen to be examined in further detail. For the past five years, on average, 243 individuals have been shot in Boston per year. These numbers have remained fairly consistent over the 5 year span with the exception of significantly lower 2014 non-fatal numbers. If suicide numbers were also added, the average would approach 250 victims of gunshot wounds in the City of Boston per year.

Figure 7: Boston Shootings 2011-2015							
Shooting Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	5 year Average
Homicide	50	40	33	37	33	193	38.6
Non-Fatal Shooting	210	207	217	177	211	1,022	204.4
Total	260	247	250	214	244	1,215	243

Data Source: Boston Police Department: Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC)

Firearm-Related Arrest Statistics

NIBRS agencies and Boston provided clearance information along with their firearm data. An incident can be “cleared” in several ways. The most common way for a case to be cleared is with an arrest: the charging either an adult or juvenile. Another way a case can be cleared is by “exceptional clearance.” When a case is cleared exceptionally, an arrest does not take place despite probable cause existing to make such an arrest. Reasons for an exceptional clearance include: death of an offender, the decision of the prosecutor not to go forward, the offender is in custody in another jurisdiction, the victim refuses to cooperate, or a juvenile is handled without being brought into custody. In 34.43% of the offenses submitted, an arrest was made or the offense was cleared exceptionally. Again, these numbers may continue to rise as departments submit updates and final numbers.

Figure 8: Clearance Statistics 2014-2015				
Clearance Type	2014	2015	Total	Percent Cleared
Cleared By Arrest	2,029	1,606	3,635	33.38%
Exceptionally Cleared	18	8	26	0.24%
Juvenile-Cleared By Arrest	55	33	88	0.81%
Total Cleared	2,102	1,647	3,749	34.43%
Not Cleared	3,808	3,332	7,140	65.57%
Grand Total	5,910	4,979	10,889	100.00%

Data Source: NIBRS data plus Boston Police data; does not include Lawrence data.

Prosecutions for Firearm Charges

For the time period of 2014-2015, 16,685 criminal charges related to firearms were brought forward in the Commonwealth; 8,303 in 2014, and 8,382 in 2015.

Figure 9: Firearm Charges by Court Type 2014-2015			
Court Type	2014	2015	Total
District / Juvenile Court	5,875	6,108	11,983
County / Superior Court	2,428	2,274	4,702
Total	8,303	8,382	16,685
Data Source: MA Trial Court			

The most common charges for this time period were:

- Possess Firearm without FID Card, G.L. c. 269, §10(h): 3,328 charges
- Carry Firearm without License, G.L. c. 269, §10(a): 2,848 charges
- Carry Loaded Firearm without License, G.L. c. 269, §10(n): 1,910 charges
- Improper Storage of Firearm, G.L. c. 140, §131L(a)&(b): 1,386 charges
- Possess Large Capacity Firearm, G.L. c. 269, §10(m): 1,369 charges
- Possess Firearm in Felony, G.L. c. 265, §18B: 859 charges
- Discharge Firearm within 500 Feet of Building, G.L. c. 269, §12E: 516 charges

Origins of Firearms

When a firearm is recovered in Massachusetts, agencies have the option of running a trace via the ATF. A trace can determine the place of production, as well as legal points of sale for the firearm. The ATF traced 1,538 guns recovered in MA in 2014 and established a source state in 979 cases. In 402 cases, the ATF determined the source state was MA. Other originating states that had a substantial number of traces were:

- New Hampshire (121)
- Maine (85)
- Georgia (49)
- Florida (46)
- Virginia (31)
- Vermont (25)

(See Appendix 5 for a complete list.) It is often believed that the bulk of crime guns coming into the Northeast are brought up from the southern states. While Georgia and Florida did contribute significant traces, 274 of the traces were determined to have come from a neighboring state; Including MA, 69% of traced firearms came from within New England or New York. Of the 1,538 firearms traced, 1,243 (80.1%) were determined to be handguns (pistol, revolver or derringer), while 286 were long guns (rifles or shotguns). Based upon these recoveries, the leading calibers also corresponded to handguns:

- 9mm (271)
- .22 cal (243)
- .38 cal (153)
- .380 cal (144)
- .40 cal (127)
- .45 cal (120)

Firearm Licenses

Firearm licenses were examined several ways and all displayed similar trends across the years. When reviewing new applications for the years 2010-2015, 2013 had significantly higher applications than every other year with 41,427 applications; the next-highest year was 2014 with 31,251 applications. Looking at new license applications, the numbers have decreased over the past three years from 41,427 in 2013, to 31,251 in 2014 to 26,961 in 2015. It should be noted that nationwide, 2013 had the highest number of National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) checks in the history of the program according to the FBI, which would be indicative of higher gun sales nationwide. It has been speculated that this increase was due to President Obama announcing his agenda would focus on tougher gun control, as well as a reaction to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut in December, 2012.² Active firearm license numbers continue to grow at a consistent pace.

Figure 10: New Firearm License Applications 2010-2015

License Type	Application Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Firearms Identification Card	New	2,018	2,031	2,534	2,908	2,727	2,167	14,385
Resident Class A Large Capacity License to Carry Firearms	New	16,710	18,210	26,037	38,071	28,259	24,718	152,005
Resident Class B Non-Large Capacity License to Carry Firearms	New	232	192	224	291	171	3	1,113
Resident License to Possess a Machine Gun	New	78	116	127	157	94	73	645
Total		19,038	20,549	28,922	41,427	31,251	26,961	168,148

Data Source: MA Firearms Record Bureau

Figure 11: Active Firearm Licenses by Year 2010-2016

Active On:	Class A LTC	Class B LTC	FID card	Total
1/4/2010	226,327	4,914	37,390	268,631
1/4/2011	238,470	4,825	37,239	280,534
1/3/2012	248,415	4,511	35,743	288,669
1/2/2013	262,116	4,142	35,118	301,376
1/2/2014	291,396	3,507	33,838	328,741
1/2/2015	317,927	3,194	34,155	355,276
1/5/2016	342,622	3,879	34,243	380,744

Data Source: MA Firearms Record Bureau

² Miller, E. (2014, January 6) Obama backfires, gun sales in 2013 smash all records. *Washington Post*. Retrieved from: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jan/6/gun-sales-2013-break-all-records-due-obamas-gun-co/?page=all>

Firearm Sales

According to the Firearms Records Bureau data, firearm sales increased each year from 2006 to 2013, from 41,160 sales in 2006 to 110,350 sales in 2013. After 2013, the number of sales decreased to 102,081 in 2014 while 2015 produced 108,290 sales. Since the Massachusetts Gun Transaction Portal went live on March 15, 2015, 18,264 personal transfers have been recorded.

Figure 12: Firearm Sales by State Licensed Dealers 2011-2015						
Total Sales	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Sales by State Licensed Dealers	73,049	98,725	110,350	102,081	108,290	492,495
Data Source: Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, Firearms Records Bureau. The data above includes only sales and transfers of handguns, rifles, shotguns, or machine guns by licensed Massachusetts firearms dealers to individuals who have a valid Massachusetts firearms license and reported to the Firearms Records Bureau via the Massachusetts Instant Record Check System (MIRCS) or paper firearms transfer (FA10) forms.						

Changes in State and Federal Statutes

The passage of Chapter 284 of the Acts of 2014 (“An Act relative to the reduction of gun violence”) made a number of important changes to the laws surrounding firearms regulation in the Commonwealth, including 1) authorizing the provision of state records to federal authorities for use in the national instant background check system; 2) reforming the state licensing process for legal firearms ownership; and 3) strengthening the ability of state law enforcement to combat the illegal trafficking of firearms. The law also enhanced penalties for a number of firearms-related offenses.

Compliance with the National Instant Background Check System

The National Instant Background Check System (NICS) was authorized with the passage of the federal Brady Bill in 1993 and went live nationally in 1998. The system employs a massive database maintained by the FBI, which aggregates millions of records from states, U.S. territories, and the federal government, in order to vet would-be purchasers of firearms at the point-of-sale. Before finalizing a sale, a federally licensed gun retailer must contact the FBI’s NICS division, either by telephone or by computer, to determine if there are any statutory disqualifiers on file (such as the existence of a felony criminal conviction, a pending indictment or arrest warrant, a civil commitment for mental illness or substance abuse, or a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces) that would prohibit the sale. According to the FBI, the system has successfully prevented more than 700,000 gun sales to prohibited parties nationwide since its inception.³

However, the NICS system is only as accurate as the data that is fed into it, and for 15 years, Massachusetts declined to provide mental health records to the NICS system based on a reading of state privacy law. Between 1999 and 2013, the Commonwealth provided just a single mental health record to

³ See “National Instant Criminal Background Check System,” at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics>

the NICS system (as part of a test), at a time when other large states were providing hundreds of thousands of records. This situation compromised the integrity of the NICS system nationally.

The passage of the 2014 legislation required Massachusetts agencies to take a number of important steps toward achieving NICS compliance. Since passage of the Act, the state Firearms Records Bureau (FRB) has received from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and uploaded into the NICS database records of more than 10,000 historical mental health commitments, as well as records of approximately 4,000 mental health and 1,500 substance abuse commitments made by state courts. Since this process was completed, there have been multiple confirmed rejections on the basis of these newly-included Massachusetts records, including individuals seeking to purchase firearms in New Hampshire and Florida.

The Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) and the Trial Court have also worked together to implement provisions of the law that would notify federal background checking authorities when courts issue restraining orders that require the surrender of firearms, or when courts appoint a guardian or conservator for an incapacitated person that has been found to lack mental capacity to contract or manage his own affairs. The Commonwealth is also working to implement a provision of the 2014 law that would identify domestic violence offenses that serve as federal disqualifiers for firearms possession. Going forward, state courts will be required to make an independent finding at the time of conviction as to whether the victim in a given case was a “family or household member,” which will allow DCJIS, and ultimately NICS, to maintain a record of whether an offense was “domestic” in nature.

Reforming the State Firearms Licensing Process

Prior to the enactment of the 2014 reforms, Massachusetts licensing authorities (generally the local police chief or his designee) were authorized to issue three types of firearms licenses to residents: a Class A License to Carry (LTC), a Class B License to Carry, and a Firearms Identification Card (FID). These different licenses authorized varying activities:

Figure 13: MA Firearm License Types and Allowances			
Allowances	Class A LTC	Class B LTC	FID Card
Purchase Handgun	Yes	Yes	No
Purchase Long Gun	Yes	Yes	Yes
Purchase High Capacity Weapon (magazine capable of holding more than 10 rounds)	Yes	No	No
Carry Concealed	Yes	No	No
Transportation	No restriction	Unloaded and locked in trunk	Unloaded and locked in trunk

Under both federal and state law, applicants for all three types of licenses were subject to disqualification (because of a prior felony conviction, for instance). But, in recognition of the much broader privileges the LTC granted, a licensing authority was also granted broad discretion to examine the history and character of the applicant and to refuse to grant either a Class A or Class B LTC if the applicant appeared “unsuitable.” A police chief might elect to deny an LTC applicant for “unsuitability” based on credible evidence of prior acts of violence, for instance, even if the alleged acts were never successfully prosecuted.

However, until 2014, the Firearms Identification Card was subject to a “shall issue” standard. This meant that, in the absence of a specific statutory disqualifier, a licensing authority was *required* to issue an FID card to an applicant, and could be compelled by a court to do so. This could have perverse results: for example, under the pre-2014 system, even a person with a lengthy history of arrests, reckless handling of weapons, or serious mental health issues might have been entitled to an FID card, which would allow him to purchase rifles, shotguns, and unlimited quantities of ammunition.

The passage of the Act in 2014 made three major changes to state licensing practice: broadening the scope of state disqualifiers, including imposing lifetime disqualification for felony convictions; initiating the gradual phasing out of the Class B LTC; and bringing the suitability analysis into the process for obtaining an FID card. The Act endowed licensing authorities for the first time with the ability to petition a court to deny issuance or renewal of an FID card to applicants who are deemed “unsuitable.” The revision to G.L. c. 140 also defined standards to be used in determining “suitability,” including the presence of “existing factors that suggest that the applicant could potentially create a risk to public safety.” As a check on the broad discretion generally granted to licensing authorities, the new law also created a right of judicial review for an applicant or license holder aggrieved either by a restriction imposed on his license, or a denial or revocation based on a suitability determination.

Several provisions of the Act were responsive to complaints from lawful gun owners that the existing licensing system was unfairly burdensome. Many had complained that police departments were so backlogged that they would fail to process renewal applications before the licenses would expire, leaving a lawful gun owner in the untenable position of suddenly becoming an unlawful possessor. The new law addresses this by requiring a licensing authority to provide applicants for FID cards and LTCs with a receipt confirming that the date renewal application has been received, while creating a grace period that allows a license to remain valid beyond its listed expiration date, so long as a renewal application has been timely filed and not yet acted upon by the licensing authority.

Other provisions of the Act eased licensing requirements for police and military personnel, including extending a grace period for active-duty members of the Armed Forces whose licenses expired while they are on active duty; reducing the application fee to be applied to active and retired law enforcement officers; and exempting active military personnel, including members of the National Guard, from having to complete a civilian firearms safety course as a prerequisite for licensing.

Combating the Illegal Trafficking of Firearms

While regulating the legal sale of firearms is an important step to protect public safety, the reality remains that most of the guns that are involved in violent crime are illegally obtained. To attack this problem, the Act pursued a number of strategies: 1) enhancing secure storage requirements, to prevent lawfully-owned guns from being stolen by burglars or unauthorized household members; 2) augmenting existing requirements to promptly report guns that are lost or stolen; 3) expanding criminal background checking for gun shop employees; and 4) strengthening criminal laws aimed at black market gun traffickers.

Since 1998, the Commonwealth has had a strong criminal statute requiring that gun owners store their weapons in a locked container or with a tamper-resistant lock, with enhanced penalties if the weapon is improperly stored in a place where a minor is likely to have access.⁴ In addition to protecting children in the home, safe storage requirements can also prevent weapons from being stolen and funneled into the black market. According to ATF, almost 184,000 guns nationwide were reported as stolen in 2012.⁵ The 2014 Act enhanced the maximum penalties for individuals who violate the safe storage requirement.

Because gun shop employees have access to so many weapons, and are often in a position to falsify records or facilitate straw purchases, it is critical that such employees be trustworthy and law-abiding. The Act requires gun dealers to obtain all available CORI information from DCJIS to determine if a prospective employee is suitable for employment, and to request CORI checks on all existing employees to determine if they are suitable as well. Other provisions of the Act enhance penalties for gun dealers or private gun owners who fail to report the loss or theft of a weapon to their licensing authority, and require a holder of a gun license to sign an affidavit at the time of an application for renewal that none of his or her weapons have been lost or stolen.

While Massachusetts has had a Firearms Trafficking statute since 1994, the 2014 Act substantially strengthened the statute, imposing felony penalties for the illegal sale of a firearm, with heightened penalties for the illegal sale of three weapons and ten weapons within a one year period. Another section

⁴ See G.L. c. 140, § 131L

⁵ ATF, “2012 Summary: Firearms Reported Lost or Stolen,” Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. June 17, 2013. <https://www.atf.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Firearms/2012-firearms-reported-lost-and-stolen.pdf>

of the 2014 law creates a new statute, G.L. C.269, § 10I, that specifically targets individuals transporting weapons into the Commonwealth for illicit purposes. The first prong penalizes anyone who transports a weapon into the Commonwealth “for the commission of criminal activity”; the second prong penalizes anyone who transports a weapon with intent to transfer it to a prohibited person; and the third prong penalizes anyone who transports a weapon to transfer it to a “prohibited person,” when that weapon is subsequently used to cause the death of another.

Several other provisions of the Act either create new criminal offenses involving firearms or enhance the penalty structure of existing firearms offenses, including new crimes of “assault and battery by discharging a firearm,” and “attempt to commit an assault and battery by discharging a firearm,” and enhanced penalties for use of a firearm during a carjacking, or breaking and entering. Finally, the Act creates an enhanced felony penalty if, during the course of an assault on a police officer the assailant attempts to disarm that officer.⁶ This change reflects the seriousness of disarming a police officer; in an FBI study of 505 police officers killed in the line of duty 2005-2014, 27 were killed with their own weapon.⁷

Effectiveness of section 128B of Chapter 140

Section 128 B of chapter 140 reads:

Any resident of the commonwealth who purchases or obtains a firearm, rifle or shotgun or machine gun from any source within or without the commonwealth, other than from a licensee under section one hundred and twenty-two or a person authorized to sell firearms under section one hundred and twenty-eight A, and any nonresident of the commonwealth who purchases or obtains a firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun from any source within or without the commonwealth, other than such a licensee or person, and receives such firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun, within the commonwealth shall within seven days after receiving such firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun, report, in writing, to the commissioner of the department of criminal justice information services the name and address of the seller or donor and the buyer or donee, together with a complete description of the firearm, rifle, shotgun or machine gun, including the caliber, make and serial number. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall for the first offense be punished by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 and for any subsequent offense by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than ten years.

It is difficult to determine if this specific provision is having a significant positive effect on firearm-related crime. The creation of the online gun portal and the Massachusetts Instant Record Check System (MIRCS) as well as checking with the FBI’s NICS program has closed loopholes and made it more difficult to purchase firearms with a criminal or mental health history. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Massachusetts continues to have the lowest per capita gun death rate in the

⁶ See G.L. c. 265, § 13D. Rather than the maximum 2 ½ year misdemeanor sentence, an attacker who seeks to disarm a police officer would face up to ten years in prison.

⁷ See “Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2014,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, table 15, at https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2014/tables/table_15_leos_fk_victim_officers_weapon_stolen_by_offender_2005-2014.xls

country, and is consistently in the bottom 5 states in per capita gun ownership. Looking at the data within this report for measures where the data is most accurate, state-wide fatal shootings and Boston shootings numbers, the statistics are very consistent across the analyzed time-frame. The new laws aim to better track firearms in the Commonwealth; however what cannot be accounted for is the prevalence of illegal firearms other than those tracked by arrest. In this case, the prosecution numbers provided by the Trial Courts were consistent between 2014 and 2015, and were only separated by 80 charges.

One benefit of the passing of these new laws will be the creation of a centralized data warehouse. This warehouse will be built with input from EOPSS, MSP, CFC, municipal police departments, the Trial Court and the ATF. This warehouse will allow end-users to query firearms in the CJIS environment to determine the owner of the firearm, or if it has been reported stolen. It will also allow the user to update information on the recovery of a firearm to include if it was used during a crime. By working closer with the ATF and their E-Trace program, users will be able to determine where the point of origin was for the firearm and also determine the ‘time to crime’ for the firearm.

This report will serve as a benchmark, where future reports will be compared against this data. An enhanced data collection tool will make it far easier to analyze data and determine effectiveness of new programs moving forward.

Data Sources:

NIBRS Data: National Incident Based Reporting System, MA Executive Office of Public Safety. Massachusetts is currently equipped to collect NIBRS data from 317 agencies. NIBRS captures the nature and types of specific offenses in the incident, characteristics of the victim(s) and offender(s), types and value of property stolen and recovered, and characteristics of persons arrested in connection with a crime incident. MA agencies submit their data through an online portal managed by Beyond2020. The data is stored in a repository also managed by Beyond2020. The data was queried by EOPSS on February 5, 2016.

Homicides & Suicides with a Firearm Data: OCME Database, MA Office of Chief Medical Examiner. Data was queried from the MA OCME database via the Adapt Analytics Platform.

Prosecution Data: MassCourts Case Management System, MA Trial Court. Charges were selected from the MGL where firearms were mentioned.

Firearm Origin Data: Firearms Tracing System, Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information. Available from: <https://www.atf.gov/about/docs/report/massachusetts-firearms-trace-data-%E2%80%932014/download>

Census Data: State & County Quick Facts, US Census Bureau. Available from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/>

Firearm Licensing Data: Massachusetts Gun Transaction Portal, MA Department of Criminal Justice Information Services, Firearms Records Bureau. Data was queried from databases to determine the number of firearm sales, as well as the number of active firearm licenses.

APPENDICES

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
Abington	Yes
Acton	Yes
Acushnet	*Yes
Adams	Yes
Agawam	***Yes
Amesbury	****Yes
Amherst	Yes
Andover	No
Aquinnah	No
Arlington	Yes
Ashburnham	Yes
Ashby	No
Ashland	*Yes
Assumption College	*Yes
Athol	***Yes
Attleboro	***Yes
Auburn	Yes
Ayer	No
Barnstable	Yes
Barre	Yes
Bedford	Yes
Belchertown	No
Bellingham	*Yes
Belmont	Yes
Berkley	Yes
Berlin	*Yes
Bernardston	*Yes
Beth Israel Deaconess	No
Beverly	*****Yes
Billerica	Yes
Blackstone	Yes
Bolton	Yes
Boston University	*Yes
Bourne	Yes
Boxboro	Yes
Boxford	Yes
Boylston	Yes
Braintree	*****Yes
Brewster	Yes
Bridgewater	No
Bridgewater State University	Yes
Brimfield	Yes
Brockton	Yes
Brookline	Yes
Burlington	No
Cambridge	Yes
Canton	Yes
Carlisle	****Yes
Carver	Yes
Charlemont	No
Charlton	No
Chatham	Yes
Chelmsford	Yes
Chelsea	Yes
Chesterfield	No
Chicopee	Yes
Chilmark	No
Clinton	No
Cohasset	Yes
Concord	Yes

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
Dalton	Yes
Danvers	****Yes
Dartmouth	*Yes
Dean College	Yes
Dedham	Yes
Deerfield	***Yes
Dennis	Yes
Douglas	Yes
Dover	Yes
Dracut	****Yes
Dudley	Yes
Dunstable	Yes
Duxbury	Yes
East Bridgewater	Yes
East Brookfield	***Yes
East Longmeadow	****Yes
Eastham	Yes
Easthampton	Yes
Easton	Yes
Edgartown	No
Erving	Yes
Everett	Yes
Fairhaven	Yes
Fall River	Yes
Falmouth	****Yes
Fitchburg	Yes
Foxborough	No
Framingham	**Yes
Franklin	Yes
Freetown	Yes
FWE Division	****Yes
Gardner	Yes
Georgetown	Yes
Gill	No
Gloucester	Yes
Goshen	Yes
Grafton	****Yes
Granby	Yes
Great Barrington	****Yes
Greenfield	Yes
Groton	Yes
Groveland	*****Yes
Hadley	*Yes
Halifax	Yes
Hamilton	Yes
Hampden	No
Hampshire College	Yes
Hanover	Yes
Hanson	*Yes
Hardwick	Yes
Harvard	Yes
Harwich	*Yes
Hatfield	No
Haverhill	Yes
Hingham	Yes
Holden	***Yes
Holliston	Yes
Holyoke	Yes
Hopedale	Yes
Hopkinton	No

* Refers to the number of months currently missing from 2015 data submission. 6or more are denoted by *****

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
Hubbardston	No
Hudson	No
Hull	***Yes
Ipswich	Yes
Kingston	Yes
Lakeville	Yes
Lancaster	*****Yes
Lanesborough	No
Lee	Yes
Leicester	*Yes
Lenox	Yes
Leominster	Yes
Leverett	Yes
Lexington	**Yes
Lincoln	Yes
Littleton	Yes
Longmeadow	Yes
Lowell	Yes
Ludlow	Yes
Lunenburg	Yes
Lynn	Yes
Lynnfield	Yes
MA College of Liberal Arts	Yes
Malden	Yes
Manchester-by-the-sea	Yes
Mansfield	Yes
Marblehead	Yes
Marion	Yes
Marlborough	Yes
Marshfield	Yes
Mashpee	Yes
Massasoit Community College	Yes
Mattapoisett	Yes
Maynard	Yes
Medfield	No
Medford	Yes
Medway	**Yes
Melrose	Yes
Mendon	Yes
Merrimac	Yes
Methuen	Yes
Middleboro	*Yes
Middleton	Yes
Milford	*Yes
Millbury	Yes
Millis	No
Millville	**Yes
Milton	Yes
MIT	*****Yes
Monson	No
Montague	Yes
Monterey	**Yes
Mt. Holyoke College	Yes
Nahant	No
Nantucket	*****Yes
Natick	Yes
Needham	Yes
New Bedford	*****Yes
New Salem	No
Newbury	**Yes

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
Newburyport	Yes
Newton	Yes
Norfolk	Yes
North Adams	*****Yes
North Andover	*Yes
North Attleboro	*Yes
North Brookfield	No
North Reading	Yes
Northampton	Yes
Northboro	Yes
Northbridge	Yes
Northfield	Yes
Norton	*****Yes
Norwell	Yes
Norwood	Yes
Oak Bluffs	No
Oakham	*****Yes
Orange	Yes
Orleans	Yes
Oxford	Yes
Palmer	*****Yes
Paxton	Yes
Peabody	*****Yes
Pelham	*Yes
Pembroke	Yes
Pepperell	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes
Plainville	**Yes
Plymouth	*****Yes
Plympton	No
Princeton	Yes
Provincetown	Yes
Quincy	Yes
Quinsigamond CC	Yes
Randolph	Yes
Raynham	No
Reading	Yes
Rehoboth	Yes
Revere	Yes
Rochester	***Yes
Rockport	Yes
Rowley	*****Yes
Royalston	No
Rutland	Yes
Salem	Yes
Salem State College	Yes
Salisbury	Yes
Sandwich	Yes
Saugus	**Yes
Scituate	*****Yes
Seekonk	Yes
Sharon	Yes
Sheffield	No
Shelburne	No
Sherborn	Yes
Shirley	Yes
Shrewsbury	No
Smith College	Yes
Somerset	Yes
Somerville	*****Yes

* Refers to the number of months currently missing from 2015 data submission. 6 or more are denoted by *****

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
South Hadley	Yes
Southampton	Yes
Southborough	No
Southbridge	Yes
Southwick	Yes
Spencer	Yes
Springfield	Yes
Springfield Technical CC	*****Yes
Sterling	No
Stockbridge	Yes
Stoneham	Yes
Stoughton	No
Stow	Yes
Sturbridge	Yes
Sudbury	Yes
Sunderland	No
Sutton	Yes
Swampscott	Yes
Swansea	**Yes
Taunton	*Yes
Templeton	No
Tewksbury	***Yes
Tisbury	No
Topsfield	No
Townsend	Yes
Truro	*Yes
Tufts University Suffolk	Yes
Tufts University Worcester	Yes
TuftsUniversity	Yes
Tyngsboro	Yes
U-Mass Amherst	Yes
U-Mass Boston	Yes
Unknown	No
Upton	Yes
Uxbridge	**Yes
Wakefield	Yes
Wales	Yes
Walpole	Yes
Waltham	Yes
Ware	Yes
Wareham	*****Yes
Warren	No
Watertown	Yes
Wayland	Yes
Webster	Yes
Wellesley	Yes
Wellfleet	Yes
Wenham	***Yes
West Boylston	*****Yes
West Bridgewater	*Yes
West Brookfield	*****Yes
West Newbury	No
West Springfield	Yes
West Tisbury	No
Westborough	Yes
Westfield	Yes
Westfield SC	Yes
Westford	Yes
Westminster	Yes
Weston	Yes

Table 1. Agencies with NIBRS Capability	
Jurisdiction	NIBRS Contribution 2015
Westport	*Yes
Westwood	Yes
Weymouth	Yes
Whately	No
Whitman	Yes
Wilbraham	Yes
Williamsburg	*****Yes
Williamstown	Yes
Wilmington	*Yes
Winchendon	**Yes
Winchester	Yes
Winthrop	*****Yes
Woburn	**Yes
Worcester	Yes
Worcester - U Mass Medical	**Yes
Worcester Polytechnic In	Yes
Wrentham	**Yes
Yarmouth	Yes

* Refers to the number of months currently missing from 2015 data submission. 6 or more are denoted by *****

Table 2: Agencies That do NOT Have Data Included in This Report		
Jurisdiction		Jurisdiction
AMHERST COLLEGE		EGREMONT
ANDOVER		EMERSON COLLEGE
AQUINNAH		ENDICOTT COLLEGE
ASHBY		ESSEX
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE		ESSEX MET DIST COMM
AYER		FISHER COLLEGE
BABSON COLLEGE		FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSI
BARNSTABLE MET DIST COMM		FOXBOROUGH
BECKER COLLEGE		FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERS
BECKET		FRANKLIN MET DIST COMM
BELCHERTOWN		GILL
BENTLEY UNIVERSITY		GRANVILLE
BERKSHIRE		GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COL
BERKSHIRE MET DIST COMM		HAMPDEN
BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS		HAMPDEN MET DIST COMM
BLANDFORD		HAMPSHIRE MET DIST COMM
BOSTON COLLEGE		HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY		HATFIELD
BRIDGEWATER		HEATH
BRISTOL		HINSDALE
BRISTOL COMM COLLEGE		HOLLAND
BRISTOL MET DIST COMM		HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEG
BROOKFIELD		HOPKINTON
BUCKLAND		HUBBARDSTON
BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY CO		HUDSON
BURLINGTON		HUNTINGTON
CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLE		LANESBOROUGH
CAPITOL POLICE		LASELL COLLEGE
CHARLEMONT		LEYDEN
CHARLTON		MA BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CHESTER		MA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
CHESTERFIELD		MA COLLG OF LIBERAL ARTS
CHILMARK		MASS COLLEGE OF ART
CLARK UNIVERSITY		MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL
CLARKSBURG		MASS. ATTORNEY GENERAL
CLINTON		MBTA: BARNSTABLE COUNTY
COL OF THE HOLY CROSS		MBTA: BERKSHIRE COUNTY
CONWAY		MBTA: BRISTOL COUNTY
CUMMINGTON		MBTA: DUKES COUNTY
CURRY COLLEGE		MBTA: ESSEX COUNTY
DIGHTON		MBTA: FRANKLIN COUNTY
DIV OF LE ENVIRONMTL POL		MBTA: HAMPDEN COUNTY
DUKES		MBTA: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
DUKES MET DIST COMM		MBTA: MIDDLESEX COUNTY
EDGARTOWN		MBTA: NANTUCKET COUNTY

Table 2: Agencies That do NOT Have Data Included in This Report		
Jurisdiction		Jurisdiction
MBTA: NORFOLK COUNTY		ROWE
MBTA: PLYMOUTH COUNTY		ROYALSTON
MBTA: SUFFOLK COUNTY		RUSSELL
MBTA: WORCESTER COUNTY		SAVOY
MEDFIELD		SHEFFIELD
MERRIMACK COLLEGE		SHELBURNE
MIDDLESEX		SHREWSBURY
MIDDLESEX MET DIST COMM		SHUTESBURY
MILLIS		SIMMONS COLLEGE
MONSON		SOUTHBOROUGH
MOUNT IDA COLLEGE		SP: BARNSTABLE COUNTY
MOUNT WACHUSETT COMM CO		SP: BERKSHIRE COUNTY
NAHANT		SP: BRISTOL COUNTY
NANTUCKET MET DIST COMM		SP: DUKES COUNTY
NEW BRAINTREE		SP: ESSEX COUNTY
NEW SALEM		SP: FRANKLIN COUNTY
NORFOLK MET DIST COMM		SP: HAMPDEN COUNTY
NORTH BROOKFIELD		SP: HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CO		SP: MIDDLESEX COUNTY
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY		SP: NANTUCKET COUNTY
OAK BLUFFS		SP: NORFOLK COUNTY
OTIS		SP: PLYMOUTH COUNTY
PERU		SP: SUFFOLK COUNTY
PETERSHAM		SP: WORCESTER COUNTY
PHILLIPSTON		STATE POLICE
PLYMOUTH MET DIST COMM		STERLING
PLYMPTON		STONEHILL COLLEGE
RAYNHAM		STOUGHTON
REG OF MV: BARNSTABLE C		SUNDERLAND
REG OF MV: BERKSHIRE CTY		SUFFOLK MET DIST COMM
REG OF MV: BRISTOL CNTY		TEMPLETON
REG OF MV: DUKES COUNTY		TISBURY
REG OF MV: ESSEX COUNTY		TOLLAND
REG OF MV: FRANKLIN CNTY		TOPSFIELD
REG OF MV: HAMPDEN CNTY		UN OF MA: DARTMOUTH
REG OF MV: HAMPSHIRE CTY		UN OF MA: MED CTR, WORC
REG OF MV: MIDDLESEX CTY		WAMPANOAG TRIBE GAY HEAD
REG OF MV: NANTUCKET CTY		WARREN
REG OF MV: NORFOLK CNTY		WARWICK
REG OF MV: PLYMOUTH CNTY		WASHINGTON
REG OF MV: SUFFOLK CNTY		WELLESLEY COLLEGE
REG OF MV: WORCESTER CTY		WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
REGIS COLLEGE		WEST NEWBURY
RICHMOND		WEST TISBURY
ROCKLAND		WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIV

Table 2: Agencies That do NOT Have Data Included in This Report	
Jurisdiction	
WESTHAMPTON	
WHATELY	
WHEATON COLLEGE	
WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE	
WORCESTER MET DIST COMM	
WORTHINGTON	

Table 3: Firearms used during Criminal Incidents			
Agency	2014	2015	Total
Abington	10	4	14
Acton	1	1	2
Acushnet	5	1*	6
Adams	3	1	4
Agawam	7	4*	11
Amesbury	4	1*	5
Amherst	2	8	10
Andover	3	0	3
Arlington	3	7	10
Ashburnham	3	4	7
Ashland	3	3*	6
Athol	5	0*	5
Attleboro	10	8*	18
Auburn	6	8	14
Ayer	2	0	2
Barnstable	37	29	66
Barre	5	4	9
Bedford	1	2	3
Belchertown	6	0	6
Bellingham	7	5*	12
Belmont	1	2	3
Berlin	0	1*	1
Bernardston	2	1*	3
Beverly	5	3	8
Billerica	6	1	7
Blackstone	2	3	5
Bolton	0	1	1
Boston	2109	1607	3716
Boston University	4	1*	5
Bourne	12	7	19
Boxboro	1	2	3
Braintree	11	0*	11
Brewster	0	3	3
Bridgewater State	0	1	1
Brimfield	0	1	1
Brockton	273	315	588
Brookline	0	2	2
Burlington	3	0	3
Cambridge	24	42	66
Canton	4	5	9
Carver	3	4	7
Charlton	4	0	4
Chatham	0	4	4
Chelmsford	5	2	7
Chelsea	71	96	167
Chicopee	54	61	115
Clinton	2	0	2
Cohasset	0	2	2
Concord	3	1	4
Dalton	1	2	3

Table 3: Firearms used during Criminal Incidents			
Agency	2014	2015	Total
Danvers	5	3*	8
Dartmouth	15	5*	20
Dedham	2	6	8
Deerfield	3	0*	3
Dennis	5	9	14
Douglas	8	5	13
Dover	0	1	1
Dracut	7	1*	8
Dudley	4	3	7
Duxbury	0	2	2
East Bridgewater	2	0	2
East Brookfield	1	0*	1
East Longmeadow	8	2*	10
Eastham	2	0	2
Easthampton	2	6	8
Easton	6	6	12
Edgartown	2	0	2
Erving	1	0	1
Everett	29	19	48
Fairhaven	7	3	10
Fall River	141	159	300
Falmouth	24	15*	39
Fitchburg	135	105	240
Framingham	20	22*	42
Franklin	2	1	3
Freetown	10	5	15
FWE Division	13	1*	14
Gardner	8	12	20
Georgetown	1	1	2
Gill	1	0	1
Gloucester	1	3	4
Grafton	10	2*	12
Granby	2	2	4
Great Barrington	8	0*	8
Greenfield	11	12	23
Groton	2	1	3
Hadley	3	1*	4
Halifax	1	2	3
Hamilton	1	0	1
Hanover	2	0	2
Hanson	4	5	9
Hardwick	3	2	5
Harwich		4	4
Haverhill	56	56	112
Hingham	3	0	3
Holden	5	2*	7
Holliston	1	1	2
Holyoke	144	123	267
Hopedale	1	0	1
Hubbardston	1	0	1

* Refers to agencies missing 2015 data as of 2/5/16. See Table 1 to determine how many months are missing.

Table 3: Firearms used during Criminal Incidents			
Agency	2014	2015	Total
Hudson	2	0	2
Hull	2	5*	7
Kingston	1	2	3
Lakeville	1	4	5
Lancaster	0	3*	3
Lawrence	414	299	713
Lee	5	1	6
Leicester	12	2*	14
Lenox	3	2	5
Leominster	26	37	63
Lexington	3	0*	3
Lincoln	3	0	3
Littleton	3	2	5
Longmeadow	0	1	1
Lowell	167	105	272
Ludlow	10	3	13
Lunenburg	2	3	5
Lynn	155	178	333
Lynnfield	0	1	1
MA College Liberal Arts	1	0	1
Malden	34	40	74
Manchester-by-the-sea	0	1	1
Mansfield	4	5	9
Marblehead	1	2	3
Marion	0	1	1
Marlborough	10	17	27
Marshfield	5	5	10
Mashpee	6	4	10
Massasoit CC	2	1	3
Mattapoisett	3	2	5
Maynard	1	1	2
Medford	22	27	49
Melrose	4	5	9
Merrimac	3	1	4
Methuen	12	7	19
Middleboro	10	8*	18
Milford	7	6*	13
Millbury	2	1	3
Milton	0	2*	2
MIT	1	0	1
Monson	7	0	7
Montague	6	8	14
Nahant	1	0	1
Nantucket	0	1*	1
Natick	3	11	14
Needham	0	1	1
New Bedford	142	24*	166
Newbury	2	0*	2
Newburyport	2	4	6
Newton	10	7	17

Table 3: Firearms used during Criminal Incidents			
Agency	2014	2015	Total
Norfolk	1	0	1
North Adams	12	2*	14
North Andover	2	0*	2
North Attleboro	1	1*	2
North Brookfield	1	0	1
North Reading	1	3	4
Northampton	8	9	17
Northboro	0	1	1
Northbridge	3	2	5
Northfield	0	1	1
Norwell	1	1	2
Norwood	9	4	13
Orange	8	3	11
Orleans	2	1	3
Oxford	3	7	10
Palmer	12	3*	15
Peabody	18	1*	19
Pelham	1	0*	1
Pembroke	7	2	9
Pepperell	1	4	5
Pittsfield	70	68	138
Plainville	2	1*	3
Plymouth	5	2*	7
Plympton	1	0	1
Provincetown	2	2	4
Quincy	32	37	69
Quinsigamond CC	0	2	2
Randolph	20	23	43
Raynham	4	0	4
Rehoboth	2	3	5
Revere	48	44	92
Rochester	2	1*	3
Rowley	1	0*	1
Rutland	2	2	4
Salem	31	33	64
Salisbury	2	8	10
Sandwich	14	5	19
Saugus	9	7*	16
Scituate	4	0*	4
Seekonk	7	11	18
Somerset	6	4	10
Somerville	30	20*	50
South Hadley	5	7	12
Southbridge	15	12	27
Southwick	2	6	8
Spencer	2	3	5
Springfield	728	688	1416
Sterling	3	0	3
Stoneham	7	5	12
Stoughton	21	0	21

* Refers to agencies missing 2015 data as of 2/5/16. See Table 1 to determine how many months are missing.

Table 3: Firearms used during Criminal Incidents			
Agency	2014	2015	Total
Stow	2	0	2
Sturbridge	0	3	3
Sutton	1	0	1
Swampscott	7	3	10
Swansea	10	6*	16
Taunton	38	40	78
Templeton	1	0	1
Tewksbury	6	7*	13
Truro	0	1*	1
TuftsUniversity	0	1	1
Tyngsboro	7	4	11
U-Mass Boston	1	0	1
Upton	2	0	2
Uxbridge	3	2*	5
Wakefield	2	3	5
Walpole	2	6	8
Waltham	20	11	31
Ware	8	5	13
Wareham	18	1*	19
Warren	6	0	6
Watertown	4	1	5
Webster	7	12	19
Wellesley	3	1	4
Wenham	1	0*	1
West Boylston	1	0*	1
West Bridgewater	5	6*	11
West Brookfield	1	0*	1
West Springfield	22	15	37
West Tisbury	6	0	6
Westborough	3	2	5
Westfield	17	11	28
Westfield SC	0	2	2
Westford	4	3	7
Westminster	1	0	1
Weston	2	0	2
Westport	8	11*	19
Westwood	3	1	4
Weymouth	10	6	16
Whitman	3	4	7
Wilbraham	5	4	9
Williamsburg	1	0*	1
Williamstown	1	0	1
Wilmington	2	4*	6
Winchendon	5	3*	8
Winthrop	2	2*	4
Woburn	12	9*	21
Worcester	328	313	641
Wrentham	0	1*	1
Yarmouth	9	10	19
Total	6,322	5,258	11,580

* Refers to agencies missing 2015 data as of 2/5/16. See Table 1 to determine how many months are missing.

Table 4: Fatal Gunshot Incidents by City/Town 2014-2015			
Jurisdiction	Homicide	Suicide	Total
BOSTON	76	9	85
SPRINGFIELD	25	6	31
WORCESTER	10	5	15
BROCKTON	13	1	14
NEW_BEDFORD	8	4	12
LAWRENCE	8	1	9
LYNN	5	2	7
BARNSTABLE	2	4	6
ATHOL		5	5
FALL_RIVER	2	3	5
HOLYOKE	4	1	5
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	4	5
BOURNE	2	2	4
CHELSEA	3	1	4
WEYMOUTH	2	2	4
BURLINGTON	1	2	3
CONNECTICUT	1	2	3
DRACUT		3	3
EASTHAMPTON		3	3
EVERETT	2	1	3
LOWELL	2	1	3
MILFORD		3	3
PITTSFIELD	3		3
READING		3	3
REVERE	2	1	3
SAUGUS		3	3
TAUNTON	1	2	3
TEWKSBURY	1	2	3
WAREHAM		3	3
ADAMS		2	2
AGAWAM		2	2
ATTLEBORO		2	2
AUBURN	1	1	2
BELCHERTOWN		2	2
BILLERICA	1	1	2
BREWSTER		2	2
BRIDGEWATER		2	2
CAMBRIDGE	1	1	2
CHESTER		2	2
CHICOPEE		2	2
DANVERS		2	2
DOUGLAS		2	2
FAIRHAVEN		2	2
FITCHBURG	1	1	2
FOXBOROUGH		2	2
FRAMINGHAM	1	1	2
GARDNER		2	2
HAVERHILL		2	2
HUNTINGTON		2	2
MARLBOROUGH		2	2
MATTAPOISETT		2	2
METHUEN	1	1	2
NORTH ATTLEBORO		2	2
NORTH_ANDOVER		2	2

Table 4: Fatal Gunshot Incidents by City/Town 2014-2015			
Jurisdiction	Homicide	Suicide	Total
NORTON		2	2
NORWOOD		2	2
PEABODY	1	1	2
PLYMOUTH		2	2
QUINCY		2	2
RUTLAND		2	2
SPENCER		2	2
SWANSEA		2	2
WAKEFIELD	1	1	2
WENDELL		2	2
WEST_BROOKFIELD		2	2
WEST_SPRINGFIELD		2	2
WESTFIELD		2	2
WESTPORT		2	2
ACUSHNET		1	1
ARLINGTON		1	1
ASHBURNHAM		1	1
ASHLAND		1	1
BERNARDSTON		1	1
BEVERLY	1		1
BLACKSTONE	1		1
BLANDFORD		1	1
BROOKLINE		1	1
CANTON		1	1
CLINTON		1	1
COLRAIN		1	1
DARTMOUTH	1		1
DEDHAM		1	1
DEERFIELD		1	1
DENNIS		1	1
DIGHTON		1	1
EAST_LONGMEADOW		1	1
EASTON		1	1
ERVING		1	1
ESSEX		1	1
FRANKLIN		1	1
FREETOWN		1	1
GEORGETOWN		1	1
GILL		1	1
GLOUCESTER		1	1
GRANVILLE		1	1
HAMILTON		1	1
HARVARD		1	1
HARWICH		1	1
HINSDALE		1	1
HOLLISTON		1	1
HOPKINGTON		1	1
HOPKINTON		1	1
HUBBARDSTON		1	1
KINGSTON		1	1
LEICESTER		1	1
LEXINGTON		1	1
LUDLOW		1	1
LUNENBURG		1	1

Table 4: Fatal Gunshot Incidents by City/Town 2014-2015			
Jurisdiction	Homicide	Suicide	Total
LYNNFIELD		1	1
MALDEN		1	1
MARBLEHEAD		1	1
MARION		1	1
MASHPEE		1	1
MEDFORD		1	1
MERRIMAC		1	1
MIDDLEBOROUGH		1	1
MILLBURY		1	1
MILLIS		1	1
MILLVILLE		1	1
NATICK		1	1
NEWBURY		1	1
NEWBURYPORT		1	1
NEWTON		1	1
NORTH_BROOKFIELD		1	1
NORTH_READING		1	1
NORTHBRIDGE		1	1
NORTHFIELD		1	1
ORANGE		1	1
OXFORD		1	1
PELHAM		1	1
PEMBROKE		1	1
PLAINVILLE		1	1
PROVINCETOWN		1	1
RANDOLPH	1		1
RAYNHAM		1	1
ROCHESTER		1	1
ROCKLAND		1	1
ROWLEY		1	1
SALEM		1	1
SALISBURY	1		1
SANDWICH		1	1
SHREWSBURY		1	1
SOUTH_HADLEY		1	1
SOUTHBRIDGE		1	1
SOUTHWICK		1	1
STERLING		1	1
STONEHAM		1	1
TOWNSEND		1	1
TYRINGHAM		1	1
WALTHAM	1		1
WAYLAND		1	1
WEBSTER	1		1
WELLESLEY		1	1
WELLFLEET		1	1
WEST SPRINGFIELD		1	1
WESTBOROUGH		1	1
WHITMAN		1	1
WILBRAHAM		1	1
WILLIAMSBURG		1	1
WILLIAMSTOWN		1	1
WINDSOR		1	1

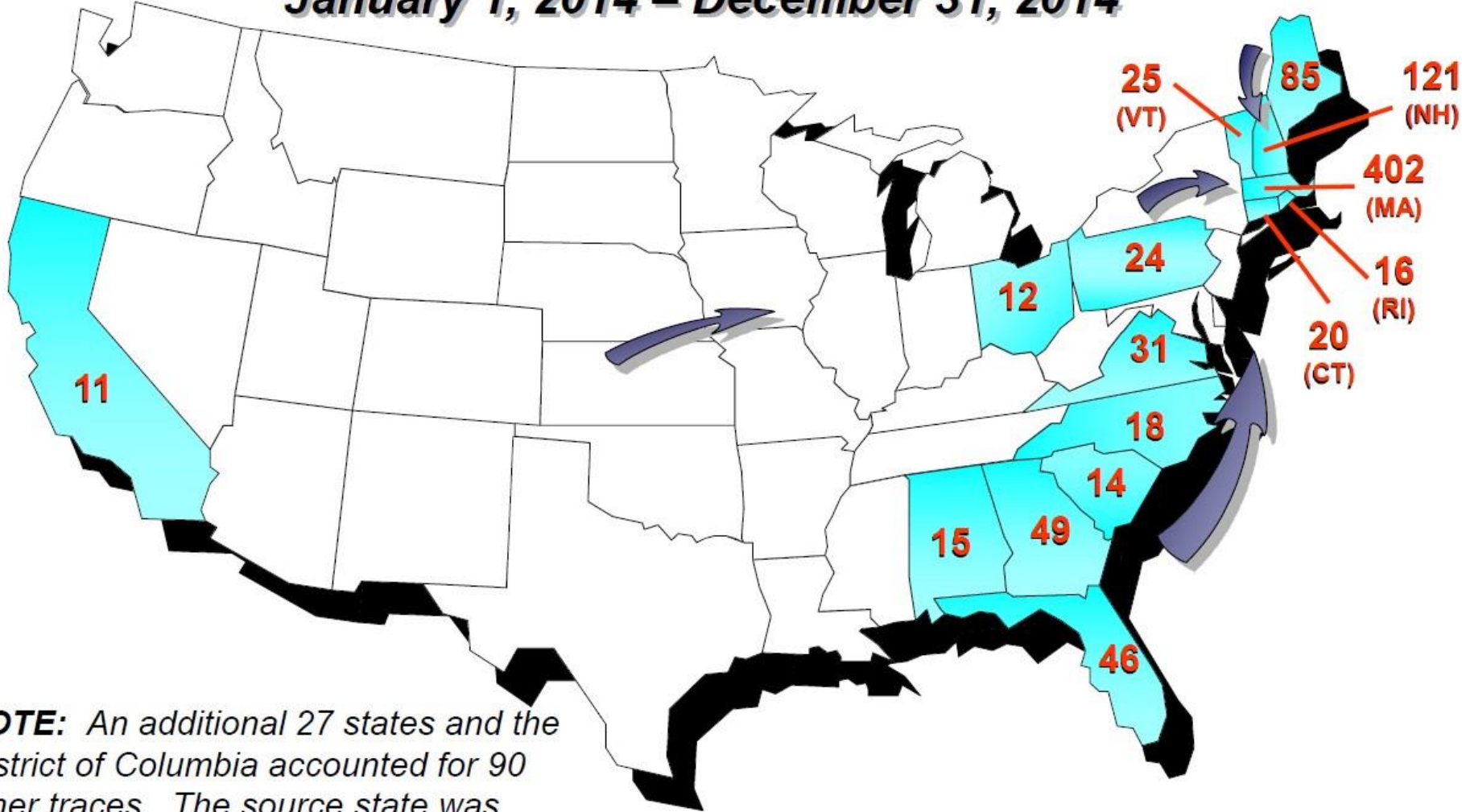
Table 4: Fatal Gunshot Incidents by City/Town 2014-2015			
Jurisdiction	Homicide	Suicide	Total
WOBURN		1	1
YARMOUTH		1	1

Table 4B: Boston Homicides by District	
BPD District / Area	Homicide
A1: Downtown / North End	0
A7: East Boston	1
A15: Charlestown	1
B2: Roxbury	22
B3: Mattapan	13
C6: South Boston	3
C:11 Dorchester	6
D4: South End / Back Bay	7
D14: Allston / Brighton	1
E5: West Roxbury	4
E13: Jamaica Plain	6
E18: Hyde Park	6
Boston Total	70

Data Source: Boston Police / BRIC

Top 15 **Source** States for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014



NOTE: An additional 27 states and the District of Columbia accounted for 90 other traces. The source state was identified in 979 total traces.