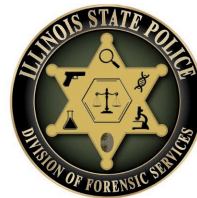




ILLINOIS STATE POLICE GUN STRATEGY



2023



The Illinois State Police (ISP) is dedicated to reducing firearm injuries and death rates through specific and deliberate actions. The ISP gun violence strategies focus on the following but are not limited to:

- Deter illegal sales from gun dealers;
- Remove firearms from those who cannot legally possess them;
- Stem the flow of firearms used to commit violence through aggressive enforcement measures;
- Support Illinois law enforcement agencies with gun crime intelligence, technology, and participative engagement to identify illegal firearms and their sources to prosecute those involved in violent gun crime effectively;
- Standardize the investigative process for all gun crime investigations;
- Leverage state and federal partner resources and capabilities to investigate gun crimes; and
- Deliver state-of-the-art forensic resources for gun crime investigative follow-up and prosecution.

This report illustrates the statewide coordination and strategy for firearm-related intelligence, firearms trafficking interdiction, and investigations of the relevant ISP Divisions (20 ILCS 2605/2605-35 (c)).

DIVISION OF JUSTICE SERVICES

DJS

The DJS is primarily comprised of the duties and obligations of the Firearms Services Bureau (FSB). FSB oversees and administers the Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID), Concealed Carry Licensing (CCL), Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP), Firearm Dealer Licensing Certification (FDLC) and the new mandate of registration of assault weapons and .50 caliber rifles. FSB created a usable database for the public to ensure a privately transferred firearm has not been reported stolen in Illinois. This database may be accessed via the public ISP web site. The Investigative Support Unit conducts CCL instructor audits, fraudulent application audits, and acts as a liaison to law enforcement in support of possible revocations or denials, programmatic assistance, and other intelligence gathering. As part of the FDLC Unit, code investigators conduct audits on federal firearms licensees (FFLs) for compliance with state laws and in conjunction with our federal partners to educate and inform FFLs on laws and regulations. The FSB works in conjunction with the Office of the Director, Office of Firearms Safety (OFS) which administers the Clear and Present Danger (C&PD) reporting process. These entities ensure all requests for C&PD are reviewed and receive an appropriate response in a timely manner. The OFS and FSB continue efforts to enhance that process as they develop new more streamlined procedures for the processing of C&PD requests.

In the coming year, DJS expects to complete necessary system upgrades to comply with the newly enacted protect Illinois Communities Act and Public Act 102-237. In addition, oversee the successful launch of the modernization of Clear and Present Danger Reporting to transition from a paper form to a dynamic online portal with connections to the field or a Law Enforcement Agency Data System (LEADS) hot file as a joint project between the FSB and the Program Administration Bureau (PAB). FSB plans to maintain current compliance with mandated timeframes with regards to FOID, CCL, and FTIP, as well as oversee a reestablishment of nondiscretionary FOID appeals within the Bureau. DJS will provide analytical support to the newly formed FOID Card Review Board and oversee its transition to a fully electronic system.

DIVISION OF FORENSIC SERVICES

DFS

The DFS role in firearm enforcement and intelligence falls within the Forensic Sciences Command (FSC) and Scene and Evidence Service Command (SESC). The FSC utilizes the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to investigate gun crimes. NIBIN allows evidence from shooting scenes and/or test shots from recovered firearms to be entered into and compared with a database of other recovered evidence and test shots across not only Illinois but nationally. Based upon a review of the correlation results by a trained forensic scientist, associations between previously unrelated scenes may be made providing valuable investigative information. Currently the ISP FSC has (4) NIBIN acquisition stations and (8) correlation review stations spread across (4) of the (6) operational ISP laboratories. Additionally, forensic scientists in the Firearms Section conduct serial number restorations on firearms with defaced serial numbers. The restored serial number can be used by investigating agencies to trace the firearms first legal owner. DFS is also now analyzing fired cartridge casings for DNA on ISP cases that meet specific submission guidelines.

The FSC is working to procure up to (6) additional acquisition stations and up to (8) additional correlation stations to create greater efficiency and faster turnaround times within the Command. SESC will continue to strive to ensure firearms are submitted to an ISP laboratory for test firing within 24 hours from recovery. FSC will continue to maintain the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) recommendation of placing recovered casings and test fired casings into NIBIN within 48 hours. Within the year, DFS plans to rollout DNA fired cartridge casing testing to our local and federal partner cases.

DIVISION OF PATROL

DOP

The Division of Patrol (DOP) focuses uniformed officers toward the reduction of violence along Illinois roadways. In doing so, the Division employs strategies to train and educate Troopers about crime trends while outfitting them with equipment, intelligence, and technology to further refine crime reduction efforts. In 2022, after witnessing increases in firearm-related violence along Illinois roadways during 2021, the DOP engaged multiple strategies to make Illinois roadways safer. Overall, the Division termed these efforts the “Statewide Violence Suppression Initiative.” This initiative was designed to focus resources on areas impacted by firearm-related violent crimes as well as corridor routes of travel between impacted areas. A focal point for violent crime reduction efforts was identified as the expressways in the Chicagoland area. The DOP deployed approximately 10% of its sworn Troopers from other areas of Illinois to the expressways, thus, creating the “Chicago Anti-Violence Detail.” The Division also took extra steps to create a Statewide Anti-Violence Enforcement Unit (SAVE) to supplement the already-existing Highway Interdiction Team (HIT). Both SAVE and HIT were solely responsible for saturation patrols in and around areas known for high crime and firearm-related violence. Driven heavily by traffic safety enforcement efforts and high-visibility patrols, DOP Troopers would regularly utilize the new Automatic License Plate Reader (APLR) technology, analysis of crime trends, intelligence, and increased collaboration with the ISP Division of Criminal Investigations and Division of Forensic Services for increased success. Since the implementation of these operations, ISP Troopers seized more than 1,000 firearms across the state during 2022 which resulted in a 47% reduction in reported expressway shooting incidents. To date, because of the Division’s mission to interdict crime, a uniformed State Trooper seizes approximately 1 firearm every 8 hours from someone

that is not qualified to possess it, 1 stolen motor vehicle every 10 hours, and 1.5 pounds of illegal drugs every hour.

Moving forward, the Division remains committed to deploying resources to areas impacted by firearm-related crime. The Division completed a reorganization which created the Strategic Operations Command and three Special Operations Groups specifically designed to focus on high crime areas and interdict in-transit crime along Illinois corridor routes of travel. The DOP will ensure enforcement missions will be strategic, utilizing traffic and crime trends while increasing the use of available technology, tools such as air operations, and intelligence to coordinate the saturation of Troopers where needed to enhance public safety.

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

DCI

DCI created the position of Statewide Firearm Enforcement Coordinator in 2022, which ensures all firearm related enforcement/intelligence is shared across all ISP Divisions for continuity of operations. A Gun Liaison Officer (GLO) program was established creating a primary GLO in each of the (7) investigative Zones which includes a Statewide Gun Liaison Officer Coordinator and a Firearm Trafficking Special projects officer. These GLOs ensure all recovered crime guns are submitted for an eTrace in a timely manner and firearms are submitted to an ISP laboratory for NIBIN entry. Additionally, GLO's conduct crime gun investigative follow up from all ISP Divisions, conduct and coordinate both small-scale and Zone wide quarterly firearm safety enforcement details, investigate stolen firearm hits from the DJS person to person private firearm transfer portal, investigate fraudulent FOID applications, and place Illinois citizens into compliance with the FOID Act if deemed a Clear and Present Danger. While also assisting partner agencies with a multitude of firearm related topics. The DCI sought funding and completed the acquisition of 289 ALPRs, placed in strategic locations around the Chicagoland area. A crime gun analyst was hired for the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) and will be attached to the BATFE Chicagoland fusion center. The DCI Gun Trafficking Unit distributed a one-million-dollar Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force (VCITF) grant to local law enforcement agencies to fund and conduct firearm safety enforcement details in their jurisdictions for FY' 23. A Memorandum of Understanding was fully executed with the BATFE for the use of the NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS). NESS allows DCI agents and analysts to view correlations of firearm casings recovered from crime scenes, which can link the connection to a particular firearm used at multiple crime scenes. The DCI also oversaw the creation of an internal and public facing Firearm Trafficking dashboard, providing viewable firearm offense data. Additionally, all Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEG) & ISP Task Forces (TF) were given statutory authority to investigate gun crimes as part of their enhanced proactive enforcement strategies.

The DCI will continue formulating of internal standard operating procedures across all ISP Divisions for firearms trafficking investigations, eTrace submissions, and NIBIN entries, with follow-up of case work a top priority. The continued distribution of VCITF grant funding to local law enforcement agencies for firearm related enforcement and the seeking of additional funding to continue to grow the well-established ALPR program across other strategic metropolitan areas of the state. The STIC will continue to be the leader in intelligence collection and seek to increase the number of crime gun analysts, modernize intelligence sharing programs and systems pertaining to firearm trafficking and local law enforcement gun crime liaison work. The DCI will also look to continue the modernization of the internal and public facing dashboards to include how the collection and distribution of data. The GLO program will continue to look for new investigative techniques and training to remain at the forefront of investigating crime gun activity.

[FOID Statistics](https://isp.illinois.gov/Foid/Statistics)

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Foid/Statistics>

[ISP Gun Trafficking Dashboard](https://isp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/585d68de56f94d45b1fb1fb7e1064c7a)

<https://isp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/585d68de56f94d45b1fb1fb7e1064c7a>

[VCITF Statistics](https://isp.illinois.gov/Home/GunTraffickingInfoAct)

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Home/GunTraffickingInfoAct>



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