

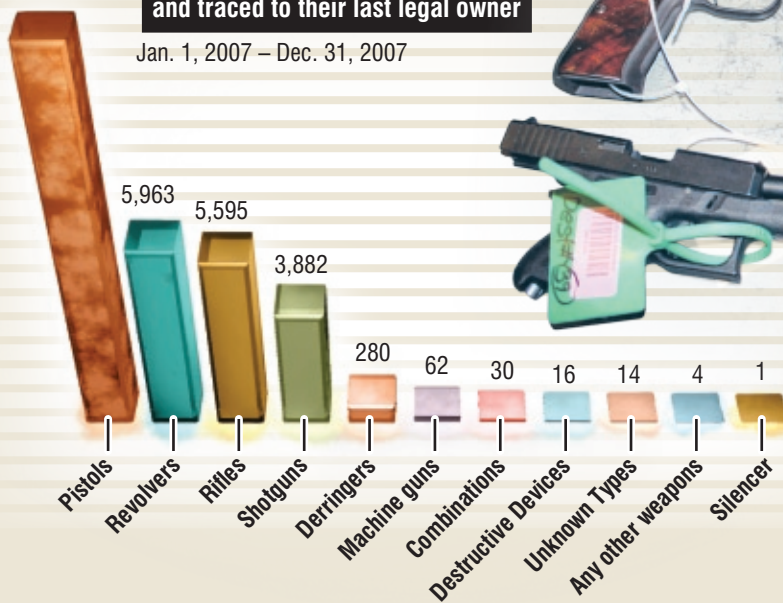
# TRACKING FIREARMS

In 2007, more than 27,000 guns in California were traced by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. More than 600 of them were used in homicides.

11,825

## Firearms recovered in California and traced to their last legal owner

Jan. 1, 2007 – Dec. 31, 2007



BRIAN FINDLEN/  
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## HOW THEY GET ON THE STREET

A common scenario of how guns get into the hands of criminals.

### STEP 1

■ A licensed gun bought legally is stolen in a home burglary.

### STEP 2

■ The thief sells the stolen gun to a drug dealer or a gang member.

### STEP 3

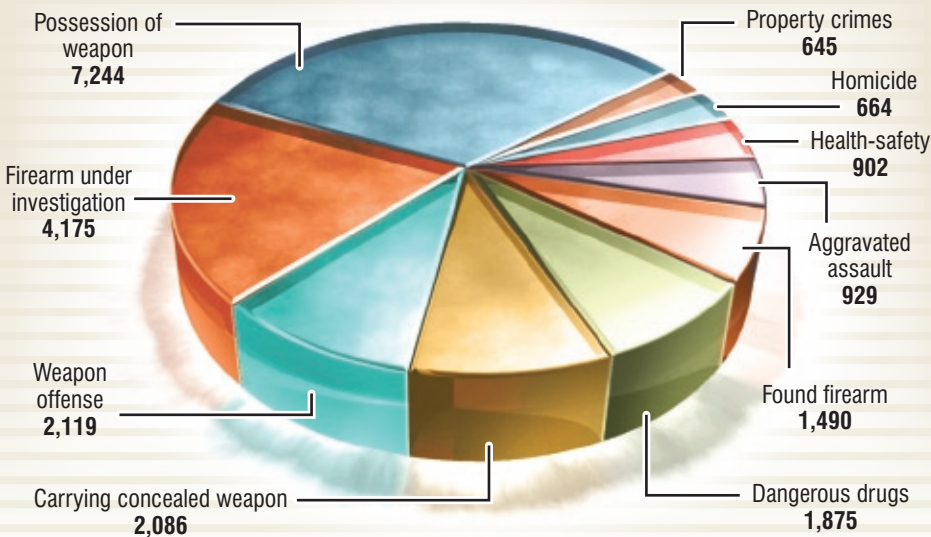
■ The stolen gun's serial number is altered or removed to prevent tracing the firearm if it's recovered by law enforcement.

### STEP 4

■ The stolen gun is used in a crime before it's abandoned, traded for drugs or illegally sold again.

## Top categories in California in which a firearm was traced back to its last legal owner

Jan. 1, 2007 – Dec. 31, 2007



Note: There were 5,543 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Sources: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information