



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
Office of the Director

JB Pritzker
Governor

Brendan F. Kelly
Director

June 7, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
State House, Room 207
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Enclosed is the 2021 Illinois State Police compliance report to the Illinois Gun Trafficking Information Act as required by statute, 5 ILCS 830/10-5. The ISP is working diligently to solidify its data collection sources and implement a single data collection platform that will collect consistent and accurate information mandated by this act. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B F Kelly".

Brendan F. Kelly
Director

Enclosure



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Division of Criminal Investigation

The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is providing this report to the Office of the Director pursuant to the mandates of the Illinois Gun Trafficking Information Act (5 ILCS 830/10-5).

Statement of Legislative Mandate

Effective January 18, 2019, the Illinois Gun Trafficking Information Act (5 ILCS 830/10-5) requires the ISP to provide key information, on a regular and ongoing basis, related to firearms used in the commission of crimes in Illinois, including, but not limited to:

- reports on crimes committed with firearms;
- the number of persons killed or injured in commission of the crimes;
- the state where the firearms used originated;
- the Federal Firearms Licensee that sold the firearm; and
- the type(s) of firearms used.

The ISP shall make the information publicly available; provide the information on its website; and provide a written report with the Office of the Governor, as well as the Illinois General Assembly. In addition, the ISP is required to study and compile reports on the number of Firearm Owner's Identification Card checks to determine firearms trafficking or straw purchase patterns.

Recognized Collection and Reporting Deficiencies

Since January 18, 2019, the ISP DCI has been unable to identify a comprehensive data collection tool capable of the detailed data capture mandated by the Illinois Gun Trafficking Information Act (Act). The ISP DCI has examined internal and external data sources, including the following:

- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS);
- Uniform Crime Reporting Data (UCR);
- Commanding Operational Policing Strategies (COPS);
- Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS);
- the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA);
- ISP DCI investigative zone(s) data; and
- ISP Division of Patrol (DOP) district(s) data.

Current data collection sources do not collectively capture the information mandated by the Act, and as such, are not viable sources of information. All Illinois law enforcement agencies, including the ISP, utilize diverse records management; report writing; and evidence management systems, resulting in the collection of inconsistent, inaccurate, or non-translatable data. The lack of a centralized and uniform data collection tool for use by all Illinois law enforcement agencies has made the collection and reporting of all mandated information unattainable.



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Information currently available to the ISP includes the number of ISP DCI Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID)-related details conducted; the number of firearms seizures made by ISP DCI personnel; the number of firearms arrests effectuated by the eight individual investigative zones of the ISP DCI, which also encompass nine Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) and thirteen Multi-Jurisdiction Drug Task Forces (task forces); and ISP DOP field report information. Firearms offense information reported through the ISP DOP TraCS reporting system, which includes 21 separate patrol districts, is not consistently collected and does not account for potential skewing of data (i.e., an incident reported as a firearms offense as a result of an arrest pursuant to a warrant for a firearms offense, which may have already been reported). The information currently available to the ISP represents a small portion of that data mandated to be collected and reported pursuant to the Act. A sampling of that data is as follows:

FOID-Related Details and Information

Since January 18, 2019, the ISP DCI has initiated and conducted periodic and random FOID enforcement/revocation details and checks throughout its eight investigative zones. The details are executed in an effort to identify and combat firearms trafficking and straw purchases through the enforcement of the Illinois FOID Act (430 ILCS 65/1 et seq.) and the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry (CCL) Act (430 ILCS 66/1 et seq.).

In 2019, the seven established DCI investigative zones conducted 225 total FOID-related details throughout Illinois. In 2020, the DCI conducted 250 FOID-related details across eight investigative zones, including Investigative Zone 8, a newly-designated zone (COPS).

Firearms Seizures and Firearms-Related Arrests

In 2019, the ISP DCI investigative zones, including personnel from 9 MEGs and 13 task forces, seized 783 firearms and effectuated 327 firearms-related arrests (COPS).

In 2020, the ISP DCI investigative zones, including personnel from 9 MEGs and 13 task forces, seized 657 firearms and effectuated 245 firearms-related arrests (COPS).

The ISP Initiative to Collect Consistent and Accurate Information

In order to provide accurate and consistent information mandated by the Act, the ISP must ensure not only the collection and reporting of required data (on behalf of all Illinois law enforcement agencies), but must also define the parameters of the data collected. During the next year, the ISP will establish a clear data definition specification, which will provide clarity among all Illinois law enforcement agencies; data collected will be traceable, consistent, accurate, clear, complete, and concise.



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The Future and Next Steps of Data Collection, Reporting, and Publication

Collaboration with Local Agencies

The ISP DCI will work in partnership with external Illinois law enforcement agencies in establishing a collaborative strategy to identify and implement the most efficient and comprehensive method of mandated data collection. Considerations for the methodology of data collection will include collection time; costs; existing tools; ease of use; accuracy; reliability; traceability; and ability to integrate with electronic reporting and publication tools. The collaborative approach to data collection across all Illinois agencies will address and answer concerns of exactly what data is collected and how. The understanding among agencies will ensure the uniform and consistent collection of information.

Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Transportation

The ISP DCI will coordinate with the Illinois Department of Transportation to build a coordinated and strategic network of license plate readers (LPRs) in the Chicago Metropolitan Area (Chicagoland). These LPRs will be networked with those similar systems already in place through the High Intensity Drug Interdiction Area (HIDTA) program, providing a comprehensive view of vehicles and license plates on the expressways of the Chicagoland area.

The information gleaned from this cooperative concept will be used to assist law enforcement agencies in solving violent crimes, including firearms offenses, that occur on Illinois roadways. In addition, the results of the collaboration will assist with the identification of those vehicles and subjects traveling into Illinois from Indiana that/who may potentially be involved in gun trafficking. This information will ultimately be shared with all law enforcement, through the ISP, allowing for all agencies in the state of Illinois to have access to valuable investigative tools and information in furtherance of their respective investigations.

Development of a Comprehensive Data Gathering Platform

As part of the ISP initiative to collect consistent and accurate information, the ISP will work in conjunction with local Illinois law enforcement agencies, additional stakeholders within the ISP (relevant divisions), and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), in the development and implementation of an electronic data gathering platform. The platform (ESRI or web-based application, for example), will be specifically designed for use by all Illinois law enforcement agencies. The goal of the electronic platform is to reduce time spent collecting; extracting; and tabulating data, as well as to ensure ease of reporting for all agencies.



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Development of External (Public) Facing Platform

As part of any electronic data gathering platform, the ISP will work in conjunction with the DoIT in the development of an integrated, outward-facing dashboard upon the publicly-accessible ISP website. The dashboard will provide real time publication of mandated data to ensure transparency and foster public awareness regarding firearms offenses in Illinois.

ISP Annual Reporting of Data

In addition to the development of an external facing electronic platform available to the public, the ISP will provide detailed and thorough annual reports pursuant to the Act. The development and implementation of an integrated data collection and reporting platform will ensure the reporting of reliable and uniform information to ensure public awareness. The reporting of information will also provide a source for the analyses of crime data, trends, and patterns, including firearms trafficking and straw purchase pattern intelligence. Utilization of the information by interested stakeholders (other law enforcement agencies, academic centers, and foundations) will assist in understanding and combating the source of firearms violence and offenses.

Firearms Safety Counsel

In 2020, the Illinois State Police established the position of Firearms Safety Counsel to serve as the Department's principal legal counsel for the Director's firearms safety programs. The Department's Firearms Safety Counsel was appointed in September 2020 and since that time has been tasked with directing the formulation and implementation of the Department's firearms safety programs as well as rendering decisions on public safety firearms issues including firearms rights and privileges under Illinois law. In an effort to meet the mandates of the Act, the Firearms Safety Counsel will collaborate with ISP DCI to identify key information related to firearms used in the commission of crimes in Illinois and will facilitate communication with other Illinois law enforcement agencies to capture this important information. Additionally, the Firearms Safety Counsel will assist ISP DCI with compiling all pertinent firearm related reports.