



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE GUN STRATEGY



2025



The Illinois State Police (ISP) is dedicated to strategic gun trafficking enforcement and has a long history of working with local and federal law enforcement partners. The ISP's objective is to reduce and prevent illegal possession and use of firearms, firearms trafficking, firearm-related homicides, and other firearm-related violent crimes in Illinois.

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 comprises the duties and obligations of the Firearms Services Bureau (FSB). FSB oversees and administers the Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID), Concealed Carry License (CCL), Firearms Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP), Firearm Dealer License Certification (FDLC), and Firearm Record Challenge Unit (FRCU). FSB maintains a usable database for the public to ensure a privately transferred firearm has not been reported stolen in Illinois, and the purchaser possesses a valid FOID card. This database may be accessed via the public ISP website (<https://verify.ispfsb.com/Public/Verification.aspx>).

The Investigative Support Unit conducts CCL instructor investigations, audits, and fraudulent application investigations. It acts as a liaison to law enforcement to support possible revocations or denials, programmatic assistance, and other intelligence gathering. As part of the FDLC Unit, code investigators conduct audits on FDLC holders for compliance with state laws and in conjunction with our federal partners to educate and inform FDLC holders on laws and regulations.

In the coming year, DJS will maintain compliance with statutory processing times regarding FOID, CCL, and FTIP, establish necessary system upgrades, and continue to provide customer support to Illinois citizens and local law enforcement agencies statewide.

DIVISION OF FORENSIC SERVICES

DFS

The DFS's 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. ISP FSC increased the number of NIBIN acquisition stations and correlation review stations at (4) forensic science laboratories to increase efficiency. The number of NIBIN

acquisition stations doubled from (4) to (8) and the total correlation review stations increased from (8) to (11). 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 hire (6) Firearms Forensic Scientist Trainees to fill current and forecasted vacancies that affect 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 2 business days. Agencies partnering with SESC and/or ISP Major Crimes Task Force can access DNA-fired cartridge casing testing on qualifying cases.

DIVISION OF PATROL

DOP

The Division of Patrol (DOP) focuses on reducing violent crime along Illinois roadways by training officers, providing advanced equipment, and using data-driven strategies. In response to increased firearm violence in 2021, the DOP reallocated resources in 2022 to focus on areas hardest hit by violent crime, particularly involving firearms.

In 2023, the Division undertook a historic reorganization, transitioning from "Districts" to "Troops" and creating the Strategic Operations Command (SOC) to house Special Enforcement Groups (SOGs). These units, comprising about 10% of the workforce, used data to target high-crime areas, including those affected by firearms and drug trafficking. This shift led to the creation of Statewide Anti-Violence Enforcement (SAVE) units, which focused on expressways in Chicagoland and interstates in the Metro-East. As a result, interstate/expressway-related shootings dropped by 32% from 2022 and 67% from 2021.

In 2024, the Division continued its efforts with the SAVE units and statewide patrol resources, focusing enforcement in key areas and collaborating with other agencies. These strategies led to a 31% reduction in shootings along Illinois interstates and expressways compared to 2023, and a 71% decrease from 2021.

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Shootings	89	129	189	310
Injury-related Shootings	17	37	75	133

Looking ahead, the DOP remains committed to reducing firearm-related violence through precise, data-driven enforcement strategies, enhanced by technology, air operations, and intelligence to improve public safety.

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, including 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 promptly and that firearms are submitted to an ISP laboratory for NIBIN entry. Additionally, GLOs 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, place Illinois citizens into compliance with the FOID Act if deemed a Clear and Present Danger and continually assist partner agencies with a multitude of firearm-related topics.

ISP Firearm Enforcement Details	
Compliance Details	
Total	489
# Placed into Compliance	
Total	2202

The DCI sought funding and completed the acquisition of 188 additional Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), bringing the total number of ALPRs in use statewide to 523 cameras, as itemized by county in the table below:

County	# of cameras installed
Cook	344
Winnebago	10
Boone	7
Bureau	2
Champaign	4
DeKalb	3
DuPage	3
Grundy	4
Henry	2
Kane	6
Kendall	6
Lake	6
LaSalle	6
Macon	6
Madison	6
McHenry	4
Morgan	4
Peoria	7
Rock Island	6
Sangamon	3

St. Clair 78
 Will 6

STIC expanded the pilot program initiated in 2023, called Central Illinois Crime Gun, which partners with law enforcement agencies and federal partners within Central Illinois and correlates daily gun crime arrests for analytical workups and information sharing for casework, by starting the Southern Illinois Crime Gun, within the Southern Illinois region. The DCI Firearm Enforcement 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 FY24.

2024 VCITF Totals								
# Compliance Checks	# Placed in compliance	# Firearms Seized	# Firearms Transferred	# FOID Cards Destroyed	# CCL Cards Destroyed	# FDR Uploaded (LEP)	# Arrests	# of Details
9549	2736	781	529	1699	291	2507	30	605

An additional one-million-dollars was acquired; half to be allocated for staffing additional firearm safety enforcement details by the Zones and half as a VCITF grant available to ISP MEG/Task Force's to combat gun violence, gun-trafficking, and other violent crime. DCI, in collaboration with the BATFE, continued the use of the NIBIN Enforcement Support System (NESS). NESS allows DCI agents and analysts to view NIBIN correlation hits of firearm casings recovered from crime scenes and test fired casings from crime guns.

The DCI oversees an internal and public-facing Firearm Trafficking dashboard, providing viewable firearm offense data. Additionally, all Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEG) and 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 internal standard operating procedures across all ISP Divisions for firearms trafficking investigations, eTrace submissions, and NIBIN entries, with follow-up of casework being a top priority. The continued distribution of VCITF grant funding to local law enforcement agencies for firearm-related enforcement, distribution of forthcoming grant funding to Zones and MEG/Task Forces, 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 about firearm trafficking, and local law enforcement gun crime liaison work. STIC will also continue to expand its crime gun program to other geographical areas throughout the state. 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.

The Director's Office of Firearms Safety (OFS) works in conjunction with officials in public safety, educational institutions, and health to develop best practices, increase information sharing, and provide training on use of Illinois' red flag laws. The mission of OFS is to work proactively with its partners at schools, law enforcement agencies, and medical facilities throughout Illinois to prevent gun violence and save lives by prohibiting legal-firearms access to people who pose a clear and present danger to themselves and/or others, and providing comprehensive training, education, and resources to all stakeholders entrusted with identifying and reporting these threats in their communities before tragedy strikes.

Since 2022, OFS oversees all clear and present danger reporting from law enforcement officials and school administrators for the state of Illinois. In March of 2023, using the Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Portal, OFS launched online reporting, allowing all law enforcement officials and school administrators a more efficient way to report individuals demonstrating threatening behavior and posing a clear and present danger to themselves or others. OFS simultaneously enacted a statewide training effort, conducting over 45 trainings since the end of 2022, or approximately 2 per month, to educate as many law enforcement officials, school administrators, and mental health/medical practitioners about their mandate to report clear and present danger determinations, and how to use the new portal to properly report. Through these efforts, there has been an over 141% increase in clear and present danger reports submitted to ISP since 2019. In 2024, OFS received 10,752 clear and present danger submissions in the online portal, an average of almost 900 reports per month.

In addition, OFS works to enhance knowledge and utilization of Firearms Restraining Orders throughout the state of Illinois. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority awarded OFS \$344,259 from federal SCIP grant funds as part of the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program FRO Outreach and Training Grant. OFS plans to increase outreach and training efforts to reach all parts of Illinois, including hard to reach geographical locations and community stakeholders.

In 2025, OFS plans to continue to expand our outreach and increase the number of stakeholders utilizing Illinois' red flag laws. OFS will continue to provide guidance and direction on how to effectively use the tools available to prevent gun violence before it occurs, including guidance on all public safety issues relating to the removal of firearms.



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