**Criminals Are Increasingly Using and Trafficking Ghost Guns**

* Untraceable guns are increasingly used by illegal gun trafficking rings across the country.
* In 2013 a man was sentenced to 10 years in prison for purchasing more than 900 ghost gun parts kits and firearm receivers, and selling AK-47-style ghost guns for transport to Mexico.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Two brothers were arrested in 2014 for trafficking ghost gun pistols and rifles in the California cities of Sacramento and Fresno.[[2]](#footnote-2) In Sacramento the following year, eight men were indicted for trafficking ghost guns. Undercover officers purchased 67 firearms from the men during the course of an investigation, and upon their arrest law enforcement recovered another 71 firearms.[[3]](#footnote-3) Also in California in 2015, a man pleaded guilty to selling 92 AR-15-style ghost guns over a six month period.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* After a 2015 bust of a ghost-gun trafficking ring in Long Island, the New York Attorney General called ghost guns “new frontier of illegal firearms trafficking.”[[5]](#footnote-5)
* Throughout 2016 law enforcement officers in Massachusetts recovered 115 firearms without serial numbers, which included both ghost guns and initially serialized guns from which the serial number was obliterated.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* From 2016 through 2017, a Florida man built more than 200 ghost guns and trafficked them into Puerto Rico.[[7]](#footnote-7)
* In 2017 a Los Angeles man sold five ghost gun assault rifles, and agreed to sell 100 more, to a man he believed was a convicted felon who planned to resell the weapons in Egypt and the Philippines, but who was in fact an undercover operative.[[8]](#footnote-8) In July 2018, the Los Angeles Police Department broke up a brazen gang-trafficking enterprise in Los Angeles, making ten arrests and seizing 45 ghost guns.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* In 2017 the former head of the ATF Field Office in Philadelphia stated that ghost guns were “being used in crimes, they’re being recovered at crime scenes,” and were widely available in Philadelphia.[[10]](#footnote-10) In early 2018, in a township outside Philadelphia, a man pulled a ghost gun on a police officer and attempted to fire, but was shot and killed by the officer before he could do so. The man was prohibited from possessing a firearm due to prior convictions.[[11]](#footnote-11) The following year, law enforcement narrowly averted a school shooting in another town outside Philadelphia; when they arrested the teenage suspect, they recovered an assembled ghost gun, along with more than 1600 rounds of ammunition.[[12]](#footnote-12)
* In 2018 multiple Connecticut men were caught manufacturing and selling untraceable guns.[[13]](#footnote-13) In the city of Bridgeport, police officers recovered at least seven ghost guns over the course of the year.[[14]](#footnote-14)
* In 2018 a New Jersey grand jury indicted a man for unlawfully manufacturing and selling untraceable guns after law enforcement seized nearly three dozen weapons from his home, including nearly 20 untraceable guns.[[15]](#footnote-15) In 2019 four men were arrested for trafficking ghost guns as part of a gun and cocaine trafficking ring.[[16]](#footnote-16)

**Ghost Guns Have Been Used in A Number of Recent Shootings**

* A man who failed a background check and could not legally purchase a gun built an assault rifle from a ghost gun kit, then used it on a rampage at a college campus in Southern California, firing 100 rounds and killing five people.[[17]](#footnote-17)
* In a 2015 murder-suicide, a man killed his romantic partner with a ghost gun, then used a second ghost gun to kill himself.[[18]](#footnote-18)
* Also in 2015, a California man used an AK-47-style ghost gun rifle to take three individuals hostage during a bank robbery. A chase and shootout followed, in the course of which a hostage was killed.[[19]](#footnote-19)
* In Baltimore in 2016, police responded to reports of gunshots near an apartment complex. A shootout ensued, and the police fatally shot the shooter. After recovering the weapon, police discovered that it was an AR-15-style ghost gun, which was able to “pierce standard issue body armor” and could “fire up to 30 rounds in less than 10 seconds with pin point accuracy.”[[20]](#footnote-20)
* In 2017 a man who was prohibited from owning a gun and under prosecution for multiple crimes assembled two assault-style ghost guns from parts he ordered online and went on a rampage with them, killing six people and injure 10 more.[[21]](#footnote-21)
* In 2019 a sixteen-year-old boy used a self-assembled untraceable firearm in a school shooting in Santa Clarita, CA, killing two students and injuring three others.[[22]](#footnote-22)
* On New Year’s Eve in 2019 a woman was shot and killed by her son’s ex-girlfriend and the ex-girlfriend’s new fiancé, who used a ghost gun that may have been 3D-printed.[[23]](#footnote-23)

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