



**STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

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Tracking Firearm Related Arrests in Delaware 2000 to 2006

The Delaware Statistical Analysis Center is the research partner for the U.S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhood. In Delaware the program is called Operation Disarm. Through advertisement, community outreach and stepped-up enforcement of current firearm laws through the federal and local task force of law enforcement and prosecutors, the goal of Operation Disarm is to reduce the illegal use of firearms. This report provides a summary of arrests for the most serious firearm crimes in Delaware, which include:

PFDCF – Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony (Title 11 §1447A) is a Felony B, which upon conviction requires a 3-year minimum sentence.

PDWDCF – Possession of deadly weapon during the commission of a felony (Title 11 §1447) is a Felony B, which upon conviction requires a 2-year minimum sentence. In this report only firearms are counted as a deadly weapon.

PDWPP – Possession and purchase of deadly weapon (in this report only guns are counted as deadly weapons) by persons prohibited (Title 11 §1448: Felony D if a firearm), which upon conviction requires a 1 year minimum sentence if the offender has been previously convicted of a violent felony; a 3 years minimum if convicted of a violent felony within the 10 years or the date of release from incarceration; and 5 years if the offender has two violent felony convictions. In 2007, the minimum sentences for the conditions just described were increased to minimums of 4 years, 6 years, and 10 years (HB 163 HA1). In this report only firearms are counted as a deadly weapon.

Not included in this report are cases where the most serious firearm charge in an arrest includes crimes as carrying a concealed deadly weapon, receiving a stolen firearm, theft of a firearm and giving a firearm to a person prohibited.

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Table 1 and Chart 1 below show that the number of firearm related arrests have increased from a low of 180 in the 3rd Quarter of 2000 to a high of 277 in the 1st Quarter of 2006 an increase of 54 percent. The total number of firearm related arrest in 2006 was 1,013. The trend line in Chart 1 indicates that there are about 4 more firearm related arrests per quarter or 16 per year.

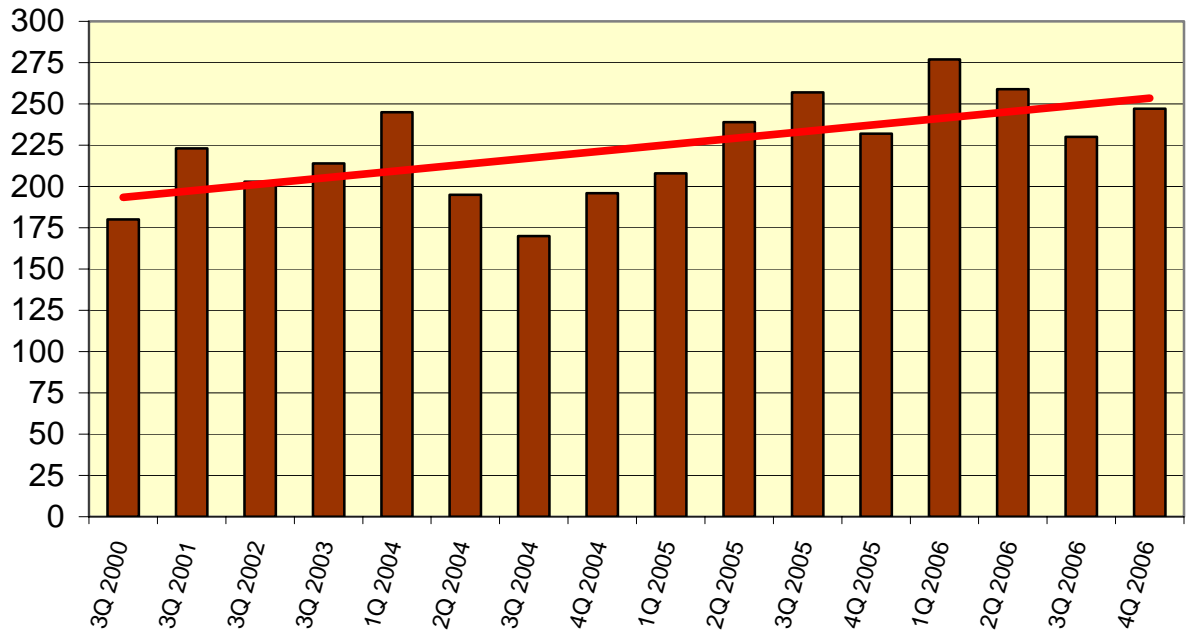
In addition Table 1 shows the distribution of firearm related arrest by age group. Charts 2 and 3 provide graphic views of the age distribution and the type of firearm crime by age. Serious illegal firearm crimes tend to be a crime of youth, with about 59 percent of the arrests being for persons under 25 years old. Since 2000, on average, about 15 percent of the firearm related arrests are juveniles. It is interesting to see that although juveniles are prohibited from possessing a firearm except in limited situations such as hunting, most of their firearm related arrests involve the commission of a felony. This is also the case for adults.

Table 1
Delaware Firearm* Arrests: 2000 to 2006

Year/Age	25 and Over	18 to 24	Under 18	Unknown	Total
3Q 2000	64	78	38	0	180
3Q 2001	87	98	35	3	223
3Q 2002	82	95	26	0	203
3Q 2003	78	110	25	1	214
1Q 2004	96	120	28	1	245
2Q 2004	66	93	31	5	195
3Q 2004	73	72	23	2	170
4Q 2004	74	86	35	1	196
1Q 2005	95	85	25	3	208
2Q 2005	93	115	31	0	239
3Q 2005	119	82	52	4	257
4Q 2005	109	86	37	0	232
1Q 2006	106	130	40	1	277
2Q 2006	108	109	40	2	259
3Q 2006	98	95	36	1	230
4Q 2006	98	109	39	1	247

*Firearm crimes include PFDCF possession of firearm during commission of a felony, PDWDCF deadly weapon that is a firearm, and PFBPP person prohibited.

**Chart 1: Firearm Use and Prohibited Possession Arrests
2000-2006**



**Chart 2: Age Distribution for Firearm Related Arrests
2000 - 2006**

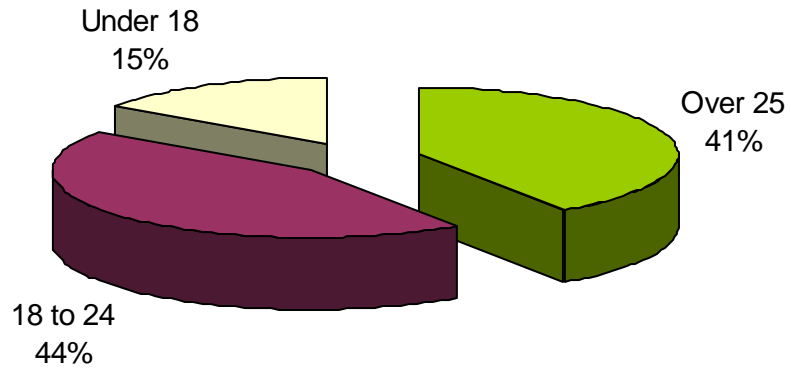


Chart 3: Type of Firearm Crime by Age Group 2004-2006

