

Contents

Preface to the Expanded Edition <i>James D. Wright</i>	ix
Preface	xxi
Acknowledgments	xxv
Introduction to the AldineTransaction Edition	xxix

1 The Criminal Acquisition and Use of Firearms

Introduction	1
Gun Crime as a Social Problem	2
Social Science Implications	5
Policymaking Considerations	7
An Overview of Prior Literature and Our Findings	8
Characteristics of the Prisoner Sample	12
A Typology of Criminal Gun Use	12
Firearms Ownership and Use	13
Growing Up with Guns	14
Why Do Criminals Carry Guns	14
Armed Victims	15
What Felons Look For in Firearms	15
The Market for Criminals' Guns	16
"Gun Control" and Criminal Gun Use	18
Policy Implications	18

2 The Felon Survey Methods, Procedures, Descriptive Data

Research Goals	21
Survey Design and Method	23
Selection of Research Sites	23
Choosing Respondents within Prisons	26
Field Operations	27
Response Rates	28

	Questionnaire Development and Disposition	28
	Site Descriptions and Characteristics	29
	Data Quality	32
	Salient Sample Characteristics	38
	Summary of Sample Characteristics	54
3	Varieties of Armed Criminals: A Descriptive Typology	
	Validation	59
	Previous Criminal Histories	65
4	Patterns of Weapons Ownership and Use: On the Circumstances of Criminal Violence	
	Overall Patterns of Ownership and Use	79
	Patterns of Weapons Use:	
	The Conviction Offense	87
	Patterns of Weapons Use:	
	Other Offenses	94
	The Correlates of "Habitual" Weapons Carrying	99
	Additional Details on Weapons- Carrying Behavior	102
	Summary of Principal Findings	108
5	Family, Friends, and Firearms: The Effects of Socialization on Felons' Weapons Behavior	111
6	Motivations to go Armed	
	The "Rationality" of Firearms use in Crime	125
	Measuring Weapons-Carrying Motives	127
	The Motivations of Nongun Users	131
	Coherence in Motives	133
	The Importance of Gun Carrying	135
	Reasons for the "Most Recent" Firearms Acquisitions	136

7 Confronting the Armed Victim

Armed Victims as Risks to Criminals	142
Attitudinal Results	144
Armed Victim Confrontations:	
Experiential Results	154
Summary	158

8 The Criminal as a Firearms Consumer

What Felons Look For in a Handgun	162
What Felons Actually Carry	169
Consumer Sophistication	175
Summary	180

9 Patterns of Acquisition: Where and How Felons Obtain Guns

How and Where Do Felons Obtain Handguns?	182
Criminal Handguns versus Crime Handguns	186
Other Characteristics of the Criminal-Handgun Market	188
Where and How Do Felons Obtain Shoulder Weapons?	189
Summary	190

10 Patterns of Acquisition: Gun Theft

How Many Crime Guns are Stolen Guns?	193
Who Steals Guns?	197
How Many Guns Are Stolen?	198
Why Are Guns Stolen?	199
The Commerce in Stolen Firearms	202
Where are Guns Stolen?	205
The Optimal Gun Theft	206
Summary	207

11	Handgun Controls and Weapons Choice: The Substitution Issue	
	Substitution Theory	209
	Postrelease Gun Acquisition	210
	Acquisition Under Conditions of Scarcity	215
12	The Great American Gun War: Some Policy Implications of the Felon Study	
	Introduction	225
	The Nature of the Illicit Firearms Market	229
	Crime Guns: Quality and Price	232
	Why Criminals Carry and Use Guns	233
	Substitution and Other Neutralizing Side Effects	237
	Bibliography	239
	Index	243