

Ultra-Compact Handguns

“Ultra-compact” or “ultra-concealable” firearms are a class of semiautomatic handguns characterized by their small size and enormous power. Firearms manufacturers began to promote these weapons, sometimes known as “pocket rockets,” in response to a growing number of state laws that permit licensed persons to carry concealed weapons. [Violence Policy Center, *Pocket Rockets: The Gun Industry’s Sale of Increased Killing Power* \(July 2000\)](#). Pocket rockets are typically no more than seven inches in overall length and are chambered for higher caliber ammunition (i.e., 9mm or larger). Tracing data from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms indicates that these firearms are increasingly traced to crime. *Id.*

There are no federal or state laws prohibiting the manufacture or sale of ultra-compact handguns.

Local Laws

Some local governments in [California](#), including Oakland and San Francisco, have adopted ordinances to ban the sale of ultra-compact firearms.

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