

Montana

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

ATF Firearms Trace Data Disclaimer

- Firearm traces are designed to assist law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations by tracking the sale and possession of specific firearms. Law enforcement agencies may request firearms traces for any reason, and those reasons are not necessarily reported to the Federal Government. Not all firearms used in crime are traced and not all firearms traced are used in crime.
- Firearms selected for tracing are not chosen for purposes of determining which types, makes or models of firearms are used for illicit purposes. The firearms selected do not constitute a random sample and should not be considered representative of the larger universe of all firearms used by criminals, or any subset of that universe. Firearms are normally traced to the first retail seller, and sources reported for firearms traced do not necessarily represent the sources or methods by which firearms in general are acquired for use in crime.

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced in Montana in Calendar Year 2017



798

Firearm Types with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Other
317	288	91	89	6	4	3

* Other includes Machineguns and an Unknown Type.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery



January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017



.22 Cal	9mm	12GA	.45 Cal	.40 Cal	.223 Cal	.380 Cal	.38 Cal	.357 Cal	7.62mm	.30-06 Cal
143	119	68	59	41	32	30	28	24	20	16

NOTE: There were 198 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 20 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Possession of Weapon	Dangerous Drugs	Firearm Under Investigation	Weapon Offense	Found Firearm	Homicide	Burglary	Homicide - Attempted	Property Crimes	Robbery	Suicide
292	110	102	77	63	46	19	12	11	11	10

NOTE: There were 45 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Montana	Wyoming	Washington	California	Oregon
383	31	18	14	13
Florida	Arizona	Texas	North Dakota	Idaho
11	10	10	9	8
Colorado	Missouri	Michigan	Nevada	South Dakota
5	5	4	4	4

NOTE: An additional 23 states accounted for 45 other traces.
The source state was identified in 574 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Under 3 Months	3 Months to Under 7 Months	7 Months to Under 1 Year	1 Year to Under 2 years	2 Years to Under 3 Years	3 Years and Over
25	21	26	55	52	388

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 Montana Average Time-to-Crime: **10.09 Years**

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Time-to-Crime: **9.30 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
14	23	15	59	211	141	66

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 Montana Average Age of Possessor: **39 Years**

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Billings	Bozeman	Missoula	Great Falls	Helena	Roundup	Saint Ignatius	Frenchtown	Anaconda	Baker	Decker
142	82	58	48	35	35	32	27	24	23	21

NOTE: There were 65 additional municipalities that accounted for 258 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 13 traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

- Includes traces with a recovery state of Montana. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Montana.
- Includes Firearms Recovered and Traced between 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017.
- Duplicate traces, Firearms Not Recovered, Gun Buyback and Firearms Turned In are not included in this figure.
- Data was extracted from the Firearms Tracing System (FTS) on April 11, 2018.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this study.

Firearm Types and Calibers with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced. Beginning in CY 2010, attempted homicide, attempted suicide and negligent vehicular manslaughter are reported in separate categories.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics (continued)

Top Source States for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Traces must identify a purchaser and the state in which the final dealer is located.

Time-to-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Traces must identify a purchaser.
- Time-to-Crime was calculated for those traces in which the purchase date could be subtracted from the recovery date.

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Includes traces that provide a possessor and the possessor's date of birth.
- Possessor's age is calculated by subtracting the possessor's date of birth from the recovery date.

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

- Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.
- Includes traces with a recovery city, or, if the recovery city was not provided, the requesting agency had jurisdiction only within that city.