

Pennsylvania

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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 Pennsylvania in Calendar Year 2018



11,066

Firearm Types with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Machineguns	Other
6,878	1,669	1,474	907	59	28	17	34

* Other includes Unknown Types, Any Other Weapons, Silencers, Combinations and Destructive Devices.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA	.357 Cal	.32 Cal	.25 Cal
3,119	1,204	1,185	955	808	685	676	357	259	230

NOTE: There were 1,375 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 213 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Dangerous Drugs	None Provided	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Aggravated Assault	Weapon Offense	Suicide	Family Offense	Property Crimes	Homicide
2,731	1,199	1,129	1,118	714	636	441	429	282	268	236

NOTE: There were 1,883 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pennsylvania	Virginia	Ohio	Georgia	Florida
6,452	206	163	151	150
West Virginia	North Carolina	South Carolina	New York	Maryland
116	110	87	69	65
Delaware	Texas	New Jersey	Alabama	Kentucky
61	59	56	48	37

NOTE: An additional 35 states Guam and Puerto Rico accounted for 381 other traces. The source state was identified in 8,211 total traces.



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

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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
542	447	514	943	733	4,979

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Pennsylvania Average Time-to-Crime: **9.62 Years**

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 National Average Time-to-Crime: **8.80 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
186	664	603	1,226	1,266	886	1,032

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Pennsylvania Average Age of Possessor: **36 Years**

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Harrisburg	Reading	York	Erie	Allentown	Chester	Lancaster	Wilkinsburg	Uniontown
3,855	919	332	228	173	160	151	119	117	93	59

NOTE: There were 908 additional municipalities that accounted for 4,805 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 55 traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

- Includes traces with a recovery state of Pennsylvania. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Pennsylvania.
- Includes Firearms Recovered and Traced between 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018.
- 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, 2019.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this study.

Firearm Types and Calibers with a Pennsylvania Recovery

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

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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.