

Puerto Rico

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 Puerto Rico in Calendar Year 2018



906

Firearm Types with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Receivers/Frames	Machineguns	Other
711	94	64	12	9	8	8

* Other includes Unknown Types and Any Other Weapons.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018



.40 Cal	9mm	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	7.62mm	.223 Cal	5.56mm	.357 Cal	.380 Cal
289	247	70	46	41	26	25	24	24

NOTE: There were 63 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 51 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Weapon Offense	Weapons Trafficking	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Family Offense	None Provided	Homicide	Traffic Offense
218	205	125	71	65	64	55	43	13	9

NOTE: There were 38 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Florida	Puerto Rico	Texas	Ohio	Georgia
289	215	66	13	12
South Carolina	Pennsylvania	Arizona	Virginia	Arkansas
8	6	4	4	3
Connecticut	Maine	Michigan	North Carolina	Alabama
3	3	3	3	2
Alaska	Colorado	Iowa	Kentucky	Maryland
2	2	2	2	2
Nevada	New York	Tennessee	Washington	
2	2	2	2	

NOTE: An additional 11 states accounted for 11 other traces.
The source state was identified in 663 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Puerto Rico 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
28	31	25	58	59	450

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Puerto Rico Average Time-to-Crime: **7.94 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Puerto Rico 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
1	58	65	158	120	80	35

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Puerto Rico Average Age of Possessor: **33 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

San Juan	Carolina	Ponce	Bayamon	Caguas	Humacao	Guaynabo	Mayaguez	Arecibo	Toa Baja
267	68	53	52	42	22	21	21	19	17

NOTE: There were 67 additional municipalities that accounted for 323 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for one trace.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

- Includes traces with a recovery state of Puerto Rico. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Puerto Rico.
- 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 Puerto Rico Recovery

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

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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.