

Massachusetts

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

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 Massachusetts in Calendar Year 2019



1,933

Firearm Types with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Machineguns	Other
1,316	291	179	106	22	19

* Other includes Derringers, Receivers/Frames, Unknown Types, a Combination and a Silencer.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA
568	218	210	204	140	129	78

NOTE: There were 328 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 58 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Weapon Offense	Family Offense	Aggravated Assault	Homicide	Robbery	Selling Weapon
699	626	156	134	96	58	42	19	16	13

NOTE: There were 74 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Maine	Florida	Georgia
315	214	114	94	86
Vermont	Virginia	South Carolina	North Carolina	Texas
48	38	34	30	30
Ohio	Alabama	Tennessee	Pennsylvania	Connecticut
29	24	23	20	19

NOTE: An additional 29 states accounted for 149 other traces.
The source state was identified in 1,267 total traces.



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

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

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
42	40	65	124	100	883

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Massachusetts Average Time-to-Crime: **10.58 Years**

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 National Average Time-to-Crime: **8.29 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
41	221	163	340	220	147	183

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Massachusetts Average Age of Possessor: **33 Years**

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Boston	Springfield	Worcester	Lawrence	Brockton	Haverhill	Medford	New Bedford	Lynn	Holyoke
596	204	89	80	72	44	43	42	33	32

NOTE: There were 145 additional municipalities that accounted for 694 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for four traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

- Includes traces with a recovery state of Massachusetts. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Massachusetts.
- Includes Firearms Recovered and Traced between 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019.
- 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 10, 2020.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this study.

Firearm Types and Calibers with a Massachusetts Recovery

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

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