(1) 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.

(2) 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 North Carolina by Calendar Year

14,039

2015

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a North Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

NOTE: There were 1,604 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 2,419 traces with an unknown caliber.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a North Carolina Recovery
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Firearm Under Investigation: 3,678
Possession of Weapon: 3,052
Dangerous Drugs: 1,437
Found Firearm: 1,218
Carrying Concealed Weapon: 627
Family Offense: 542
Homicide: 504
Property Crimes: 485
Weapon Offense: 365
Simple Assault: 273

NOTE: There were 1,858 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

NOTE: An additional 35 states, Guam, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia accounted for 472 other traces. The source state was identified in 8,715 total traces.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

1/1/2015-12/31/2015 North Carolina Average Time-to-Crime: 10.35 Years
1/1/2015-12/31/2015 National Average Time-to-Crime: 10.48 Years

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Age of Possessors for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

1/1/2015-12/31/2015 North Carolina Average Age of Possessor: 35 Years
1/1/2015-12/31/2015 National Average Age of Possessor: 36 Years

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Durham
Fayetteville
Winston-Salem
Wilmington
Rocky Mount
Roxboro
Greensboro
Raleigh
Charlotte
Spindale

NOTE: There were 400 additional municipalities that accounted for 5,715 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 569 traces.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information
Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

- **Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced**
  - Includes traces with a recovery state of North Carolina. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to North Carolina.
  - Includes Firearms Recovered and Traced between 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015.
  - 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, 2016.
  - All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this study.

- **Firearm Types and Calibers with a North Carolina Recovery**
  - Includes same criteria as Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced.

- **Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a North Carolina 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.

- **Top Source States for Firearms with a North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information