

# West Virginia

## 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 West Virginia in Calendar Year 2019*



**2,193**

# *Firearm Types with a West Virginia Recovery*

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Machineguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Other
1,251	331	321	179	48	28	18	17

\* Other includes Unknown Types, Silencers and a Destructive Device.

# *Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery*



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.22 Cal	.380 Cal	.40 Cal	.45 Cal	12GA	.38 Cal	.25 Cal	7.62mm	.357 Cal
542	316	211	146	125	123	94	91	67	61

**NOTE:** There were 328 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 89 traces with an unknown caliber.

# *Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery*

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Firearm Under Investigation	Possession of Weapon	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Weapon Offense	Property Crimes	Aggravated Assault	Family Offense	Homicide	Traffic Offense
739	598	357	148	83	53	38	38	33	20

**NOTE:** There were 86 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

# *Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery*

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

West Virginia	Ohio	Kentucky	Virginia	Pennsylvania
1,178	99	56	45	34
North Carolina	Maryland	Georgia	Florida	South Carolina
21	20	14	12	11
Tennessee	Texas	Indiana	Alabama	Arkansas
9	9	7	6	6
Louisiana				
6				

**NOTE:** An additional 23 states accounted for 48 other traces. The source state was identified in 1,581 total traces.



# *Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a West Virginia 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
127	92	95	132	125	744

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 West Virginia Average Time-to-Crime: **8.88 Years**

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



# *Age of Possessors for Firearms with a West Virginia 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
23	80	98	288	410	208	215

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 West Virginia Average Age of Possessor: **37 Years**

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

# *Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery*

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Charleston	Huntington	Nitro	Beckley	Martinsburg	Fairmont	Morgantown	Vienna	Clarksburg	South Charleston
568	198	183	130	104	82	71	70	61	58

**NOTE:** There were 138 additional municipalities that accounted for 661 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for seven traces.

# *Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics*

## **Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced**

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

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

## **Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia 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 West Virginia 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 West Virginia 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 West Virginia 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 West Virginia 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.