

California

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 California in Calendar Year 2018



42,488

Firearm Types with a California Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Other
22,517	8,262	6,505	4,253	319	284	348

* Other includes Machineguns, Unknown Types, Combinations, Any Other Weapons, Silencers, Flare Guns, Destructive Devices, and a Tear Gas Launcher.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a California Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	12GA	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	.380 Cal	.357 Cal	7.62mm	5.56mm
9,297	5,683	4,235	3,382	3,276	2,736	2,127	1,667	1,151	1,055

NOTE: There were 6,572 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 1,307 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a California Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Weapon Offense	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Carrying Concealed Weapon	Aggravated Assault	Family Offense	Property Crimes	Health - Safety
17,003	5,368	2,719	2,588	1,959	1,505	981	956	892	791

NOTE: There were 7,726 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

*A homicide category was reported on 783 traces.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

California	Arizona	Nevada	Texas	Oregon
17,011	2,206	1,714	778	497
Washington	Utah	Georgia	Florida	Oklahoma
397	307	292	273	273
Colorado	New Mexico	Idaho	Tennessee	Louisiana
221	204	190	176	175

NOTE: An additional 35 states and Guam accounted for 2,440 other traces. The source state was identified in 27,154 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a California 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
991	1,025	1,181	3,002	2,284	18,412

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 California Average Time-to-Crime: **11.82 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a California 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
747	2,882	2,597	5,722	7,404	4,088	5,741

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 California Average Age of Possessor: **38 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Los Angeles	Sacramento	San Francisco	Fresno	Oakland	San Diego	Stockton	San Bernardino	Bakersfield	Agua Dulce
5,355	1,772	1,110	1,097	1,034	989	920	848	611	582

NOTE: There were 930 additional municipalities that accounted for 28,110 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 60 traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

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

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

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