

District of Columbia

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 the District of Columbia in Calendar Year 2018



2,095

Firearm Types with a District of Columbia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Unknown Types	Other
1,579	269	130	100	7	7	3

* Other includes a Combination, a Receiver/Frame and a Tear Gas Launcher.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a District of Columbia Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

9mm	.40 Cal	.45 Cal	.380 Cal	.22 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA	.25 Cal	.32 Cal	.357 Cal
682	373	166	163	161	135	63	61	51	45

NOTE: There were 135 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 60 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a District of Columbia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Weapon Offense	Aggravated Assault	Homicide	Robbery	Simple Assault
1,025	743	62	55	48	43	28	28	15

NOTE: There were 48 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a District of Columbia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Virginia	Maryland	Georgia	North Carolina	South Carolina
599	179	110	104	95
District of Columbia	Florida	Pennsylvania	West Virginia	Ohio
43	40	38	35	31
Texas	Tennessee	California	Alabama	Kentucky
29	19	18	15	14

NOTE: An additional 27 states accounted for 85 other traces.
The source state was identified in 1,454 total traces.

Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a District of Columbia 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
61	80	75	184	133	912

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 District of Columbia Average Time-to-Crime: **9.78 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a District of Columbia 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
62	218	220	316	174	68	116

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 District of Columbia Average Age of Possessor: **30 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a District of Columbia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Washington, DC

2,095

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

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

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

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia 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 District of Columbia 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.