

# Montana

## 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 Montana in Calendar Year 2018*



947

# *Firearm Types with a Montana Recovery*

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Other
399	307	113	105	9	9	5

\* Other includes Unknown Types, a Destructive Device, a Silencer and a Tear Gas Launcher.

# *Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery*



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.45 Cal	12GA	5.56mm	.380 Cal	.357 Cal	.38 Cal	7.62mm	.308 Cal
156	135	78	78	75	50	41	30	30	27	23

**NOTE:** There were 191 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 33 traces with an unknown caliber.

# *Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery*

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Dangerous Drugs	None Provided	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Weapon Offense	Aggravated Assault	Homicide	Property Crimes	Simple Assault	Weapons Trafficking
403	132	83	82	57	44	28	22	17	10	9

**NOTE:** There were 60 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

# *Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Montana Recovery*

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Montana	Washington	Virginia	California	Wyoming
488	20	18	17	12
Idaho	Texas	Colorado	Florida	North Dakota
11	11	9	8	8
Oregon	Illinois	Arizona	Pennsylvania	Utah
8	7	6	6	6

**NOTE:** An additional 25 states accounted for 59 other traces.  
The source state was identified in 694 total traces.



# *Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Montana 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
38	23	41	108	53	419

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Montana Average Time-to-Crime: **8.93 Years**

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



# *Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Montana 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
14	18	27	85	225	89	130

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Montana Average Age of Possessor: **40 Years**

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

# *Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Montana Recovery*

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Billings	Great Falls	Bozeman	Kalispell	Missoula	Livingston	Belgrade	Butte	Whitefish	Helena	Roundup
351	100	95	49	46	27	22	22	19	15	15

**NOTE:** There were 61 additional municipalities that accounted for 186 other traces.

# *Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics*

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

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

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

## **Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana 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 Montana 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 Montana 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 Montana 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 Montana 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.