

North Carolina

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 North Carolina in Calendar Year 2018



14,913

Firearm Types with a North Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Machineguns	Other
9,397	2,002	1,909	1,454	91	34	26

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Unknown Types, Combinations, an Any Other Weapon and a Silencer.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a North Carolina Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	12GA	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	.357 Cal	.25 Cal	7.62mm
4,167	1,689	1,665	1,451	1,084	1,048	861	404	366	336

NOTE: There were 1,726 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 116 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a North Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Carrying Concealed Weapon	Property Crimes	Family Offense	Weapon Offense	Health - Safety	Aggravated Assault
4,906	1,687	1,618	1,518	686	638	493	454	416	411

NOTE: There were 2,086 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

*A homicide category was reported on 404 traces.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

North Carolina	South Carolina	Virginia	Georgia	Florida
8,538	706	469	294	252
Texas	Tennessee	West Virginia	Ohio	Alabama
133	129	112	100	97
Pennsylvania	Kentucky	New York	California	Indiana
92	91	59	50	44

NOTE: An additional 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico accounted for 538 other traces. The source state was identified in 11,704 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a North Carolina 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
791	715	780	1,474	1,116	6,515

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 North Carolina Average Time-to-Crime: **8.81 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a North Carolina 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
343	1,359	1,315	2,474	2,047	1,037	1,283

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 North Carolina Average Age of Possessor: **34 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a North Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Charlotte	Greensboro	Raleigh	Winston - Salem	Durham	High Point	Fayetteville	Jacksonville	Wilmington	Rocky Mount
2,510	1,040	927	742	670	390	359	343	333	285

NOTE: There were 431 additional municipalities that accounted for 7,123 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 191 traces.

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 1/1/2018 – 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 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.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics (continued)

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.