

West Virginia

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 West Virginia in Calendar Year 2018



1,792

Firearm Types with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Derringers	Combinations	Silencers	Other
952	346	270	196	20	4	2	2

* Other includes a Receiver/Frame and an Unknown Type.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

9mm	.22 Cal	.380 Cal	12GA	.40 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	.357 Cal	.25 Cal	7.62mm
399	285	166	129	124	123	88	51	50	34

NOTE: There were 314 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 29 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Property Crimes	Weapon Offense	Aggravated Assault	Family Offense	None Provided	Firing Weapon	Homicide
779	280	267	105	51	51	45	34	31	23	22

NOTE: There were 104 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

West Virginia	Ohio	Kentucky	Virginia	Pennsylvania
1,027	92	58	46	30
Georgia	Maryland	North Carolina	South Carolina	Tennessee
15	15	11	11	10
Texas	Florida	California	Indiana	Louisiana
10	8	4	4	4
Michigan				
4				

NOTE: An additional 19 states and the District of Columbia accounted for 30 other traces. The source state was identified in 1,379 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a West Virginia 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
117	74	76	136	127	803

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 West Virginia Average Time-to-Crime: **9.60 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a West Virginia 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
18	83	83	275	367	293	178

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 West Virginia Average Age of Possessor: **37 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Charleston	Huntington	Beckley	Morgantown	Scarbro	Fairmont	South Charleston	Elk Garden	Capon Bridge	Clarksburg
363	260	133	71	68	60	56	43	38	36

NOTE: There were 139 additional municipalities that accounted for 649 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 15 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 1/1/2018 – 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 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.