

California

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

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 2019



41,883

Firearm Types with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Machineguns	Unknown Types	Other
23,163	7,655	5,965	3,952	294	294	560

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Derringers, Combinations, Any Other Weapons, Destructive Devices, Silencers, Tear Gas Launchers and Flare Guns.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a California Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	12GA	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	.380 Cal	.357 Cal	5.56mm	7.62mm
10,339	5,193	4,351	3,224	3,201	2,614	1,931	1,518	1,154	988

NOTE: There were 5,730 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 1,640 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Possession of Weapon	Weapon Offense	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Firearm Under Investigation	Carrying Concealed Weapon	Aggravated Assault	Homicide	Property Crimes	Family Offense
17,360	5,716	2,571	1,949	1,616	1,468	883	811	810	759

NOTE: There were 7,940 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

California	Arizona	Nevada	Texas	Oregon
16,587	2,355	1,886	836	467
Washington	Florida	Utah	Georgia	Idaho
338	311	306	301	270
Colorado	Oklahoma	New Mexico	Arkansas	Louisiana
245	237	200	164	146

NOTE: An additional 35 states, Puerto Rico and Guam accounted for 2,273 other traces.

The source state was identified in 26,922 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

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
1,034	1,108	1,183	2,614	2,613	18,210

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 California Average Time-to-Crime: **11.10 Years**

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 National Average Time-to-Crime: **8.29 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
882	2,755	2,615	5,830	7,461	4,283	6,178

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 California Average Age of Possessor: **38 Years**

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a California Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Los Angeles	Sacramento	San Diego	San Bernardino	Fresno	Stockton	Oakland	San Francisco	Modesto	Bakersfield
5,184	1,572	1,234	953	949	948	891	802	762	689

NOTE: There were 930 additional municipalities that accounted for 27,868 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 31 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 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019 or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2019 – 12/31/2019.
- 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 10, 2020.
- 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.