

Pennsylvania

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 Pennsylvania in Calendar Year 2019



12,174

Firearm Types with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Machineguns	Unknown Types	Derringers	Other
7,588	1,662	1,592	962	160	81	67	62

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Any Other Weapons, Destructive Devices, Combinations and a Silencer.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.40 Cal	.22 Cal	.380 Cal	.45 Cal	12GA	.38 Cal	.357 Cal	.32 Cal	.25 Cal
3,674	1,263	1,241	1,011	786	693	678	349	253	241

NOTE: There were 1,568 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 417 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Aggravated Assault	Weapon Offense	Suicide	Family Offense	Property Crimes	Burglary	Homicide
3,311	2,306	1,243	779	679	450	396	352	347	290	273

NOTE: There were 1,748 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pennsylvania	Virginia	Ohio	Georgia	Florida
7,017	212	168	146	134
West Virginia	North Carolina	South Carolina	Delaware	Texas
118	106	95	90	76
Maryland	New York	New Jersey	Indiana	Kentucky
60	54	46	38	38

NOTE: An additional 33 states accounted for 412 other traces. The source state was identified in 8,810 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Pennsylvania 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
612	490	480	913	832	5,432

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Pennsylvania Average Time-to-Crime: **9.39 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Pennsylvania 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
231	794	594	1,355	1,410	1,193	1,124

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Pennsylvania Average Age of Possessor: **37 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Pennsylvania Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Erie	Harrisburg	Reading	Chester	Thornhurst	Allentown	Lancaster	York
4,462	1,025	308	285	232	174	160	149	148	136

NOTE: There were 872 additional municipalities that accounted for 5,034 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 61 traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

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

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

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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.