

Puerto Rico

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 Puerto Rico in Calendar Year 2019



1,128

Firearm Types with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Machineguns	Unknown Types	Receivers/Frames	Other
921	116	50	20	10	5	6

* Other includes Shotguns, an Any Other Weapon and a Destructive Device.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



.40 Cal	9mm	.45 Cal	7.62mm	MULTI	.38 Cal	.380 Cal	.223 Cal	.357 Cal	5.56mm
410	308	81	52	41	31	30	27	24	23

NOTE: There were 30 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 71 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Firearm Under Investigation	Possession of Weapon	Found Firearm	Weapon Offense	Dangerous Drugs	Weapons Trafficking	Selling Weapon	Robbery	Carrying Prohibited Weapon	Family Offense	Health-Safety	Homicide
414	354	126	65	49	41	18	11	9	8	8	5

NOTE: There were 20 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Florida	Puerto Rico	Texas	Ohio	Georgia
351	188	106	21	16
Tennessee	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Virginia	New York
15	11	9	9	6
Alabama	Alaska	Colorado	Indiana	South Carolina
5	5	5	5	5
West Virginia				
5				

NOTE: An additional 22 states accounted for 52 other traces.
The source state was identified in 814 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Puerto Rico 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
37	38	52	106	66	506

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Puerto Rico Average Time-to-Crime: **7.39 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Puerto Rico 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
1	92	112	173	108	64	45

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Puerto Rico Average Age of Possessor: **31 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Puerto Rico Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

San Juan	Carolina	Bayamon	Ponce	Caguas	Humacao	Fajardo	Guaynabo	Mayaguez	Penuelas	Toa Baja
275	124	91	57	37	30	29	28	22	21	21

NOTE: There were 64 additional municipalities that accounted for 389 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for four traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

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

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

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico 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.