

South Carolina

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 South Carolina in Calendar Year 2019



7,100

Firearm Types with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Machineguns	Derringers	Other
5,069	785	710	439	39	28	30

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Unknown Types, a Destructive Device and a Silencer.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a South Carolina Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.22 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA	.357 Cal	5.56mm	7.62mm
2,467	914	716	646	453	336	330	171	144	131

NOTE: There were 701 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 91 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Weapon Offense	Dangerous Drugs	Traffic Offense	Family Offense	Property Crimes	Carrying Concealed Weapon	Suicide
1,367	1,162	925	874	868	251	218	211	190	176

NOTE: There were 858 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

*A homicide category was reported on 160 traces.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

South Carolina	Georgia	North Carolina	Florida	Virginia
4,545	325	320	116	60
Texas	Pennsylvania	Tennessee	Ohio	Alabama
54	40	38	36	33
Kentucky	West Virginia	Indiana	California	New York
32	24	20	16	16
Washington				
16				

NOTE: An additional 30 states and Puerto Rico accounted for 210 other traces. The source state was identified in 5,901 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a South Carolina 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
615	506	424	765	587	2,977

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 South Carolina Average Time-to-Crime: **6.93 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a South Carolina 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
144	632	463	872	965	459	587

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 South Carolina Average Age of Possessor: **34 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Columbia	North Charleston	Spartanburg	Charleston	Summerville	North Augusta	Conway	Myrtle Beach	Lancaster	Sumter
1,031	675	352	258	251	213	198	191	144	139

NOTE: There were 243 additional municipalities that accounted for 3,642 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for six traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

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

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

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