

West Virginia

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

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 2017



1,950

Firearm Types with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Derringers	Receivers/Frames	Machineguns	Other
949	464	253	238	25	10	5	6

* Other includes Combinations, Destructive Devices, a Flare Gun and an Unknown Type.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery



January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

9mm	.22 Cal	.380 Cal	12GA	.40 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	7.62mm	.25 Cal	.357 Cal
366	329	171	155	149	108	80	53	52	49

NOTE: There were 359 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 79 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Weapon Offense	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Family Offense	None Provided	Property Crimes	Aggravated Assault	Homicide
575	450	238	190	161	66	61	50	30	29

NOTE: There were 100 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

West Virginia	Ohio	Virginia	Pennsylvania	Maryland
1,033	78	52	41	38
Kentucky	North Carolina	Florida	South Carolina	Georgia
37	19	18	14	11
Texas	Tennessee	Oklahoma	Delaware	Louisiana
9	6	5	4	4
Michigan				
4				

NOTE: An additional 20 states accounted for 39 other traces.
The source state was identified in 1,412 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

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
72	71	80	130	104	849

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 West Virginia Average Time-to-Crime: **10.30 Years**

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Time-to-Crime: **9.30 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
11	100	88	234	441	153	135

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 West Virginia Average Age of Possessor: **36 Years**

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a West Virginia Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Charleston	Beckley	Huntington	Martinsburg	Fairmont	Morgantown	Hedgesville	South Charleston	Buckhannon	Wheeling
521	254	106	74	50	47	44	37	34	33

NOTE: There were 138 additional municipalities that accounted for 645 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 105 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 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2017 – 12/31/2017.
- 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, 2018.
- 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.