South Carolina

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 South Carolina in Calendar Year 2017

6,423

Firearm Types with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Machineguns	Other
4,253	1,012	603	490	35	19	11

* Other includes Unknown Types, Combinations, Receivers/Frames, an Any Other Weapon and a Destructive Device.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

9mm	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.22 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA	.32 Cal	.357 Cal	.25 Cal
1,763	853	758	679	416	414	375	170	163	155

NOTE: There were 643 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 34 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Firearm Under Investigation	Weapon Offense	Possession of Weapon	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Property Crimes	Family Offense	Carrying Concealed Weapon	Homicide	Suicide
1,308	888	887	734	724	222	219	204	174	168

NOTE: There were 895 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

South Carolina	North Carolina	Georgia	Florida	Virginia
3,830	315	285	114	50
Tennessee	**Texas**	**Alabama**	**Ohio**	**Pennsylvania**
48	44	36	36	32
Kentucky	**West Virginia**	**New York**	**California**	**Indiana**
31	24	19	18	16

NOTE: An additional 32 states and Puerto Rico accounted for 186 other traces. The source state was identified in 5,084 total traces.

Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a South Carolina 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
352	339	347	682	450	2,742

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 South Carolina Average Time-to-Crime: **8.24 Years**
1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Time-to-Crime: **9.30 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a South Carolina 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
159	533	442	812	736	369	353

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 South Carolina Average Age of Possessor: **32 Years**
1/1/2017-12/31/2017 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a South Carolina Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Columbia	North Charleston	Spartanburg	Summerville	Lancaster	Charleston	Anderson	Conway	Florence	Rock Hill
564	491	441	234	231	212	211	182	168	166

NOTE: There were 230 additional municipalities that accounted for 3,344 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 179 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 1/1/2017 – 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 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.