

Massachusetts

Data Source: Firearms Tracing System

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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 Massachusetts in Calendar Year 2018



1,979

Firearm Types with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Other
1,201	327	241	163	18	29

* Other includes Receivers/Frames, Machineguns and Combinations.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery



January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA
529	273	199	174	145	131	117

NOTE: There were 362 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 49 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Firearm Under Investigation	Possession of Weapon	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Weapon Offense	Family Offense	Aggravated Assault	Obstruction of the Police	Robbery	Homicide
775	660	149	79	68	62	47	22	20	11

NOTE: There were 86 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Maine	Florida	Georgia
414	189	98	83	69
Virginia	Vermont	Ohio	North Carolina	South Carolina
43	41	32	30	29
Connecticut	Texas	Indiana	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island
28	28	21	18	17
Tennessee				
17				

NOTE: An additional 31 states and Puerto Rico accounted for 142 other traces. The source state was identified in 1,299 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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
46	46	60	133	100	895

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Massachusetts Average Time-to-Crime: **12.04 Years**

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 National Average Time-to-Crime: **8.80 Years**

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

17 & Under	18 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	Over 50
65	216	152	356	290	173	251

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 Massachusetts Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

1/1/2018-12/31/2018 National Average Age of Possessor: **35 Years**

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Boston	Springfield	Worcester	Lawrence	New Bedford	South Hadley	Holyoke	Shirley	Brockton	Lynn
547	172	92	79	76	73	70	56	53	46

NOTE: There were 137 additional municipalities that accounted for 712 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for three traces.

Analytical Criteria Used to Compile the Enclosed Statistics

Total Number of Firearms Recovered and Traced

- Includes traces with a recovery state of Massachusetts. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Massachusetts.
- Includes Firearms Recovered and Traced between 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018, or, if the recovery date was blank, the trace entry date was between 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018.
- 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, 2019.
- All traces may not have been submitted or completed at the time of this study.

Firearm Types and Calibers with a Massachusetts Recovery

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

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