

Montana

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 Montana in Calendar Year 2019



817

Firearm Types with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Pistols	Rifles	Revolvers	Shotguns	Unknown Types	Machineguns	Other
346	270	90	87	14	4	6

* Other includes Derringers, Tear Gas Launchers, an Any Other Weapon and a Silencer.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery



January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019



9mm	.22 Cal	.45 Cal	12GA	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.357 Cal	5.56mm	.38 Cal	MULTI
132	131	70	64	50	42	27	22	20	19

NOTE: There were 208 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 32 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Dangerous Drugs	Found Firearm	Weapon Offense	Homicide	Property Crimes	Burglary	Aggravated Assault	Weapons Trafficking	Obstruction of Justice
372	129	71	60	34	28	23	19	15	11	10

NOTE: There were 45 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Montana	Washington	Idaho	Wyoming	Oregon
383	31	17	15	14
California	Florida	North Dakota	Texas	Arizona
11	9	7	7	6
Iowa	Mississippi	Pennsylvania	Alaska	Minnesota
5	5	5	4	4
Nevada	Oklahoma	Utah	Virginia	
4	4	4	4	

NOTE: An additional 21 states accounted for 39 other traces.
The source state was identified in 578 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Montana 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
25	26	24	64	41	374

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Montana Average Time-to-Crime: **10.23 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Montana 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
9	20	21	57	147	126	81

1/1/2019-12/31/2019 Montana Average Age of Possessor: **40 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Montana Recovery

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Billings	Great Falls	Belgrade	Missoula	Kalispell	Bozeman	Thompson Falls	Crow Agency	Lame Deer	Clancy	Glendive
181	110	88	66	36	30	24	21	19	18	17

NOTE: There were 70 additional municipalities that accounted for 203 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 Montana. Traces in which the recovery state was not provided were included when the requesting agency state was equal to Montana.
- 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 Montana Recovery

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

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