

Massachusetts

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 Massachusetts in Calendar Year 2017



1,943

Firearm Types with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Pistols	Revolvers	Rifles	Shotguns	Derringers	Other
1,256	343	200	126	11	7

* Other includes Unknown Types, Combinations and Receivers/Frames.

Top Calibers Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery



January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017



9mm	.22 Cal	.40 Cal	.380 Cal	.45 Cal	.38 Cal	12GA	.357 Cal	.25 Cal	.32 Cal	5.56mm
493	230	220	194	144	134	91	88	59	56	29

NOTE: There were 182 additional traces that were associated with other calibers. There were 23 traces with an unknown caliber.

Top Categories Reported on Firearm Traces with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Possession of Weapon	Firearm Under Investigation	Found Firearm	Dangerous Drugs	Family Offense	Weapon Offense	Aggravated Assault	Selling Weapon	Suicide	Robbery	Weapons Trafficking	Homicide
663	620	202	87	79	60	45	20	19	17	17	16

NOTE: There were 98 additional traces that were associated with other categories.

Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Massachusetts	New Hampshire	Maine	Florida	Georgia
410	207	145	75	75
Connecticut	Ohio	North Carolina	Virginia	South Carolina
38	38	36	31	29
Texas	Vermont	Alabama	Rhode Island	Pennsylvania
29	26	23	21	18

NOTE: An additional 29 states and accounted for 132 other traces.
The source state was identified in 1,333 total traces.



Time-To-Crime Rates for Firearms with a Massachusetts 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
47	62	70	154	115	853

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 Massachusetts Average Time-to-Crime: **10.78 Years**

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

Age of Possessors for Firearms with a Massachusetts 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
59	217	182	317	223	194	155

1/1/2017-12/31/2017 Massachusetts Average Age of Possessor: **33 Years**

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

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Boston	Springfield	Worcester	Lexington	New Bedford	Brockton	Lawrence	Lynn	Holyoke	Lowell	Pittsfield
589	143	122	116	97	83	62	62	60	44	36

NOTE: There were 146 additional municipalities that accounted for 529 other 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 1/1/2017 – 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 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.