

FACT SHEET: AUTO THEFT STATISTICS & TRENDS

Auto Theft Spikes in Winter

- The cold winter weather tempts people to leave their car running while unattended to warm it up.
- The telltale “puff” of exhaust is an invitation for thieves to steal a car.
- Unattended running cars are known as “puffers,” an expression used by thieves.
- Data indicates there is a higher rate of “puffer” thefts in the months of September through March, peaking in January.
- 35% of Coloradans admit they have left their car running unattended. (2014 Talmey-Drake Poll)

Colorado “Puffer” Theft

- “Puffers” accounted for nearly 15% of all auto thefts reported. (ATICC)
- An average of 7 “puffers” was stolen pre day; 35 “puffers” per week. (ATICC)
- There were 1,692 “puffer” thefts in 2013. (ATICC)
- Tuesdays showed higher level of “puffer” thefts, with Sundays showing the lowest level. (ATICC)

Colorado Auto Theft

- 11,304 vehicles were stolen in Colorado in 2013, a 3% increase from 2012. (ATICC)
 - Auto thefts increased 58% in Colorado Springs from 2011-2012
 - Using the FBI's average valuation of \$6,019 per stolen vehicle, this amounts to an estimated \$68 million in losses during 2013. (Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association)
- In 2012, 89% of all stolen vehicles reported originated from the Denver Metropolitan Area (67%) or the South Central area (22%). (2012 ATICC Annual Public Report)
- Car theft rankings: out of the 380 largest cities in the United States, Pueblo ranks #48, Colorado Springs ranks #57 and Denver ranks #58. (NICB Hot Spots 2012)

Top Five Colorado Counties Where Auto Thefts Occurred in 2012 (2012 ATICC Annual Public Report)

1. Denver County
2. Adams County
3. El Paso County
4. Jefferson County
5. Arapahoe County

Colorado's Top Ten Stolen Vehicles in 2012 (NICB)

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. 1996 Honda Accord | 6. 1994 Acura Integra |
| 2. 1997 Honda Civic | 7. 2001 Dodge Pick-Up (Full Size) |
| 3. 2000 Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee | 8. 2003 Ford Explorer |
| 4. 1997 Ford Pick-Up (Full Size) | 9. 1994 Toyota Camry |
| 5. 1999 Chevrolet Pick-Up (Full Size) | 10. 2004 Subaru Impreza |

National Auto Theft

- A motor vehicle is stolen in the United States every 44 seconds. (NHTSA)
- Nearly half of theft is due to driver error like leaving keys in the ignition or leaving doors unlocked. (NHTSA)
- Only 52% of vehicles reported stolen are recovered.
- Car theft is costly and inconvenient. The estimated total value of vehicles stolen nationwide is more than \$4.3 billion. (NHTSA)
 - Car thieves steal cars to resell the parts for more money and with less risk than selling the whole car.
 - Car theft rings are often associated with drug distribution and heavier crimes.

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