Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center

2022
COLORADO AUTO THEFT ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

On behalf of the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC), we thank you for your interest in the complex crime of motor vehicle theft and its effect on our beautiful state. Many Colorado citizens have experienced auto theft challenges in our state from either personal experience, knowing a victim of auto theft, or through news and media reporting.

The 2022 Colorado Auto Theft Report demonstrates that even though our state continues to increase in motor vehicle theft, the pace of motor vehicle theft has slowed. The figures represented in the following pages should give the citizens of Colorado hope. The past years have been difficult and frustrating for the auto theft intelligence community in combating motor vehicle theft; however, the resources provided by Governor Polis, the State Legislators, the Colorado Department of Public Safety, the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority, and law enforcement partners throughout the state demonstrate that together we are making a difference in addressing many facets of the crime of motor vehicle theft as well as secondary crimes.

The ATICC is a Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) funded program housed at the CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (CMATT) in Denver, Colorado. ATICC is part of the Colorado Department of Public Safety within the Colorado State Patrol, Criminal Investigations Branch | Investigative Services Section. The ATICC unit consists of five (5) criminal intelligence analysts and one (1) unit supervisor. The ATICC was formed in 2010, creating the first Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (SVDR) in the world. The SVDR has now migrated to a native cloud environment to enable other states the opportunity to have a similar model as Colorado. The ATICC utilizes data from the SVDR to support auto theft operations, connecting the dots to numerous crimes, and supporting the many taskings with specialized subject matter experts.

The ATICC strives for excellence and is continually looking to the future on ways to better support the law enforcement community. Coming soon will be an interactive motor vehicle theft dashboard that will be open to the community to improve transparency.

There are many ways you can protect yourself against the crime of motor vehicle theft, which are provided in the following pages, and you can visit lockdownyourcar.org for numerous resources on motor vehicle theft and catalytic converter information.

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AUTO THEFT INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION CENTER (ATICC)

(U) Purpose: The Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) is a Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) funded initiative that serves the Colorado auto theft law enforcement community. ATICC provides information, intelligence, and analytical judgments on the occurrence of auto theft and its related crimes. The ATICC report includes observations of the crime of statewide motor vehicle theft, with a 5-year comparison, and CATPA regional area statistical data.

Disclaimer: Information contained in the Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (SVDR) is considered dynamic; modifications to records are made on a daily basis. Stolen vehicle records were screened for accuracy and normalized for standardization prior to use in this analysis. Data pulled for the analytical modeling occurred on 23 February 2023 for the ATICC annual reporting for aggregate theft and recovery data. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent. [i]

Key Findings

- Colorado continued to be a leading state in the nation for auto thefts per capita and volume in 2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- In 2022, there were 41,520 vehicles reported stolen to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC), which is the reporting repository for criminal justice reporting utilized by law enforcement agencies in the state. In 2022, 4,371 more vehicles were stolen compared to 2021, accounting for a 12% increase. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- The 41,520 vehicles stolen represents a $380,572,320 average dollar loss in 2022 using the FBI assessed latest average dollar loss per stolen vehicle in the United States at $9,166. (2020 economic data)

- In the past five (5) years, the number of reported stolen vehicles has increased 98%. There were 20,946 vehicles stolen in 2018 and 41,520 vehicles stolen in 2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- In the past five (5) years, the rate of reported stolen vehicles per capita has increased 93%. In 2018, there were 368 stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents compared to 711 stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents in 2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- The pace of the percentage increase of reported stolen vehicles slowed over the past three (3) years. Motor vehicle theft experienced a 40% increase from 2019-2020, that rate dropped to a 31% increase from 2020-2021, and further to a 12% increase from 2021-2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- In 2022, motor vehicle theft data demonstrates that 55% of reported stolen vehicles are recovered outside the municipality where the motor vehicle theft occurred, indicating the crime of motor vehicle theft is a multijurisdictional criminal event. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- Colorado Courts, cases/dockets filed in 2022 indicate that 4,288 (76%) of the 5,610 cases/dockets filed involved other criminal charges related to the motor vehicle theft incident. (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

- From the 5,610 cases/dockets filed, 1,322 (24%) contained the sole charge of motor vehicle theft. (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

- According to the Colorado Courts data, 11% of cases/dockets filed contained violent crime charges associated to motor vehicle theft in 2022, per the definition of Colorado Revised Statute, "Crime of Violence". (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

- The charge of "F3, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft w/Two Prior" convictions or adjudications occurred in 5% of the cases/dockets filed. (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

- Catalytic converter thefts continued to be problematic in 2022. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), catalytic converter thefts have increased 1,215% nationally between 2019-2022. (National Insurance Crime Bureau, 2023)

- In 2022, Chevrolet Silverado and Kia Sportage were the two (2) most stolen vehicles by volume in Colorado. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- The "make" Hyundai and Kia vehicles accounted for 25% (10,318) of all reported motor vehicle thefts in the state. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Notable Observations

Hyundai and Kia Thefts
Many of the Hyundai and Kia vehicle thefts may be attributed to well-publicized vulnerabilities in the vehicles' electronic entry and ignition systems with technology-enabled devices. Electronic devices, some of which are proprietary technologies used by vehicle manufacturers, are being marketed on the Internet and used by street gangs and motor vehicle theft offenders to defeat vehicle security systems.

- In a 16-minute documentary on YouTube, along with a TikTok posting, members of the "Kia Boys" or "KIABOYZ" in Milwaukee demonstrate how to compromise the steering column and ignition housing of a vehicle.[ii] (YouTube, "Kia Boys documentary;A Story of teenage car theft", 2022)
  - In 2022, there was a nationwide TikTok viral trend that implied a challenge to juveniles to steal a vehicle with the use of a USB cord, using hashtags "#theKiaboys" or "#Kiaboyz". The trend achieved more than 33 million views on the social media platform and resulted in at least 14 reported crashes and eight (8) fatalities likely attributed to the behavior after the vehicle theft occurred. Kia and Hyundai recently announced an update to their anti-theft software as a result of the nationwide trend of the thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles in 2021 and 2022. This is not inclusive with all Kia and Hyundai models. This free upgrade will be completed by Hyundai and Kia service centers and will include a

marking decal to show that the vehicle has been updated with additional security software.[iii] (NHTSA; Hyundai and Kia Launch Service of Campaign to Prevent Theft of Millions of Vehicles Targeted by Social Media Challenge, 2023) (Law Enforcement Reporting)

Theft of OBD Scanners

Colorado law enforcement encountered motor vehicle theft offenders burglarizing locksmith shops and service vehicles in order to steal automotive onboard diagnostic (OBD) scanners and devices that program vehicle smart keys, also known as key fobs. These devices are then used to defeat vehicle entry and ignition security systems and to fabricate and program smart keys for targeted vehicles. Law enforcement experienced numerous incidents involving a motor vehicle theft recovery with the OBD devices and reprogramming tools left behind by the motor vehicle theft offender(s). Some of these technologies are available for purchase on the Internet and do not require proof of a valid locksmith license.[iv] (Law Enforcement Reporting)

Motor Vehicle Theft and Associated Crimes

Motor vehicle theft (MVT) offenders steal vehicles for profit, convenience, and to evade detection by law enforcement to commit additional crimes. The ATICC recognizes the importance of performing an accurate analysis to quantify the relationship of motor vehicle theft offenders with other associated offenses. [v]

o In 2022, 41,520 stolen vehicles were reported into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC), which feeds into the ATICC SVDR.

o The ATICC is unable to determine which of the 41,520 thefts are connected to specific criminal charges of motor vehicle theft from Colorado Courts.

o The ATICC's source for criminal charge information is derived from Colorado Courts data with the exception of Denver City and County charge information, which is derived from the Denver Police Department.

o When referring to a case/docket, the term represents an individual person/defendant that is arrested, summoned, or a warrant issued for that person's arrest. The 5,610 case/dockets relate to 5,610 defendants; however, the ATICC is unable to determine the number of multiple cases/dockets that are linked to the same defendant due to the lack of personal identifying information (PII).

- Colorado Courts data demonstrate 5,610 cases/dockets filed with 20,281 charges. Of those 20,281 charges, there were 7,994 charges of motor vehicle theft and/or attempted motor vehicle theft, and 12,287 other charges associated to the motor vehicle theft incident. These other charges include threats to public safety that are comprised of but not limited to narcotics, weapons, vehicular eluding, driving under the influence, reckless driving, assault, attempted homicide, robbery, burglary, resisting arrest, and assault 1st degree – threaten peace officer with a weapon. (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

- Colorado Revised Statute, § 18-4-409 (b) states a "Class 3 Felony if the value of the motor vehicle or motor vehicles involved is more than one hundred thousand dollars **or if the defendant has twice previously been convicted or adjudicated of charges separately brought and tried either in this state or elsewhere** of an offense involving theft of a motor vehicle under the laws of this state, any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States." (Colorado Legal Resources; Lexis Nexis; 84-4-409, 2023) [vi]

- Of the 5,610 cases/docket, there were 307 (5%) cases/dockets containing 438 charges of **F3, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft w/Two Prior convictions or adjudications.** (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)
  - Of the 7,994 charges of motor vehicle theft and/or attempted motor vehicle theft, 87% (6,969) were felony charges (F1-F6) and 13% (1,025) were misdemeanor charges (M1-M3). (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022)

Motor Vehicle Theft and Criminal Violence

The interdiction of auto theft suspects is a high-risk, dynamic, and challenging environment. Law enforcement often faces prolific offenders known to elude officers, perform dangerous driving actions, and who frequently possess or have access to weapons, especially firearms.

- In 2022, Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) and the CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (CMATT) recovered 211 firearms during motor vehicle theft-related case investigations. According to Colorado Courts and Denver Police Department (DPD) data, there were 1,093 weapons charges and 440 cases/dockets filed in Colorado Courts and 94 weapons charges and 42 cases/dockets filed in the DPD RMS involving weapons offenses relating to motor vehicle theft. (Law Enforcement Reporting); (Colorado Courts 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2022) (Denver Police Department RMS; 2022 MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data)
- According to the Colorado Courts data, there were 620 (11%) cases/dockets out of the 5,610-total cases/dockets containing 1,611 qualifying violent crime charges and the DPD RMS data indicates 20 (2%) cases/dockets out of the 1,147-total cases/dockets containing 34 qualifying violent crime charges per the definition of Colorado Revised Statute, "Crime of Violence", associated to motor vehicle theft in 2022. It should be noted that "carjacking" is not considered a motor vehicle theft charge and is counted as a "robbery". According to the "Denver Crimes Armed carjacking 2022 crime report", 193 incidents of carjacking occurred in Denver.[vii] (Denver Crimes, 2022) (Colorado Legal Resources; definition of crime of violence, 2023)[viii]

Motor Vehicle Thefts and Insured Vehicles

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reported 42,229 Colorado thefts from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a difference of 709 thefts versus the 41,520 thefts the ATICC reported for 2022. This is largely attributed to differences in data cleaning (removing and/or modifying data that is incorrect, incomplete, or duplicated).

  - In 2022, 18,859 Insurance Services Office (ISO) theft claims were filed matching the vehicle identification numbers. Based on the NICB numbers, this accounts for roughly 45% of reported Colorado vehicle thefts resulting in a claim reported to ISO. (NICB, National Insurance Crime Bureau) Advisory: Not all insurance companies in Colorado are members of ISO, resulting in unreported claims.[ix] (Insurance Services Office; ISO, n.d.)

Large-Scale Theft Rings

In 2022, the motor vehicle theft community continued to see large-scale vehicle theft rings in different areas of the state, which contributed to the aggregate of auto thefts.

- During the year, several subjects were involved in the theft of vehicles, burglarizing businesses, theft of automated teller machines (ATMs), cash, vaping products, and liquor across the Denver Metro Area and Northern Colorado. The suspects fired shots into the air in an attempt to draw law enforcement away from recovering vehicles that members of the group had stolen and to aid in evading capture. The group consists of juveniles and

young adults, some of whom are well known prolific motor vehicle theft offenders in Colorado. (Law Enforcement Reporting)

o One prolific group continued to commit hundreds of motor vehicle-related crimes across the I-70 corridor and across the Front Range area. The crimes included large-scale dealership thefts, motor vehicle theft, vehicle trespass with vehicles being damaged from windows being broken, locks punched, and damaged or disabled ignitions, theft from vehicles to sell items on Facebook and other platforms for profit, and fraudulently using credit cards from vehicle trespasses. The offenders were known to brandish guns and/or shoot victims, the crimes likely supported drug addictions. At the time of this report, the value of loss in these cases is in the millions and involved 27 different law enforcement agencies. (Law Enforcement Reporting)

o In July, 2022, "The Endless Test Drive" case was presented to the Grand Jury by the Weld County District Attorney's Office. Suspects were indicted with more than 50 felony charges in the case, including one count of Violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act.[x] (Keller, Kent Greeley PD)

o In September 2022, the Hyundai and Kia theft ring case nicknamed "No Keys, No Problem" was presented to the Grand Jury by the Weld County District Attorney's Office. For the second time in the year, the Weld County Grand Jury indicted some of the same motor vehicle theft offenders from "The Endless Test Drive" and several other offenders for motor vehicle theft across the area, resulting in a total of more than 250 felony charges among five (5) offenders to include Violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act. (Keller, Kent Greeley PD)

Western Slope Observes a 25% Reduction in Auto Theft
The BATTLE West Regional Team is comprised of a multiagency partnership, including the Colorado State Patrol, Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Grand Junction Police Department, Montrose Police Department, Montrose County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, US Drug Enforcement Administration, and US Homeland Security Investigations, and is continuing to expand their multijurisdictional partnerships throughout the western Colorado region. The BATTLE West task force has completely transformed the way operations are conducted and has become a formidable law enforcement presence by developing best practices and combining agency resources. The auto theft task force is just short of being full-time, and the regional partner agencies have expanded their purview when engaging in BATTLE operations through an all-crimes approach in the high-density motor vehicle theft areas that are affecting local jurisdictions with a motor vehicle theft nexus. Through these BATTLE operations, participating agencies not only focus on prolific motor vehicle theft offenders but also target major criminal offenders in the area who are also responsible for many of the property and violent crimes in the region. This multijurisdictional partnership and its success in the BATTLE West Region cannot be overstated, as their efforts have led to the only consistent reduction in motor vehicle theft in a designated region statewide in 2022.[xi] (Koziara & WesternSlopeNow.com, 2023)

High-Density Theft Areas
Identified high-density theft areas for motor vehicle theft consistently occur in and around larger cities with the majority of auto thefts occurring in the Denver Metro area, Colorado Springs, Aurora, and Pueblo. This pattern correlates to the areas with the greatest population growth in Colorado and access to major roadways.

o According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB) 2021 Hot-Spot Report released in September 2022, the Denver Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (Denver-Aurora-Lakewood) was ranked second in the United States for motor

vehicle thefts of all the MSAs. Accordingly, the Pueblo MSA (all communities in Pueblo County) was ranked third. For awareness, insurance companies may request an increase in premiums for all consumers in high risk areas. [xii] (NICB, "Report Finds Vehicle Thefts Continue to Skyrocket in Many Areas of U.S"; 01 SEP 2022)

o One particular area of concern is parking at the Denver International Airport and surrounding economy lots, including the Mt. Elbert and Pikes Peak parking lots. Motor vehicle theft in airport parking structures and/or parking lots within a seven (7) mile radius of DIA, accounts for as much as 3% of the statewide thefts for the year. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository) Denver International Airport served a record 69,286,461 passengers in 2022, providing a target-rich environment for motor vehicle theft offenders. Vehicles parked in these locations are likely perceived by motor vehicle theft offenders as being unguarded for extended periods, which possibly gives ample time for a motor vehicle theft to go unreported.[xiii] (Kirk, Alexander, The Denver Post, 2022)

Strategic Plan for High Risk Terrain Areas

The CATPA Board approved an additional strategic plan initiative to deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud through a statewide cooperative effort of generating funds to support law enforcement, prosecution, and public awareness through a partnership between industry and state government. This mission is supported by the Colorado Revised Statutes §43-5-112.[xiv] (FindLaw, n.d.) In response to the significant increase of motor vehicle theft, the intent of this strategy is to beta test the effectiveness of using limited funding in high risk areas. In October 2022, the CATPA Board approved funding of strategic plans with a Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to reduce motor vehicle theft by 50%, as compared to 2019-2020 data, before June 30, 2023, targeting six (6) high-risk terrain areas in Greeley, Pueblo, Mesa County, Denver District 3, Denver District 5, and DIA. These special operations commenced in January 2023.[xv] (Force, R.; CATPA, 2022)

Catalytic Converter Theft Responses

According to the National Crime Insurance Bureau (NICB), catalytic converter thefts have increased 1,215% nationally between 2019 and 2022. The converters contain high value precious metals, specifically rhodium, palladium, and platinum. (National Insurance Crime Bureau, 2023) In 2019, there were 189 reported catalytic converter thefts in Colorado, where the number increased to 1,153 in 2020 and 9,811 in 2021. (CATPA, Catalytic Converter Thefts identifed by Lexis Nexis, reveiwing law enforcement records submitted by 88 Colorado agencies in the COLORADO INFORMATION SHARING CONSORTIUM from 2019-2021, 2022)[xvi] It is believed that catalytic converter thefts continue to beset Colorado. Mitigation strategies have been implemented through new state legislation in House Bill 22-1217 to address catalytic converter theft. (Colorado General Assembly; HB22-1217, 2022)[xvii]

o On June 7, 2022, Governor Jared Polis signed into effect HB22-1217 - Catalytic Converter Records and Grant Program. The measure requires tracking and accountability for purchases of detached catalytic converters by Colorado industries and creates a grant program for the Catalytic Converter Identification and Theft Prevention Program (CCITP). The CCITP grant program provides $300,000 from the General Fund to support businesses impacted by catalytic converter thefts, enforcement, prevention, victim's assistance programs, and grant administration. (Colorado General Assembly; HB22-1217, 2022)

- This program funds victim assistance programs to assist persons who have experienced a stolen catalytic converter in Colorado for a limited time. This program, called the Catalytic Converter Assistance Program (CCAP), is managed by the Colorado State Patrol Investigative Services Section. Under this program, eligible victims may receive financial assistance toward the replacement of their stolen catalytic converter.
- Applicable Colorado laws pertaining to criminal activity involving catalytic converters include: §18-13-111 C.R.S. - Purchases of Commodity Metals or Detached Catalytic Converters, [xviii] (Colorado Legal Resource effective, 2022) §18-4-420 C.R.S. Chop Shop Activity, (Colorado Legal Resource, Lexis Nexis, 2023)[xix] and §25-7-144 C.R.S. - Tampering with Motor Vehicle Emissions Control System, which goes into effect on January 01, 2024. (Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; CRS § 25-7-144, 2023) [xx]

Colorado Department of Public Safety, Decision Item R-01
The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) has made a legislative request for an increase of $7,915,323 from the General Fund for ten (10) full-time equivalent employees in FY 2023-24 and $4,719,274 from the General Fund for nine (9) full-time equivalent employees in FY 2024-25 to augment the funding capacity of the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) and the existing multi-jurisdictional task forces to combat auto theft. This comprehensive request includes funding for additional overtime for Colorado State Patrol troopers and local law enforcement agency officers, funding for ten (10) prosecutors to be hired by local district attorneys, the purchase of license plate readers (LPRs), analysts to evaluate the data and develop strategic enforcement plans, funding to develop a robust statewide educational and awareness campaign, technological tracking and information sharing enhancements, and staff to manage the grant program and administrative needs of the initiative. The request is for two (2) years of funding with a reassessment for potential ongoing funding in FY 2025-26. (Colorado Joint Budget Committee; R-01, 2023)[xxi]

Senate Bill 23-097
On January 30, 2023, SB23-097 was introduced by Colorado Lawmakers in an effort to curb auto theft by decoupling the cost value of a stolen vehicle from the criminal penalty and by increasing penalties for repeat auto theft offenders. Provided in the new measure, stealing any vehicle, regardless of value, is a Class 5 felony, which is generally punishable by one (1) to three (3) years in prison or a fine between $1,000 to $100,000, or both. The offense then is elevated to a Class 4 or Class 3 felony depending on aggravating factors such as a previous motor vehicle theft conviction of the offender. (Colorado General Assembly, 2023)[xxii] On February 27, 2023, the Senate Judiciary Committee referred SB 23-097 to the Committee on Appropriations, the motion passing on a vote of 5-0. (Colorado General Assembly; SB23-097 Status, 2023)
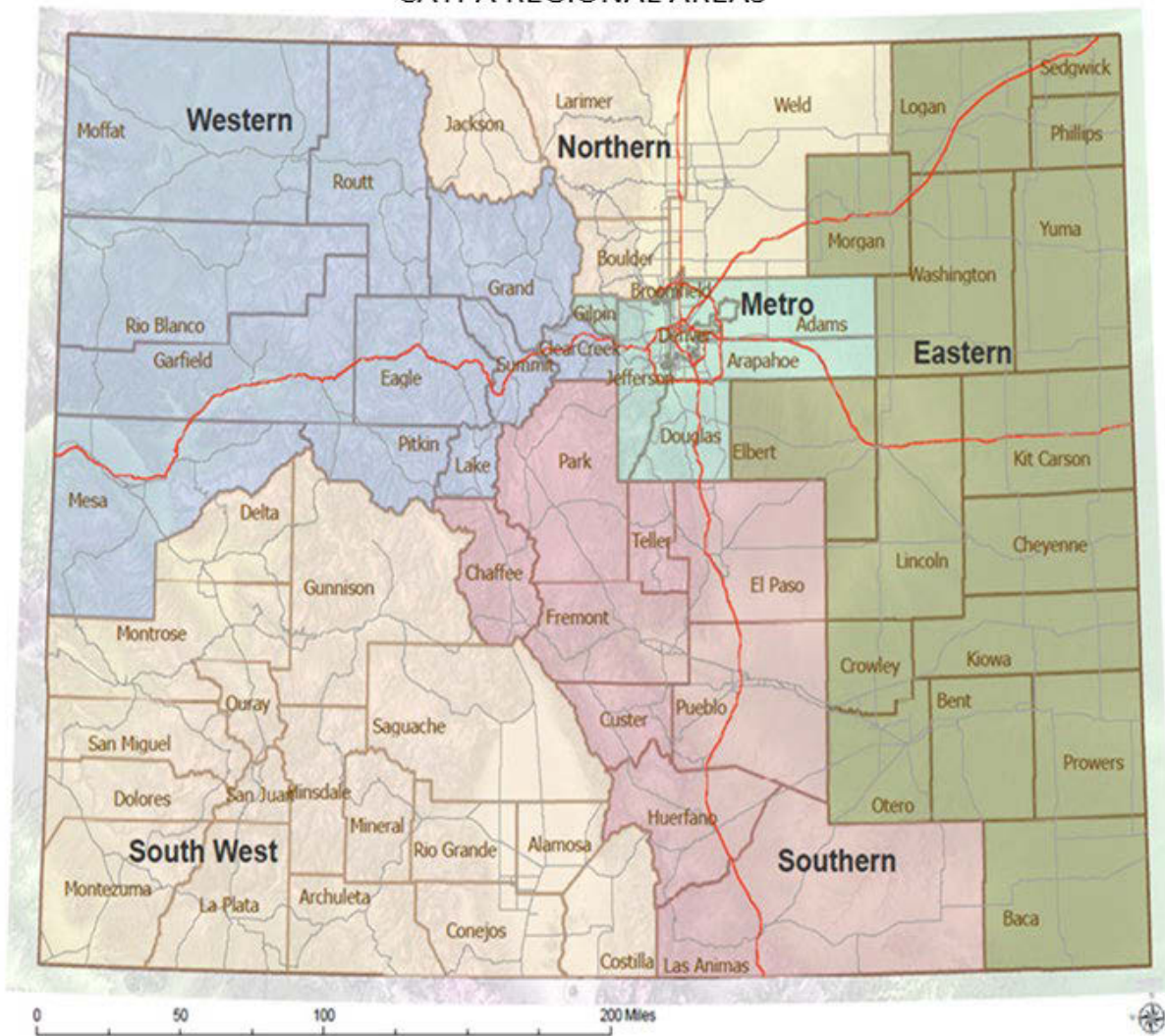
(U) Figure 2. CATPA Regional Areas. Source: Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority

Analytical Modeling

Data pulled for the analytical modeling occurred on February 23, 2023 and may differ from previous reports. The ATICC data will vary from the FBI UCR/NIBRS data captured due to UCR/NIBRS collects data on the case information while the ATICC captures specific stolen vehicle data. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent.

Stolen and recovered vehicles in the ATICC Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (SVDR) are obtained directly from the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) system. These numbers will differ slightly from individual agency databases. The ATICC data does not include attempted vehicle thefts or vehicle thefts that were recovered prior to being reported stolen, thus not entered in CCIC as stolen.

The CATPA regions are divided into six (6) areas within Colorado. Each respective region has a designated auto theft task force serving the area.

Motor Vehicle Theft by Volume and Year

The 5-year comparison of statewide motor vehicle theft demonstrates a 98% overall increase between 2018 (20,946) and 2022 (41,520). The percentage increase of reported stolen vehicles pace slowed over the past three (3) years. Motor vehicle theft experienced a 40% increase from 2019-2020, that rate dropped to a 31% increase from 2020-2021, and further to a 12% increase from 2021-2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Motor Vehicle Recovery by Year

Colorado's recovery rate of motor vehicle thefts is consistently higher than the national average. The 5-year comparison of statewide recovery rates for the years of 2018-2022, indicate 2022 had the lowest rate of recovery in the 5-year comparison at 87%, while 2021 had the highest rate of recovery at 90%.
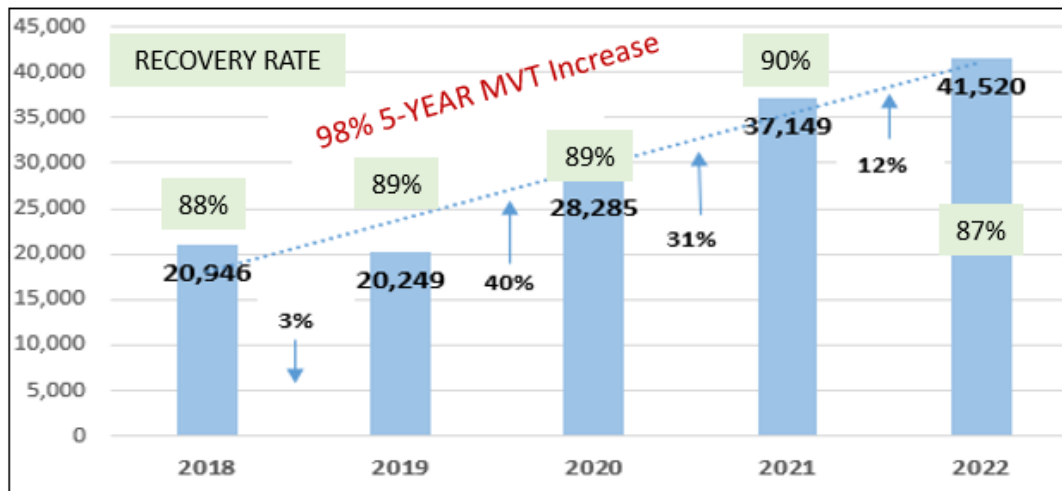
(U) Figure 3. Yearly vehicle theft and recovery rate: 2018-2022. Source: ATICC SVDR.

Vehicle Theft by Per Capita and Households

The vehicle theft rate per capita (per 100,000 residents) indicates a 93% increase in the 5-year comparison. Vehicle theft rates per household (per 100,000 Colorado households) indicate an 89% increase within the 5-year comparison.

Year	Grand Total Thefts (Volume)	% Theft Change	Statewide Population	Theft Per 100,000 / Population	% Theft / Population Change	Statewide Households	Theft Per 100,000 / Household	% Theft / Household Change
2018	20,946		5,694,311	368		2,199,006	953	
2019	20,249	-3%	5,769,985	351	-5%	2,220,418	912	-4%
2020	28,285	40%	5,842,076	484	38%	2,251,928	1,256	38%
2021	37,149	31%	5,814,707	639	32%	2,279,908	1,629	30%
2022	41,520	12%	5,843,336	711	11%	2,311,999	1,796	10%
5yr Trend		98%			93%			89%

(U) Figure 4. 5-year comparison of volume, rate of theft per capita and household. Source: ATICC SVDR, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and State Demography Office.

Statewide Vehicle Style Thefts

ATICC uses the stolen vehicle records, as entered into CCIC, for administrative, strategic, operational, and tactical analytical products. Stolen vehicle records entered into CCIC are also categorized by style and may vary from those that may not be otherwise registered with the Colorado Department of Motor vehicles. Such vehicles may include construction and farming equipment. The following vehicle styles will be the focus of this analysis: motorcycle, passenger car, pickup truck, SUV, trailer, and van. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

In 2022, the SUV surpassed the passenger car by a minimal margin to claim the top vehicle style stolen in Colorado. The passenger car held the number one (1) spot by a significant margin since 2018. The pickup truck remained at the number three (3) spot as in previous years. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

The motorcycle, passenger car, pickup truck, SUV, and van all demonstrated a yearly increase in thefts by vehicle style within the 5-year comparison. Trailers were the only exception, which experienced a 2% decrease in 2019. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Motorcycles and trailers continue to have the lowest recovery rates of vehicles used on the roadways. The lack of a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), Product Identification Number (PIN), or an Owner Identification Number (OAN) on these styles of vehicles contributes to the reason for the low recovery rate. In addition to motorcycles, other low speed vehicles (i.e. mopeds), trailers, farm equipment, construction equipment, and off-road vehicles are either not manufactured with a tracking number or the vehicle is not registered with the OEM or the state, or the vehicle placard/tag that displays a unique identifier may be easily removed by a thief. (Force, R.; CATPA, 2022)

The recovery rate for farm and construction equipment is lower than any other style used on roadways. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Complicating this concern is that many owners at the time of theft may not have unique identifying numbers to provide to law enforcement that can be utilized for investigative purposes towards a recovery. It is known that oftentimes law enforcement may come across these types of vehicles during chop shop raids, junk yard inspections, or during transport, but are unable to verify the stolen status of the vehicle due to the removal or lack of unique identifying numbers. (Force, R.; CATPA, 2022)

Statewide Vehicle Style

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Motorcycle	**1,267**	**1,418**	**2,048**	**2,015**	**2,114**
Active	493	565	856	901	1,156
Inactive	774	853	1,192	1,114	958
Recovery Rate	61%	60%	58%	55%	45%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Passenger Car	**8,201**	**7,002**	**9,033**	**12,184**	**12,952**
Active	426	258	238	299	589
Inactive	7,775	6,744	8,795	11,885	12,363
Recovery Rate	95%	96%	97%	98%	95%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pickup Truck	**3,871**	**4,061**	**6,150**	**8,023**	**8,343**
Active	326	293	397	623	963
Inactive	3,545	3,768	5,753	7,400	7,380
Recovery Rate	92%	93%	94%	92%	88%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SUV	**5,139**	**5,211**	**7,226**	**10,461**	**12,955**
Active	235	179	195	277	549
Inactive	4,904	5,032	7,031	10,184	12,406
Recovery Rate	95%	97%	97%	97%	96%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Trailer	**1,111**	**1,089**	**1,582**	**1,848**	**2,004**
Active	587	536	806	926	1,072
Inactive	524	553	776	922	932
Recovery Rate	47%	51%	49%	50%	47%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Van	**556**	**579**	**833**	**1,106**	**1,228**
Active	35	29	23	41	84
Inactive	521	550	810	1,065	1,144
Recovery Rate	94%	95%	97%	96%	93%

(U) Figure 5. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style by theft volume, recovery and active status. Note: Rate of theft per vehicle style registration is not currently available. Source: ATICC Stolen Vehicle Repository.

The Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicle(s) in 2022

The most stolen vehicle in 2022 was the Chevrolet Silverado, with the 2004 model being the most-at-risk vehicle with 214 of the 1,853 reported thefts, which accounted for 12% of those thefts. The 2021 Kia Sportage, however, had the highest individual theft count at 333 and accounted for 20% of the 1,661 Kia Sportage thefts. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)
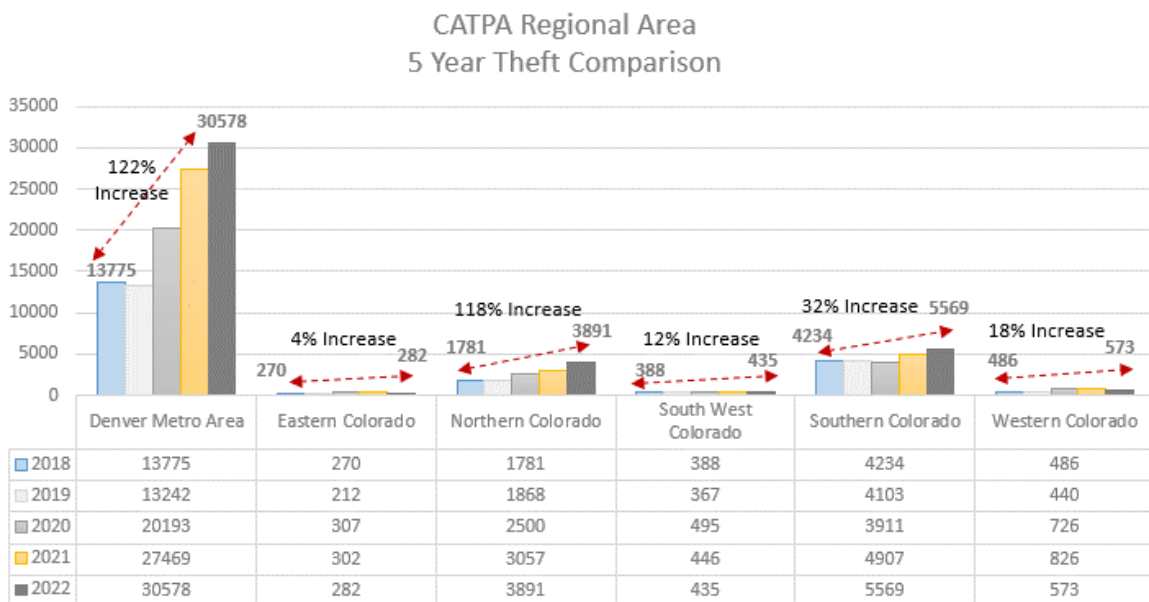
Kia (5,183) and Hyundai (5,135) thefts account for approximately 25% of the total statewide thefts (41,520). Kia and Hyundai hold six (6) of the top ten (10) most stolen vehicles by make, with three (3) models each.

Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles			
Make	Model	Year (Count)	Total Theft Count
1. Chevrolet	Silverado	2004 (214)	1846
2. Kia	Sportage	2021 (332)	1661
3. Hyundai	Sonata	2016 (276)	1531
4. Kia	Optima	2013 (231)	1399
5. Hyundai	Tucson	2017 (308)	1287
6. Hyundai	Elantra	2013 (268)	1241
7. Ford	F-250	1999 (150)	1160
8. Honda	Civic	2000 (108)	839
9. GMC	Sierra	2005 (98)	831
10. Kia	Sorento	2016 (136)	829

(U) Figure 6. Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles in 2022. Source: ATICC SVDR.

Motor Vehicle Thefts by CATPA Regional Areas
The following bar graph demonstrates how the 5-year comparison of statewide motor vehicle theft with the percentage increase from 2018 to 2022 is distributed by the CATPA regional area. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

CATPA Regional Area
5 Year Theft Comparison

	Denver Metro Area	Eastern Colorado	Northern Colorado	South West Colorado	Southern Colorado	Western Colorado
2018	13775	270	1781	388	4234	486
2019	13242	212	1868	367	4103	440
2020	20193	307	2500	495	3911	726
2021	27469	302	3057	446	4907	826
2022	30578	282	3891	435	5569	573

(U) Figure 7. 5- year comparison of vehicle theft by CATPA regional area by volume. Source: ATICC SVDR

When considering the number of statewide motor vehicle thefts, as illustrated above, the Denver Metro regional area routinely makes up the majority of motor vehicle thefts in Colorado. In 2022, auto thefts from the Denver Metro regional area accounted for approximately 74% of the total thefts. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Eastern, South West, and Western Colorado CATPA regional areas experienced decreases in reported vehicle thefts in 2022 versus 2021, with Western Colorado demonstrating a 25% decrease. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

The Northern Colorado CATPA regional area experienced a 24% increase in motor vehicle thefts, and the Southern Colorado CATPA regional area experienced a 12% increase from 2021 to 2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Denver Metro Area

The Denver Metro CATPA regional area encompasses Denver, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Jefferson, Gilpin, and Broomfield Counties. As an area of higher population density and accessibility to commercial businesses and transportation facilities, the Denver Metro area consistently leads the state for motor vehicle theft.
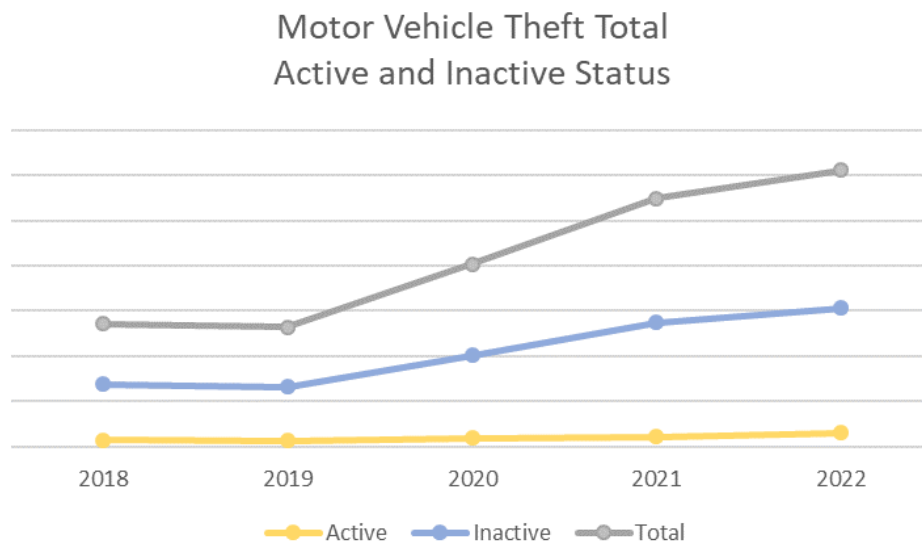
(U) Figure 8_9. 5- year comparison of vehicle theft by the respective CATPA regional area, by volume, recovery and active status. Source: ATICC SVDR

The data suggests that as the number of motor vehicle thefts has increased over time, the recovery rate has remained steady and is consistently in the 90s in each of the last five (5) years.

|	Active	Inactive	Total	Recovery Rate
2018	1,414	12,361	13,375	90%
2019	1,286	11,956	13,242	90%
2020	1,833	18,360	20,193	91%
2021	2,111	25,358	27,469	92%
2022	3,068	27,510	30,578	90%

The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and recovery rate while comparing the active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen and recovered in the Denver Metro Area. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
2018	Motorcycle	692	289	403	58%
	Passenger Car	5,399	275	5,124	95%
	Pickup Truck	2,549	195	2,354	92%
	SUV	3,696	168	3,528	95%
	Trailer	615	302	313	51%
	Van	401	25	376	94%
2019	Motorcycle	804	340	464	58%
	Passenger Car	4,580	167	4,413	96%
	Pickup Truck	2,672	173	2,499	94%
	SUV	3,708	132	3,576	96%
	Trailer	592	273	319	54%
	Van	419	19	400	95%
2020	Motorcycle	1,302	536	766	59%
	Passenger Car	6,633	160	6,473	98%
	Pickup Truck	4,445	261	4,184	94%
	SUV	5,508	138	5,370	97%
	Trailer	904	427	477	53%
	Van	646	20	626	97%
2021	Motorcycle	1,261	586	675	54%
	Passenger Car	9,303	195	9,108	98%
	Pickup Truck	5,851	379	5,472	94%
	SUV	8,386	193	8,193	98%
	Trailer	1,018	474	544	53%
	Van	862	31	831	96%
2022	Motorcycle	1,202	670	532	44%
	Passenger Car	9,955	414	9,541	96%
	Pickup Truck	5,765	590	5,175	90%
	SUV	10,619	409	10,210	96%
	Trailer	1,137	539	598	53%
	Van	924	60	864	94%

(U) Figure 10. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

Eastern Colorado

The Eastern Colorado CATPA Region incorporates several counties including Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Morgan, Washington, Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, Logan, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Prowers, and Baca Counties. Typically rural and sparsely populated, this is the largest CATPA region by area. However, it consistently has the lowest rates of motor vehicle theft in Colorado.

Motor Vehicle Theft Total
Active and Inactive Status
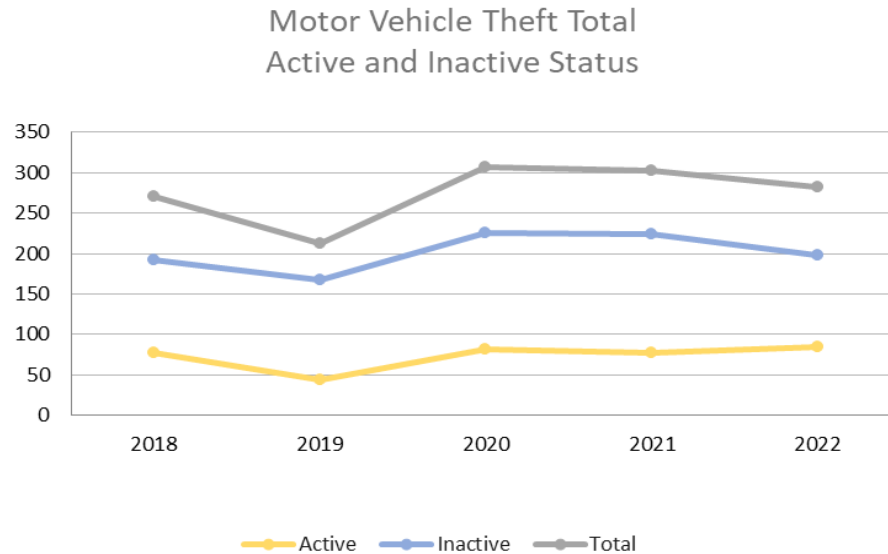
(U) Figure 11 and 12. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft by the respective CATPA regional area, by volume, recovery and active status. Source: ATICC SVDR

Motor vehicle thefts in Eastern Colorado are substantially less by volume and present a steadier rate overall of theft in the region over the last five (5) years.

Eastern Colorado			
	Active	Inactive	Total	Recovery Rate
2018	78	192	270	71%
2019	44	168	212	79%
2020	82	225	307	73%
2021	78	224	302	74%
2022	84	198	282	70%

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The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and recovery rate while comparing the active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen and recovered in Eastern Colorado.

	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
2018	Motorcycle	18	8	10	56%
	Passenger Car	71	9	62	87%
	Pickup Truck	77	7	70	91%
	SUV	29	5	24	83%
	Trailer	38	28	10	26%
	Van	5	0	5	100%
2019	Motorcycle	10	5	5	50%
	Passenger Car	60	2	58	97%
	Pickup Truck	55	7	48	87%
	SUV	33	3	30	91%
	Trailer	20	11	9	45%
	Van	3	1	2	67%
2020	Motorcycle	15	13	2	13%
	Passenger Car	69	10	59	86%
	Pickup Truck	89	12	77	87%
	SUV	49	1	48	98%
	Trailer	45	31	14	31%
	Van	11	0	11	100%
2021	Motorcycle	18	12	6	33%
	Passenger Car	76	9	67	88%
	Pickup Truck	100	13	87	87%
	SUV	31	2	29	94%
	Trailer	39	26	13	33%
	Van	10	1	9	90%
2022	Motorcycle	24	12	12	50%
	Passenger Car	64	13	51	80%
	Pickup Truck	87	17	70	80%
	SUV	42	4	38	90%
	Trailer	32	22	10	31%
	Van	4	0	4	100%

Eastern Colorado

(U) Figure 13. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style by the respective CATPA regional area, by volume, recovery and active status. Source: ATICC SVDR

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UNCLASSIFIED

Northern Colorado

The Northern Colorado CATPA Region incorporates Boulder, Weld, Larimer, and Jackson Counties. Like the Denver Metro Area, this region is home to large cities but has a mix of large rural areas as well. This region, along with the Denver Metro Area and Southern Colorado fall along the I-25 corridor.

Motor Vehicle Theft Total Active and Inactive Status
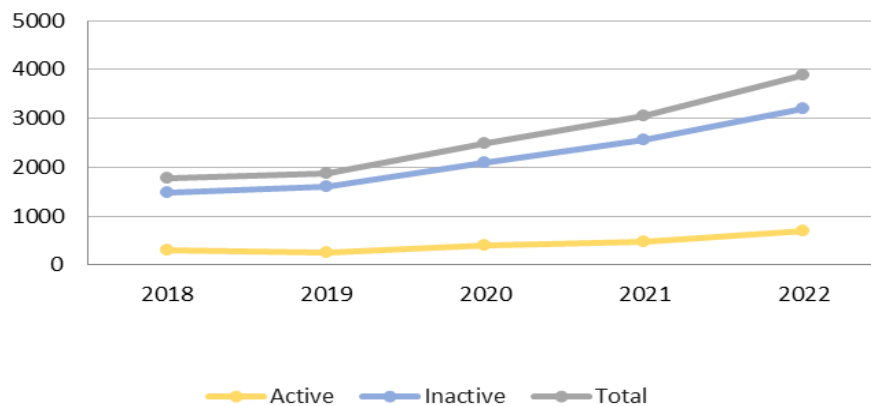
(U) Figure 14_15. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft by the respective CATPA regional area, by volume, recovery and active status. Source: ATICC SVDR

The comparison of active and inactive motor vehicle thefts in Northern Colorado mirrors that of the Denver Metro Area and the recovery rate has remained somewhat steady over the last five (5) years.

| Northern Colorado				
	Active	Inactive	Total	Recovery Rate
2018	299	1,482	1,781	83%
2019	257	1,611	1,868	86%
2020	411	2,089	2,500	84%
2021	484	2,573	3,057	84%
2022	699	3,192	3,891	82%

The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and recovery rate while comparing the active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen and recovered in Northern Colorado.

	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
2018	Motorcycle	153	70	83	54%
	Passenger Car	577	28	549	95%
	Pickup Truck	360	43	317	88%
	SUV	398	19	379	95%
	Trailer	145	84	61	42%
	Van	32	1	31	97%
2019	Motorcycle	155	62	93	60%
	Passenger Car	595	23	572	96%
	Pickup Truck	384	39	345	90%
	SUV	436	9	427	98%
	Trailer	142	69	73	51%
	Van	40	1	39	98%
2020	Motorcycle	245	109	136	56%
	Passenger Car	674	21	653	97%
	Pickup Truck	598	58	540	90%
	SUV	545	17	528	97%
	Trailer	218	116	102	47%
	Van	54	1	53	98%
2021	Motorcycle	231	107	124	54%
	Passenger Car	890	29	861	97%
	Pickup Truck	711	96	615	86%
	SUV	707	26	681	96%
	Trailer	266	133	133	50%
	Van	92	2	90	98%
2022	Motorcycle	263	157	106	40%
	Passenger Car	1,118	42	1,076	96%
	Pickup Truck	930	164	766	82%
	SUV	956	44	912	95%
	Trailer	296	168	128	43%
	Van	101	8	93	92%

Northern Colorado

(U) Figure 16. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft by style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

South West Colorado

The South West Colorado CATPA Region includes the most counties: Costilla, Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, Mineral, Archuleta, Saguache, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, San Juan, Ouray, Delta, Montrose, San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma Counties. This region has a wide range of topographical features and population density areas. This is the only region that I-25 and I-70, two (2) of Colorado's main highway corridors, does not go through.

Motor Vehicle Theft Total Active and Inactive Status
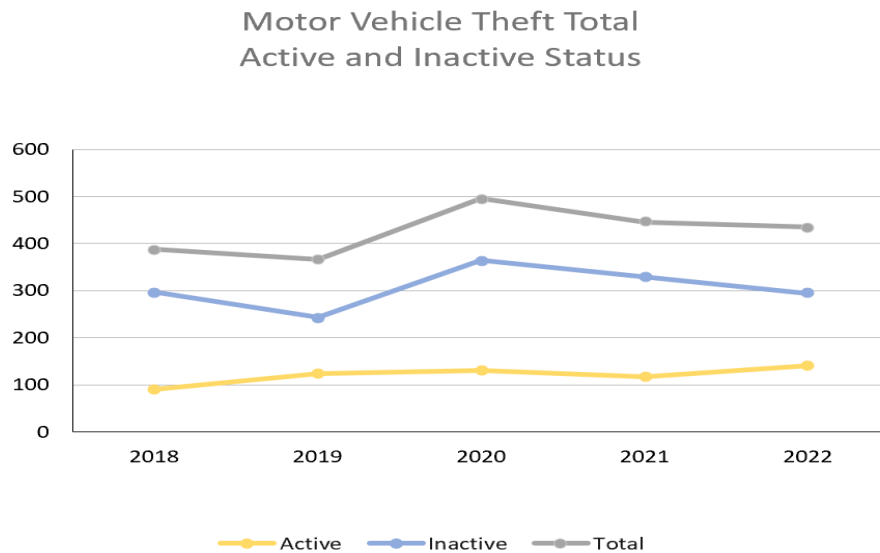
(U) Figure 17_18. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

Motor vehicle thefts in South West Colorado are less by volume than those along the I-25 corridor and major metropolitan areas. Overall, motor vehicle theft rates have increased in the last five (5) years, with a notable uptick in 2020.

	Active	Inactive	Total	Recovery Rate
	South West Colorado			
2018	91	297	388	77%
2019	124	243	367	68%
2020	131	364	495	74%
2021	117	329	446	74%
2022	141	294	435	68%

The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and recovery rate while comparing the active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen and recovered in South West Colorado.

	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
2018	Motorcycle	36	17	19	53%
	Passenger Car	122	18	104	85%
	Pickup Truck	91	15	76	84%
	SUV	72	9	63	88%
	Trailer	35	21	14	40%
	Van	5	2	3	60%
2019	Motorcycle	55	24	31	56%
	Passenger Car	73	11	62	85%
	Pickup Truck	81	21	60	74%
	SUV	60	10	50	83%
	Trailer	44	29	15	34%
	Van	5	0	5	100%
2020	Motorcycle	65	37	28	43%
	Passenger Car	98	8	90	92%
	Pickup Truck	122	16	106	87%
	SUV	95	11	84	88%
	Trailer	48	28	20	42%
	Van	11	0	11	100%
2021	Motorcycle	48	29	19	40%
	Passenger Car	98	10	88	90%
	Pickup Truck	121	25	96	79%
	SUV	78	5	73	94%
	Trailer	45	24	21	47%
	Van	10	1	9	90%
2022	Motorcycle	47	32	15	32%
	Passenger Car	87	17	70	80%
	Pickup Truck	115	21	94	82%
	SUV	80	15	65	81%
	Trailer	37	22	15	41%
	Van	17	4	13	76%

(U) Figure 19. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

Southern Colorado

The Southern Colorado CATPA Region encompasses Las Animas, Huerfano, Pueblo, Custer, Fremont, El Paso, Teller, Park, and Chaffee Counties. With two large cities, Pueblo and Colorado Springs, this region ranks as second for highest rate of motor vehicle theft in Colorado following the Denver Metro Area.

Motor Vehicle Theft Total
Active and Inactive Status
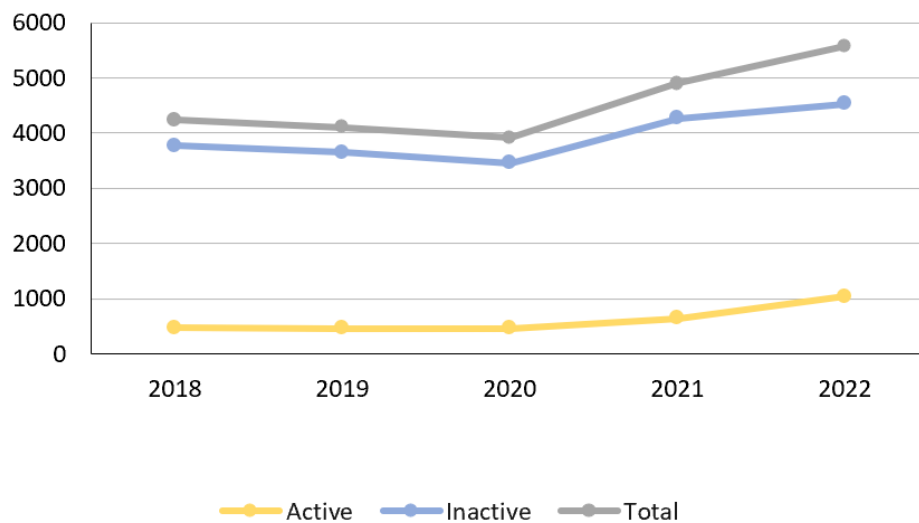
(U) Figures 20_21. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style by the respective CATPA regional area, by volume, recovery and active status. Source: ATICC SVDR

Motor vehicle thefts in Southern Colorado by volume are the second highest in the state and this region falls along the I-25 corridor. Though motor vehicle thefts increased overall, the recovery rates seemed stable with a marked decrease in the recovery rate of stolen vehicles in 2022.

Southern Colorado			
	Active	**Inactive**	**Total**	**Recovery Rate**
2018	469	3,765	4,234	89%
2019	460	3,643	4,103	89%
2020	459	3,452	3,911	88%
2021	643	4,265	4,907	87%
2022	1,035	4,534	5,569	81%

The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and showing recovery rate by observing active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen and recovered in Southern Colorado.
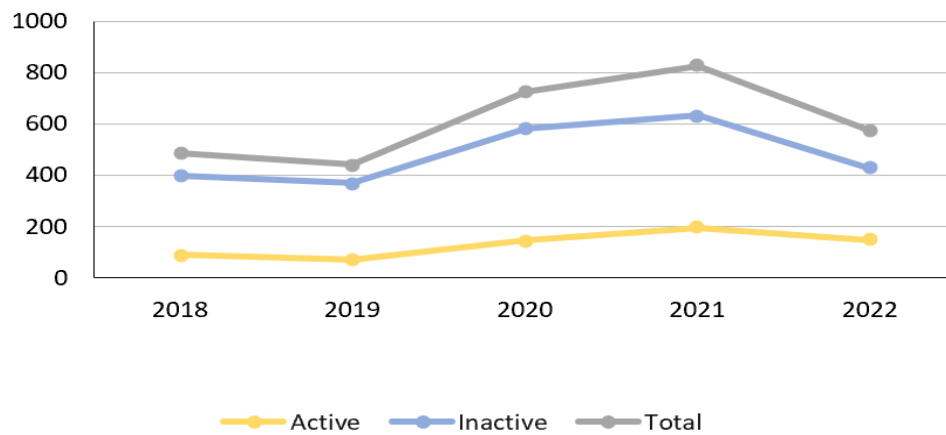
	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
Southern Colorado					
2018	Motorcycle	326	90	236	72%
2018	Passenger Car	1,897	84	1,813	96%
2018	Pickup Truck	684	52	632	92%
2018	SUV	840	30	810	96%
2018	Trailer	238	131	107	45%
2018	Van	95	6	89	94%
2019	Motorcycle	346	109	237	68%
2019	Passenger Car	1,571	46	1,525	97%
2019	Pickup Truck	756	40	716	95%
2019	SUV	880	21	859	98%
2019	Trailer	262	140	122	47%
2019	Van	96	5	91	95%
2020	Motorcycle	337	111	226	67%
2020	Passenger Car	1,368	32	1,336	98%
2020	Pickup Truck	725	38	687	95%
2020	SUV	872	22	850	97%
2020	Trailer	295	160	135	46%
2020	Van	102	1	101	99%
2021	Motorcycle	366	111	255	70%
2021	Passenger Car	1,643	45	1,598	97%
2021	Pickup Truck	1,003	75	928	93%
2021	SUV	1,069	30	1,039	97%
2021	Trailer	400	222	178	45%
2021	Van	110	3	107	97%
2022	Motorcycle	508	244	264	52%
2022	Passenger Car	1,608	93	1,515	94%
2022	Pickup Truck	1,308	145	1,163	89%
2022	SUV	1,129	66	1,063	94%
2022	Trailer	444	291	153	34%
2022	Van	168	11	157	93%

(U) Figure 22. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft in the respective CATPA region area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

Western Colorado

The Western Colorado CATPA Region includes Gilpin, Clear Creek, Grand, Summit, Lake, Pitkin, Eagle, Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Moffat Counties. This region falls along the I-70 corridor and has a diverse landscape from very mountainous areas to mesa plateaus. The Western Colorado Region experienced a definite decrease in motor vehicle theft in 2022 compared to the two (2) previous years.

Motor Vehicle Theft Total Active and Inactive Status

(U) Figure 23_24. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

The volume of motor vehicle theft visibly decreased as shown in Figure 23 in active thefts, inactive thefts, and total volume of thefts. The overall decrease of 25% from 2021 to 2022 is a significant success.

	Western Colorado			
	Active	Inactive	Total	Recovery Rate
2018	90	396	486	81%
2019	72	368	440	84%
2020	144	582	726	80%
2021	194	632	826	77%
2022	147	426	573	74%

The following chart displays a 5-year breakdown of theft by vehicle type and recovery rate while comparing the active versus inactive status of each vehicle type. This information can yield insight into what vehicle types are most likely to be stolen.

	Western Colorado				
	Style	Theft	Active	Inactive	Recovery Rate
2018	Motorcycle	42	19	23	55%
	Passenger Car	134	12	122	91%
	Pickup Truck	107	14	93	87%
	SUV	100	3	97	97%
	Trailer	40	21	19	48%
	Van	18	1	17	94%
2019	Motorcycle	46	23	23	50%
	Passenger Car	122	9	113	93%
	Pickup Truck	110	11	99	90%
	SUV	92	2	90	98%
	Trailer	28	14	14	50%
	Van	16	3	13	81%
2020	Motorcycle	84	50	34	40%
	Passenger Car	187	7	180	96%
	Pickup Truck	164	11	153	93%
	SUV	155	6	149	96%
	Trailer	69	41	28	41%
	Van	9	1	8	89%
2021	Motorcycle	91	56	35	38%
	Passenger Car	166	9	157	95%
	Pickup Truck	232	35	197	85%
	SUV	184	20	164	89%
	Trailer	78	46	32	41%
	Van	21	3	18	86%
2022	Motorcycle	69	41	28	41%
	Passenger Car	117	10	107	91%
	Pickup Truck	134	25	109	81%
	SUV	127	11	116	91%
	Trailer	58	30	28	48%
	Van	14	1	13	93%

U) Figure 25. 5-year comparison of vehicle theft style in the respective CATPA regional area, showing the active and inactive numbers, and recovery rates. Source: ATICC SVDR

2022 Recovery Comparison
CATPA Regional Areas | County | Out of State

There were 37,595 total recoveries, regardless of theft date, reported in 2022. The recoveries in the following analysis focuses solely on the recoveries that occurred between January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

In 2022, more than 50% of the stolen vehicles were recovered within the same CATPA area in which they were originally stolen. Denver Metropolitan Area led with 95%, followed closely by Southern Colorado at 91%. Eastern Colorado held the lowest rate at 58%. The CATPA region statistic should not be confused with the municipality statistic of 55% of motor vehicle thefts being recovered in another municipality. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Note: The total number of theft and recoveries for the state will not equal the total number of theft and recoveries from the theft and recovery areas in auto theft areas due to missing address information of some records when pulling from the dataset' theft area' and 'recovery area'.

Theft Area	Total Theft Count	Total Recoveries	Percent of Total Recoveries	In Area Recoveries	Percent of Recoveries In Same Area of Theft	Out of Area Recoveries	Percent of Recoveries Outside Same Area of Theft
Denver Metro Area	30,578	27,514	90%	26,144	95%	1,370	5%
Eastern Colorado	282	198	70%	115	58%	83	42%
Northern Colorado	3,891	3,191	82%	2,341	73%	850	27%
South West Colorado	435	293	67%	207	71%	86	29%
Southern Colorado	5,569	4,535	81%	4,137	91%	398	9%
Western Colorado	573	425	74%	325	76%	100	24%

(U) Figure 26. CATPA regional areas illustrating the volume and rate of reported vehicle theft occurring outside the respective CATPA regional area where vehicles were reported stolen. Source: ATiCC SVDR

Recoveries Outside the Area of Reported Theft
The below statistics represent the number of stolen vehicles reported in one (1) jurisdiction but recovered in a different jurisdiction. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

- In 2022, there were 35,204 recovered vehicles reported stolen from 233 Colorado cities. Of those, 19,358 were recovered outside of the reported theft city, which accounted for 55%.
- In 2022, there were 35,204 recovered vehicles reported stolen from 59 Colorado counties. Of those, 22,785 were recovered outside of the reported theft county, which accounted for 65%.

Colorado Stolen Vehicles Recovered Out of State and Country

In 2022, there were 758 stolen vehicles reported in Colorado that were recovered out of state, affecting 40 of the 50 states in the United States and the country of Mexico. The states bordering or close to Colorado recovered the most Colorado stolen registered vehicles: Texas 108, New Mexico 71, Wyoming 64, California 50, and Arizona 45. The states least affected by Colorado motor vehicle thefts are further North and East of Colorado. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)
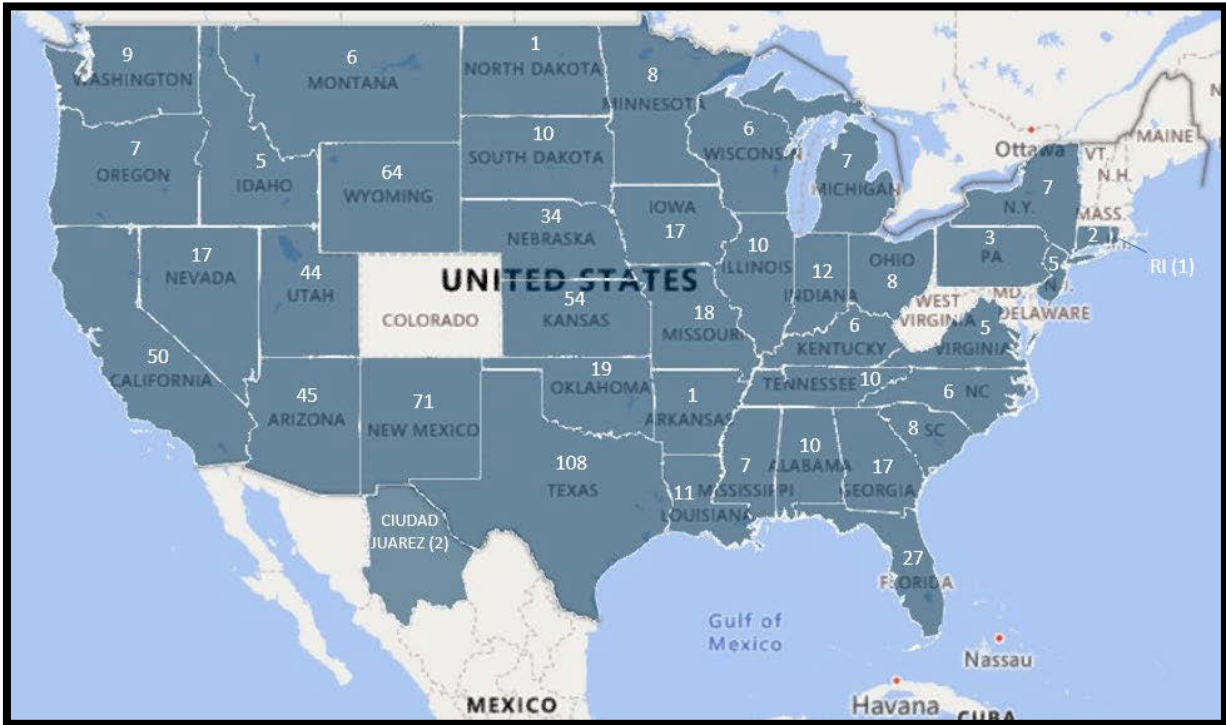
(U) Figure 27. Colorado registered vehicles recovered in another state and/or country. Source: ATiCC SVDR

Outlook

In September 2022, motor vehicle theft demonstrated a minimal increase versus the previous year's month. Motor vehicle theft consistently decreased in the months of October through December 2022. This trend has continued into January and February 2023. Based on the data pulled on 2/28/2023 from the ATICC SVDR at approximately 12:45 pm, January 2023 demonstrated a 14% decrease and February 2023 demonstrated a 27% decrease versus the previous year's month. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

NICB published a preliminary report on March 8, 2023 reporting Colorado's rank decreased from #4 to #5 by volume of motor vehicle thefts in the nation. NICB has not updated the states ranked by thefts per capita, as Colorado was ranked #1 in 2021. (NICB; National Insurance Crime Bureau, 2023) [xxiii]

Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered to countermeasure the incidence of vehicle theft and related crimes, address emerging technology challenges influencing vehicle theft and associated crimes, and innovate concepts to reduce motor vehicle crimes.

- Owners of all motor vehicles should be encouraged to lock their vehicle, remove all keys, weapons and personal property, park in physically secured areas, and not leave their vehicle running unattended to prevent their vehicle from being stolen.
- As education is one of the best methods to prevent crime victimization, vehicle owners should be encouraged to visit www.lockdownyourcar.org for awareness and tips on how to avoid being a victim of auto theft.
- Owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles should be encouraged to contact local authorized dealerships for acquiring an upgrade to the vehicle security systems to elevate theft prevention. Kia vehicle owners can query their vehicle for eligible upgrades using https://update.kia.com/US/EN/updateGuide/03. Hyundai vehicle owners can query their vehicle for eligible upgrades using https://update.hyundai.com/US/EN/updateGuide.
- Owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles, especially vehicles not eligible for immediate factory upgrades, should consider using aftermarket theft prevention devices, such as steering wheel locks, engine immobilizers meeting or exceeding ULC S338 standards, and locking their vehicle in physically secured parking areas (e.g. locked parking garages, residential garages, etc.).
- Owners of older model vehicles, greater than 10 years old not possessing electronic engine immobilization (e.g. FOB technology), should be encouraged to consider elevating their vehicle security with aftermarket engine immobilization, steering wheel locks, and/or GPS tracking systems.
- Owners of all gasoline or diesel engine vehicles should consider safeguarding their catalytic converter by parking in physically secured parking areas, utilizing theft hardening systems for their catalytic converter, and marking their catalytic converter with identification marking for tracking and recovery in the event it is stolen.
- Owners of all motor vehicles, as well as law enforcement, should use extreme caution when encountering a vehicle theft offender when either attempting to steal a vehicle or catalytic converter or otherwise using a stolen vehicle. Many auto thieves are known to be involved in crimes of violence, are armed, and have posed extreme risk to law enforcement personnel, victims, and persons using our roadways.
- In support of the Wildly Important Goal (WIG) established by the Governor's Office and CDPS to reduce the statewide incidence of motor vehicle theft by 10%, CATPA should consider funding initiatives to support this WIG with strategic planning for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024.
- In consideration of vehicle theft reductions experienced in Western Colorado in 2022, law enforcement agencies and CATPA should consider strategic models based on real crime centers that focus on an all-crimes approach using multi-agency partnerships due to the prolific auto theft offenders involved in multiple crimes across multi-jurisdictional boundaries.

Glossary of Terms

Active – (Actively Stolen) Stolen vehicles included in this report include vehicles entered into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) as a "stolen vehicle" message. The actual number of auto thefts in Colorado is likely higher than reported, as some incidences of auto theft may not be reported to law enforcement and/or law enforcement agencies may not have entered other stolen vehicles into CCIC due to a stolen vehicle recovery occurring prior to completing the jurisdiction's reporting and processing procedures. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Inactive – **(Recovery of a vehicle)** Removals from the CCIC database occur from three messages conducted by CCIC authorized users from the Originating Agency who performed the initial entry. These three CCIC message keys are a "clear", "locate" and "cancel" of the record. The "clear" (CV) and "locate" (LV) message is performed when a vehicle has been located and is subsequently removed from the CCIC database. Accordingly, a "clear" is supposed to be performed by the agency that entered the vehicle and then subsequently recovered it. The "locate" is supposed to be performed when an agency, other than the one who originally entered the vehicle into CCIC, has located the vehicle. The "cancel" (XV) record is supposed to be performed when an agency discovers the vehicle was not stolen, yet was originally recorded into CCIC as stolen, and thus needs to be canceled. Current data processes/practices within the CCIC system treat the CV, LV and XV message the same, regardless of the technical definitions. At present time, ATICC does not have the technological advantage to ensure the appropriate message keys to validate the purpose of the inactivation, e.g., cancellation, locate or clear. (Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository)

Case/Docket in Colorado Courts – Filed charges against an individual person in Colorado Courts.

Endnotes

[i] Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; Stolen Vehicle Database Repository

[ii] Tommy G.; YouTube; "Kia Boys Documentary (A Story of Teenage Car Theft"; 31 MAR 2022; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbTrLyqL_nw; Video.

[iii] National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Hyundai and Kia Launch Service Campaign to Prevent Theft of Millions of Vehicles Targeted by Social Media Challenge"

[iv] Colorado Law Enforcement Reporting; BN; CM

[v] Colorado Courts; 2022, motor vehicle theft and associated secondary crimes data

[vi] Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; C.R.S. 18-4-409; Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft

[vii] Denver Crimes; https://denvercrimes.com/crime/robbery/robbery-car-jacking/by-date/2022/

[viii] Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; Colorado Revised Statute, "Crime of Violence"

[ix] National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB); insurance data;

[x] Kent, Keller, Greely PD PIO; "Two large scale investigations reveal more than 50 stolen vehicles:' 27 SEP 2022; https://greeleypd.com/two-large-scale-investigations-reveal-more-than-50-stolen-vehicles/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=two-large-scale-investigations-reveal-more-than-50-stolen-vehicles; Law enforcement media release

[xi] Western Slope Now; MCSO releases 2022 Crime Stats, https://www.westernslopenow.com/news/mcso-releases-2022-crime-stats/

[xii] National Insurance Crime Bureau; "NICB Report Finds Vehicle Thefts Continue to Skyrocket in Many Areas of U.S"; 01 SEP 2022; https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/nicb-report-finds-vehicle-thefts-continue-skyrocket-many-areas-us; News media article.

[xiii] Kirk, Alexander; The Denver Post; "Denver airport set an all-time passenger traffic record in 2022: Passenger traffic soared at Denver's airport in 2022, surpassing pre-COVID numbers"; https://www.9news.com/article/travel/denver-international-airport/denver-international-airport-traffic/73-5ad1efbe-885e-4616-b6b0-c318d3cfaf18#:~:text=Denver%20International%20Airport%20(DIA)%20had,at%20DIA%2C%20the%20airport%20announced; News media article.

[xiv] FindLaw; Colorado Revised Statute; https://codes.findlaw.com/co/title-42-vehicles-and-traffic/co-rev-st-sect-42-5-112/

[xv] CATPA Strategic Plan FY22/23

[xvi] CATPA; The reported thefts to law enforcement may not include multiple converter thefts from the same vehicle, other thefts were the owner did not report the theft to law enforcement and converters taken from stolen vehicles.

[xvii] Colorado General Assembly; "HB22-1217: Catalytic Converter Records and Grant Program"; https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1217

[xviii] Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; Colorado Revised Statute; "Purchase of commodity metals – violations – commodity metals theft task force – creation – composition – reports – legislative declaration – definitions - repeal"; C.R.S. § 18-13-111 (Lexis Advance through Chapter 2 from the 2023 Regular Session and effective as of March 3, 2023)

[xix] Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; Colorado Revised Statute; "Chop shop activity – ownership or operation of a chop shop – altered or removed identification number – penalties – definitions" C.R.S. § 18-4-420 (Lexis Advance through Chapter 2 from the 2023 Regular Session and effective as of March 3, 2023).

[xx] Colorado Legal Resource; Lexis Nexis; CRS § 25-7-144; tampering with motor vehicle emission control systems - violations - exceptions rules - reporting – definitions; C.R.S. § 25-7-144 (Lexis Advance through Chapter 2 from the 2023 Regular Session and effective as of March 3, 2023)

[xxi] Joint Budget Committee; Department of Public Safety; R-01; Auto theft prevention initiative [legislation recommended]

[xxii] Colorado General Assembly; "SB23-097: Motor Vehicle Theft and Unauthorized Use" https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb23-097; Government website. SB23-097 Status

[xxiii] National Insurance Crime Bureau; Vehicle Thefts Nationwide Surpass One Million For the First Time Since 2008; https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/vehicle-thefts-nationwide-surpass-one-million-first-time-2008

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