The ATICC is funded by:

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

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AUTO THEFT INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION CENTER

About the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC)

The Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) was started in 2011 and is a vital initiative funded by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA). The ATICC is a crime and intelligence analytical unit of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), staffed with full-time auto theft analysts. The principal purpose of the ATICC is to provide timely data and analytical support about Colorado auto theft, with the primary intention of supporting the Colorado auto theft law enforcement community. As a hub for information and intelligence, ATICC delivers analytical insights into auto theft occurrences and associated crimes.

About the Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (SVDR)

The ATICC utilizes a unique, reliable, and timely database containing all reported stolen and recovered vehicles entered into the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) by law enforcement. The data from CCIC is then cleaned with built-in logic, identifying, and removing duplicate vehicle thefts with the same theft date and re-entry of purged vehicles entered with a current date and not the original date of theft. This database, known as the Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (SVDR) provides an ability for the ATICC to compile information on reported stolen vehicles in Colorado. Using the SVDR, the ATICC delivers analytical insights into auto theft occurrences and associated crimes.

About this Report

The ATICC offers this report as a study of reported stolen vehicles occurring in Colorado, evaluates the statistical data, either statewide or within designated regional areas, and highlights significant initiatives funded by CATPA. This report encompasses a 5-year comparative analysis of statewide motor vehicle theft.

Disclaimer

In addition to other considerations outlined in this report, it is important to recognize that the information provided herein may offer insights or assumptions regarding actual experiences of statewide motor vehicle theft. The primary statistical data utilized in this report, sourced from the SVDR, is inherently dynamic and subject to continuous changes. Modifications to stolen vehicle records can occur due to various factors such as the timing of vehicle theft reports by owners or drivers, law enforcement reporting procedures, updates entered by contributing agencies, or delays in vehicle recovery processes.

Challenges are inherent in the data, including potential inaccuracies from poor data entry, processing errors, or limitations in data normalization standards. Before utilization in this analysis, the ATICC undertook rigorous screening efforts to ensure the accuracy and normalization of stolen vehicle records.

The analytical modeling data, retrieved on February 15, 2023, served as the basis for compiling aggregate theft and recovery data for this report. Percentage calculations are rounded to the nearest whole number for simplicity. It is crucial to acknowledge

that the theft and recovery data presented in this report may indicate fluctuations in totals compared to previous reports, reflecting the dynamic nature of the SVDR data.

Data Sources

Differences in data sources play a crucial role in understanding variations in reported auto theft statistics. This report aims to provide transparency by referencing various publication sources and findings, shedding light on the disparities in data collection and normalization methodologies utilized by each source.

NCIC (National Crime Information Center): Data sourced from the NCIC is disseminated through The International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets), formerly known as the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. Reports derived from NCIC data by entities like the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) may lack sanitization or normalization methods, potentially leading to inflated auto theft totals.

UCR/NIBRS (Uniform Crime Reporting/National Incident-Based Reporting System): Managed by the FBI, the UCR and NIBRS programs serve as national standards for law enforcement crime data reporting in the United States. As of 2021, NIBRS has become the FBI's primary system for collecting crime data, replacing the Summary Reporting System (SRS). Unlike SRS, NIBRS collects more detailed information about each crime incident and is not limited to reporting only the most serious crimes. Agencies submit their data voluntarily either through a state UCR program or directly to the FBI.[i]

CCIC (Colorado Crime Information Center): Established as a computerized information system, CCIC serves as a conduit for Colorado criminal justice agencies to access nationwide data from systems like NCIC and Nlets. The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) offers the Colorado Crime Stats (CCS) platform, allowing both the public and law enforcement agencies to access and analyze crime data within Colorado. Funding for CCS is provided by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA).[ii]

Understanding the nuances and intricacies of each data source is essential for interpreting and comparing auto theft statistics accurately. By acknowledging the differences in data collection and normalization methods, stakeholders can make informed decisions and develop effective strategies to combat auto theft.

Findings

- Colorado witnessed a substantial improvement in statewide reported stolen vehicles, registering a notable **21% decrease in reported stolen vehicles by volume in 2023**, amounting to **8,680 fewer thefts**, compared to reported vehicle thefts in 2022**.** This positive trend contrasts with the 12% increase observed in 2022. Colorado experienced 32,976 reported stolen vehicles in 2023, averaging a per capita rate of 560 stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents, compared to 41,656

reported stolen vehicles in 2022, averaging a per capita rate of 713 stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents.

- o Analytical Remark Regarding the Rate of Reduction of Reported Stolen Vehicles: The significant drop suggests that a combination of legislative support, focused strategies, public education and outreach, task force operations, intelligence and information-sharing efforts, and various anecdotal factors, such as legislative reforms and the absence of pandemic restrictions, are likely collectively contributing to a positive impact statewide according to data from the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center's Stolen Vehicle Database Repository.

- o Analytical Remark Regarding NIBRS and SVDR: The alignment between the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)[iii] and the SVDR regarding reported stolen vehicle data is comparable, despite differences in data collection standards and methods. While both reporting systems originate from law enforcement, NIBRS collects information on law enforcement cases involving motor vehicle theft, whereas the SVDR collects information on reported stolen vehicles. Although both systems have distinct approaches, the alignment of reported law enforcement motor vehicle theft cases in NIBRS and the number of reported stolen vehicles in SVDR are statistically similar, particularly when excluding attempted motor vehicle thefts from the NIBRS dataset. Although there may be variations in totals and theft rates between SVDR and NIBRS, these differences are generally not substantial. The effort to synchronize and compare data from these two sources enhances the overall understanding of motor vehicle theft trends, providing a more comprehensive perspective despite the variances in their respective methodologies.

- Analytical Remark Regarding NICB: The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) published the 2023 Vehicle Theft Trend Report on March 8, 2024, shedding light on Colorado's motor vehicle theft rank per capita and volume within the nation. NICB ranked Colorado with the #2 spot for thefts per capita for all U.S. states at 583 in 2023 versus the 731 per capita rates in 2022, which is one (1) rank better than the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.[iv] Colorado went from #5 in March of 2023 to #6 in thefts by volume, which should not be confused with the per capita ranking. (NICB; National Insurance Crime Bureau, 2023) [v]
  It should be noted that NICB utilizes the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) data. This is different from the CCIC data the ATICC SVDR uses for reporting, where internal logic built into the ATICC SVDR cleans duplicate vehicle thefts and re-entries from purged records. This results in variances in aggregate theft totals.

- An estimated $430,897,392 of value was related to the 32,976 reported stolen vehicles in 2023.

- o Analytical Remark Regarding the FBI UCR: The Federal Bureau of Investigation did not publish the average dollar loss of stolen vehicles in 2021 and 2022 due to technical difficulties. In previous years, the FBI utilized an

Analysis of Motor Vehicle Theft Using the Survival Model[vi], which provided an average dollar loss per stolen vehicle.

- o Analytical Remark Regarding the ATICC Average Loss Value: The ATICC's assessment of the most stolen vehicle styles, encompassing passenger cars, pickup trucks, and SUVs, reveals that they collectively constituted 82% of all vehicle thefts in 2023. Utilizing the fair market value, the ATICC calculated the average value of the top four most stolen vehicle makes and models for each category resulting in a per-vehicle value of $13,067. While this provides an approximate value based on the vehicle identification number (VIN), this method of valuing the loss of a stolen vehicle should not be considered as an economic loss, as it does not consider the loss to the insurance industry, or economic impact to a victim's lost wages, tow or impound fees, etc. This methodology varies from the FBI average dollar loss, as variables included in the FBI Survival Model include many other factors, (e.g., recovery of the vehicle, etc.)

- In a 5-year comparison from 2018 through 2022, Colorado experienced a notable 98% increase in reported stolen vehicles. However, the landscape shifted in 2023 with a significant 21% decrease in reported stolen vehicles, altering the overall five-year comparison for 2019-2023 to reflect a 62% increase in reported stolen vehicles. This reduction in 2023 played a crucial role in decelerating Colorado's motor vehicle theft pace when compared to the earlier years of 2018-2022. (SVDR)

- Examining the rate of reported stolen vehicles per capita over the past five (5) years reveals a 56% increase. In 2019, the rate was 358 reported stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents, rising to 560 reported stolen vehicles per 100,000 residents in 2023. (SVDR)

- Aligning with previous reporting years, 2023 motor vehicle theft data demonstrates that 51% 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. (SVDR)

- Insights from Colorado Courts data for 2023 reveal that out of 4,763 cases/dockets filed, 76% (3,615 cases) involved additional criminal charges related to the motor vehicle theft incident. (Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2020-2023)[vii]

- Breaking down the 4,763 cases/dockets filed in 2023 revealed that 1,148 cases (24%) were singularly charged with motor vehicle theft. This insight is drawn from the detailed data provided by the Colorado Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data for the year 2020-2023.

- The 2023 Colorado Courts data indicates that 563 (12%) of the cases/dockets filed carried charges associated with violent crimes linked to motor vehicle theft, aligning with the definition of "Crime of Violence" as per the Colorado Revised Statute.[viii]

- The charge of "F3, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft w/Two Prior" convictions or adjudications were contained in 191 cases/dockets filed in 2023, approximately 4% of the total.

  o Analytical Comment: Due to a lack of personal identifying information (PII), the ATICC cannot ascertain the number of multiple cases/dockets tied to the same defendant.[ix] By the enactment of SB 23-097 on July 1, 2024, there were 191 cases/dockets filed for F3, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft w/Two Prior convictions or adjudications, compared to 307 cases/dockets filed in 2022.

Colorado Courts Cases/Dockets Invovling Motor Vehicle Theft	2020	% Change 2020 vs. 2021	2021	% Change 2021 vs. 2022	2022	2022%	% Change 2022 vs. 2023	2023
Cases Filed	**4,809**	**16%**	**5,601**	**0%**	**5,610**		**-15%**	**4,763**
With Sole Charge of Motor Vehicle Theft	770	22%	937	47%	1,379	24.58%	-17%	1,148
With Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Charges	4,039	15%	4,664	-9%	4,231	75.42%	-15%	3,615
With Motor Vehicle Theft and Charge of Violent Crime	499	20%	597	-19%	483	8.61%	17%	563
Count of Violent Crime Charges	*1,013*	*17%*	*1,184*	*-22%*	*924*		*18%*	*1,094*
Average Violent Crime Charges per Case	*2.0*		*2.0*		*1.9*			*1.9*
With Motor Vehicle Theft and Charge of Weapons	455	24%	565	-34%	371	6.61%	1%	373
Count of Weapons Charges	*780*	*23%*	*958*	*-34%*	*635*		*13%*	*719*
Average Weapon Charges per Case	*1.7*		*1.7*		*1.7*			*1.9*
With F-3 Aggravated MVT w/Two Prior Convictions/Adjudications	195	25%	243	26%	307	5.47%	-38%	191
With Felony Cases (F1-F6)	4,625	17%	5,416	-2%	5,333	95.06%	-15%	4,555
Felony Charges	*10,670*	*13%*	*12,017*	*-18%*	*9,854*		*-12%*	*8,690*
Felony Charge per Felony Case	*2.3*		*2.2*		*1.8*			*1.9*

The previous year's reporting on motor vehicle theft and other related crimes will show differences in the count of charges due to some plead and/or charges dropped, however, the number of cases filed will remain the same.

- Hyundai Elantra (1332 thefts) and Chevrolet Silverado (1285 thefts) emerged as the highest volume of reported stolen vehicles. (SVDR)

- Hyundai and Kia manufactured vehicles collectively accounted for 23% of all reported stolen vehicles in the state, totaling 7,722 out of the 32,976 vehicles stolen in 2023, as per the data provided by the SVDR.

  o Analytical Comment: ATICC is aware the theft of certain Hyundai and Kia vehicles is a result of thieves exploiting vehicle security systems. Owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles should contact the manufacturer to determine if their vehicle is eligible for a vehicle software security upgrade.

Motor Vehicle Theft and Associated Crimes

Motor vehicle theft (MVT) remains a persistent crime, driven by offenders seeking both profit and convenience to elude law enforcement detection and engage in additional criminal activities. Recognizing the need for a thorough analysis, the ATICC endeavors to assess the correlation between motor vehicle theft offenders and associated offenses.

- In 2023, a total of 32,976 vehicles were reported stolen, but despite the capabilities of the SVDR the ATICC faces challenges in precisely determining which of these

32,976 thefts are directly connected to specific criminal charges of motor vehicle theft within the Colorado Courts system.

- o Analytical Comment: Recognizing the importance of closing this intelligence and information gap, leaders from the CATPA and the CSP are utilizing funds from SB-257 and actively collaborating on a significant solution. The aim is to provide every law enforcement agency in the state with a comprehensive platform to share data and access crime information from all agencies. This initiative is designed to bridge the existing gap, enhancing coordination and information sharing among law enforcement entities and ultimately contributing to more effective responses and investigations related to motor vehicle theft.

- The ATICC relies on Colorado Courts data for criminal charge information, except for Denver City and County, where the source is the Denver Police Department. In 2023, 4,763 cases/dockets were filed, relating to 4,763 defendants. Yet, due to a lack of personal identifying information (PII), the ATICC cannot ascertain the number of multiple cases/dockets tied to the same defendant.

- Colorado Courts data contains 4,763 cases/dockets filed, encompassing 15,473 charges. Among these charges, 6,035 were related to motor vehicle theft and/or attempted theft, while 9,438 were associated with other offenses stemming from motor vehicle theft incidents. These entail a range of threats to public safety, including but not limited to narcotics, weapons, vehicular eluding, DUI, reckless driving, assault, attempted homicide, robbery, burglary, resisting arrest, and assault in the 1st degree – threatening a peace officer with a weapon.

- o Analytical Comment: On January 30, 2023, Colorado lawmakers introduced SB23-097 to combat auto theft. The bill decouples the cost value of a stolen vehicle from the criminal penalty and imposes increased penalties for repeat auto theft offenders. The legislation reclassifies stealing any vehicle, regardless of value, as a Class 5 felony, punishable by one (1) to three (3) years in prison, a fine between $1,000 to $100,000, or both. Depending on aggravating factors, such as a prior motor vehicle theft conviction, the offense can be elevated to a Class 4 or Class 3 felony. On February 27, 2023, the Senate Judiciary Committee referred SB 23-097 to the Committee on Appropriations, receiving unanimous approval. Notably, in 2023, before the enactment of SB 23-097 on July 1, there were 191 cases/dockets filed for F3, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft w/Two Prior convictions or adjudications, compared to 307 cases/dockets filed in 2022.

- Regarding the 6,035 charges related to motor vehicle theft and attempted theft, 91% (5,491) were felony charges (F1-F6), while 9% (544) were misdemeanor charges (M1-M3), illustrating the severity of the offenses. (Sources: SVDR; Colorado Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2023; Colorado General Assembly, 2023)

Motor Vehicle Theft and Criminal Violence

The apprehension of auto theft suspects poses a high-risk, dynamic challenge for law enforcement, particularly when dealing with prolific offenders who are known to evade officers, engage in dangerous driving actions, and often possess or have access to weapons, especially firearms. (Colorado Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2023)

- In 2023, the Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) task force and the CATPA Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (CMATT) played a crucial role in recovering 177 firearms during motor vehicle theft-related case investigations. These dedicated teams encountered 84 incidents involving armed offenders, highlighting the inherent dangers law enforcement faces in tackling motor vehicle theft-related crimes. According to data from Colorado Courts, there were 719 weapons charges and 373 cases/dockets filed, along with 56 weapons charges and 30 cases/dockets filed in the Denver Police Department Records Management System (DPD RMS), specifically related to weapons offenses associated with motor vehicle theft. This underscores the prevalence of weapons in the context of motor vehicle theft and the associated criminal activities. (Law Enforcement Reporting, 2023)

- Examining the broader spectrum of violent crimes related to motor vehicle theft, Colorado Courts data reveals that out of the 4,763 total cases/dockets, 563 cases/dockets (12%) contained 1,094 qualifying violent crime charges. DPD RMS data indicates that out of 887 total cases/dockets, 20 cases/dockets (2%) contained 34 qualifying violent crime charges, following the definition outlined in the Colorado Revised Statute for "Crime of Violence."[x] It's essential to note that "carjacking" is categorized separately from motor vehicle theft charges and is treated as a "robbery." According to the "Denver Crimes Armed Carjacking 2023 crime report," there were 184 incidents of carjacking in Denver, reflecting a 5% reduction compared to the 193 incidents reported in 2022. This distinction sheds light on the various facets of criminal activity associated with motor vehicle theft, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges. (Sources: Law Enforcement Reporting; Colorado Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2023; Denver Police Department RMS; Denver Crimes, 2023; Denver Crimes, 2022;[xi] Colorado Legal Resources; definition of crime of violence, 2023)

Auto Theft Criminal Enterprise Organizations

In 2023, the presence of large-scale vehicle theft rings operating across different regions of the state significantly contributed to the overall auto theft totals in the state.

- One notable instance occurred in September 2023 with a Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) case, known as A Toda Madre (ATM), which concluded with the Grand Jury indicting 13 offenders on 123 charges. This extensive case involved the theft of 55 vehicles and 30 burglaries, affecting 82 unique victims across 22 jurisdictions, resulting in a theft value of $2,059,354. Following the apprehension of these offenders, motor vehicle thefts at Denver International Airport (DEN) experienced a considerable reduction beginning in November 2023, with 69% from

the respective month of November 2022. December 2023 data indicated a 41% decrease from December 2022. It cannot be understated the impact of dismantling such criminal operations on local crime rates. (Source: Law Enforcement Reporting)

Identified High-Density Theft Areas

The prevalence of motor vehicle theft in high-density areas remains a consistent challenge, particularly in and around larger cities. The majority of these incidents are concentrated in the Denver Metro area, Colorado Springs, Aurora, and Pueblo. This pattern aligns with regions experiencing significant population growth in Colorado, coupled with easy access to major roadways. The twelve identified high-density theft areas were determined by the volume of thefts and some areas will not correlate with the volume of other identified theft areas.
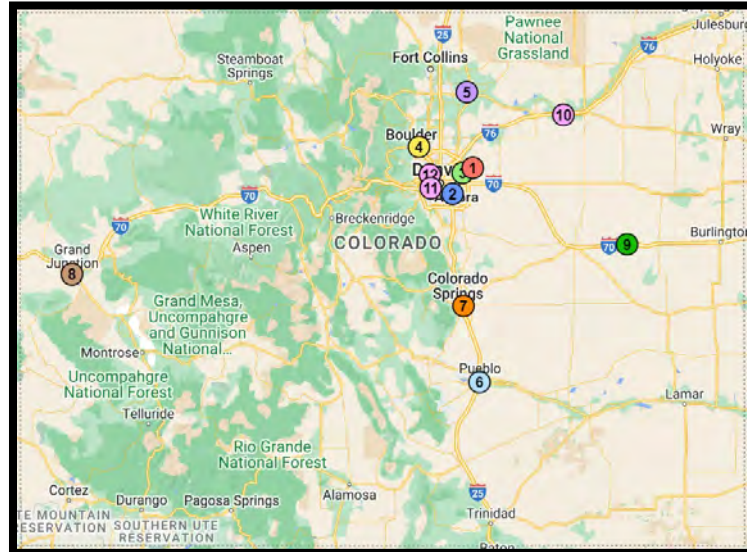
Addressing high-density theft areas during 2023, CATPA implemented a statewide strategy, working with the Governor's Office, to align with the Governor's Wildly Important Goal (WIG) in "working to make Colorado one of the top 10 safest states" regarding auto theft. CATPA worked with multiagency programs and partnerships to support funding for reducing motor vehicle theft in high-density theft areas of the state through public education with outreach, and enforcement. These efforts commenced in July of 2023 and the reporting is through December 2023 and compared to the respective timeframe from 2022.

1. Denver International Airport with the Denver Police Department and CMATT
   - DIA efforts resulted in a **104% increase.**
2. Denver Police Department's District 3 with Denver Police Department
   - District 3 efforts resulted in a **39% decrease.**
3. Denver Police Department's District 5 with Denver Police Department
   - District 5 efforts resulted in a **63% decrease.**
4. Northern Colorado #1 - BATTLE North Auto Theft Task Force
   - North high-density theft area #1 resulted in a **1% decrease.**
5. Northern Colorado #2 - BATTLE North Auto Theft Task Force
   - North high-density theft area #2 resulted in a **45% decrease.**
6. Southern Colorado #1 - BATTLE South Auto Theft Task Force
   - South high-density theft area #1 resulted in an **11% decrease.**
7. Southern Colorado #2 - BATTLE South Auto Theft Task Force
   - South high-density theft area #2 resulted in a **12% increase.**
8. Western Colorado - BATTLE West Auto Theft Task Force
   - West high-density theft area resulted in an **8% increase.**

9. Eastern Colorado #1- BATTLE East Auto Theft Task Force
   - East high-density theft area #1 resulted in **no change.**
10. Eastern Colorado #2 - BATTLE East Auto Theft Task Force
    - East high-density theft area #2 resulted in a **25% increase.**
11. Lakewood, Colorado - Lakewood Police Department
    - Lakewood's high-density theft area resulted in a **28% decrease.**
12. Arvada, Colorado - Arvada Police Department
    - Arvada's high-density theft area resulted in a **32% decrease.**

Analytical Note: Early metrics pulled for January and February 2024, have shown consistent decreases in the high-density theft areas in rate and pace of thefts.

- According to the Fly Denver press release, during 2023, Denver International Airport (DIA) served a record-breaking 77,837,917 passengers, reflecting a 12% increase compared to the previous year's record of 69,286,461 passengers in 2022. This marked the first time in history that DEN surpassed 70 million annual passengers. However, the surge in passenger traffic also presented a target-rich environment for motor

DIA (2.5 MILE RADIUS)
THEFT COMPARISON
2022 vs. 2023

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022 THEFTS	32	20	43	29	41	34	23	19	37	42	39	37
2023 THEFTS	29	45	42	52	40	85	112	95	108	62	12	22

vehicle theft offenders. Vehicles parked at DEN terminal parking and surrounding lots were perceived as potentially unguarded for extended periods, providing ample time for thefts to go unnoticed and unreported.
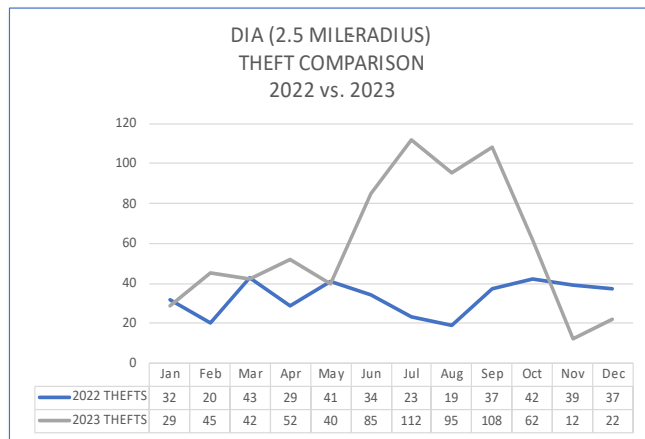
- In response to this challenge, collaborative efforts were initiated by Denver International Airport leadership (DEN), the Denver Police Department (DPD), the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), CATPA, and CMATT. These organizations combined their resources to address the motor vehicle theft issue head-on. This collaborative approach reflects a proactive stance and underscores the importance of pooling expertise and resources to effectively combat the challenges posed by motor vehicle theft in high-traffic and potentially vulnerable areas.

  1. DEN and DPD implemented new measures to address auto and catalytic converter thefts within the airport's parking lots. "Our commitment to the safety and security of our passengers, staff, and their belongings is unwavering," DEN CEO Phil Washington said. "DEN's multifaceted strategy is a testament to our dedication to providing a safe environment within our parking lots. Through collaboration with law enforcement agencies and innovative security measures, we are taking proactive steps to minimize auto thefts and damages."[xii]
  2. *Increased Security Patrols and High Impact Enforcement:* DEN has significantly bolstered security patrols within its parking lots, deploying contract security personnel and Denver Police officers. This increased presence serves

as a strong deterrent to potential criminals and provides an immediate response to any suspicious activity.

3. *High Activity Location Observation (HALO) Cameras:* In a move to enhance surveillance capabilities, DEN is in the process of acquiring 15 HALO cameras strategically positioned throughout the parking lots. These advanced cameras are mobile and designed to monitor high-activity areas, discouraging criminal behavior, and enabling rapid response and video evidence collection in case of incidents.

4. *Expanded Camera Coverage:* DEN is also working to install additional permanent security cameras to provide complete coverage of all surface parking lots. This comprehensive camera network will further fortify DEN's security infrastructure and aid in proactive monitoring.

5. *Stolen Vehicle Alerts:* DEN has integrated cutting-edge technology that alerts security personnel when stolen vehicles enter key locations on airport property. This proactive approach can aid in preventing further criminal activities as stolen vehicles are often used for criminal activity and assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to apprehend criminals more quickly.

6. *Additional Barrier:* DEN is also working with DPD to evaluate new barriers at key parking lot locations that will help to prevent criminals from leaving parking exit lanes and damaging gate arms.

o DEN has a collaborative partnership with the Denver Police Department to combat auto crimes and promote vehicle theft prevention. The following initiatives under this partnership have already been rolled out:

o *Enforcement:* Utilizing the Denver Police officers assigned to DEN and DPD's newer Denver Auto Theft Team (DATT), to date, approximately 15 suspects were arrested for auto theft at DEN, while the DATT continues special enforcement operations at the airport property.

o *DENVERTRACK:* Through the DenverTrack program, motorists can preauthorize police access to their vehicles' GPS for real-time tracking in the event of theft. This innovative approach enhances the chances of swift recovery, suspect identification/apprehension, and minimizes potential damages.

o *Free Catalytic Converter Etching/Protection Kits:* DEN, in conjunction with the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA), is offering free catalytic converter etching/protection kits to vehicle owners. This initiative aims to discourage theft and vandalism, providing an added layer of protection.

o *Free Steering Wheel Lock Distribution:* Another CATPA partnership initiative involves the distribution of free steering wheel locks. This simple yet effective measure prevents unauthorized vehicle use and serves as a visual deterrent for thieves. (Fly Denver Press Release)

Legislative Efforts

Authored by Director Robert D. Force, CATPA
Source: NCIC Data through NICB

Since 2015, Colorado has ranked among the top 10 states for having the worst auto theft rate per capita in the nation, where our ranking generally continued to worsen through

2022. The 2022 data shows Colorado held the #1 spot for a three-year stint from 2020 to 2022, reaching a rate of 731 thefts per capita, which is the highest level we've experienced since the FBI UCR NIBRS reporting in 1999 comparing Colorado with other states. In 2022, Colorado was 128 per capita points above the #3 worst state (Washington with a rate of 603), and more than double that of the #10 worst state, Minnesota, with a rate of 311. Colorado experienced over a 6,900% increase in the theft of catalytic converters from 2019 (60 thefts) to 2022 (4,203).

In 2021, Governor Polis and the Colorado Legislature began to give unprecedented attention to address statewide motor vehicle theft. Governor Polis introduced a Wildly Important Goal to "make Colorado one of the top 10 safest states by reducing auto theft by 10% before July 2023." In response, two key pieces of legislation were passed, Senate Bill 23-097 and Senate Bill 23-257, which were both signed into law by Governor Polis in June 2023.

Senate Bill 23-257 provided for $5M for one year of funding (FY2023-2024) through CATPA to implement grant programs for:

1)   A statewide education and outreach to increase awareness of automobile theft victimization.
2)   Programs to support victims of automobile theft.
3)   Additional overtime for law enforcement agencies.
4)   A dedicated automobile theft prosecution program.
5)   Enhancing and upgrading the automobile theft tracking and reporting system; or
6)   Any other direct or indirect costs associated with the implementation of these programs.

Of important note, Senate Bill 23-257 provided a unique ability in funding to support victims of automobile theft – which is new to CATPA. The ATICC is not aware of any other law enforcement victim services program in the country dedicated to supporting auto theft victims. Providing this victim support fills a gap in victim assistance, as under the Colorado Crime Victims Act automobile theft is not an enumerated crime for eligibility.

The $5M of additional funding under Senate Bill 23-257 was distributed by the CATPA Board, where grant projects began on October 2, 2023. One of the challenges of this one-year funding is the grant projects are limited from hiring personnel, or otherwise have financial support to maintain or sustain their efforts beyond June 30, 2024.

Leading into this year's legislative session, Governor Polis has stated "We take very seriously the goal of making Colorado one of the 10 safest states. That means additional funding to reduce auto theft, including more technology and DNA analysis, and protecting communities against targeted violence."

This past year, CATPA and leadership of the Colorado State Patrol worked with the Department of Public Safety to submit a proposal to sustain the efforts of Senate Bill 23-257 and continue an effort with the Governor's Wildly Important Goals to make Colorado one of the top 10 safest states. In response, a decision item was submitted to the Governor's Office, where the Governor's Office then proposed the request to the Joint Budget Committee, which is under current consideration. As the Legislature continues its

deliberation and the arduous task of balancing the State Budget, we are hopeful the decision item will be funded.

Specifically, the legislative request, which is referred to as CDPS R-01 Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Initiative, includes:

- An increase of $12,520,406 of funds in FY 2024-25, including $11,134,192 General Fund and $1,386,214 Highway Users Tax Fund off-the-top and 10.1 FTE

- Continuation of funding for $12,351,718 of funds ongoing, including $10,934,192 General Fund and $1,417,526 Highway Users Tax Fund off-the-top and 11.0 FTE

These funds are requested to augment the capacity of CATPA and the existing multi-jurisdictional task forces to combat auto theft by providing grant funds for sustaining or implementing programs funded by SB23-257. The request also provides funding to support staff for managing the grant programs and administrative needs of the initiative.

This request seeks to address statewide motor vehicle theft and continue the efforts of Senate Bill 23-257 through a comprehensive initiative that features the above key components. In striving to make Colorado one of the top 10 safest U.S. states, Colorado would need to reduce its motor vehicle theft rate to fewer than 185 motor vehicle thefts per capita, which would be fewer than 10,800 motor vehicle thefts per year or a reduction of 75% from the number of reported motor vehicle thefts in 2022.

Information on submitting a letter of interest or application can be found at https://lockdownyourcar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FY25-CATPA_D1-Intent-to-Apply-Announcement.docx.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation has also submitted a separate decision item to assist in auto theft prevention. The decision item is CDPS R-03 Forensic Resources to Reduce Auto Theft, which includes:

- $1.9M total funds, all from the General Fund, including 10.1 FTE.

- The increase of $1,874,952 General Fund and 10.1 FTE in FY 2024-25 and $3,699,323 General Fund and 20.0 FTE in FY 2025-26 and ongoing for investigators to leverage new DNA technology to address auto theft across Colorado.

CATPA has been fortunate to have incredible support and a partnership network to create an environment to make a significant change in addressing statewide automobile theft. The credit must go to those police officers, investigators, prosecutors, victim advocates, administrative staff, and grant project leaders for providing support, feedback, and guidance on recommendations, best practices, innovative ideas, and viable countermeasures to address statewide auto theft. Secondly, the CATPA Board has been instrumental in navigating a statewide strategy to maximize the steward and use of auto theft grant funds with attention to reducing auto theft in high-density theft areas. Thirdly, CSP Chief Matthew Packard and CDPS Director Stan Hilkey have given an intense level of dedication, support, study, and priority to address this statewide problem. Their leadership has not only challenged CATPA in moving toward implementation of Wildly Important Goals, but provided CATPA with excellent feedback, administrative guidance,

and executive support for proposing solutions to reduce auto theft. Fourthly, the Governor and Legislature give high priority and attention to public policy to address statewide automobile theft. (Force, 2023)

CATPA Public Outreach and Education Program
Authored by Cale Gould, CATPA

The Public Outreach and Education program offered by CATPA serves as a valuable resource available to law enforcement, municipal and county governments, insurance agencies or corporations, and private businesses. This program encourages active participation from these entities and extends an invitation for their involvement in CATPA Outreach events and activities throughout any area in Colorado, not confined to their respective jurisdictions.

CATPA's commitment to providing resources and staff to these public and private entities is strategically aimed at acting as a force multiplier. The objective is to enhance awareness regarding auto theft incidents in Colorado and to champion auto theft prevention through educational initiatives spanning various disciplines. The inclusive approach ensures efficient outreach to all of Colorado's diverse communities.

This outreach program operates in direct support of various CATPA grants, including but not limited to the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC), Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE), Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (CATI), CATPA-Metropolitan Auto Theft Taskforce (C-MATT), and all other grant programs. By fostering collaboration and education, CATPA aims to create a united front against auto theft and promote a safer environment for communities across the state.

In the calendar year 2023, CATPA's Outreach activities demonstrated a robust presence with participation, sponsorship, or support for a total of 73 community events. These events ranged from localized auto theft prevention presentations to major showcases like the Denver Auto Show and the CATPA Take Over Night at the Colorado Eagles Hockey Game. The strategic planning ensured coverage across nearly every region of Colorado, with a specific emphasis on engaging communities in high-density theft areas to foster relationships with the public.

Noteworthy successes in 2023 included effective collaboration with the media, resulting in heightened awareness of CATPA's pivotal role as the central statewide authority for all matters related to motor vehicle theft. Media partnerships extended to national publications such as Road and Track, the Washington Post, and local news stations. This collaboration, synchronized with the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC), ensured consistent and accurate messaging regarding statistical information. The growth of this media collaboration aspect within the CATPA Public Outreach program marked a significant achievement in maintaining a unified public narrative on motor vehicle theft from a statewide perspective.

For organizations interested in CATPA activities, the "Events" page on the lockdownyourcar.org website provides information on planned events. The CATPA Outreach Coordinator, Cale Gould, plays a central role in identifying, planning, and executing outreach events, maintaining lockdownyourcar.org, managing public affairs for CATPA and auto theft-related topics for the Colorado State Patrol, and facilitating department relations to support other law enforcement agencies. Cale Gould can be reached via email at cale.goud@state.co.us or by phone at 303-656-1524.

CATPA Outreach Program provides various resources, including:

- Presentations on auto theft trends, prevention techniques, and community engagement for vehicle theft prevention (available for both law enforcement and community events).
- Public affairs support on auto theft trends and information, including localized area or jurisdictional statistical support.
- Event support, whether for planned auto theft-related events (such as steering wheel lock distribution, catalytic converter marking events, or prevention booths) or the CATPA Outreach Coordinator's attendance at already planned community events (summer fests, open houses, etc.).
- Material support, including educational brochures for the public, promotional items for community engagement, or assistance with any articulated community needs.
- Social media content for consistent messaging across Colorado.

Analytical Modeling

Stolen and recovered vehicle figures in the SVDR are directly sourced from the CCIC system. It's worth mentioning that these numbers may slightly differ from those in individual agency databases. Notably, the ATICC dataset excludes attempted vehicle thefts and vehicles that were recovered before being officially reported as stolen, thus not entered in CCIC as stolen incidents.
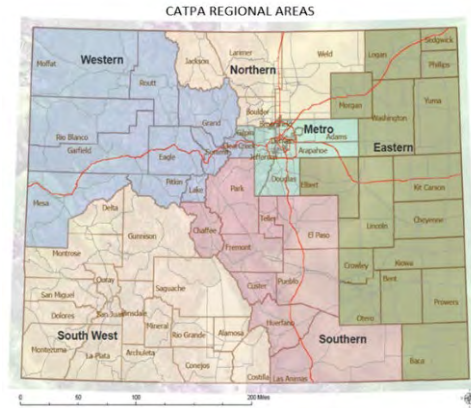
Furthermore, the CATPA regions in Colorado are delineated into six (6) areas, each served by a designated auto theft task force. This regional breakdown ensures a focused and targeted approach to addressing auto theft challenges within specific areas of the state. Overall, these clarifications underscore the nuances in data collection and reporting methods, emphasizing the need for precision when interpreting and comparing auto theft statistics.

Motor Vehicle Theft by Volume, Year, and Rate

The 5-year analysis of statewide motor vehicle theft volumes reveals a significant 62% overall increase from 20,300 incidents in 2019 to 32,976 in 2023. This upward trend in motor vehicle theft is characterized by a 39% increase from 2019 to 2020, followed by a 31% increase from 2020 to 2021. The trend continued with a 12% increase from 2021 to 2022, but notably, there was a long-awaited 21% decrease in motor vehicle theft from 2022 to 2023, offering a positive shift in the trajectory (SVDR).

Looking into the per capita perspective, data sourced from the SVDR indicates a noteworthy 21% decline in Colorado's motor vehicle theft rate from 713 vehicles stolen per 100,000 residents in 2022 to 560 vehicles stolen per 100,000 residents in 2023. *Note: This data will differ from the reporting in the Legislative Efforts section, authored by Director R. Force due to different dates of the data extractions.* This decline in the per

CCIC Theft Count

Colorado Auto Theft Volume Comparison By Year

Year	Volume
2019	20,300
2020	28,292
2021	37,182
2022	41,656
2023	32,976
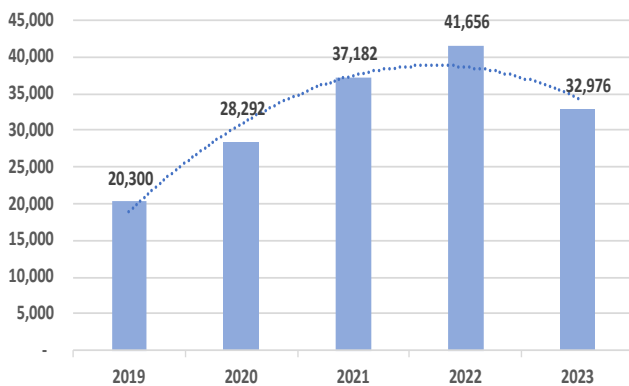
Years

Auto Theft Rate calculation (TheftsX100,000/population)

Colorado Auto Theft Rate Comparison By Year

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CO POPULATION	5,676,913	5,784,584	5,811,026	5,838,736	5,890,651
CO THEFT RATE	358	489	640	713	560
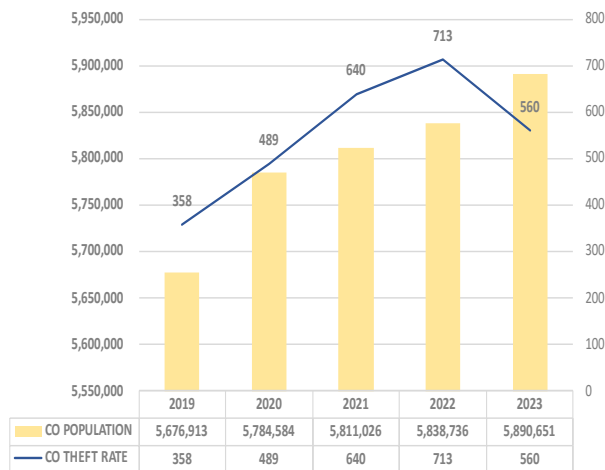
capita theft rate suggests a positive impact, highlighting potential improvements in auto theft prevention measures or law enforcement efforts, contributing to the reduction in theft incidents on a per capita basis.

Motor Vehicle Recovery Rate by Year

Colorado's performance in recovering stolen vehicles consistently surpasses the national average. Over the 5 years from 2019 to 2023, the state has maintained a strong track record in recovering stolen vehicles. However, it's worth noting that the recovery rate for 2023 stands at 86%, marking the lowest point in the 5-year comparison. It is anticipated that this recovery rate will likely increase as more time elapses and additional data becomes available.
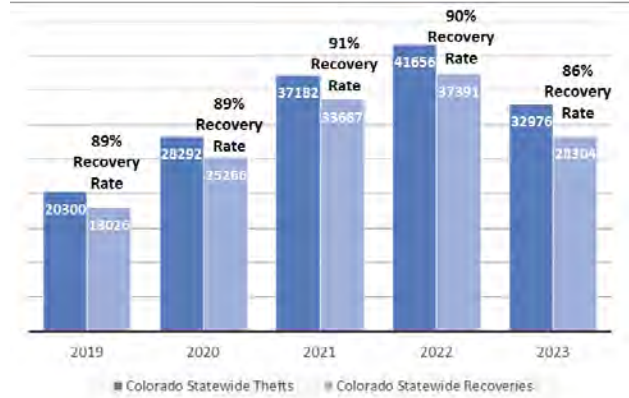
In the preceding year, 2022, the recovery rate was reported at 87%, and currently, for the ongoing year, the recovery rate has already reached a commendable 90%. This indicates a robust effort in the state's law enforcement and recovery mechanisms. The consistently high recovery rates highlight the effectiveness of measures taken to locate and return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners, showcasing Colorado's commitment to combating motor vehicle theft.

Vehicle Theft by Per Capita SVDR vs. NIBRS

The data from the SVDR highlights a significant 57% increase in the vehicle theft rate per capita over the 5-year comparison. This metric, measured per 100,000 residents, reflects the upward trend in the occurrence of vehicle theft incidents in Colorado. This increase emphasizes the need for continued efforts in prevention, law enforcement, and public awareness to address and mitigate this trend. Analyzing and understanding the factors contributing to this rise will be crucial in the continued implementation of effective strategies to curb the vehicle theft rate and enhance overall community safety. The NIBRS data of the vehicle theft rate per capita (per 100,000 residents) indicates a 50% increase in the 5-year comparison. The vehicle theft counts between the SVDR and NIBRS vary, however, it is necessary to demonstrate transparency due to Colorado utilizing both sources. (CBI & CCS, 2023; Colorado Courts MVT and Associated Offense Charge Data, 2023)[xiii]

YEAR	SVDR THEFT TOTAL	% THEFT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR	CO POPULATION	THEFT RATE PER CAPITA
2019	20,300		5,676,913	358
2020	28,292	39%	5,784,584	489
2021	37,182	31%	5,811,026	640
2022	41,656	12%	5,838,736	713
2023	32,976	-21%	5,890,651	560
5-YEAR TREND		62%	4%	57%

YEAR	NIBRS THEFT TOTAL	% THEFT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR	CO POPULATION	THEFT RATE PER CAPITA
2019	20,753		5,676,913	366
2020	28,365	37%	5,784,584	490
2021	37,217	31%	5,811,026	640
2022	41,213	11%	5,838,736	706
2023	32,308	-22%	5,890,651	548
5-YEAR TREND		56%	4%	50%

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. (SVDR)

In 2023, passenger cars emerged as the most targeted vehicle style in the state, witnessing 10,434 thefts, followed by SUVs with 9,875 thefts, pickup trucks with 6,720 thefts, motorcycles with 1,780 thefts, trailers with 1,588 thefts, and vans with 1,173 thefts (SVDR).

Notably, all major vehicle styles, including motorcycles, passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, and vans, experienced a decrease in theft incidents in 2023 (SVDR).

STYLE	2019 THEFTS	2020 THEFTS	2021 THEFTS	2022 THEFTS	2023 THEFTS
Motorcycle	**1,431**	**2,051**	**2,017**	**2,131**	**1,780**
Active	567	835	860	1,004	944
Inactive	864	1,216	1,157	1,127	836
Recovery Rate	60%	59%	57%	53%	47%
Passenger Car	**7,009**	**9,087**	**12,243**	**13,046**	**10,434**
Active	261	240	279	359	598
Inactive	6,748	8,847	11,964	12,687	9,836
Recovery Rate	96%	97%	98%	97%	94%
Pickup Truck	**4,059**	**6,172**	**8,047**	**8,389**	**6,720**
Active	287	396	603	789	1,024
Inactive	3,772	5,776	7,444	7,600	5,696
Recovery Rate	93%	94%	93%	91%	85%
SUV	**5,214**	**7,278**	**10,503**	**13,063**	**9,875**
Active	179	199	259	353	550
Inactive	5,035	7,079	10,244	12,710	9,325
Recovery Rate	97%	97%	98%	97%	94%
Trailer	**1,107**	**1,586**	**1,852**	**2,020**	**1,588**
Active	549	794	902	994	863
Inactive	558	792	950	1,026	725
Recovery Rate	50%	50%	51%	51%	46%

Motorcycles and trailers continue to exhibit the lowest recovery rates among vehicles used on roadways. This challenge is attributed to the absence of a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), Product Identification Number (PIN), or Owner Applied Number (OAN) on these types of vehicles, contributing to their low recovery rates. Beyond motorcycles, other low-speed vehicles such as mopeds, trailers, farm equipment, construction equipment, and off-road vehicles may lack a tracking number or proper registration with the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or the state. Additionally, the vehicle placard or tag displaying a unique identifier can be easily removed by thieves (Force, R.; CATPA, 2022).

The recovery rate for farm and construction equipment is notably lower than that of any other vehicle style used on roadways (SVDR). Again, this is likely due to many of these

vehicles not having PIN, VIN, or OAN identifiers, coupled with the theft of these vehicles likely not being readily identified or under the purview of normal enforcement activities, such as law enforcement traffic stops, etc.

Complicating matters further, many owners may not have unique identifying numbers at the time of theft, making it challenging for law enforcement to conduct investigations and facilitate recoveries. Law enforcement often encounters these types of vehicles during chop shop raids, junk yard inspections, or during transport, but verifying the stolen status becomes difficult due to the removal or absence of unique identifying numbers (Force, R.; CATPA, 2022). This bolsters the need for comprehensive measures to address the specific challenges associated with the theft and recovery of various vehicle styles.

The Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicle(s) in 2023

In 2023, the Hyundai Elantra was the most stolen vehicle of all make and models, with a total of 1,332 reported thefts. Among these, the 2013 model emerged as the most-at-risk vehicle, contributing significantly with 256 reported thefts, representing 19% of the total Hyundai Elantra thefts (SVDR).

MAKE/MODEL	TOP THEFT YEAR	TOTAL THEFTS
HYUNDAI ELANTRA	2013 (256)	1332
CHEVROLET SILVERADO	2006 (150)	1285
HYUNDAI SONATA	2017 (187)	1040
FORD F-150	2018 (177)	1021
KIA SPORTAGE	2020 (200)	977
FORD F-250	1999 (80)	810
KIA OPTIMA	2015 (146)	783
HYUNDAI TUCSON	2017 (174)	756
HONDA CIVIC	1998 (81)	689
KIA SOUL	2016 (121)	649

The combined thefts of Kia (3,742) and Hyundai (3,980) constitute approximately 23% of the total statewide thefts. Kia and Hyundai collectively account for six (6) of the top ten (10) most stolen vehicles by make, with each having three (3) models featured in the "Top 10 Most Stolen Vehicles", (SVDR). The Kia and Hyundai OEMs are taking action to mitigate this trend with a system security update for certain Kia and Hyundai vehicles. CATPA has emphasized the importance of targeted preventive measures and heightened security measures for these popular models. (SVDR)

Hyundai/Kia Thefts
Comparison of All MVT Thefts
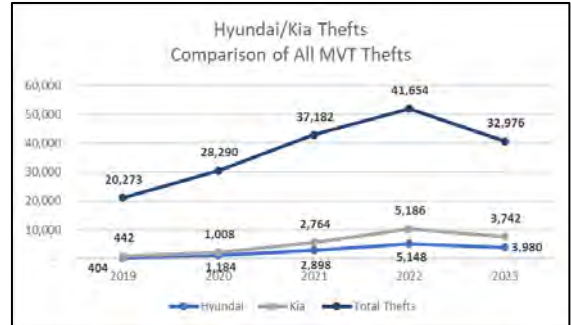
Motor Vehicle Thefts by CATPA Regional Areas

The following bar graph demonstrates how the 5-year comparison of statewide motor vehicle theft with the percentage increase from 2019 to 2023 is distributed by the CATPA regional area. (SVDR)

CATPA REGIONAL AREAS
5-YEAR COMPARISON

	Denver Metro Area	Eastern Colorado	Northern Colorado	South West Colorado	Southern Colorado	Western Colorado
2019	13254	212	1866	370	4138	442
2020	20196	307	2504	496	3911	726
2021	27486	303	3064	448	4912	827
2022	30648	286	3905	446	5596	582
2023	23316	280	2912	423	5328	539
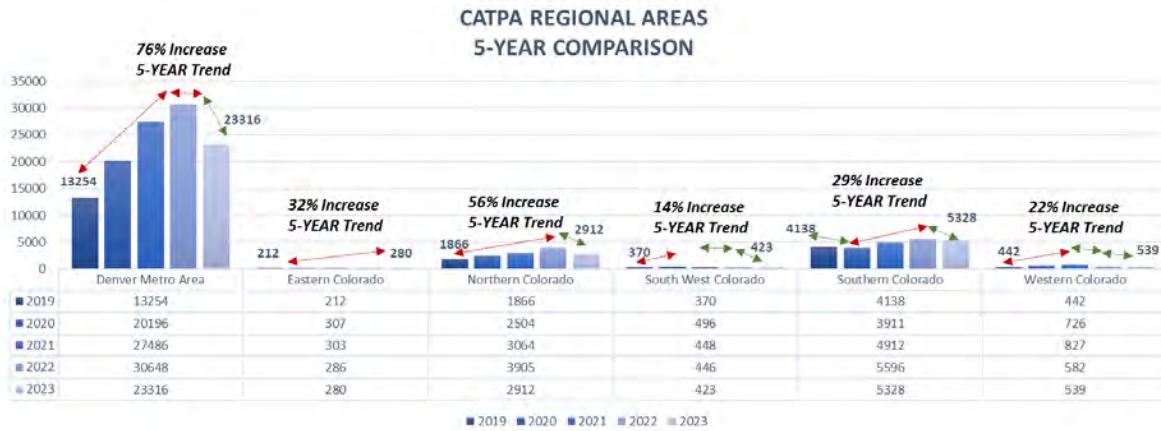
When considering the number of statewide motor vehicle thefts, as illustrated above, the Denver Metro area routinely makes up the majority of motor vehicle thefts in Colorado. In 2023, reported stolen vehicle thefts from the Denver Metro area accounted for approximately 71% of the total thefts, a 3% decrease from 2022. The Denver Metro area decreased by 24% from 2022 to 2023. (SVDR)

A notable 25% decrease in reported stolen vehicles was experienced in Northern Colorado in 2023 vs. 2022. (SVDR)

Eastern, South West, Southern, and Western Colorado areas experienced decreases in reported vehicle thefts in 2023 versus 2022. (SVDR)

DENVER METRO AREA - 2023

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.

TOP 5 STOLEN VEHICLE STYLES

1. SUV | 7,553
2. PASSENGER CAR | 7,397
3. PICKUP TRUCK | 4,733
4. MOTORCYCLE | 981
5. TRAILER | 930

TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. CHEVROLET SILVERADO | 963
2. HYUNDAI ELANTRA | 942
3. KIA SPORTAGE | 865
4. FORD F-150 | 789
5. HYUNDAI SONATA | 745
6. HYUNDAI TUCSON | 656
7. FORD F-250 | 639
8. KIA OPTIMA | 576
9. HONDA CIVIC | 489
10. HYUNDAI SORENTO | 461

The 2013 Hyundai Elantra is the most at-risk vehicle by theft volume of 192 thefts.
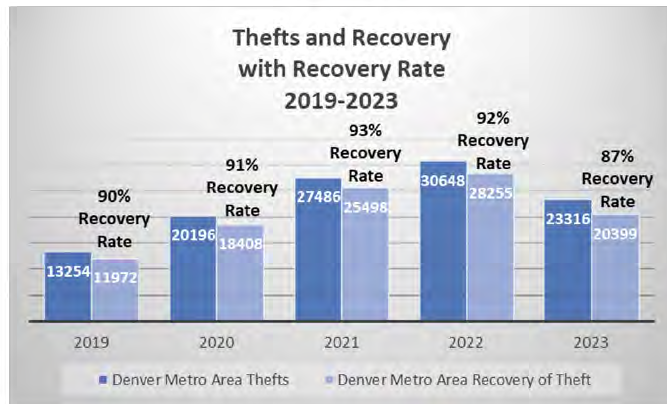
CMATT

CMATT was awarded the Western Regional Chapter (WRC) International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IATTI) Award of Excellence for the ATM COCCA case investigation.

CMATT agencies engaged in social media campaigns to educate the public on what they can do to prevent being a victim of auto theft through CATPA education and outreach.

The Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority made all engagements possible through funding of materials and steering wheel clubs at community events.

The Denver Metro Area accounts for 71% of auto thefts in Colorado

Thefts and Recovery with Recovery Rate 2019-2023

Year	Denver Metro Area Thefts	Denver Metro Area Recovery of Theft	Recovery Rate
2019	13254	11972	90%
2020	20196	18408	91%
2021	27486	25498	93%
2022	30648	28255	92%
2023	23316	20399	87%

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

EASTERN COLORADO - 2023

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.

TOP 5 STOLEN VEHICLE STYLES

1. PICKUP TRUCK | 90
2. PASSENGER CAR | 62
3. SUV | 34
4. TRAILER | 28
5. MOTORCYCLE | 22

BATTLE EAST

In July 2023, BATTLE East was established in Eastern Colorado to educate and prevent auto theft in rural areas. The initiative places a strong emphasis on community involvement and is currently devising the most effective approach to achieve its goals. The partner agencies of BATTLE East share the same objectives as the Governor's Office, CDPS, and CATPA.
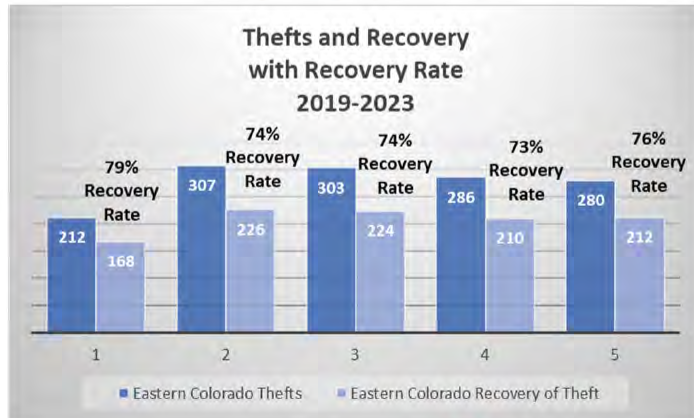
TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. GMC SIERRA | 12
2. CHEVROLET SILVERADO| 12
3. HONDA CIVIC | 8
4. CHEVROLET GMT-400 | 8
5. DODGE RAM 2500 | 7
6. DODGE DAKOTA | 6
7. FORD F-150 | 6
8. FORD F-250 | 6
9. FORD RANGER | 6
10. FORD F-350 | 5
11. PJ TRAILER | 5

The Style pickup trucks are the most stolen style due to the rural farming areas.

Eastern Colorado accounts for 1% of auto thefts in Colorado

Thefts and Recovery with Recovery Rate 2019-2023

	1	2	3	4	5
Recovery Rate	79%	74%	74%	73%	76%
Eastern Colorado Thefts	212	307	303	286	280
Eastern Colorado Recovery of Theft	168	226	224	210	212

■ Eastern Colorado Thefts   ■ Eastern Colorado Recovery of Theft

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

SOUTHWEST COLORADO - 2023

The Southwest Colorado CATPA Region incorporates 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 I-25 and I-70, two of Colorado's main highway corridors, do not go through.

TOP 5 STOLEN VEHICLE STYLES

1. PICKUP TRUCK | 116
2. SUV | 84
3. PASSENGER CAR | 69
4. TRAILER | 49
5. MOTORCYCLE | 38

SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Southwest Colorado law enforcement works directly with BATTLE West and aligns with the goals of the BATTLE initiative.
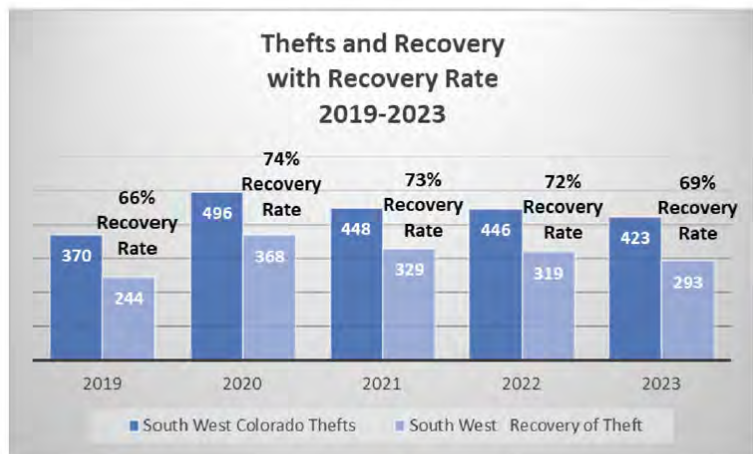
TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. CHEVROLET SILVERADO | 17
2. FORD F-150 | 13
3. JEEP WRANGLER | 12
4. FORD F-250 | 11
5. CHEVROLET GMT-400 | 8
6. DODGE RAM 1500 | 8
7. FORD RANGER | 7
8. GMC SIERRA | 7
9. FORD EXPLORER | 6
10. JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE | 5

Southwest Colorado accounts for 1% of auto thefts in Colorado

Thefts and Recovery with Recovery Rate 2019-2023

Year	South West Colorado Thefts	South West Recovery of Theft	Recovery Rate
2019	370	244	66%
2020	496	368	74%
2021	448	329	73%
2022	446	319	72%
2023	423	293	69%

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft
Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

SOUTHERN COLORADO - 2023

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 second for the highest rate of motor vehicle theft in Colorado following the Denver Metro Area.

TOP 5 STOLEN VEHICLE STYLES

1. PASSENGER CAR | 1,959
2. SUV | 1,334
3. PICKUP TRUCK | 932
4. MOTORCYCLE | 381
5. TRAILER | 305

TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. HYUNDAI ELANTRA | 325
2. HYUNDAI SONATA | 209
3. KIA SOUL | 187
4. KIA OPTIMA | 168
5. CHEVROLET SILVERADO | 138
6. HONDA CIVIC | 119
7. FORD F-150 | 106
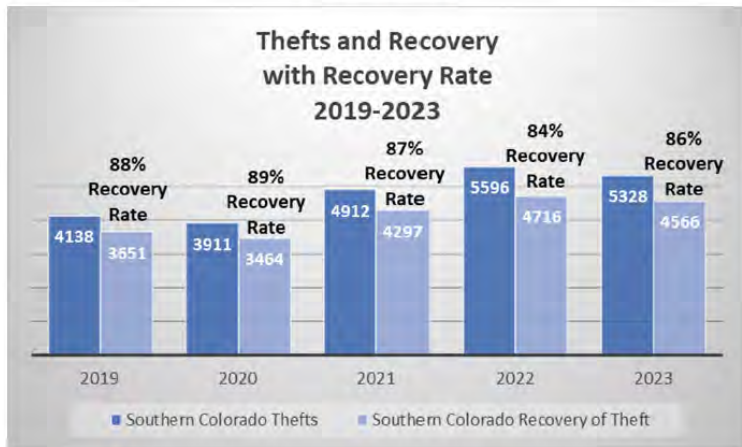8. HONDA ACCORD | 100
9. KIA FORTE | 90
10. DODGE RAM 1500| 89

The 2013 Hyundai Elantra is the most at-risk vehicle by theft volume of 55 thefts.

BATTLE SOUTH

BATTLE South conducted 76 proactive auto theft operations in 2023, resulting in 318 stolen vehicle recoveries, with a total value of $4,189,431.

In 2023, BATTLE South investigated eight (8) recoveries where the victim unknowingly purchased a stolen vehicle.

Southern Colorado accounts for 16% of auto thefts in Colorado

Thefts and Recovery with Recovery Rate 2019-2023

Year	Southern Colorado Thefts	Southern Colorado Recovery of Theft	Recovery Rate
2019	4138	3651	88%
2020	3911	3464	89%
2021	4912	4297	87%
2022	5596	4716	84%
2023	5328	4566	86%

■ Southern Colorado Thefts   ■ Southern Colorado Recovery of Theft

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

WESTERN COLORADO - 2023

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.

TOP 5 STOLEN VEHICLE STYLES

1. PICKUP TRUCK | 127
2. PASSENGER CAR | 119
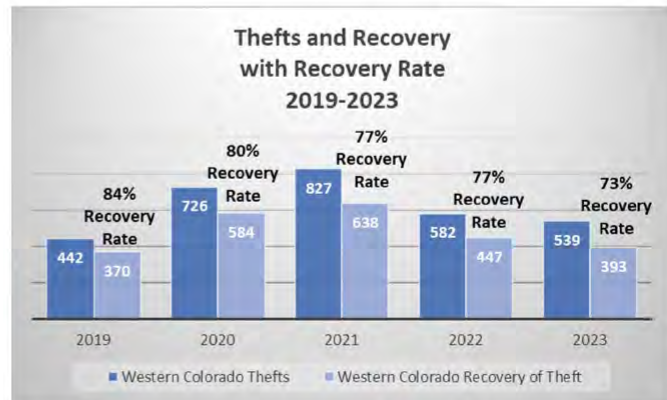3. SUV | 102
4. MOTORCYCLE | 72
5. TRAILER | 50

BATTLE WEST

BATTLE West conducted 42 auto theft operations that resulted in 246 arrests, 24 MVT recoveries, and 17 search warrants related to MVT and burglaries.

BATTLE West is focused on reducing the instances of MVT by prioritizing high-risk offenders and offenders related to MVT and their kindred crimes.

TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. CHEVROLET SILVERADO | 23
2. FORD F-150 | 20
3. FORD F-250 | 14
4. JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE | 13
5. HONDA CIVIC | 12
6. HONDA ACCORD | 11
7. FORD F-350 |10
8. POLARIS RZR | 10
9. DODGE RAM 1500 | 9
10. TOYOTA TACOMA | 9

The 2004 Chevrolet Silverado is the most at-risk vehicle by theft volume with 4 thefts. The style pickup truck is the most stolen style in Western Colorado.

Western Colorado accounts for 2% of auto thefts in Colorado

Thefts and Recovery with Recovery Rate 2019-2023

Year	Western Colorado Thefts	Western Colorado Recovery of Theft	Recovery Rate
2019	442	370	84%
2020	726	584	80%
2021	827	638	77%
2022	582	447	77%
2023	539	393	73%

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

2023 Recovery Comparison

CATPA Regional Areas | Out-of-State

There were 29,985 recoveries, regardless of theft date, reported in 2023.

The recoveries in the following analysis focus solely on the recoveries of the thefts that occurred between January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. (SVDR)

In 2023, more than 80% of the stolen vehicles were recovered within the same CATPA area in which they were originally stolen. Denver Metropolitan Area led with 86%, followed by Southern Colorado at 80%. Eastern Colorado held the lowest rate at 49%. The CATPA region statistic should not be confused with the municipality statistic of 51% of motor vehicle thefts being recovered in another municipality. (SVDR)

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 theft areas due to missing address information of some records when pulling from the dataset 'theft area' and 'recovery area'.

2023	Denver Metro Area	Eastern Colorado	Northern Colorado	South West Colorado	Southern Colorado	Western Colorado
AREA THEFT COUNT	23,316	280	2,912	423	5,328	539
ALL RECOVERY IN 2023 NO MATTER THEFT DATE	21,677	215	2,477	323	4,872	421
NUMBER RECOVERED IN THEFT AREA	20,019	136	1,686	228	4,236	299
% RECOVERED OUTSIDE OF THEFT AREA	14%	51%	42%	46%	20%	45%
% RECOVERED INSIDE THEFT AREA	86%	49%	58%	54%	80%	55%

Colorado Stolen Vehicles Recovered Out of State and Country

In 2023, a total of 590 stolen vehicles reported in Colorado were successfully recovered out of state, impacting 44 out of the 50 states in the United States and even reaching the country of Mexico. The states bordering or near Colorado played a significant role in the recovery efforts, with Texas leading the way by recovering 112 Colorado-stolen registered vehicles, followed by New Mexico with 71, Wyoming with 46, California with 32, and Arizona with 32 recoveries. These states, due to their geographical proximity, have been more directly involved in recovering vehicles stolen in Colorado.

Conversely, states situated farther North and East of Colorado were less affected by Colorado motor vehicle thefts, emphasizing a regional distribution in the impact of these cross-border theft and recovery dynamics (SVDR). This information highlights the interstate and international nature of motor vehicle theft, with the importance of collaborative efforts among states and countries to combat and recover stolen vehicles effectively.

Identified Patterns in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico

The recovery patterns observed in New Mexico, Texas, and Chihuahua, Mexico, indicate a consistent preference for specific makes and models of vehicles, mirroring the trends seen in Colorado thefts. Additionally, the criminal methods employed in many thefts in Colorado seem to be replicated in these regions. Notably, vehicles

stolen from Denver International Airport (DEN) have been identified and recovered in Mexico, showcasing an international dimension to these criminal activities.

Sixteen (16) Colorado thefts have been successfully recovered near the U.S. and Mexico Border in El Paso, Texas. Identifying and understanding these patterns allows for more targeted and effective countermeasures, both within Colorado and in collaboration with neighboring states and international counterparts. It highlights the need for coordinated efforts to combat vehicle theft and recover stolen vehicles across jurisdictions.
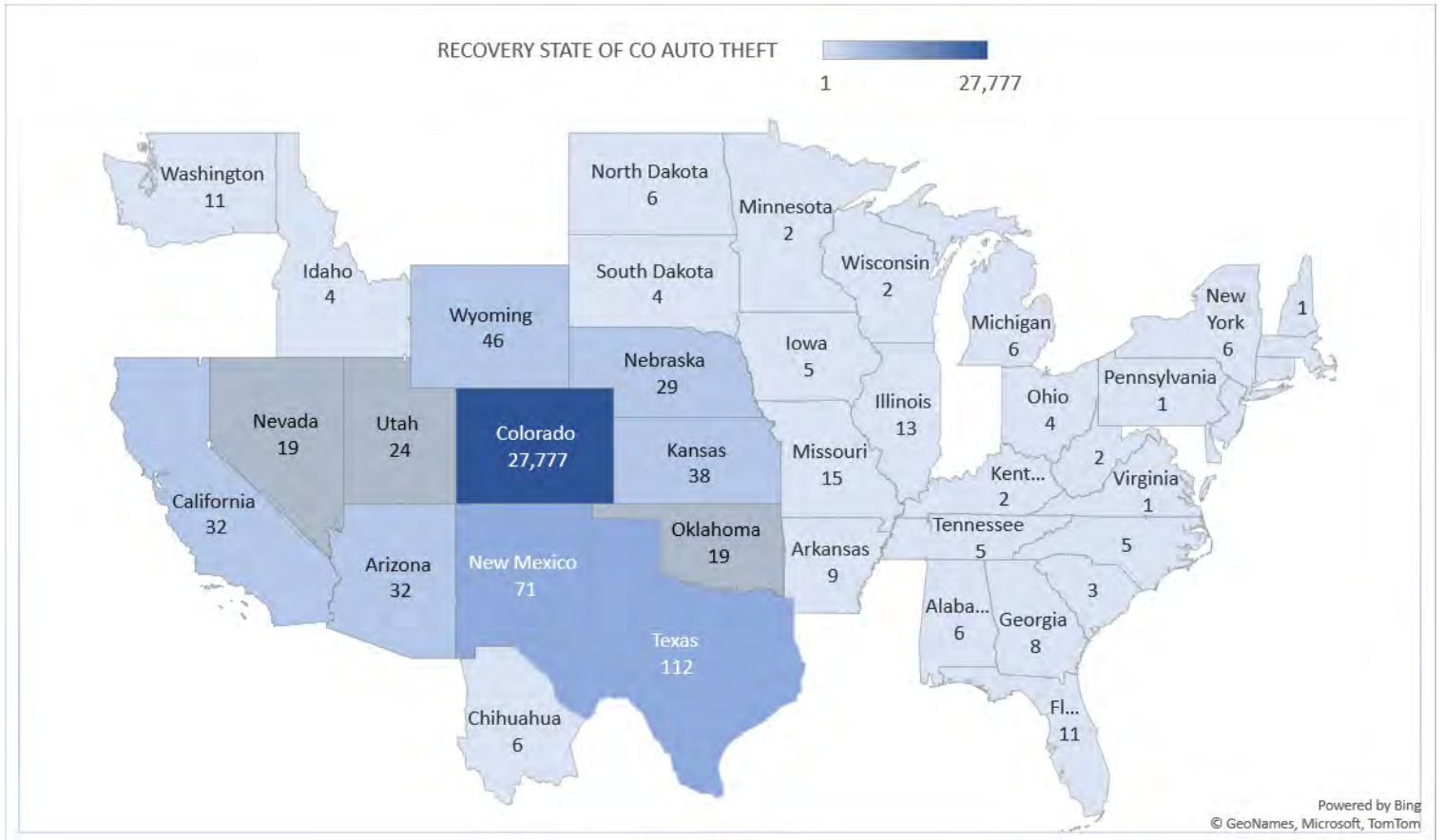
Outlook

In March 2024, the positive trend of decreasing statewide vehicle thefts in Colorado persists. The collaborative efforts of the Governor's Office, Legislature, Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado State Patrol, and the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority remain focused on achieving the state's Wildly Important Goals. As part of this commitment, a target has been set to achieve an additional 20% reduction in vehicle thefts in 2024, aiming for a total of 6,595 fewer thefts. The ultimate goal is to reach a total of 26,381 or fewer auto thefts by the end of 2024. This ambitious objective reflects the dedication of various stakeholders to enhance public safety and security through proactive measures against motor vehicle theft.

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 vehicles, remove all keys, weapons, and personal property, park in physically secured areas, and not leave their vehicles running unattended to prevent their vehicles 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 to acquire 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 risks 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 20%, CATPA should consider funding initiatives to support this WIG with strategic planning for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025.

Glossary of Terms

Active – (Actively Stolen) Stolen vehicles included in this report include vehicles entered into the 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 before completing the jurisdiction's reporting and processing procedures. (SVDR)

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 "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 messages 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.) (SVDR)

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

Reported Stolen Vehicles – vehicles reported stolen into the Colorado Crimes Information Center that the SVDR captures in Colorado.

Endnotes

[i] Department of Justice Review of the Transition of Law Enforcement Agencies to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

[ii] Colorado Crime Statistics; https://coloradocrimestats.state.co.us/tops/report/mvt/colorado/2023

[iii] National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

[iv] https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/hot-spots-report-shows-vehicle-theft-rates-spiking-different-regions-us

[v] NICB 2023 Vehicle Theft Trend Report; March 08, 2024 (Dissemination to member companies and law enforcement

This report is not published on open source.

[vii] Colorado Courts data; 2020-2023

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

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

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

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

[xii] https://www.flydenver.com/press-release/denver-international-airport-implements-strategy-to-minimize-auto-thefts/

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