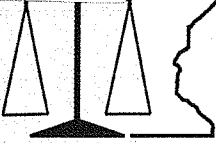
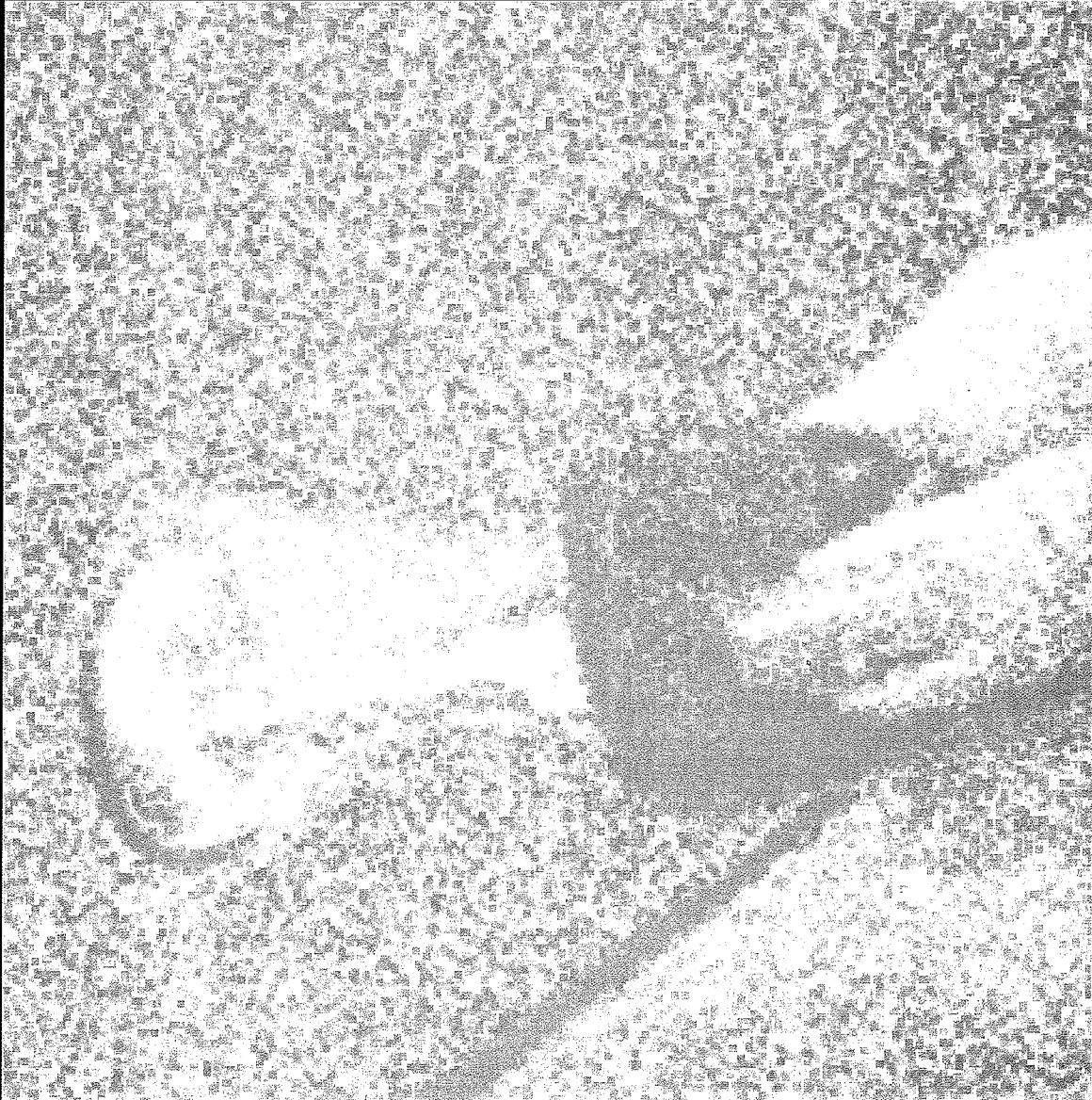


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2005 Auto Theft Prevention

Report to the State of Minnesota
Governor and Legislature



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM
Minnesota Statutes 2004, Section 65B.84
January 1, 2005

Program Mission

To reduce motor vehicle theft and its consequences in the State of Minnesota by funding programs which aid in the:

- Identification of Critical Issues
- Education and Awareness
- Investigation and Prosecution

Program Background

In 1996 the Minnesota Legislature created the Auto Theft Prevention Program. This program is funded from a surcharge that is collected from automobile insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the State of Minnesota. The amount of the surcharge is \$.50 cents per vehicle for every six months of coverage. Utilizing this funding, the program makes money available through a competitive grant process for activities to address the problem of auto theft in the State of Minnesota.

In July of 2004, the Auto Theft Prevention Program was transferred to the Department of Commerce. The Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs continued to administer the program via an interagency agreement between the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Commerce.

EXTENT OF AUTO THEFT IN MINNESOTA

In 2003, there were 14,532 motor vehicles stolen in Minnesota with a value of \$38,683,663. This figure represents eight percent of property crimes in Minnesota and indicates a theft rate of 272 per 100,000 residents, an average of 37 per day.

Thieves target a wide range of popular passenger vehicles, often seeking valuable parts from older model year vehicles for sale on the black market.

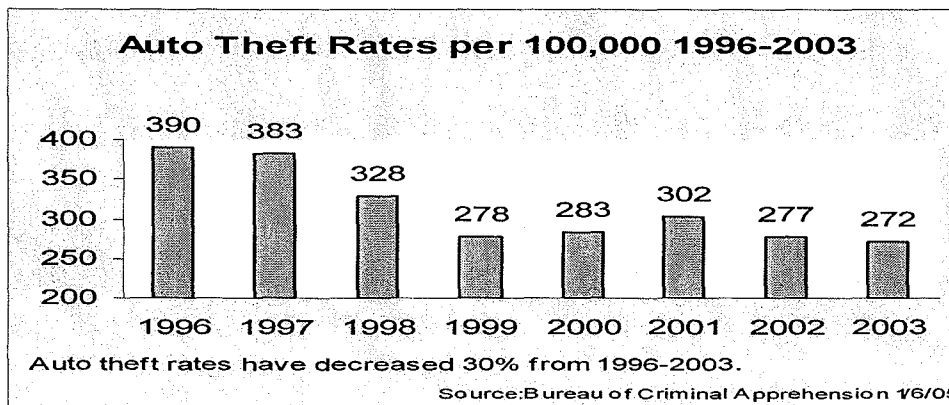
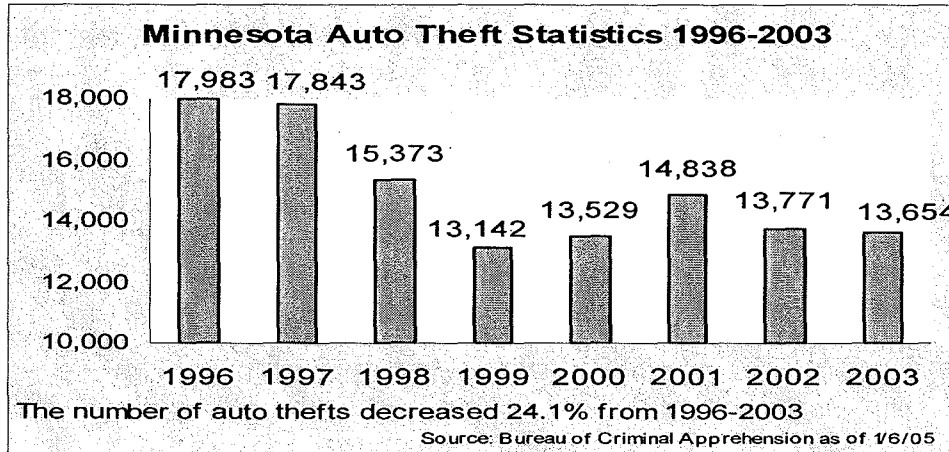
The top ten most stolen automobiles in Minnesota are:

1. Toyota Camry
2. Honda Accord
3. Honda Civic
4. Chevrolet Full Size C/K Pickup
5. Ford Full Size Pickup (150/250/350)
6. Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
7. Oldsmobile Cutlass/Supreme/Ciera
8. Dodge Caravan/Grand Caravan
9. Ford Taurus
10. Toyota Corolla

Auto Thefts in Major Cities and Counties in Minnesota, 1996 and 2003

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>%Change</u> <u>1996-2003</u>
Hennepin County TOTAL	7,674	5,080	-33.8%
Minneapolis	5,650	3,519	-37.7%
Bloomington	396	249	-37.1%
Brooklyn Park	230	322	40.0%
Anoka County TOTAL	950	733	-22.8%
Fridley	145	114	-21.4%
Coon Rapids	173	132	-23.7%
St. Louis County TOTAL	583	564	-3.3%
Duluth	398	381	-4.3%
Rochester (Olmsted County)	145	167	15.2%
Ramsey County TOTAL	3,278	2,749	-16.1%
St. Paul	2,636	2,090	-20.7%
Maplewood	168	198	17.9%
Roseville	130	128	-1.5%
Dakota County TOTAL	849	572	-32.6%
Burnsville	227	121	-46.7%
W. St. Paul	110	80	-27.3%
Washington County	329	388	17.9%
St Cloud (Stearns Co.)	206	107	-48.1%

Source: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, 1/6/05



Types of Theft / Auto Theft Trends

- It remains that many autos are stolen because the auto was left unattended with keys left in them.
- Thefts of Conveyance – thieves need to ride from Point A to Point B and steal a car to get there.
- Thefts of Opportunity – thieves were presented with an opportunity to steal a vehicle with little chance of detection, and did so. Many of these vehicles are taken for “joyrides”, and left damaged.
- Use of counterfeit cashiers and payroll checks are used to purchase vehicles from a private party.
- Gangs stripping cars for profit.
- Identity theft. (1) Use of another’s identity to fraudulently purchase or lease a new or used vehicle, or (2) Thieves use personal information found within a stolen vehicle for identity theft purposes.
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) switching.
- Increased thefts from auto dealer’s sales lots. These cases typically involve either a customer not returning from a test drive or a dealer noticing a vehicle missing from inventory when inventory is checked. Dealerships fail to account for keys to cars on the sales lots.
- Increased theft of Acura Integra and high-priced luxury SUVs.
- Using stolen vehicles as a commodity for purchasing drugs.
- “Dope Rentals” – Offender claims to have “rented” the car in exchange for controlled substances.
- Auto thefts that tie in with burglaries in which vehicles were parked at homes. The vehicle is used as a moving van.

Profile of Perpetrators

- Majority of offenders continue to be young males under the age of 25.
- Juvenile “joyrider”
- Juvenile affiliated with a gang or gang initiation.
- Career/habitual offenders.
- The person who steals motor vehicles for a living, later selling the vehicle or its parts.
- Organized group of individuals led by “habitual offenders” who steal cars along with their associated crimes such as the use of counterfeit cashiers checks and payroll checks to purchase vehicles.

TYPES OF PROGRAMS FUNDED

Grant applications are solicited from county attorney's offices, law enforcement agencies, neighborhood and community organizations, and business organizations. Priority is given to proposed projects that 1) establish or enhance a collaborative effort between two or more agencies, 2) include counties or regions with the greatest rates of automobile theft, 3) employ proven or promising strategies that reduce the incidence of automobile theft, or 4) address automobile theft that is perpetrated as part of a criminal enterprise.

Applications may be submitted for the following types of projects:

1. Training (criminal justice, citizen and business, etc.)
2. Public Education (public meetings, literature, public service announcements, neighborhood and business watch promotions, etc.)
3. Programs designed to improve or expand the resources of existing auto theft prevention, investigation, apprehension, or prosecution activities.
4. Multi-Jurisdictional projects combining the resources of different agencies in the task force approach to combat auto theft.
5. Long-term specialized training to further the expertise of auto theft investigators or prosecutors.

PROGRAM RESULTS

All of the Auto Theft Prevention grants were funded for the period January 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. Grantees and grant amounts are listed in the appendix.

Grant recipients complete statistical and narrative reports on a quarterly basis. The following auto theft statistics are generated from reports from ten grant funded law enforcement agencies and four county attorney offices over the nine month period January 1, through September 30, 2004.

Law Enforcement Statistics

- Number of Vehicles reported stolen: 4,700
- Number of vehicles recovered: 2,955
- Number of vehicles processed for evidence: 276
- Number of vehicle theft investigations initiated: 1,843
- Number of vehicle theft arrests: 1,356
- Number of non auto theft related arrests generated by auto theft grant activities: 163

Prosecution Statistics

▪ Number of cases referred:	
Vehicle Theft Only – Adult	1046 *
Vehicle Theft Only – Juvenile	741 *
Vehicle Theft with related charges – Adult	185
Vehicle Theft with related Charges - Juvenile	115 **
▪ Number of cases charged	1439
▪ Number of convictions	997
▪ Number of defendants:	
Sent to Prison	129
Sent to Jail	398
Alternative Sentences	405 ***

* Includes cases with related charges and auto tampering cases.

** Juvenile statistics from Anoka, Washington and Dakota counties are not included.

*** Juveniles are not sent to prison or jail, thus all of their sentences would be considered “alternative sentences”. However, 17 juveniles adjudicated for motor vehicle theft of vehicle related crimes were ordered to some type of out-of-home placement.

Successful Methods Employed By Grantees

- Public education and awareness.
- Targeting “habitual offenders”.
- Patrolling high theft areas.
- Use of “bait” vehicles
- Multi-jurisdictional collaboration and joint activities.
- Law enforcement and community partnerships
- Consolidating cases with designated prosecutors in the adult and juvenile prosecution divisions. Prosecutors and law enforcement investigators/police officers develop relationships so they know whom to contact for information or advice on these cases.
- The use of paralegals, especially in follow up with victims when a case needs further investigation.

PROGRAM IMPACT

It is difficult to measure the overall impact of the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program due to the nature of motor vehicle theft. Motor vehicle theft is often a “crime of opportunity”, with most vehicles stolen with keys in the ignition. In most cases the perpetrator is not found with the stolen vehicle in his/her possession. Criminal justice system response to auto theft report is generally a low priority for a number of reasons: 1) often the vehicle is recovered (although it

may be damaged), 2) it is difficult to locate and process evidence that will promptly and accurately lead to a suspect, and 3) diminished resources for local law enforcement results in property crimes receiving less attention. Given the nature of auto theft, a successful program, involves:

- Prevention through public awareness.
- Deterrence through bait vehicle and “running sting” operations
- Investigation and increased collection/processing of evidence
- Prosecution and aggressive sentencing for repeat offenders.

Statewide and program data would lead us to believe that we are achieving success.

- In 2003, motor vehicle theft rates in Minnesota were at their lowest level since the inception of the Auto Theft Prevention Program in 1996. The theft rate has declined 30% over the last seven years. This compares to an overall national decline of 18% during the same period.
- Reported motor vehicle thefts in Minnesota have decline by over 4,000 on an annual basis when comparing 2003 to 1996, a decrease of 24%. The decreases have been most dramatic in the seven-county metropolitan area.
- Offenses are “cleared” by arrest or solved when at least one person is arrested, charged and referred for prosecution. In Minnesota, during 2003, there was a clearance rate of 19 percent for motor vehicle theft. Nationally the rate was 13 percent. For funded grantees, the clearance rate was 29%.

While results have been significant over the past seven years, an even greater impact is anticipated as we move into the future. Targeting funding to parts of the state that experience higher than average levels of auto theft appears to be working. Most of the grant funded programs are in the seven county metropolitan area and this is where crime rates and arrests have been most favorably impacted. In addition, after eight years, programs are using results to identify “what works” and best practices are now being employed throughout the state.

APPENDIX

Recipient	Type of Program	Grant Amount
Anoka & Washington County Attorney's Offices	Prosecution	\$171,700
Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota	Media	\$157,000
Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota	Training	\$25,000
City of Bemidji and Beltrami County	Law Enforcement	\$217,000
Bloomington Police Department	Law Enforcement	\$56,038
Brooklyn Center Police Department	Law Enforcement	\$126,320
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	Law Enforcement – Forensics	\$233,500
Burnsville and Savage Police Departments	Law Enforcement	\$55,000
Dakota County Attorney's Office	Prosecution	\$206,416
District Two Community Council	Community	\$20,925
Duluth Police Department	Law Enforcement	\$150,000
Hennepin County Attorney's Office	Prosecution	\$432,873
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement	\$40,000
Minneapolis Police Department	Law Enforcement	\$300,000
Minnesota Gang Strike Force	Law Enforcement	\$181,291
Pillsbury United Communities	Community	\$111,569
Ramsey County Attorney's Office	Prosecution	\$357,217
St. Paul Police Department (2 projects)	Law Enforcement	\$114,230
NOTE: These are all 18 month projects		
TOTAL		\$2,956,079