



Automobile Theft Prevention Program

2018 Report to Governor Mark Dayton and the Minnesota Legislature

Submitted by
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Fraud Bureau

Program Mission

To develop and sponsor the implementation of statewide plans, programs, and strategies to combat automobile theft, improve the administration of the automobile theft laws, and provide a forum for identification of critical problems for those persons dealing with automobile theft.

Program Background

The Automobile Theft Prevention Program was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1996. The program was authorized under Minnesota Statute 65B.84.

The program is funded by a surcharge collected from automobile insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the State of Minnesota. The amount of the surcharge collected for the Auto Theft Prevention Program is \$.50 per vehicle for every six months of coverage.

The program utilizes this funding for a competitive grant process for activities that address automobile theft in the State of Minnesota.

Automobile theft includes the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, which is defined as a self-propelled vehicle that runs on land surface and not on rails, such as, sport utility vehicles, automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. This category does not include farm equipment, bulldozers, airplanes, construction equipment, or watercraft (motorboats, sailboats, houseboats, or jet skis). The automobile theft statistics excludes incidents in which the alleged offender had lawful access to the vehicle as in a family situation, or the unauthorized use by others having lawful access to the vehicle such as chauffeur, employee, etc.

In July of 2004, the Automobile Theft Prevention Program was statutorily transferred to the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The Department's Commerce Fraud Bureau has managed the program since 2009.

Extent of Automobile Theft in Minnesota*

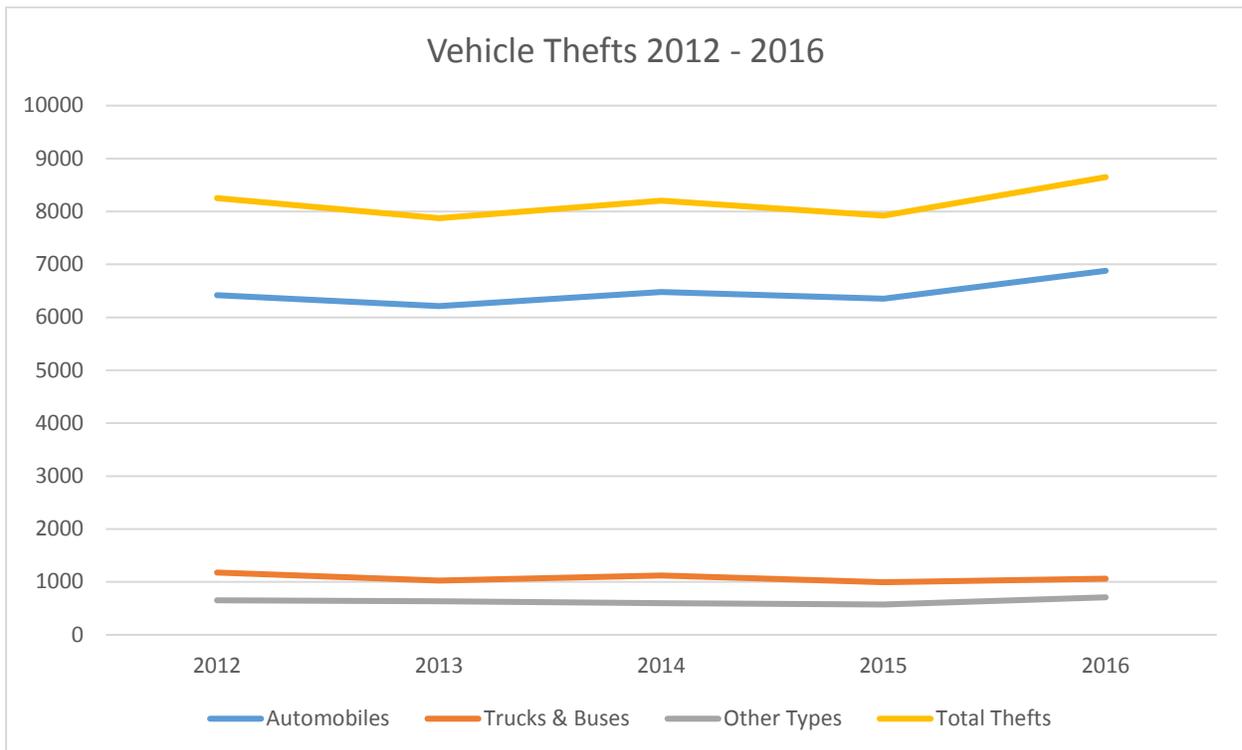
- In 2016, motor vehicle thefts represented 7% of the total property crimes reported in the state.
- On average 23.7 vehicles per day were stolen in Minnesota during the calendar year 2016.

- In 2016, 8,649 vehicles were stolen in Minnesota.
- Of the total number of reported vehicle thefts, 1,292 of these cases results in the arrest of a perpetrator. Of the total arrests, 236 involved the arrest of a juvenile.
- Motor vehicle theft ranked only second to larceny as the most costly property crime in 2016 with a total value of the vehicles stolen as \$32,334,000.

*Information from 2016 Minnesota Uniform Crime Report (BCA)

Minnesota Vehicle Thefts 2012 - 2016

Based on the 2016 (latest available) Uniform Crime Report published by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), reports of motor vehicle thefts showed an increase of 9% between 2015 and 2016.

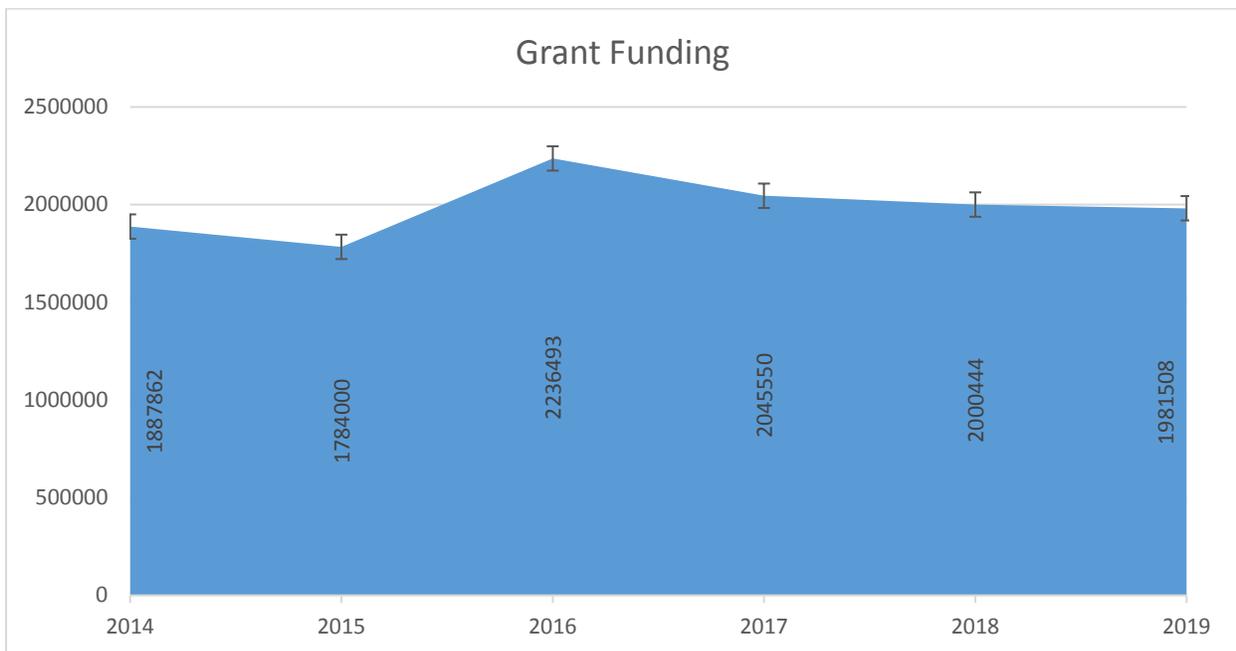


Auto Theft Prevention Program

The following types of projects are eligible to receive funding through the Auto Theft Prevention Program:

- Training (criminal justice, citizens, business, etc.)
- Public education (public meetings, literature, public service announcements, neighborhood and business watch promotions, etc.)
- Programs designed to improve or expand the resources of existing auto theft prevention, investigation, apprehension, or prosecution activities.
- Multi-Jurisdictional projects combining the resources of various agencies in the task force approach to combat auto theft.
- Long-term specialized training to further the expertise of auto theft investigators or prosecutors.
- Piloting new equipment and techniques proposed by grant recipients.

The following chart depicts the total amount of grant funding provided under this program from fiscal year 2014 to present.



Auto Theft Prevention Initiatives Funded in fiscal years 2018-2019

As part of the competitive grant process, the Auto Theft Prevention Program solicits applications from county attorney offices, law enforcement agencies, neighborhood and community organizations, and business organizations.

Priority in the competitive grant process is given to project proposals that included one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) established or enhanced a collaborative effort between two or more agencies;
- 2) included counties or regions with the greatest rates of automobile theft;
- 3) employed proven or promising strategies that reduced the incidence of automobile theft; and
- 4) addressed automobile theft that is perpetrated as part of a criminal enterprise.

During the state fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018), the Auto Theft Prevention Program is scheduled to provide grant funds totaling \$2,000,444 to fifteen entities in Minnesota: nine state or local law enforcement agencies; four county attorney offices; and two neighborhood, community, or business organizations.

During the state fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the Auto Theft Prevention Program is scheduled to provide grant funds totaling \$1,981,507 to seventeen entities in Minnesota: twelve state or local law enforcement agencies; four county attorney offices; and two neighborhood, community, or business organizations.

Below are the agencies that received awards from the grant program in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Grant Recipient	FY2016
Anoka - Washington County Attorneys	\$75,900.00
Anoka County JLEC	\$85,900.00
Bemidji Police Department	\$102,400.47
Bloomington Police Department	\$ 40,350.00
Brooklyn Center Police Department	\$ 121,779.00
District 2 & 5 Community Council	\$ 16,315.00
Hennepin County Attorney	\$ 322,654.00
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	\$20,700.00
Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office	\$113,388.82
Minneapolis Police Department	\$192,103.00
Minnesota State Patrol	\$350,000.00
Northern Dakota County	\$2,950.00
Ramsey County Attorney	\$320,620.00
Roseville Police Department	\$17,745.00
Saint Paul Police Department	\$217,639.00
Total Awards	\$2,000,444.29

Auto Theft Prevention Program Impact

The automobile theft rates for the five-year period 2012 through 2016 (most current data available) continue to show that the incidents of auto theft have stayed relatively level. However, these rates are much lower than those reported in the 1990s and early 2000s, when stolen vehicles were more than double today's numbers (17,983 in 1996) and arrest rates were far lower.

While the factors involved in the overall decline of auto thefts are numerous, the concerted efforts of the organizations receiving funding from the Automobile Theft Prevention Program are undoubtedly a contributing factor.

The financial support provided by this grant program continues to be critical in sustaining prevention and enforcement efforts for many city and county agencies in areas where the incidence of auto theft are the highest. It is unlikely that agencies

would be able to sustain their auto theft initiatives without the support received from the Auto Theft Prevention Program.

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