

# 2014 | VIRGINIA MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ANNUAL STATISTICS

2013 – 8,318 vehicles stolen



2014 – 7,542 vehicles stolen



There were 7,542 motor vehicles thefts in Virginia in 2014. That's 776 fewer thefts than reported in 2013, a **9.3 percent decrease**.



JUNE

SEPT.

Almost 40 percent of auto thefts occurred between **June and September**.

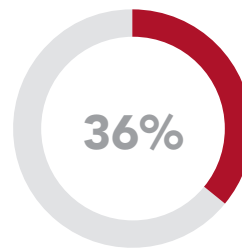
2013 – 859 offenders



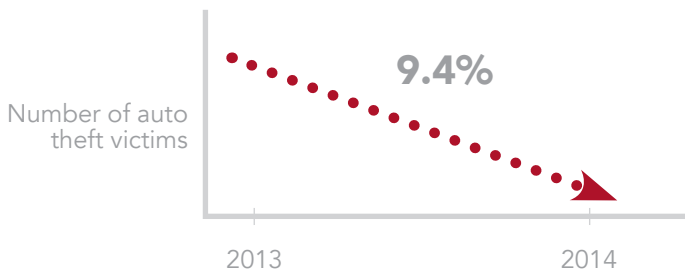
2014 – 810 offenders



There were 810 offenders reported in 2014, a **decrease of 5.7 percent from the previous year**.



More than a third (36 percent) of all auto thefts occurred between **8 p.m. and 2 a.m.**



There were 6,965 reported victims of auto theft in 2014, a **decrease of 9.4 percent from the previous year**.



Most stolen vehicle:  
**1997 Honda Accord – 247**

In 2014, the average value per motor vehicle theft was **\$7,609, up from \$6,491 in 2013**.



In 2014, the value of reported stolen motor vehicles totaled **\$56.1 million, a 4 percent increase** from 2013, when the value of vehicles reported stolen was **\$53.9 million**.

## **AUTO THEFT IS...**

Auto theft is the taking or use of a motor vehicle(s) by persons who don't have lawful access to them. This includes serious crimes such as grand theft auto and carjacking, as well as minor offenses involving joyriding and abandoned vehicles. While motor vehicle theft incidences have been gradually declining in Virginia, they continue to cost commonwealth citizens millions of dollars every year.

## **THE HEAT PROGRAM IS...**

Since its inception in 1992, the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) program has been providing Virginians with the knowledge and resources to protect themselves against becoming victims of auto theft.

HEAT provides an online tip submission form for citizens to report information concerning the theft of vehicles, vehicle parts or chop shop operations. Information remains anonymous throughout the process, and tips leading to arrests are eligible for rewards of up to \$25,000.

## **NUMBER OF OFFENSES**

There were 7,542 motor vehicles thefts in Virginia in 2014.

- This is 776 fewer thefts than reported in 2013, a 9.3 percent decrease.
- This decrease marks the twelfth consecutive year of decreasing auto thefts.
- Since 1991, vehicle thefts have declined by nearly 65 percent.

## **SEASONALITY (MONTH)**

Auto thefts occur most often in June, July and August and least frequently during winter.

- Almost 40 percent of all incidents occurred between June and September.
- July saw the most thefts with 780, with August following closely at 760 and June third with 723.
- The fewest thefts occurred in February (496), followed by January (546) and November (547).

## **TIME OF DAY**

The most likely time for an auto theft to occur is at night.

- More than a third (36 percent) of all auto thefts occurred between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- Between 10 p.m. and midnight alone, 1,005 thefts took place, the most for any two-hour time frame.
- Between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., 235 thefts occurred, the fewest for any two-hour time frame.

## **VEHICLES RECOVERED**

Law enforcement recovered 4,249 stolen vehicles.

## **MOST COMMONLY STOLEN VEHICLES**

The following cars were the most frequently stolen in the state of Virginia in 2014 according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

1. 1997 Honda Accord – 247
2. 2006 Ford pickup (full size) – 181
3. 2014 Toyota Camry – 175
4. 2000 Honda Civic – 163
5. 2002 Chevrolet pickup (full size) – 132

## **MOST COMMON LOCATIONS OF AUTO THEFT**

1. Homes or residences – 3,060
2. Parking lot or garage – 1,874
3. Highway, road or alley – 1,481

## **OFFENDERS**

There were 810 offenders reported in 2014, a decrease of 5.7 percent from 2013, when 859 offenders were reported.

- There were 164 offenders under the age of 17 in 2014, up from 126 offenders in 2013, a 30 percent increase.
- In 2014, 195 of those arrested were ages 17-21.

## **VICTIMS**

There were 6,965 reported victims of auto theft in 2014, a decrease of 9.4 percent from 2013.

- Approximately 42 percent of the victims in 2014 were between the ages of 18-35.
- Only 1.1 percent of the victims of auto theft were under the age of 17 in 2014.

## **VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN**

In 2014, the value of reported stolen motor vehicles totaled \$56.1 million.

- This is a 4 percent increase from 2013, when the value of stolen vehicles totaled \$53.9 million.
- When the HEAT program began in 1992, the value of vehicles reported stolen totaled \$106,006,275. There's been a 47 percent drop over 22 years.
- The five-year average, between 2010 and 2014, is \$59.4 million.

## **AVERAGE VALUE PER INCIDENT**

The average value per motor vehicle theft incident in 2014 was \$7,609.

- In 2013, the average value per motor vehicle incident was \$6,491, so there was a 17 percent increase.
- The five-year average value per incident, between 2010 and 2014, is \$6,689.

*\*Primary sources for this analysis are the 1975-2014 editions of Crime in Virginia, which were compiled by the Uniform Crime Reporting Section of the Virginia Department of State Police.*