

**STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE**

**MARYLAND
VEHICLE THEFT
PREVENTION COUNCIL**



**2000
ANNUAL REPORT**

PARRIS N. GLENDENING
Governor

KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND
Lt. Governor

COLONEL DAVID B. MITCHELL
Chairman

W. RAY PRESLEY
Executive Director

WWW.MDAUTOTHEFT.ORG

**MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL
2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Vehicle Theft Prevention Council consists of thirteen members appointed by the Governor. The Council includes representatives of law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, automobile insurers, state government, and the general public.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Colonel David B. Mitchell, Chair

Secretary, Department of State Police

Bishop L. Robinson

Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice

Stuart O. Simms

Secretary, Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Anne S. Ferro

Administrator, Motor Vehicle Administration

COUNCIL STAFF MEMBERS

W. Ray Presley, Executive Director

Cathy J. Amann

Administrative Aide

Marianne T. Artfitch

Secretary

Major Gregory M. Shipley

Commander, Public Affairs Unit
Department of State Police

REGULAR MEMBERS

William P. Canty, Vice Chairman

Community Representative

Henri A. Daniels

Community Representative

Ronald F. Harshman

National Insurance Crime Bureau Representative

Hon. Patricia C. Jessamy

State's Attorney for Baltimore City
Maryland State's Attorney's Representative

Betty J. Martin

Community Representative

Major F. Riddick, Jr.

Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Representative

Steven F. Rutzebeck

Director of Security
GEICO Insurance Company, Domestic
Insurance Carrier Representative

Timothy Steele

Auto Insurance Division Manager, State Farm
Insurance Company, Foreign Insurance
Carrier Representative

Mary Ann Viverette

Chief of Police, Gaithersburg Police Department
Local Law Enforcement Representative

MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

2000 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND
NOVEMBER 2001



MARYLAND



**“Watch Your Car”
Program**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

MARYLAND VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

1125 NATIONAL HIGHWAY
CUMBERLAND, MD 21502
(301) 729-5274 FAX (301) 729-5418
1-800-96-THEFT

E-Mail: MDVTPC@hereintown.net

www.mdautotheft.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Transmittal	ii
A Successful Experiment	1
History of the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council	3
Nature and Extent of Vehicle Theft in Maryland	4
Statewide Vehicle Theft Prevention Strategies	9
Evaluation of Council Impact	10
Future Initiatives	10
Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Website	11

Appendices

A - Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Operations	12
B - Summary of Grant Recipients	14
C - Grant Award Analysis By Jurisdiction	16
D - Fiscal Summary Report	19
E - Percentages By Jurisdiction	20
F - Maryland Vehicle Thefts, 1994-1999	21
G - National Vehicle Theft Totals, 1994-1999	22
H - National Vehicle Theft Rates, 1994-1999	23

November 1, 2001

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Governor
State of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Glendening:

The Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is pleased to present its 2000 Annual Report. This represents the Council's seventh year of service to the citizens of the State of Maryland.

After five consecutive years of significant decline, Maryland experienced a 10% increase in vehicle theft in the year 2000. However, after a dramatic 143% increase in vehicle theft from 1983-1994, 2000 statistics still represent a 36% decrease in the vehicle theft rate since the Council was established in 1994. This decline represents a reduction of approximately 9,572 stolen vehicles and an economic savings in excess of 58 million dollars. More important, it represents an enhanced level of public safety and quality of life for Maryland citizens.

The success we have experienced has been accomplished through a comprehensive partnership and a strategy that embraces public awareness, law enforcement, prosecution, and juvenile intervention as its primary components. An independent "Impact Evaluation" of the Council's programs predicted that absent the Council's intervention in 1994, vehicle theft rates would have continued to escalate. .

The staggering cost of vehicle theft in terms of lost property and criminal enterprise remains a real concern. Vehicle theft is the most significant property crime in the nation. It is also a quality of life crime that affects all citizens regardless of social or economic status. The Council remains committed to its charter of not only reversing the vehicle theft trend, but to continue to manage the problem in the future.

Sincerely,

Colonel David B. Mitchell
Chair

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT 1994-2000

Vehicle theft in Maryland increased 143% from 1983 (15,688) to 1994 (38,194.) Nationally vehicle theft rose 51% during the same period of time. In response to rapidly escalating vehicle theft rates, the 1994 General Assembly created the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (Council) and Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund (Fund) to centralize, consolidate, and coordinate vehicle theft prevention planning and funding capabilities.

The Council and Fund was initially established under Article 41 of the Annotated Code as a Unit within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services with a Sunset Provision of 7/1/97. Because of positive results this sunset date was extended by the 1997 General Assembly until 7/1/ 2000 and the Council transferred to the Department of State Police (Article 88B, Section 72-75.) In April 2000, the General Assembly extended the Sunset Provision to July 1, 2003. This Bill was signed into law by Governor Glendening on 5/11/ 2000.

Consistent with enabling legislation the Council has developed and implemented a Plan of Operation and a statewide vehicle theft prevention strategy that encompasses public awareness/prevention/education, juvenile intervention, law enforcement, and prosecution.

Since its inception, the Council has awarded over fifteen million dollars for vehicle theft prevention programs to various organizations consistent with the statewide strategy. These programs have been concentrated in eight jurisdictions in the Baltimore/Washington corridor which historically experiences 93-95 percent of the vehicle thefts in Maryland.

A statewide public awareness campaign has resulted in more than 80,000 vehicle theft prevention radio and television advertisements being broadcast by approximately 124 radio and

eight television stations. A 1998 statewide telephone survey (Mason/Dixon) indicated that 72% of citizens surveyed were exposed to the campaign and 30% of the respondents indicated that they took action to prevent vehicle theft as a result of the exposure.

In 1997 the Council successfully organized the Maryland Anti-Car Theft Committee (A.C.T.) as a private sector partner. Membership consists of major automobile insurance carriers in Maryland and other vehicle related industries. The A.C.T. Committee is formally incorporated in Maryland as a 501(c3) non profit organization and has contributed over \$300,000 toward public awareness, vehicle theft training programs, and direct law enforcement support thereby, enhancing the Council's efforts.

In 1998 the Council received a \$200,000 Federal Grant to implement the Watch Your Car Program in Maryland. Watch Your Car is a National Vehicle Theft Prevention Program that allows police to stop vehicles anywhere in the United States that are displaying a special Watch Your Car decal between the hours of 1:00 - 5:00 A.M. to determine if the vehicle is stolen. The program is totally voluntary and at no cost to participants. There are currently over 25,000 motorists registered in the Program. In May 2001 the Council received a Supplemental Watch Your Car Grant in the amount of \$240,000.

1995 was the first year of Council intervention, therefore, 1994 is used as a base year for statistical correlations. Through 2000 the most verifiable evidence of Council program achievements are:

g36% reduction and vehicle theft rates. (Thefts per 100,000 registered vehicles)

g26% reduction in total thefts. This equates to over 9,572 fewer stolen vehicles and an economic savings of approximately \$58,456,204. While crime rates in general have declined (-17%) vehicle theft rates fell over twice the total crime index.

g22% reduction in carjacking. (2000 UCR Carjacking Statistics)

gAs of 1/1/2001, with the exception of Prince George's County, every jurisdiction receiving Council funding since 1995 has realized reductions in vehicle theft. Of significance is the following: -58% reduction in Howard County,

-47% in Baltimore County and -43% in Baltimore City. The Baltimore reduction has been the direct result of the formation of the Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Team in 1995 with Council funding. Because of Washington, D. C. interjurisdictional influences, vehicle theft in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties present different problems. Montgomery County has achieved a 14% decrease, however, vehicle theft in Prince George's County has increased 4% since 1995. Washington, D. C. has the highest vehicle theft rates in the nation per capita (100,000 pop.) However, as a result of a 1998 Council initiative, the Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement Team (WAVE) based on the Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Team concept, became operational 4/24/2000. WAVE is an interjurisdictional task force concept of Prince George's County and Montgomery County Maryland, Maryland State Police, F.B.I., Washington Metropolitan Police Department, and Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia Police Departments.

g48% reduction in juvenile vehicle theft arrests statewide. In 1994 55% (4126) of all vehicle theft arrests were juveniles. In 2000 this number had dropped to 43% (2101). Most significant was reductions in Baltimore City where the Department of Juvenile Justice implemented the most comprehensive program with the assistance of Council funding. In 1995, of 687 vehicle theft arrests made by the Baltimore R.A.T.T., 311, or 55% were juveniles. In 2000 the juvenile rate had dropped to 156 or 13% out of 1209 arrests. (Baltimore R.A.T.T. - MD UCR)

gThrough 2000, eight vehicle theft investigation units have been responsible for the recovery of over 6800 vehicles valued at approximately \$41,000,000 and the arrest of over 6900 auto thieves. Five of these investigation units did not exist prior to Council funding. At a cost of approximately 8 million dollars, this represents a 5 to 1 return on the Council investment.

gIn 1994 Maryland ranked 5th in the nation in vehicle thefts per capita (per 100,000 pop.) In 2000 Maryland ranked 7th in the nation per capita. (2000 FBI UCR)

gFrom January 1998 to January 2000, the top ten automobile insurance carriers in Maryland representing approximately 82% of the market share have filed for comprehensive rate adjustments with the Maryland Insurance Administration. Vehicle theft is covered under the comprehensive portion of the automobile insurance policy. These adjustments range from a high of -25.7% by State Farm which is the largest carrier with approximately 20% of the market share, to a low of -4.7% by Liberty Mutual which

has approximately two percent of the market share. Absent an in-depth actuary analysis, as to what factors effected this rate reduction, we can assume that a reduction of 12,000 stolen vehicles with an economic savings of \$72,000,000 over that period of time certainly had some influence on this action. (1999 VTTC Annual Report)

gAn independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Council was conducted by the University of Baltimore, Schaefer Center for Public Policy in 1996 and updated in 2000. This report concluded that there was a definite correlation between Council intervention and declining vehicle theft rates. In fact, analytic data predicted that absent the Council's intervention in 1995, vehicle theft rates would have continued to rise at pre-1994 levels.

The recent decline in Maryland vehicle theft rates and the University of Baltimore independent evaluation strongly suggests that the Council has been successful in providing vehicle theft prevention resources to state and local jurisdictions whose efforts, in turn, have proven successful. Our goal should not only be to reverse the vehicle theft trend, but to continue to reduce and manage the problem in the future.

Continued Council funding is necessary to preserve and enhance successful programs and assist in developing more innovative programs directed at further impacting vehicle theft rates in Maryland, thereby, providing for increased economic savings and enhanced levels of public safety and quality of life.

NOTE: During the 2001 legislative session, The Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund was reduced by \$2,000,000. Absent a supplemental funding source, the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council will no longer be able to provide planning and fiscal resources to continue vehicle theft prevention programs as of 4/01/2002.

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

Vehicle thefts and related crimes are still a serious public safety problem in the United States. In 1994, 1.5 million motor vehicles worth an estimated \$9 billion, were stolen in the United States. Nationally, automobile theft rose 51 percent from 1983 to 1994. Maryland vehicle theft rates increased 143 percent during the same period.

In 1994, Maryland ranked tenth in the nation for total vehicle thefts and fifth per capita. In economic terms, vehicle theft represented an annual loss of property approximated at \$230,000,000.

To address the diverse problems caused by vehicle theft, the Governor's Commission on Vehicle Theft and Related Crimes was established in October 1992.

The Commission examined all aspects of vehicle theft and developed recommendations to strengthen law enforcement related to vehicle theft, diminish vehicle theft by juveniles, increase usage of anti-theft devices, and increase public awareness of methods to reduce vehicle theft.

In response to the Commission's recommendations, in 1994 the General Assembly passed legislation establishing the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund to assist in the prevention and deterrence of vehicle theft and related crimes.

The legislation was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law as Chapter 459 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1994. It became effective July 1, 1994 with a sunset provision of July 1, 1997. The 1997 General Assembly extended the provision until July 1, 2000 and transferred the administrative functions of the Council to the Department of State Police. The 2000 General assembly extended the Council sunset provision to July 1, 2003.

Organization of the Council

The Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is a Unit established within the Department of State Police. Council Members and the Chair are appointed by the Governor.

The Council includes representatives of law enforcement, prosecutors' offices, automobile insurers, state government, and the general public. The Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Department of State Police serves as the legal advisor to the Council.

The Council is assisted in its duties by an Executive Director and sufficient clerical resources. The Executive Director is employed by the Council and appointed by the Governor.

Administrative costs may not exceed seven percent of the total expenditure from the Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund in any fiscal year.

Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund

The Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund is a non-lapsing dedicated fund that includes \$2 million per fiscal year generated by penalties collected for lapsed or terminated insurance coverage and inspection fees collected for salvaged Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) verification.

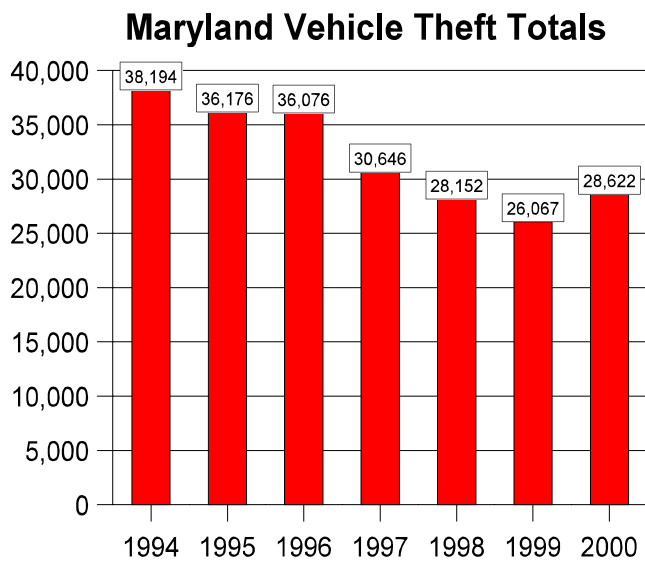
The Council grants awards from the fund to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, local units of government, juvenile services, and community and business organizations.

These awards are used to establish vehicle theft prevention, deterrence and education programs and to enhance prosecution and adjudication of vehicle theft crimes.

All organizations receiving funds from the Council are required to measure, evaluate, and report on the effectiveness of their efforts.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF VEHICLE THEFT IN MARYLAND

After five consecutive years of significant decline, Maryland experienced a 10% increase in vehicle theft in the year 2000. In 1999 Maryland had a total of 26,067 vehicle thefts, a decrease of 32% over 1994. Total thefts rose to 28,622 in 2000 representing an increase of 2,555 stolen vehicles. In economic terms this increase is significant. Based on the \$6107 UCR average price of a stolen vehicle, this increase in thefts translates to an economic impact of \$15,603,785.00 to Maryland citizens. However, since the intervention of the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council in 1994, there has been 9,572 fewer thefts in Maryland. Using the same estimated UCR value, this equates to an approximate economic savings of \$58,456,204.00. In terms of vehicle theft rates (per 100,000 vehicles registered) this represents a 36% decrease.



The Nature of Vehicle Theft

Vehicle theft is primarily a crime of opportunity. Victims often fail to employ even the most modest precautions to deter theft. Frequently, victims either do not lock the vehicle, leave the vehicle with the keys in the ignition, or occasionally, both. Several surveys indicate that many cases of vehicle theft result from such carelessness. Surveys by the Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Team (RATT), continues to show that 25-30 percent of recovered stolen vehicles had the key in the car at the time of their recovery.

The Prince George's County Police Department Violent Crime Clearinghouse had similar, though even more dramatic findings. Approximately 32 percent of criminal incident reports surveyed mentioned that the key was found in the recovered vehicle. The Montgomery County Police reported similar findings. Thus, the perpetrators often steal a vehicle with little effort.

Perpetrators

Auto theft can best be understood by the perpetrator's motivations. Thefts can be distributed into three distinct groups. In most cases, vehicles are stolen either for the resale and distribution of parts, for transportation purposes, or for the commission of other crimes. Of these three factors, the greatest threat to Maryland citizens is the destruction of vehicles for parts. The operation of "chop shops" allows for the complete destruction of vehicles often resulting in a total loss for the owner. In the other two instances; transportation purposes, and the use of vehicles to commit other crimes; the destruction of the vehicle is generally not as certain.

The 2000 Maryland UCR provided final arrest statistics for vehicle theft. In comparing 1999 to 2000 data, arrests for vehicle theft increased six percent, from 4,625 in 1999 to 4,888 in 2000. The perpetrators, according to the 2000 UCR, were 89 percent male and 11 percent female; with 27 percent being white, 73 percent African American, and less than 1 percent Asian or American Indian. It is further noteworthy that 43 percent of those arrested for vehicle theft were juveniles.

Location of Theft

Historical data indicate that vehicle thefts often occur in two distinct areas that conform to a time frame. In most circumstances, thefts occur either in residential areas in the late evening and early morning hours, or in commercial areas in the mid-day hours. In both cases, the perpetrators easily elude observation.

Recovery & Vehicle Theft

Often, the location of the recovery provides law enforcement officials with valuable information on the nature of the crime. In rural areas, vehicles are often abandoned in fields. Vehicles left in suburban and urban areas generally are found on the street, as if parked. In 2000, 68 percent of reported stolen vehicles were recovered. This rather substantial recovery rate suggests that most vehicle theft instances are related either to transportation purposes or to the use of a vehicle to commit other crimes.

Types of Vehicles Stolen in Maryland

Although vehicle theft is primarily a crime of opportunity, perpetrators often favor particular makes and models. The following list ranks, according to information received by the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, the ten most common vehicles stolen in the area of occurrence.

Baltimore Metro Area

- 1) Dodge/Ply Neon
- 2) Dodge Caravan
- 3) Honda Accord
- 4) Jeep Cherokee
- 5) Plymouth Voyager
- 6) Chevrolet Cavalier
- 7) Plymouth Acclaim
- 8) Dodge Spirit
- 9) Toyota Camry
- 10) Honda Civic

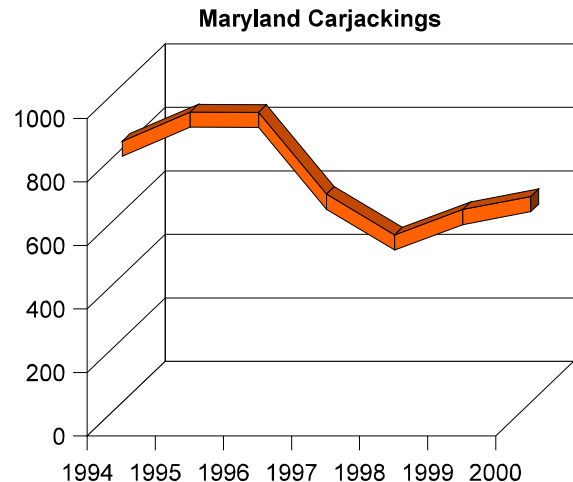
Washington Metro Area

- 1) Toyota Camry
- 2) Honda Accord
- 3) Dodge Caravan
- 4) Chevrolet Caprice
- 5) Dodge Stratus
- 6) Dodge Neon
- 7) Dodge Intrepid
- 8) Nissan Maxima
- 9) Oldsmobile Cutlas
- 10) Dodge Voyager

Motor Vehicle Robbery

Carjacking, or motor vehicle robbery, increased in 2000 by seven percent. It has previously been hypothesized that, as public awareness programs increase and anti-theft devices become more popular, carjackings would also increase. Recent data, however, does not support this hypothesis. While vehicle theft has decreased by 26 percent since 1994, carjackings have decreased by 22 percent during the same period. The nature of vehicle theft and vehicle robbery differ drastically. Whereas vehicle theft is a crime of opportunity, vehicle robbery presents the perpetrator with intense personal involvement with the victim. However, after three years of significant

decline, it should be noted that there has been a steady increase in motor vehicle robbery the past two years.

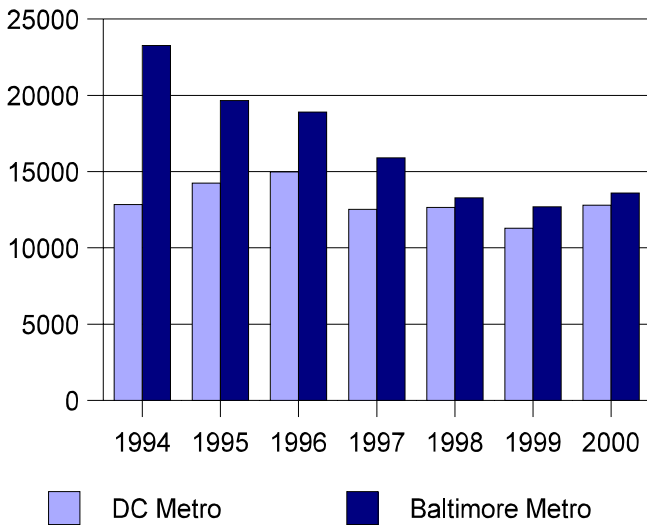


The Extent of Vehicle Theft

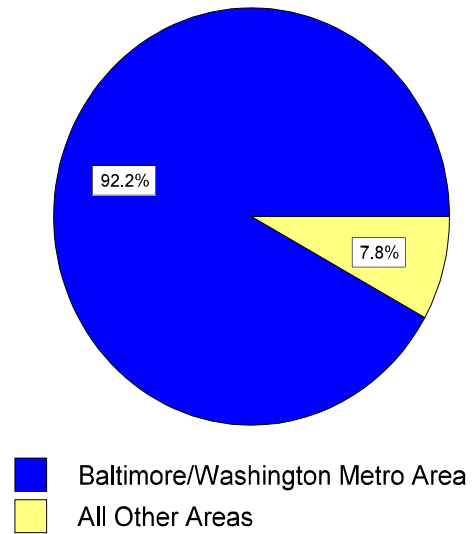
As previously stated, vehicle theft increased 10% overall when compared to 1999 data. In the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, vehicle theft increased 13%. The Baltimore Metropolitan area experienced a 7 percent increase in vehicle thefts. The Baltimore Metro area had seen consistent declines in vehicle theft over the past few years. The Washington Metro area has been struggling, over the past several years to maintain a decline in vehicle thefts. Montgomery County has reported constant, though modest declines in vehicle theft. In 1999 Prince George's County reported a 12% decrease in vehicle theft over 1998, however, in 2000 they reported a 15% increase. After five years of constant decline, Montgomery County realized a 9 percent increase in 2000.

As previously stated, the Baltimore Metro area has seen continued decreases in vehicle theft. The most dramatic decreases can be seen in Baltimore County, Baltimore City and Howard County. These three regions had decreases of 47, 43, and 58 percent respectively since the intervention of the Council in 1994. As part of the Baltimore Metro area, both Anne Arundel and Harford Counties reported slight decreases in thefts. Howard County is the only area in the Baltimore Metro area that reported a significant decrease in vehicle thefts for 2000. As a whole, theft in the region has declined 42% since 1994.

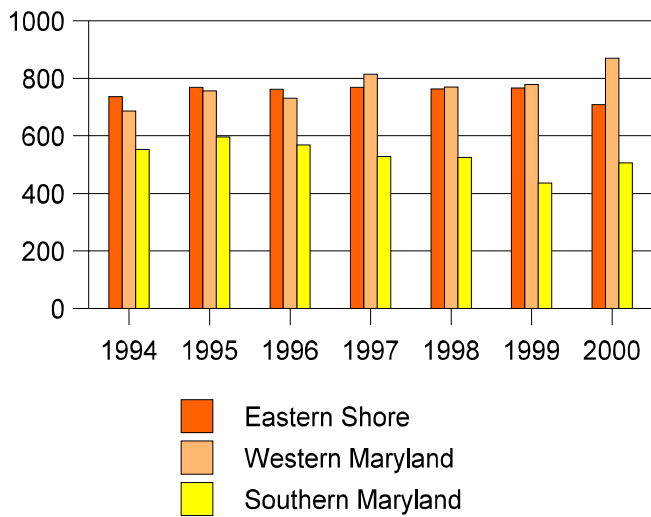
Urban and Suburban Theft



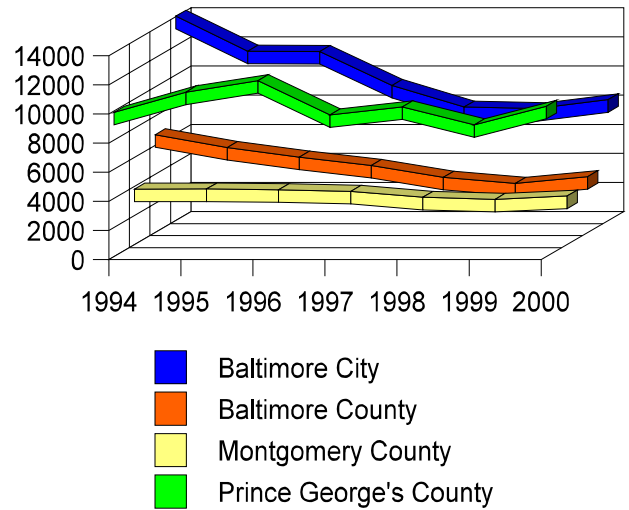
2000 Maryland Vehicle Thefts



Non-Urban Theft

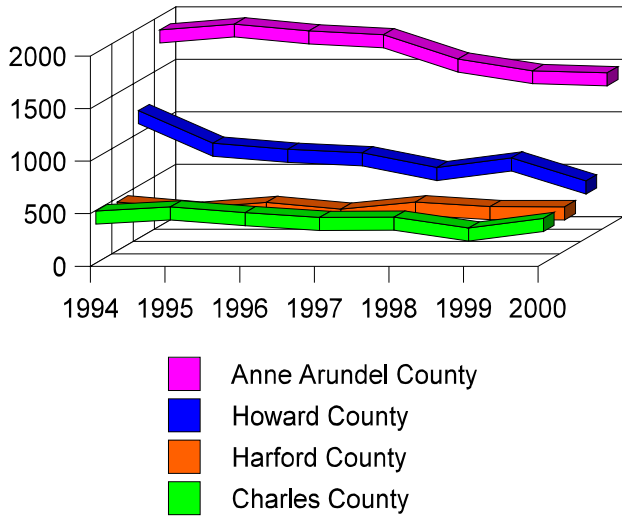


Maryland Jurisdictional Vehicle Thefts



With the exception of the Eastern Region, non-urban areas reported increases in vehicle theft for 2000. Southern Maryland (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties) reported a 16 percent increase in vehicle theft for 2000 when compared to 1999. The Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties) reported a 7.4 percent decrease. Western Maryland (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington counties) reported an increase of 11.8 percent in 2000 compared to 1999.

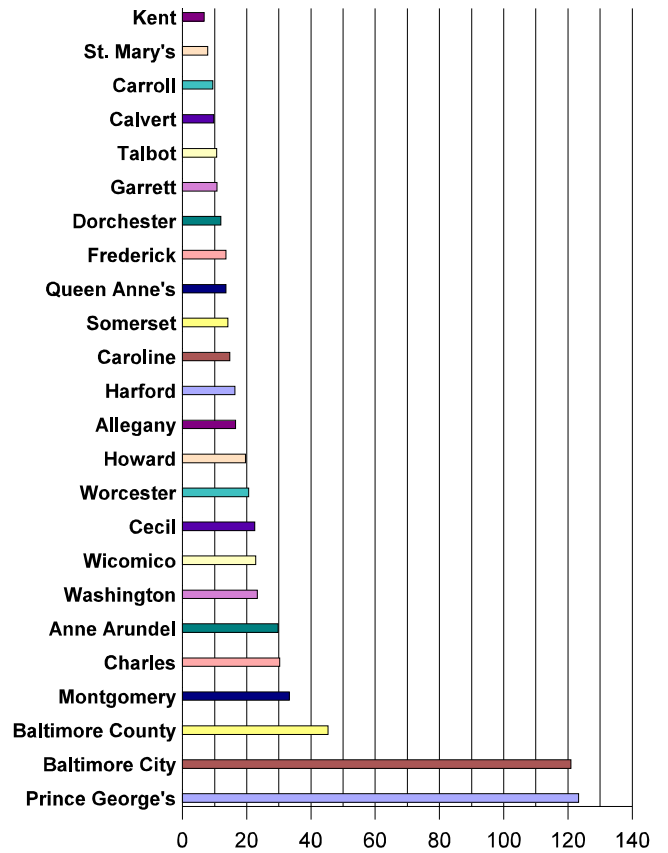
Maryland Jurisdictional Vehicle Thefts



Per Capita Analysis

In order to visualize the problem of auto thefts in Maryland, vehicle theft trends should be compared to population figures. In some jurisdictions where auto theft is less common, a modest increase in raw numbers can appear dramatic when expressed as a percentage. Listed below are the rankings of 2000 auto theft numbers as compared to the jurisdiction’s population. (The most recent estimated population figures used here were as of 2000.) The theft rate compared to population can be broken down into eight tiers. The first tier includes Prince George’s County, which had the highest amount of vehicles stolen when compared to population (123.28 for every ten thousand people). Baltimore City had the second highest number of vehicle thefts when compared to its population with 120.86 for every ten thousand people. The second tier of thefts declines significantly. Baltimore County had 45.31 auto thefts for every ten thousand people. The third tier of thefts includes three counties that border higher theft rate jurisdictions. Montgomery County had 33.25 thefts per ten thousand people and Charles County reported 30.29 thefts for every ten thousand residents and Anne Arundel County with 29.83 thefts per ten thousand people. The fourth tier includes Washington, Wicomico and Cecil counties which each had, respectively, per capita rates of 23.27, 22.81 and 22.55. The fifth tier of vehicle theft includes Worcester (20.64), and Howard (19.61) counties.

2000 Thefts Per Capita



Per 10,000 population

SOURCE: MSP UCR and 2000 Census Totals

The sixth tier of vehicle theft includes Allegany (16.55), and Harford (16.38) counties. The seventh tier encompasses the greatest number of counties. In descending order, they are as follows: Caroline (14.76), Somerset (14.17), Queen Anne’s (13.58), Frederick (13.56), Dorchester (11.94), Garrett (10.73), and Talbot (10.65). The eighth, and final, tier includes Calvert (9.78), Carroll (9.41), St. Mary’s (7.88), and Kent (6.80). On average, the state of Maryland had 54 thefts for every ten thousand citizens.

Vehicle Theft Compared To Other Crimes

The trends in vehicle theft during 2000 noted here can be compared to other forms of crime. On the whole, crime in Maryland fell 2 percent. For 2000, the vehicle theft rate in Maryland increased 10 percent. Since the Council's first programs were implemented in 1995, the motor vehicle theft rate has declined 36 percent. While the crime rate in Maryland has declined in all areas since 1995, (17%) the most significant decline has been in motor vehicle theft.

Conclusion

Vehicle theft continues to be a problem for Maryland. The most recent data, however, suggests that the problem, is again on the rise, while crime in general has declined. Research has shown that vehicle thefts are committed in concert with other related crimes. As vehicle thefts decline, the opportunity to commit other related crimes also decreases. Thus, the decline in vehicle theft directly influences the state's total crime index. The dramatic decline in vehicle theft could indicate that the efforts of the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, combined with state and local law enforcement efforts are effective. Additional factors that may affect the reduced vehicle theft rate include the general decline in crime, increased public awareness, and the use of special funds for law enforcement.

STATEWIDE VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Four Part Approach

The Council has embraced a four-part programmatic approach based on efforts in other states which have proven effective in vehicle theft prevention.

Prevention/Education

Statistics estimate that in four out of five cases of auto theft, owners left the doors unlocked. In one out of five cases, keys were left in the ignition. Without prevention efforts and public support, law enforcement alone cannot effectively prevent vehicle thefts in Maryland.

Public education campaigns and prevention training programs can increase individual awareness of the cost of vehicle theft, provide tips for vehicle owners to prevent thefts, and demonstrate the savings that preventative measures yield. The Council encourages prevention programs that promote public awareness and provide public training in the preventative measures.

In an effort to assure maximum effectiveness and statewide coverage of a prevention campaign, the Council encourages programs covering multiple jurisdictions. Partnerships promoting vehicle theft prevention programs between local law enforcement agencies and community organizations are strongly promoted.

Law Enforcement/Detection/Apprehension

The council encourages detection and apprehension programs by specifically allocating funds to law enforcement agencies. Vehicle theft detection and apprehension programs include community involvement programs, detection training programs, and enhancements to information-gathering programs. Vehicle theft often transcends jurisdictional boundaries; the Council, therefore, encourages law enforcement efforts covering multiple jurisdictional

boundaries. An example of this is multi-agency vehicle theft enforcement teams. Multi-jurisdictional efforts may include municipalities, counties, regions, and community organizations.

Prosecution/Adjudication/Conviction

Prosecution and conviction of automobile thieves is one of the most important means of breaking vehicle theft rings and reducing the economic incentives of vehicle theft.

In the past, the prosecution of vehicle theft cases had a relatively low priority at both local and state levels because of four factors: staffs were limited and consumed with prosecution of violent crimes, vehicle theft is a property crime as opposed to a personal crime, victims receive insurance compensation, and vehicle theft prosecutions are complex and expensive in comparison to resultant penalties. A special prosecutor to handle vehicle theft cases through both district and circuit courts is an effective method in achieving convictions.

The Council encourages prosecution and judicial programs designed to assist with the prosecution of persons charged with vehicle theft offenses, as well as efforts to implement legislative changes that facilitate the prosecution of vehicle thieves and forfeiture of their property.

Juvenile Intervention

Because of the large percentage of juveniles involved in auto theft, the Council will dedicate a percentage of funds to juvenile service agencies to develop programmatic initiatives with specific vehicle theft offense components. The funds will also be used to improve data collection to enhance research and analysis capabilities of juveniles involved in vehicle theft and related offenses.

Schools may be an effective setting for presenting special vehicle theft programs to large groups of young people. Current study data indicates a need to influence juveniles in both middle and high schools about the consequences of vehicle theft.

EVALUATION OF THE COUNCIL'S IMPACT

Enabling legislation mandated an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council with a report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1, 1996.

To maintain the highest element of objectivity and credibility, the Council contracted with an independent entity, the University of Baltimore's Schaefer Center for Public Policy, to conduct the evaluation.

The evaluation concluded the following:

- Conclusions are tentative because of the short period of time that the Council-funded programs have been in effect.
- Based on available evidence, the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and Fund appear to be responsible for a decline in reported vehicle thefts.
- The Program appears to be cost effective.
- Public awareness/ prevention/ education appear to greatly impact vehicle theft trends.
- Funding for the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council should be continued.

The Council again evaluated the effectiveness of its program in 1999. The 1996 Report was updated by the University of Baltimore Schaefer Center for Public Policy. This Report concluded that there was a definite correlation between Council intervention and declining vehicle theft rates. In fact, analytic data predicted that absent the Council's intervention in 1995, vehicle theft rates would have continued to escalate.

FUTURE COUNCIL INITIATIVES

The Council's legislative mandate will automatically expire on July 1, 2003, unless the Maryland Legislature takes further action to extend the program. Based on the success of the Council's activities and the need to continue to deter vehicle theft and manage our gains, legislation will be introduced to extend the Council "Sunset" provision.

(NOTE: 2001 General Assembly action reduced Vehicle Theft Prevention Council funding by

\$2,000,000.00)

Maryland Anti-Car Theft Committee

The Vehicle Theft Prevention Council organized the Maryland Anti-Car Theft Committee (A.C.T.) as a public/ private partnership between the Council, automobile insurance carriers, and other vehicle related organizations.

The A.C.T. committee has been formally incorporated in Maryland as a 501(c3) nonprofit tax exempt organization.

The primary function of the A.C.T. Committee is to organize and fund various public awareness/ education/ prevention programs throughout Maryland, thereby enhancing and broadening the base of the Council's efforts.

The Council will continue to partnership with the ACT Committee in 1999 and 2000. ACT is proposing to continue their statewide VIN etching campaign. This is a process where the vehicle's identification number (VIN) is etched into the vehicle's windows. VIN etching is known as an excellent form of vehicle theft deterrence and is offered as a "Free Service" by the ACT Committee.

The ACT Committee has also provided funding to the Montgomery County Police Centralized Auto Theft Team (CATT) to enhance their capabilities to access stolen car information more rapidly through portable lap top computers. They also partner with the Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Team (RATT) and provided funding to assist the startup of the Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement Team. (WAVE)

"Watch Your Car"

Near the end of calendar year 1997, Maryland was awarded a Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to launch the national "Watch Your Car" program. Maryland was one of the first seven states to be at the forefront of this national vehicle theft prevention program. The "Watch Your Car" initiative allows motor vehicle owners to voluntarily display a reflective decal on their vehicles to alert

police that the vehicle is not normally driven between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. If the vehicle is observed being operated during these hours, the owner has consented to having the vehicle stopped by police anywhere in the United States. Police can then ensure that the vehicle is not stolen.

This program is totally voluntary and at no cost to the participants. Similar decal programs throughout the country have proven successful. In the past, however, a lack of uniformity in program hours and decal designs has limited its effectiveness. The national "Watch Your Car" program will remedy these problems; it brings uniformity to the concept. Police officers nationwide will come to recognize and understand the parameters and benefits of the "Watch Your Car" program so that it will not be limited by state and local boundaries.

This program was officially implemented in August of 1998. Currently, there are over 25,000 Maryland motorists registered in the program with 78 law enforcement agencies participating statewide. In 2000, the Council applied for, and received, Watch Your Car Supplemental Funding of \$240,000.00. This will continue the program through 2003. At that time, the objective is for the Council to assume responsibility of continued funding.

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.mdautotheft.org

In furtherance of the Council's progressive actions, a website was developed and went online in January, 2000. The website is directed at providing vehicle theft prevention data and an interactive link to the public and numerous other vehicle theft prevention organizations nationwide. The website received 68,429 hits during 2000 with 1,261 motorists registering with the "Watch Your Car" Program online.

Appendix A

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

**Baltimore Regional Auto Theft Team (R.A.T.T.)
Vehicle Theft Statistics**

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Baltimore County	6289	5406	4751	4185	3367	3199	3418
Baltimore City	13,603	11,200	11,186	8856	7375	7258	7871
TOTAL	19,898	16,606	15,937	13,041	10,742	10,457	11,289

Regional Auto Theft Team Accomplishments

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Adults Arrested	376	423	551	702	877	1,053	3,982
Juveniles Arrested	311	272	281	125	84	156	1,229
Total Arrests	687	695	832	827	961	1,209	5,211
Recovered Vehicles	342	474	598	564	707	902	3,587
UCR Value (\$ avg rec-y)	2,562,264	3,551,208	4,480,216	4,225,488	5,296,844	6,757,784	26,873,804

Other Statistical Accomplishments:

- < **111 arrests for carjacking since inception.**
- < **75 arrests for handgun possession since inception.**
- < **63 arrests for breaking and entering since inception.**
- < **38 arrests for robbery since inception.**
- < **5 people arrested for murder since inception.**
- < **2 men arrested for rape since inception.**
- < **14 people arrested for attempted murder since inception.**
- < **174 people charged with possession or distribution of CDS since inception.**
- < **6 men arrested for kidnaping.**

From inception to 12/31/00

Appendix A (Continued)

WASHINGTON AREA VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT TEAM
(WAVE)

Operational B 4/24/00

4/24 - 12/31/00

VEHICLE THEFT ARRESTS	156
STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED	164
VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED	\$2,048,275

RELATED CRIMES

FIREARMS SEIZED	9
HEROIN SEIZED	20g
COCAINE SEIZED	104g
MARIJUANA SEIZED	37g
i FELONY WARRANTS SERVED	9
i MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS SERVED	22
VALUE OF OTHER PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$66,700
i CRIMES OTHER THAN VEHICLE THEFT	

Appendix B

SUMMARY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001 (JULY 1, 2000–JUNE 30, 2001)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Annapolis Police Department “Auto Larceny Education Reduces Thefts”

A highly motivated public education and awareness program directed at preventing and deterring vehicle theft.

FY 2001 Award: \$28,780

Anne Arundel County Police Department “Vehicle Theft Investigation, Prevention, Education, and Recovery (VIPER)”

A comprehensive vehicle theft investigation, prevention, education, and recovery project to effectively reduce the serious vehicle theft activity in the county.

FY 2001 Award: \$56,500

Baltimore County Police Department “Auto Theft Reduction Through Crime Analysis”

Identifies geographic areas with the highest rate of frequency of vehicle thefts to establish specific vehicle theft prevention programs and to evaluate the use of vehicle theft prevention devices.

Baltimore County Police Department “Cracking Down on Auto Theft”

Provides vehicle theft prevention and educational training, identifies repeat offenders, enhances prosecution, and establishes a multi-jurisdictional vehicle theft investigative task force with the Baltimore City Police Department.

FY 2001 Award: \$386,622

(Award includes both “Auto Theft Reduction through Crime Analysis” and “Cracking Down on Auto Theft” programs)

Charles County Sheriff’s Office “Charles County Sheriff’s Office Vehicle Theft Project”

Provides for a dedicated vehicle theft investigator, vehicle theft investigative training, and aggressive community prevention and education program.

FY 2001 Award: \$97,106

Department of Maryland State Police “Theft Reduction, Education, Enforcement and Support”

Provision of vehicle theft investigation and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies, statewide vehicle theft enforcement program and operation of the vehicle theft Reward Program - 1-877-TELL-MSP

FY 2001 Award: \$114,954

District Heights Police Department “Reduce Auto Theft (R.A.T.)”

A prevention, education and enforcement program directed at reducing the incidence of vehicle theft in the City of District Heights located near the District of Columbia border.

FY 2001 Award: \$17,000

Harford County Sheriff’s Office “Auto Theft Unit”

Creates an Auto Theft Unit to concentrate on solving cases, building partnerships with surrounding area law enforcement agencies, conducting “chop shop” investigations, and providing intelligence information to patrol officers to plan pro-active patrols to reduce auto theft in the county.

FY 2001 Award: \$63,623

Howard County Department of Police “Howard County Interagency Collaboration on Vehicle Theft Reduction”

The formation of an interagency team dedicated to vehicle theft reduction by maximizing prevention, investigation, and prosecution efforts.

FY 2001 Award: \$148,534

Montgomery County Police Department “Vehicle Theft Enforcement and Prevention Project”

Implements a task-force approach to

vehicle theft by creating a centralized vehicle theft investigative unit, encouraging prevention through public education, and proving crime analysis. This grant also provides for a Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office to directly assist police efforts.

FY 2001 Award: \$402,650

Mount Rainier Police Department “Reduce Auto Theft (RAT) 2001”

An enforcement and education program concentrating on suppression and recovery of stolen motor vehicles.

FY 2001 Award: \$25,000

Prince George’s County Police Department “Vehicle Theft Abatement Program” - “Operation Stolen and Recovered Autos” (S.A.R.A.)

A high intensity initiative directed at reducing vehicle theft by utilizing police officers specially trained in vehicle theft working in an overtime capacity in identified “Hot Spot” areas to vigorously apprehend and prosecute vehicle thieves. Also employs an intense “vehicle theft prevention program” directed at public awareness and educating citizens to take precautions increasing and using vehicle theft prevention devices and to operate an automated system that notifies residents of a potential vehicle theft threat in their neighborhood and directly supports the WAVE Team.

FY 2001 Award: \$285,000

University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Force “Theft From Vehicles Prevention Program”

A prevention and education program directed at making students and the community more aware of theft from vehicles and measures to prevent this crime.

FY 2001 Award: \$5,000

Appendix B

PROSECUTION

Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office "Operation VAN (Vehicle Analysis Network)"

Computer tracking and analysis of case prosecution of repeat vehicle theft offenders and direct support to police efforts.

FY 2001 Award: \$190,664

Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office "A Comprehensive Enforcement and Prosecution Project"

Intensive prosecution of repeat vehicle theft offenders and direct support to police efforts.

FY 2001 Award: \$97,647

Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office "Education, Prevention, and Investigation of Car Crime (E.P.I.C.C.)"

A comprehensive prosecution project that targets habitual offenders, assists investigators in case preparation, rigorously pursues victim restitution, seeks appropriate incarceration for vehicle theft offenders and analyzes trends and keeps vital statistics to monitor vehicle theft cases in Prince George's County.

FY 2001 Award: \$45,950

OTHER AGENCIES

Department of Juvenile Justice "Intensive Supervision of the Baltimore City Juvenile Auto Theft Offender"

Identifies repeat juvenile vehicle theft offenders and provides for an intensive social intervention program.

FY 2001 Award: \$212,793

Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute "Vehicle Theft Prevention Public Awareness Support"

Supports the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council's public awareness campaign through the operation of the toll free hotline (1-800-96-THEFT) and distribution of brochures and other educational materials.

FY 2001 Award: \$15,000

Maryland/District of Columbia/Delaware Broadcasters' Association "Statewide Outreach Media Campaign"

The creation, recording, dissemination, and broadcast of radio messages throughout the State which inform the Maryland motoring public of ways to prevent vehicle thefts, coupled with a research component that measures effectiveness of the messages and public perception of vehicle theft before, during, and after completion of the campaign.

FY 2001 Award: \$150,000

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration "Anti Car Theft Prevention Project"

To implement a pilot program to determine the extent of forgery and fraud and to uncover forgery of foreign vehicle titling on a statewide basis.

FY 2001 Award: \$27,600

Northwest Citizens Patrol "Vehicle Theft Prevention Project"

Promotes education and crime prevention by focusing on both offenders and vehicle owners. Tactics include educating vehicle owners through marketing and community seminars and deterring offenders through aggressive cooperation with prosecutors and delaying parole of offenders.

FY 2001 Award: \$25,000

Vehicle Theft Prevention Council "Public Awareness Campaign"

Promotes action to lower rates of auto theft throughout the State by establishing the best possible media themes and methods to increase public awareness and to educate citizens in theft prevention measures.

FY 2001 Award: \$135,000

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

GRANT AWARD ANALYSIS BY JURISDICTION - FISCAL YEARS 1999, 2000 & 2001

	FISCAL YEAR 1999 \$2,578,149.00 AWARDED	FISCAL YEAR 2000 \$2,577,957.00 AWARDED	FISCAL YEAR 2001 \$2,530,423.00 AWARDED
ANNE ARUNDEL			
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$79,053.00	\$79,053.00	\$56,500.00
ANNAPOLIS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$28,780.00	\$28,780.00	\$28,780.00
TOTAL	\$107,833.00	\$107,833.00	\$85,280.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	5.7%	5.4%	4.8%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	10.5%	10.5%	11.0%
BALTIMORE CITY			
BALTIMORE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$72,135.00	\$73,032.00	
BALTIMORE CITY STATE'S ATTORNEY	\$190,664.00	\$190,664.00	\$190,664.00
* MD DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE	\$212,792.00	\$212,793.00	\$212,793.00
** NORTHWEST CITIZEN'S PATROL GROUP		\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
\$25,000.00			
U/MD BALTIMORE POLICE FORCE	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$505,591.00	\$506,489.00	\$433,457.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	19.7%	19.6%	17.1%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	28.0%	26.2%	27.4%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	7.1%	7.1%	6.4%
*** BALTIMORE COUNTY			
BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$386,622.00	\$386,622.00	\$386,622.00
BALTIMORE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY	\$92,716.00	\$92,647.00	\$97,647.00
TOTAL	\$479,338.00	\$484,269.00	\$484,269.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	18.6%	18.7%	19.1%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	13.6%	11.9%	11.9%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	15.4%	15.4%	14.7%

Appendix C (continued)

GRANT AWARD ANALYSIS BY JURISDICTION - FISCAL YEARS 1999, 2000, & 2001

	FISCAL YEAR 1999 \$2,578,149.00 AWARDED	FISCAL YEAR 2000 \$2,577,957.00 AWARDED	FISCAL YEAR 2001 \$2,530.423.00 AWARDED
CHARLES COUNTY			
CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$97,106.00	\$97,106.00	\$97,106.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%
HARFORD COUNTY			
HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	\$63,623.00	\$63,623.00	\$63,623.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	4.5%	4.5%	4.8%
#	HOWARD COUNTY		
HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$148,533.00	\$148,533.00	\$148,534.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	2.4%	2.1%	1.6%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	4.9%	4.9%	5.4%
#	MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$402,650.00	\$402,650.00	\$402,650.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	15.7%	15.7%	15.9%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	10.5%	10.0%	10.0%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	16.1%	16.1%	15.8%
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY			
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE	\$56,013.00	\$56,013.00	\$45,950.00
DISTRICT HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$14,008.00	\$29,000.00	\$17,000.00
MOUNT RAINIER POLICE DEPARTMENT			\$25,000.00
TOTAL	\$355,021.00	\$370,013.00	\$372,950.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	13.8%	14.3%	14.7%
% OF VEHICLE THEFTS	30.0%	35.0%	35.0%
% OF REGISTERED VEHICLES	14.1%	14.1%	13.7%

Appendix C (continued)

GRANT AWARD ANALYSIS BY JURISDICTION - FISCAL YEARS 1999, 2000, & 2001

	FISCAL YEAR 1999	FISCAL YEAR 2000	FISCAL YEAR 2001
	\$2,578,149.00	\$2,577,957.00	\$2,530,423.00
	AWARDED	AWARDED	AWARDED
MARYLAND STATE AGENCIES			
MARYLAND STATE POLICE-Auto Theft Unit	\$114,954.00	\$114,954.00	\$114,954.00
MARYLAND STATE POLICE-Motor Vehicle Division		\$50,000.00	
MD COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION INSTITUTE	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$15,000.00
MD MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION			\$27,600.00
VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL (PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE)	\$75,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$135,000.00
TOTAL	\$203,454.00	\$303,454.00	\$292,554.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	7.8%	11.7%	11.5%
MISCELLANEOUS			
MD/DC/DE BROADCASTERS' ASSOCIATION	\$215,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
% OF GRANT MONIES AWARDED	8.3%	5.8%	5.9%

* GRANT MONIES ARE DEDICATED TO JUVENILE VEHICLE THEFT INTERVENTION PROGRAMS EXCLUSIVELY IN BALTIMORE CITY.

** GRANT MONIES AWARDED TO COMMUNITY VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTIONS PROGRAMS IN BALTIMORE CITY.

*** INCLUDES GRANT MONIES TO SUPPORT THE BALTIMORE CITY/BALTIMORE CO. COMBINED REGIONAL AUTO THEFT TEAM (R.A.T.T.).

INCLUDES MONIES TO SUPPORT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

Z PRINCE GEORGE-S COUNTY STATE-S ATTORNEY-S OFFICE - FY-99 GRANT NOT EXPENDED C GRANT EXTENDED FOR FY-2000 B NOT PART OF FY-2000 GRANT AWARDS.

Appendix D

Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Year 2001 (July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001)

Funding Available	\$2,718,483
Grant Awards	(2,530,423)
Administrative Costs (Projected)	(118,283) (4%)
Total Cash Disbursement (Projected)	(2,648,906)
Balance (Projected)	\$69,577

Administrative Budget Analysis

Technical and Special Fees	\$ 76,783
Communications	\$ 7,400
Travel	\$ 5,200
Contractual Services	\$ 21,700
Motor Vehicle Operations	\$ 3,700
Supplies and Materials	\$ 3,500
Equipment	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL	\$118,283

Appendix E
PERCENTAGES BY JURISDICTION FOR 2000

Jurisdiction	Registered Vehicles	% of Total Registered Vehicles	Total 2000 Vehicle Theft	Jurisdiction's % of Total Thefts in the State	% of Registered Vehicles Stolen
ALLEGANY	61,744	1.5%	124	.4%	.2%
ANNE ARUNDEL	462,826	11.0%	1,398	4.8%	.3%
BALTIMORE	616,746	14.7%	3,418	11.9%	.5%
CALVERT	71,508	1.7%	73	.2%	.1%
CAROLINE	30,208	.7%	44	.1%	.1%
CARROLL	146,534	3.5%	142	.5%	.1%
CECIL	78,417	1.9%	194	.7%	.2%
CHARLES	108,969	2.6%	365	1.2%	.3%
DORCHESTER	29,730	.7%	43	.1%	.1%
FREDERICK	184,169	4.4%	265	.9%	.1%
GARRETT	29,278	.7%	32	.1%	.1%
HARFORD	198,609	4.8%	358	1.2%	.2%
HOWARD	227,652	5.4%	486	1.6%	.2%
KENT	19,088	.5%	13	.1%	.1%
MONTGOMERY	664,280	15.8%	2,904	10.0%	.5%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	570,855	13.7%	9,881	34.5%	1.7%
QUEEN ANNE'S	43,242	1.0%	55	1.9%	.1%
ST. MARY'S	78,092	1.9%	68	.2%	.1%
SOMERSET	19,218	.5%	35	.1%	.2%
TALBOT	35,878	.9%	36	.1%	.1%
WASHINGTON	116,266	2.8%	307	1.0%	.3%
WICOMICO	74,372	1.8%	193	.7%	.3%
WORCESTER	48,480	1.1%	96	.3%	.2%
BALTIMORE CITY	271,610	6.4%	7,871	27.4%	.3%
GRAND TOTALS	4,190,250	100	28,622	100	.7%

Maryland Vehicle Thefts By Jurisdiction, 1994-2000

COUNTY	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	
								1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	1994-2000
ALLEGANY	75	71	81	69	95	78	124	-5.30%	14.10%	-14.80%	37.70%	-18.00%	57.60%	65.00%
ANNE ARUNDEL	1,806	1,863	1,797	1,760	1,529	1,418	1,398	3.20%	-3.50%	-2.20%	-13.00%	-7.00%	-1.40%	-22.60%
BALTIMORE CITY	13,603	11,210	11,186	8,856	7,375	7,255	7,871	-17.60%	-0.20%	-20.80%	-16.70%	-2.00%	8.40%	-42.00%
BALTIMORE COUNTY	6,289	5,406	4,751	4,185	3,367	2,953	3,418	-14.00%	-12.10%	-11.90%	-19.50%	-12.00%	15.70%	-46.00%
CALVERT	48	52	70	52	69	89	73	8.30%	34.60%	-27.10%	35.30%	22.00%	-17.90%	52.00%
CAROLINE	38	42	48	39	56	65	44	10.50%	14.30%	-18.80%	43.60%	14.00%	-30.70%	15.00%
CARROLL	169	184	170	170	181	165	142	8.90%	-7.60%	0%	6.50%	-9.00%	-13.90%	-16.00%
CECIL	160	176	140	173	126	153	194	10.00%	-20.50%	23.60%	27.20%	15.00%	26.80%	21.00%
CHARLES	435	474	420	373	377	272	365	9.00%	-11.40%	-11.20%	1.10%	-28.00%	34.20%	-16.00%
DORCHESTER	47	68	74	66	39	53	43	44.70%	8.80%	-10.80%	-40.90%	35.00%	-18.90%	-9.00%
FREDERICK	258	267	239	230	213	252	265	3.50%	-10.50%	-3.80%	-7.40%	18.00%	5.20%	3.00%
GARRETT	32	35	19	26	25	25	32	9.40%	-45.70%	36.80%	-3.80%	0.00%	28.00%	0.00%
HARFORD	403	345	399	336	403	359	358	-14%	15.70%	-15.80%	19.90%	-11.00%	-0.50%	-11.00%
HOWARD	1,157	844	787	753	612	704	486	-27.10%	-6.80%	-4.50%	-18.60%	15.00%	-20.90%	-58.00%
KENT	17	31	8	19	28	17	13	82.40%	-74.20%	137%	47.40%	-40.00%	-24%	-24.00%
MONTGOMERY	3,370	3,388	3,329	3,226	2,815	2,667	2,904	0.50%	-1.70%	-2.60%	-13.20%	-5.00%	8.90%	-14.00%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	9,477	10,864	11,644	9,287	9,842	8,619	9,881	14.60%	7.10%	-20.20%	6.00%	-12.00%	15.00%	4.00%
QUEEN ANNE'S	39	60	57	43	81	61	55	53.80%	-5.00%	-24.60%	88.40%	-25.00%	-9.80%	41.00%
SAINT MARY'S	70	70	78	104	79	75	68	0.00%	11.40%	30.80%	-22.50%	0.50%	-9.30%	-3.00%
SOMERSET	29	15	25	31	32	36	35	-48.30%	66.70%	20.00%	6.70%	12.00%	-5.60%	21.00%
TALBOT	54	52	58	61	36	43	36	-3.70%	11.50%	5.10%	-41.00%	36.00%	-16.20%	-33.00%
WASHINGTON	152	200	222	319	256	258	307	31.60%	11.00%	43.70%	-19.70%	0.10%	19.00%	100.00%
WICOMICO	231	222	248	244	253	218	193	-3.90%	12.20%	-2.80%	4.50%	-14.00%	11.50%	-16.00%
WORCESTER	121	103	104	93	112	120	96	-14.90%	1.00%	-10.60%	20.40%	8.00%	-20.00%	-21.00%
STATEWIDE	114	134	122	131	151	112	221	17.50%	-9.00%	7.40%	15.30%	-26.00%	97.30%	94.00%
MARYLAND	38,194	36,176	36,076	30,646	28,152	26,067	28,622	-5.30%	-0.30%	-15.00%	-8.20%	-7.00%	9.80%	-25.00%
	Jurisdictions receiving Vehicle Theft Prevention Council assistance.													

National Vehicle Theft Totals 1994-2000

	2000	Totals	1999	Totals	1998	Totals	1997	Totals	1996	Totals	1995	Totals	1994	Totals
1	California	182,035	California	168,480	California	195,517	California	228,722	California	242,466	California	280,479	California	308,205
2	Texas	93,161	Florida	93,191	Florida	104,250	Florida	107,195	Texas	104,928	Florida	111,320	New York	128,873
3	Florida	89,181	Texas	92,037	Texas	96,646	Texas	101,721	Florida	103,769	Texas	104,923	Florida	127,186
4	Illinois	56,143	New York	58,261	New York	68,171	New York	79,697	New York	89,900	New York	102,596	Texas	110,753
5	Michigan	55,724	Michigan	56,800	Michigan	58,338	Michigan	65,327	Michigan	67,203	Illinois	61,874	Illinois	66,218
6	New York	54,231	Illinois	52,114	Illinois	52,932	Illinois	55,423	Illinois	58,077	Michigan	61,639	Michigan	62,304
7	Arizona	43,204	Georgia	40,120	Ohio	43,021	Ohio	45,419	Pennsylvania	49,690	New Jersey	50,184	Pennsylvania	54,153
8	Ohio	39,026	Pennsylvania	39,234	Pennsylvania	42,668	Georgia	44,572	New Jersey	46,437	Pennsylvania	49,817	New Jersey	52,164
9	Georgia	38,702	Ohio	39,192	Georgia	42,538	Pennsylvania	44,213	Georgia	46,215	Arizona	48,830	Ohio	47,413
10	Pennsylvania	36,325	Arizona	38,247	Arizona	40,391	Arizona	44,201	Ohio	45,528	Ohio	46,261	Arizona	43,467
11	Washington	35,018	New Jersey	35,357	Washington	35,200	New Jersey	41,165	Arizona	41,034	Georgia	43,809	Massachusetts	42,348
12	New Jersey	34,151	Washington	33,807	New Jersey	35,185	Tennessee	33,742	Maryland	36,083	Massachusetts	36,716	Georgia	39,312
13	Maryland	28,573	Massachusetts	25,628	Maryland	28,212	Washington	31,855	Tennessee	34,428	Maryland	36,179	Maryland	38,197
14	Tennessee	27,530	North Carolina	25,577	Tennessee	28,099	Maryland	30,668	Massachusetts	32,178	Tennessee	34,086	Tennessee	28,994
15	Massachusetts	25,876	Maryland	25,447	Massachusetts	26,403	Massachusetts	29,452	Washington	28,893	Washington	30,087	Washington	28,743
16	North Carolina	25,266	Tennessee	25,255	North Carolina	24,616	Missouri	26,517	Louisiana	27,480	Indiana	27,023	Missouri	27,038
17	Missouri	24,695	Missouri	22,984	Missouri	24,466	Louisiana	26,374	Indiana	24,817	Louisiana	25,984	Louisiana	26,219
18	Louisiana	21,270	Louisiana	21,695	Louisiana	23,661	Indiana	25,099	North Carolina	24,566	Missouri	25,199	Indiana	25,011
19	Indiana	21,090	Indiana	20,290	Indiana	21,187	North Carolina	24,442	Missouri	23,992	North Carolina	22,350	Oregon	21,764
20	Virginia	17,813	Virginia	17,953	Virginia	18,355	Oregon	19,280	Virginia	18,608	Oregon	22,050	North Carolina	21,342
21	Colorado	16,961	Colorado	14,795	Oregon	17,262	Virginia	18,892	Minnesota	17,923	Virginia	19,363	Connecticut	20,167
22	South Carolina	15,207	South Carolina	14,445	Colorado	16,087	Minnesota	17,869	Wisconsin	17,846	Wisconsin	18,626	Wisconsin	18,321
23	Wisconsin	14,636	Wisconsin	13,819	South Carolina	15,948	Colorado	16,107	Oregon	17,013	Connecticut	17,692	Virginia	18,289
24	Oregon	13,932	Oregon	13,633	Minnesota	15,366	South Carolina	15,755	Connecticut	16,022	Oklahoma	16,272	Oklahoma	15,461
25	Minnesota	13,432	Mississippi	13,532	Alabama	14,871	Wisconsin	15,640	Oklahoma	15,939	Minnesota	15,741	Colorado	14,365
26	Nevada	13,172	Minnesota	13,275	Wisconsin	14,210	Puerto Rico	15,623	South Carolina	15,849	Alabama	14,741	Minnesota	14,355
27	Connecticut	13,099	Alabama	13,134	Nevada	13,766	Alabama	15,407	Alabama	15,632	Colorado	14,520	Alabama	14,000
28	Puerto Rico	12,976	Nevada	13,094	Oklahoma	13,565	Oklahoma	14,644	Colorado	15,206	South Carolina	14,157	South Carolina	13,184
29	Alabama	12,809	Oklahoma	12,132	Connecticut	12,705	Connecticut	14,541	Nevada	11,194	Nevada	11,405	Nevada	11,065
30	Oklahoma	12,348	Connecticut	11,297	New Mexico	10,767	Nevada	13,220	Kentucky	10,142	D.C.	10,193	Mississippi	10,810
31	Kentucky	9,274	Kentucky	8,631	Mississippi	9,322	New Mexico	12,407	D.C.	9,975	Kentucky	10,003	Kentucky	8,558
32	New Mexico	7,341	New Mexico	8,126	Kentucky	8,573	Kentucky	9,694	New Mexico	9,973	Mississippi	9,723	Kansas	8,383
33	Mississippi	6,968	Utah	7,382	Utah	7,700	Mississippi	9,328	Mississippi	9,527	New Mexico	8,647	New Mexico	8,350
34	Arkansas	6,932	Arkansas	6,664	Arkansas	7,187	Utah	9,144	Utah	8,572	Kansas	8,299	D.C.	8,261
35	D.C.	6,600	D.C.	6,652	D.C.	6,501	Arkansas	7,938	Arkansas	7,855	Hawaii	8,199	Arkansas	7,726
36	Kansas	6,496	Kansas	6,048	Kansas	5,988	D.C.	7,569	Hawaii	7,157	Arkansas	8,082	Hawaii	6,383

National Vehicle Theft Totals 1994-2000

37	Utah	6,461	Nebraska	5,440	Iowa	5,974	Iowa	6,682	Kansas	6,388	Utah	7,592	Nebraska	6,236
38	Hawaii	6,114	Iowa	5,135	Nebraska	5,788	Kansas	6,491	Nebraska	5,643	Iowa	6,332	Utah	5,689
39	Iowa	5,374	Hawaii	4,660	Hawaii	5,594	Hawaii	6,468	Iowa	5,449	Nebraska	5,752	Rhode Island	5,183
40	Nebraska	5,230	Rhode Island	4,032	Rhode Island	3,829	Nebraska	5,541	Rhode Island	4,597	Rhode Island	4,364	Iowa	5,096
41	Rhode Island	4,665	West Virginia	3,762	West Virginia	3,390	Rhode Island	4,195	West Virginia	3,231	Alaska	3,151	Alaska	3,275
42	West Virginia	3,315	Delaware	3,043	Delaware	3,186	Delaware	3,718	Delaware	3,148	West Virginia	3,040	West Virginia	3,274
43	Delaware	3,151	Alaska	2,658	Alaska	2,607	West Virginia	3,287	Alaska	2,992	Delaware	2,970	Delaware	2,945
44	Alaska	2,350	Idaho	1,898	Idaho	2,282	Alaska	2,784	Montana	2,248	Idaho	2,815	Montana	2,450
45	New Hampshire	2,148	Montana	1,896	Montana	2,014	Idaho	2,429	Idaho	2,229	Montana	2,680	New Hampshire	2,302
46	Idaho	2,086	Maine	1,694	Maine	1,509	Montana	2,179	Maine	1,776	Maine	1,673	Idaho	2,210
47	Montana	1,956	New Hampshire	1,354	New Hampshire	1,474	Maine	1,642	New Hampshire	1,762	New Hampshire	1,666	Maine	1,776
48	Maine	1,322	North Dakota	1,036	North Dakota	1,127	New Hampshire	1,593	North Dakota	1,224	North Dakota	1,148	North Dakota	964
49	North Dakota	986	Vermont	912	Vermont	874	North Dakota	1,154	Vermont	885	South Dakota	881	South Dakota	872
50	Vermont	809	South Dakota	861	South Dakota	763	South Dakota	858	South Dakota	834	Wyoming	805	Vermont	862
51	South Dakota	798	Wyoming	596	Wyoming	669	Vermont	800	Wyoming	669	Vermont	794	Wyoming	771
52	Wyoming	573					Wyoming	647	Puerto Rico		Puerto Rico		Puerto Rico	

National Vehicle Theft Rates Per 100,000 Residents

	2000 Rate		99 Rate		98 Rate		97 Rate		96 Rate		95 Rate		94 Rate
1: D.C.	1153.7	D.C.	1281.7	D.C.	1243.7	D.C.	1430.8	D.C.	1837	D.C.	1839.9	D.C.	1449.3
2: Arizona	842.1	Arizona	800.5	Arizona	865	Arizona	970.4	Arizona	926.7	Arizona	1157.7	Arizona	1066.7
3: Nevada	659.2	Nevada	723.8	Nevada	788	Nevada	788.3	California	760.6	California	887.9	California	980.6
4: Washington	594.1	Florida	616.7	Florida	689	Florida	731.5	Florida	720.6	Florida	785.8	Florida	911.5
5: Michigan	560.7	Washington	587.3	New Mexico	619	New Mexico	717.2	Maryland	711.4	Nevada	745.4	Maryland	763
6: Florida	558	Michigan	575.8	Washington	618.7	California	708.8	Michigan	700.5	Maryland	717.6	Nevada	759.4
7: Maryland	539.5	Georgia	515.2	California	598.5	Michigan	668.4	Nevada	698.3	Oregon	702	New York	709.3
8: California	537.4	California	508.3	Michigan	594.3	Tennessee	628.6	Tennessee	647.1	Hawaii	690.7	Oregon	705.2
9: Hawaii	504.6	Louisiana	496.2	Georgia	556.6	Louisiana	606	Louisiana	631.6	Tennessee	648.5	Massachusetts	701
10: Tennessee	483.9	Maryland	492	Maryland	594.4	Maryland	602	Georgia	628.5	Michigan	645.5	New Jersey	660
11: Louisiana	475.9	Mississippi	488.7	Louisiana	541.6	Georgia	595.4	Hawaii	604.5	New Jersey	631.6	Michigan	656.1
12: Georgia	472.8	New Mexico	467	Oregon	526	Oregon	594.5	New Mexico	582.2	Georgia	608.4	Connecticut	615.8
13: Illinois	452.1	Tennessee	460.5	Tennessee	517.4	Washington	567.8	New Jersey	581.3	Massachusetts	604.5	Louisiana	607.6
14: Texas	446.8	Texas	459.2	Texas	489.1	Hawaii	544.9	Texas	548.6	Louisiana	598.4	Texas	602.6
15: Rhode Island	445	New Jersey	434.2	Hawaii	468.9	Texas	523.3	Oregon	531	New York	565.7	Illinois	563.5
16: Missouri	441.4	Illinois	429.7	Missouri	449.8	New Jersey	511.2	Massachusetts	528.2	Texas	560.4	Tennessee	560.3
17: Massachusetts	407.6	Alaska	429.4	Illinois	439.5	Delaware	507.9	Washington	522.2	Washington	554	Georgia	557.2
18: Oregon	407.2	Missouri	420.3	New Jersey	433.6	Missouri	490.9	New York	494.4	Connecticut	540.2	Hawaii	541.4
19: New Jersey	405.9	Massachusetts	415	Massachusetts	429.5	Massachusetts	481.4	Alaska	492.9	Illinois	523	Alaska	540.4
20: New Mexico	403.6	Oregon	411.1	Delaware	428.2	Illinois	465.9	Illinois	490.2	Alaska	521	Rhode Island	519.9
21: Delaware	402.1	Rhode Island	406.9	Alaska	424.6	Alaska	457.1	Connecticut	489.4	New Mexico	513.2	Missouri	512.3
22: Colorado	394.3	Delaware	403.6	South Carolina	415.7	Connecticut	444.7	Oklahoma	482.9	Oklahoma	496.4	New Mexico	504.8
23: Connecticut	384.6	Hawaii	393.2	Oklahoma	405.3	Utah	444.1	Rhode Island	464.3	Missouri	473.3	Washington	500.5
24: South Carolina	379	South Carolina	371.7	Colorado	405.1	Oklahoma	441.5	Missouri	447.7	Indiana	465.7	Oklahoma	474.6
25: Alaska	374.8	Colorado	364.8	Connecticut	388.1	New York	439.4	Delaware	434.2	Rhode Island	440.8	Pennsylvania	449.3
26: Oklahoma	357.8	Oklahoma	361.3	Rhode Island	387.6	Indiana	428	Utah	428.6	Ohio	414.9	Indiana	434.8
27: Indiana	346.8	Ohio	348.2	Ohio	383.8	Rhode Island	425	South Carolina	428.5	Delaware	414.2	Ohio	427.1
28: Ohio	343.7	Utah	346.6	New York	375.1	South Carolina	419	Indiana	424.9	Pennsylvania	412.7	Delaware	417.1
29: Puerto Rico	340.7	Indiana	341.4	Utah	366.7	Colorado	413.7	Pennsylvania	412.2	Utah	389.1	Mississippi	405
30: North Carolina	313.9	North Carolina	334.3	Indiana	359.2	Ohio	406	Ohio	407.5	Colorado	387.5	Colorado	392.9
31: Nebraska	305.6	Pennsylvania	327.1	Pennsylvania	355.5	Minnesota	381.3	Colorado	397.8	South Carolina	385.4	Nebraska	384.2
32: Pennsylvania	295.8	Nebraska	326.5	Nebraska	348	Pennsylvania	367.8	Minnesota	384.8	Wisconsin	363.6	Wisconsin	360.5
33: Utah	289.3	New York	320.2	Alabama	341.7	Alabama	356.7	Alabama	365.8	Mississippi	360.5	South Carolina	359.8
34: Alabama	288	Alabama	300.5	Mississippi	338.7	Mississippi	341.6	Mississippi	350.8	Nebraska	351.4	Alabama	331.8
35: New York	285.8	Minnesota	278	North Carolina	326.2	Nebraska	334.4	Wisconsin	345.9	Alabama	346.6	Kansas	328.2
36: Minnesota	273	Wisconsin	263.2	Minnesota	325.2	North Carolina	329.2	Nebraska	341.6	Minnesota	341.5	Arkansas	315
37: Wisconsin	272.9	Arkansas	261.2	Arkansas	283.2	Arkansas	314.6	North Carolina	335.5	Arkansas	325.4	Minnesota	314.3

National Vehicle Theft Rates Per 100,000 Residents

38	Arkansas	259.3	Virginia	261.2	Wisconsin	272	Wisconsin	302.5	Arkansas	312.9	Kansas	323.5	North Carolina	301.9
39	Virginia	251.6	Connecticut	244.2	Virginia	270.3	Virginia	280.5	Virginia	278.8	North Carolina	310.6	Utah	298.2
40	Mississippi	245	Kansas	227.9	Montana	228.9	Kansas	250.1	Kentucky	261.1	Montana	308	Montana	286.2
41	Kansas	241.6	Kentucky	217.9	Kansas	227.8	Kentucky	248.1	Montana	255.7	Virginia	292.6	Virginia	279.1
42	Kentucky	229.5	Montana	214.7	Kentucky	217.8	Montana	247.9	Kansas	248.4	Kentucky	259.1	Kentucky	223.6
43	Montana	216.8	West Virginia	208.2	Iowa	208.7	Iowa	234.3	Iowa	191.1	Idaho	242	New Hampshire	202.5
44	Iowa	183.6	Iowa	179	West Virginia	187.2	Idaho	200.7	North Dakota	190.1	Iowa	222.8	Idaho	195.1
45	West Virginia	183.3	North Dakota	163.4	Idaho	185.7	West Virginia	181	Idaho	187.5	North Dakota	179.1	Iowa	180.1
46	New Hampshire	173.8	Vermont	153.2	North Dakota	176.6	North Dakota	180	West Virginia	176.9	Wyoming	167.7	West Virginia	179.7
47	Idaho	161.2	Idaho	151.6	Vermont	147.9	Vermont	135.8	New Hampshire	151.6	West Virginia	166.3	Wyoming	162
48	North Dakota	153.5	Maine	135.2	Wyoming	139.1	New Hampshire	135.8	Vermont	150.3	New Hampshire	145.1	North Dakota	151.1
49	Vermont	132.9	Wyoming	124.2	New Hampshire	124.4	Wyoming	134.8	Maine	142.9	Vermont	135.7	Vermont	148.6
50	Wyoming	116	South Dakota	117.5	Maine	121.3	Maine	132.2	Wyoming	139.1	Maine	134.8	Maine	143.2
51	South Dakota	105.7	New Hampshire	112.7	South Dakota	103.4	South Dakota	116.3	South Dakota	113.9	South Dakota	120.9	South Dakota	120.9
52	Maine	103.7												

VEHICLE THEFT FACTS AND TIPS

Did you know?

- T In 2000 there were 28,622 motor vehicles stolen in Maryland.
- T A vehicle theft occurs every eighteen minutes in Maryland.
- T In approximately 25 percent of the vehicles stolen, keys were left in the vehicles.
- T It is estimated that 70 percent of the vehicles stolen were not locked.
- T Recent surveys reflect that an anti-theft device was used in less than 5 percent of stolen vehicles.
- T 4,888 individuals were arrested for vehicle theft in 2000.
- T Juveniles represented 43 percent of the arrests.
- T Approximately 25 to 40 percent of the cost of auto insurance is due to auto theft.

Protect yourself and your car!

- T You hold the key! Lock your car and take the key.
- T Use anti-theft devices such as alarms, kill switches, steering wheel and brake locking devices, or recovery systems.
- T Park in well lighted and heavily traveled areas.
- T Park with wheels turned toward the curb.
- T Lock vehicle doors upon entering.
- T Do not hide spare keys in or under the vehicle, they can be easily found.
- T Never leave vehicle registration card or driver's license in the glove box.
- T Don't leave valuables in sight within the car.



And, Join the Maryland
"Watch Your Car" Program.

WATCH YOUR CAR

FREE



FREE

Protect Your Car With The State of Maryland's "WATCH YOUR CAR" Program

Administered By

Department of State Police
Vehicle Theft Prevention Council

Maryland's "WATCH YOUR CAR" Program

is a free and voluntary national vehicle registration and theft deterrent program administered by Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council. Vehicle owners can sign an agreement with a participating law enforcement agency that their vehicle is not normally used between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. If police officers observe the participating vehicle being driven anywhere during these hours, they may stop the vehicle and verify ownership. For more information on how to protect your vehicle, call:

1-800-96-THEFT



WWW.MDAUTOTHEFT.ORG