Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center

NOTE: Stolen and recovered vehicles in the ATICC Stolen Vehicle Database Repository are obtained directly from the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) system. These numbers will differ slightly from individual agency databases. The ATICC data does not include attempted vehicle thefts or vehicle thefts that were recovered prior to being reported stolen, thus not entered in CCIC as stolen.

Source: ATICC Database
Analyst(s): 136 | 087

COLORADO AUTO THEFT REPORT FOR 2020

CATPA
Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority
Department of Public Safety

(U) Purpose: The Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) Annual Report examines auto thefts and recoveries in Colorado over the Calendar Year (CY) January through December. It contains analysis of data from the ATICC Stolen Vehicle Database Repository, identifies trends and patterns, and compares data from the most recent calendar year with the previous calendar years.

(U) Disclaimer: Information contained in the ATICC Stolen Vehicle Database Repository (ATICC database) is considered dynamic; modifications to records are made on a daily basis. Stolen vehicle records were screened for accuracy and standardized prior to their use in this report.

Figure 1. (U) National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) photo

A. (U) A comparison of all reported vehicle thefts with previous five-year trends identifying the volume, recovery, active status, and rate of theft per capita.

(U) Total vehicle thefts numbered 27,941 statewide in 2020, 38 percent higher than 2019 thefts and 50 percent higher than 2016 thefts.

	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	4,494	23,447	27,941	5,842,084	478
CY 2019	2,534	17,670	20,204	5,769,985	350
CY 2018	2,659	18,254	20,913	5,696,897	367
CY 2017	2,037	17,572	19,609	5,615,732	349
CY 2016	1,953	16,205	18,158	5,542,211	328

Figure 2. (U) Statewide thefts, volume, recovery, status, and per capita (Population counts from CO DOLA, State Demography Office - 2020 is estimated)

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B. (U) A comparison of all reported vehicle theft styles with previous five-year trends identifying the volume, recovery, active status rate, and rate of theft per vehicle style registrations.

(U) Statewide vehicle thefts and thefts per capita among the top six vehicle styles (motorcycles, passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, trailers, and vans) were up, when compared with 2019.

2020	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	1,108	918	2,026	5,842,084	35
Passenger Car	603	8,387	8,990	5,842,084	154
Pickup Truck	641	5,480	6,121	5,842,084	105
SUV	527	6,663	7,190	5,842,084	123
Trailer	900	632	1,532	5,842,084	26
Van	58	769	827	5,842,084	14

2019	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	630	780	1,410	5,769,985	24
Passenger Car	322	6,666	6,988	5,769,985	121
Pickup Truck	342	3,716	4,058	5,769,985	70
SUV	225	4,983	5,208	5,769,985	90
Trailer	565	521	1,086	5,769,985	19
Van	33	543	576	5,769,985	10

2018	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	571	690	1,261	5,696,897	22
Passenger Car	488	7,719	8,207	5,696,897	144
Pickup Truck	359	3,514	3,873	5,696,897	68
SUV	268	4,868	5,136	5,696,897	90
Trailer	583	506	1,089	5,696,897	19
Van	40	517	557	5,696,897	10

2017	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	456	587	1,043	5,615,732	19
Passenger Car	324	8,242	8,566	5,615,732	153
Pickup Truck	215	3,140	3,355	5,615,732	60
SUV	178	4,198	4,376	5,615,732	78
Trailer	480	388	868	5,615,732	15
Van	39	696	735	5,615,732	13

2016	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Statewide Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	503	656	1,159	5,542,211	21
Passenger Car	220	7,895	8,115	5,542,211	146
Pickup Truck	210	2,661	2,871	5,542,211	52
SUV	136	3,750	3,886	5,542,211	70
Trailer	483	352	835	5,542,211	15
Van	37	637	674	5,542,211	12

Figure 3. (U) Vehicle thefts, volume, recovery, status, and rate of theft per vehicle style

C. (U) The top 10 most-at-risk vehicle thefts by year, make and model.

(U) The Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck was first in the top ten vehicles most at-risk for theft in 2020, with 1,148 reported stolen. Model year 2005 led Silverado thefts, with 125 stolen. Increased thefts of Hyundai Sonatas may be linked to vulnerabilities in late model Hyundai electronic security systems. In 2020, the Honda CR-V SUV entered the top ten most at-risk vehicles for the first time.
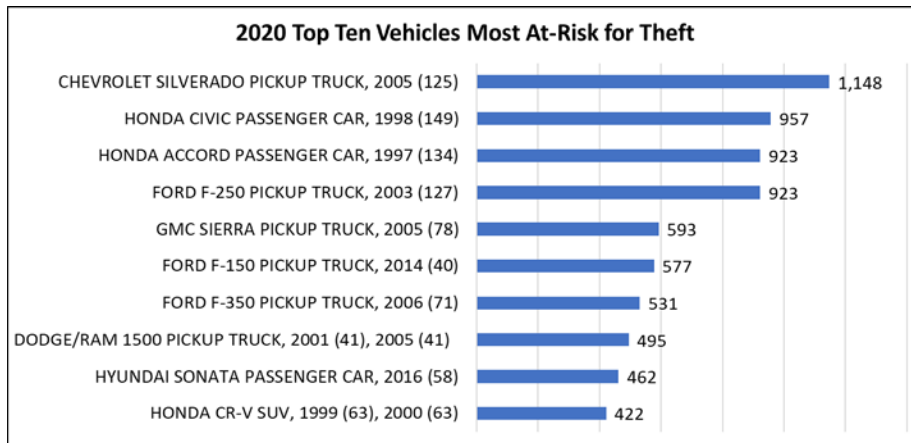

Figure 4. (U) 2020 Top vehicles Most At-Risk for Theft by Make/Model/Year

D. (U) CATPA regional areas for all reported vehicle thefts with previous five-year trends identifying the volume, recovery and active status, and theft rate per capita.

Denver Metro Area	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	2,789	17,303	20,092	2,943,517	683
CY 2019	1,414	11,814	13,228	2,915,532	454
CY 2018	1,521	12,288	13,809	2,880,263	479
CY 2017	1,101	12,213	13,314	2,840,654	469
CY 2016	970	10,999	11,969	2,806,815	426

Eastern Colorado	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	102	202	304	892,735	34
CY 2019	48	164	212	883,218	24
CY 2018	71	191	262	874,171	30
CY 2017	51	136	187	860,050	22
CY 2016	51	151	202	847,077	24

Northern Colorado	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	525	1,966	2,491	1,022,932	244
CY 2019	285	1,578	1,863	1,009,248	185
CY 2018	308	1,469	1,777	992,041	179
CY 2017	241	1,292	1,533	974,098	157
CY 2016	299	1,257	1,556	957,607	162

South West Colorado	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	150	330	480	240,260	200
CY 2019	126	241	367	208,832	176
CY 2018	94	293	387	208,005	186
CY 2017	93	313	406	205,573	197
CY 2016	81	253	334	203,662	164

Southern Colorado	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	752	3,110	3,862	1,039,130	372
CY 2019	587	3,510	4,097	1,029,214	398
CY 2018	577	3,618	4,195	1,019,367	412
CY 2017	454	3,255	3,709	1,002,786	370
CY 2016	467	3,210	3,677	986,634	373

Western Colorado	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Area Population Estimate	Thefts per capita
CY 2020	176	536	712	399,829	178
CY 2019	74	363	437	397,660	110
CY 2018	88	395	483	395,171	122
CY 2017	97	363	460	392,148	117
CY 2016	85	335	420	388,737	108

Figure 5. (U) Volume, status, and theft rate per capita by CATPA Area

E. (U) CATPA regional areas for all reported vehicle theft styles with previous five-year trends identifying the volume, recovery and active status rate, and rate of theft per vehicle style registrations.

	Denver Metro Area CY 2020				Denver Metro Area CY 2019				Denver Metro Area CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	676	619	1,295	44	361	440	801	27	305	390	695	24
Passenger Car	430	6,181	6,611	225	197	4,375	4,572	157	310	5,099	5,409	188
Pickup Truck	413	4,016	4,429	150	197	2,476	2,673	92	214	2,344	2,558	89
SUV	388	5,098	5,486	186	161	3,547	3,708	127	187	3,512	3,699	128
Trailer	484	402	886	30	289	301	590	20	310	309	619	21
Van	48	597	645	22	20	397	417	14	28	375	403	14

	Denver Metro Area CY 2017				Denver Metro Area CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	243	319	562	20	241	382	623	22
Passenger Car	209	5,942	6,151	217	125	5,560	5,685	203
Pickup Truck	125	2,069	2,194	77	98	1,682	1,780	63
SUV	116	3,081	3,197	113	82	2,654	2,736	97
Trailer	244	200	444	16	244	176	420	15
Van	19	466	485	17	18	429	447	16

	Eastern Colorado CY 2020				Eastern Colorado CY 2019				Eastern Colorado CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	14	1	15	2	5	5	10	1	7	10	17	2
Passenger Car	13	56	69	8	4	56	60	7	10	62	72	8
Pickup Truck	21	68	89	10	8	47	55	6	6	70	76	9
SUV	4	45	49	5	4	29	33	4	5	24	29	3
Trailer	33	11	44	5	11	9	20	2	25	9	34	4
Van		11	11	1	1	2	3	0		5	5	1

	Eastern Colorado CY 2017				Eastern Colorado CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	9	2	11	1	7	6	13	2
Passenger Car	5	41	46	5	4	48	52	6
Pickup Truck	6	45	51	6	13	42	55	6
SUV	3	23	26	3	2	26	28	3
Trailer	18	10	28	3	11	13	24	3
Van	2	5	7	1	1	8	9	1

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	Northern Colorado CY 2020				Northern Colorado CY 2019				Northern Colorado CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	133	107	240	23	67	87	154	15	73	81	154	16
Passenger Car	41	634	675	66	28	565	593	59	31	547	578	58
Pickup Truck	81	521	602	59	43	341	384	38	44	314	358	36
SUV	36	509	545	53	15	420	435	43	19	378	397	40
Trailer	131	78	209	20	74	68	142	14	84	59	143	14
Van	3	51	54	5	1	39	40	4	1	31	32	3

	Northern Colorado CY 2017				Northern Colorado CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	62	66	128	13	87	73	160	17
Passenger Car	20	496	516	53	20	492	512	53
Pickup Truck	17	273	290	30	24	252	276	29
SUV	16	307	323	33	12	279	291	30
Trailer	63	44	107	11	91	62	153	16
Van	4	52	56	6	6	52	58	6

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	South West Colorado CY 2020				South West Colorado CY 2019				South West Colorado CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	41	25	66	27	24	31	55	26	17	19	36	17
Passenger Car	10	85	95	40	11	62	73	35	18	104	122	59
Pickup Truck	23	98	121	50	21	60	81	39	16	75	91	44
SUV	15	76	91	38	10	50	60	29	11	61	72	35
Trailer	27	15	42	17	29	15	44	21	20	14	34	16
Van		10	10	4		5	5	2	2	3	5	2

	South West Colorado CY 2017				South West Colorado CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	13	17	30	15	21	16	37	18
Passenger Car	12	99	111	54	5	84	89	44
Pickup Truck	12	87	99	48	13	58	71	35
SUV	7	53	60	29	4	58	62	30
Trailer	28	27	55	27	21	19	40	20
Van	1	10	11	5	4	9	13	6

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	Southern Colorado CY 2020				Southern Colorado CY 2019				Southern Colorado CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	188	140	328	32	150	195	345	34	149	168	317	31
Passenger Car	96	1,257	1,353	130	73	1,497	1,570	153	108	1,784	1,892	186
Pickup Truck	86	634	720	69	60	695	755	73	65	618	683	67
SUV	74	793	867	83	33	847	880	86	43	796	839	82
Trailer	179	105	284	27	148	114	262	25	123	96	219	21
Van	6	93	99	10	8	87	95	9	8	86	94	9

	Southern Colorado CY 2017				Southern Colorado CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	105	167	272	27	127	155	282	29
Passenger Car	63	1,538	1,601	160	59	1,585	1,644	167
Pickup Truck	45	575	620	62	50	548	598	61
SUV	28	658	686	68	32	653	685	69
Trailer	112	84	196	20	98	73	171	17
Van	12	146	158	16	6	133	139	14

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	Western Colorado CY 2020				Western Colorado CY 2019				Western Colorado CY 2018			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	56	26	82	21	23	22	45	11	20	22	42	11
Passenger Car	13	174	187	47	9	111	120	30	11	123	134	34
Pickup Truck	17	143	160	40	13	97	110	28	14	93	107	27
SUV	10	142	152	38	2	90	92	23	3	97	100	25
Trailer	46	21	67	17	14	14	28	7	21	19	40	10
Van	1	7	8	2	3	13	16	4	1	17	18	5

	Western Colorado CY 2017				Western Colorado CY 2016			
	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita	Active (Thefts)	Inactive (Recoveries)	Thefts Grand Total	Thefts per capita
Motorcycle	24	16	40	10	20	24	44	11
Passenger Car	15	126	141	36	7	126	133	34
Pickup Truck	10	91	101	26	12	79	91	23
SUV	8	76	84	21	4	80	84	22
Trailer	15	23	38	10	18	9	27	7
Van	1	17	18	5	2	6	8	2

Figure 6. (U) CATPA Area thefts by vehicle style, five-year trends

F. (U) CATPA regional areas illustrating the volume and rate of reported vehicle theft recoveries occurring outside the regional area where vehicles were reported stolen.

CATPA Area	Total Recoveries	In Area Recoveries	Out of Area Recoveries	Percentage of Out of Area Recoveries
Denver Metro Area	17,710	16,625	1,085	6%
Eastern Colorado	216	137	79	37%
Northern Colorado	2,035	1,303	732	36%
South West Colorado	350	265	85	24%
Southern Colorado	3,320	2,997	323	10%
Western Colorado	573	447	126	22%

Figure 7. (U) In and Out of Area Recoveries by CATPA Area

G. (U) Analytical observations and comments regarding the incidence of vehicle theft and associated crimes pertaining to trends, patterns, offenders, victimology, or modus operandi which may have been derived from data analysis, observations, or anecdotal information based on the analysts' knowledge, experience, and training.

(U) Calendar 2020 was momentous in terms of vehicle thefts and vehicle-related crimes in Colorado. COVID-19 restrictions on workplace staffing and travel meant drivers were leaving their vehicles parked for long periods, which provided a target rich environment for car thieves. At the same time, the challenges of detaining and prosecuting motor vehicle theft suspects in the midst of a pandemic led to the early release of some offenders and courts too overwhelmed to accept new cases. Colorado was one of several states that experienced a rise in car jackings and delivery vehicle thefts as residents opted to avoid crowded stores and have food and other items delivered to their homes. Statewide, total vehicle thefts, thefts per capita, and thefts per capita were up among the top six vehicle styles (motorcycles, passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, trailers, and vans), when compared with 2019.

(U) According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), 2020 is expected to reflect the highest number of vehicle thefts in a single year over the past decade. Unlike 2019, when theft trends fluctuated up and down month-to-month, in 2020, vehicle thefts increased every month, with double digit gains in between June and December 2020 when compared with 2019.[1]

(U) A trend that emerged in 2020 was the theft of late model Hyundai and Kia vehicles, with the Hyundai Sonata entering the top ten most at-risk vehicles in August 2020 and the Kia Optima entering the top ten in September 2020. Newly available handheld devices that are able to defeat the vehicle keyless entry systems may be behind this trend (refer to section H).

(U) Thefts of catalytic converters reemerged as a trend in 2020, as thieves sought to remove and resell them through online market places, third-party apps, and at car salvage lots, nationwide.[2] The NICB reported a surge in catalytic converter thefts between 2008 and 2015, but stopped tracking thefts in 2015, and law enforcement agencies typically do not track thefts of catalytic converters. The illicit sale of a catalytic converter can yield anywhere from $50 to hundreds of dollars, depending on vehicle type, and as global prices for the same rare earth minerals found in converters, namely, platinum, palladium, and rhodium soar, so does their demand.

H. (U) Recommendations to counter the incidence of vehicle thefts and related crimes. To include addressing emerging technology challenges that influence vehicle theft and associated crimes and innovative concepts to reduce vehicle crimes that may be used or developed by other statewide or regional auto theft authorities.

(U) As mentioned, a trend that grew in popularity among car thieves and organized crime rings in 2020 was the use of technology-enabled devices to unlock and steal vehicles. Web sites and YouTube videos are advertising hand-held devices similar to the Nintendo Game Boy that are capable of capturing the electronic signal when a person pulls on the door handle of a car equipped with a keyless entry system.[3] The captured signal is then wirelessly transmitted back to the vehicle to unlock and start it. Although

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[1] NICB, retrieved on 2020, February 8, from https://www.iaati.org/news/entry/auto-thefts-surge-in-2020-according-to-new-nicb-report
[2] Car and Driver, 2020 December 24, *Why Thieves Are Coveting Your Catalytic Converter, Particularly Now*, retrieved from https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a35059184/catalytic-converter-theft-cars-up-why/
[3] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOCf6-n6Rto&feature=youtu.be

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the ATICC has not verified if the device is being used here in the United States, it is currently advertised on the Internet as a "Kia-Hyundai Programmer" for "car security system testing," to anyone willing to pay the purchase price and shipping charges.[4]

(U) In 2020, the ATICC also became aware of On-Board Diagnostic 2 (OBD-2) devices being used by street gangs to steal vehicles. These tools are commercially available and typically used by professional locksmiths and vehicle technicians to program electronic key fobs and remotes. In the hands of car thieves, however, these OBD devices present a growing threat to car dealerships, vehicle owners, and law enforcement officials, especially as they become more widely available on the Internet and through black market channels.

(U) ATICC Points of Contact	
ATICC E-mail: CDPS_ATICC@state.co.us	Master Sgt. Michael Gartner, Colorado State Patrol Investigative Services Section/Criminal Intelligence/ATICC michael.gartner@state.co.us 303-748-5681 (mobile)
Sev Vasquez, Criminal Intelligence Analyst Colorado State Patrol, ATICC sev.vasquez@state.co.us 720-696-5121 (mobile)	Pamela Eaton, Criminal Intelligence Analyst Colorado State Patrol, ATICC pamela.eaton@state.co.us 303-204-0339 (mobile)
Drew Kimble, Criminal Intelligence Analyst Colorado State Patrol, ATICC drew.kimble@state.co.us 720-415-0146 (mobile)	Raegan Pyles, Criminal Intelligence Analyst Colorado State Patrol, ATICC raegan.pyles@state.co.us 303-945-5408 (mobile)

[4] World Wide Service (WWW), retrieved 2020, February 8, at https://devicespro.com/product/kia-hyundai-programmer/

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