

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

2008 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

To deter vehicle theft through a statewide cooperative effort by supporting law enforcement activities, vertical prosecution, and public awareness/community education programs.

Letter to the Governor

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Napolitano:

It is with great pleasure that we present the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority's (AATA) 2008 Annual Report.

The AATA is pleased to report a fifth consecutive decrease in Arizona's vehicle theft rate for 2007; a reduction of over 14% from the previous year. Arizona also experienced one of the highest percentage decreases in vehicle thefts last year while also reporting the highest annual population growth rate in the United States. Arizona remains the number two (#2) state in the U.S. for the highest vehicle theft rate behind Nevada, and the number four (#4) state for total vehicle thefts according to statistics released in the 2007 FBI Uniform Crime Report. (See charts on pages 8-11).

Our Agency's success is directly related to the current strategies, programs and partnerships implemented within the state's law enforcement and criminal justice communities throughout Arizona. A coordinated statewide strategy is required to develop, implement and sustain successful programs and inter-agency cooperation to combat vehicle theft in our state.

The AATA remains diligent despite the continued reduction in vehicle thefts and continue to remain concerned about the moderate recovery rate of stolen vehicles (63.5% - see chart on page 16) in Arizona. Our state's proximity to Mexico and homeland security concerns mandate employing partnerships on a national and international level to curtail vehicle theft by organized criminal groups and deter exportation of stolen vehicles to finance other criminal activities and international terrorism.

The AATA will continue its commitment to further reducing the incidence of vehicle theft in the state with support from the law enforcement and criminal justice community, insurance industry, community organizations, and the private and public sectors, and looks forward to continued service to the citizens of Arizona.

Respectfully,



Dean C. Butler
Chairman of the Board

Board of Directors June 30, 2008



Dean C. Butler, Chairman of the Board
Farmers Insurance Company

Dean Butler was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors on January 5, 2001. Mr. Butler is a Farmers Insurance Agent with over 25 years of experience in the insurance industry; serving in several capacities with the Farmers Phoenix Service Center. Mr. Butler represents one of two insurance industry positions on the AATA Board and has served as the Board Chairman since 2007.



Chief Daniel G. Sharp, Vice-Chairman
Oro Valley Police Department

Chief Sharp was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in October 2000 by the Arizona Chiefs' of Police Association and represents a city with a population of one hundred thousand or less. Chief Sharp has served as Oro Valley Police Chief since January 2000 and had been with the Tucson Police Department prior to his appointment. Chief Sharp brings over 25 years of law enforcement experience to the AATA Board.



Sheriff Joe Arpaio
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Joe Arpaio was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in February 2003 by the Arizona Sheriff's Association. Sheriff Arpaio occupies one of two Sheriff positions on the AATA Board, representing a county with a population of five hundred thousand or more. Sheriff Arpaio has been the Sheriff of Maricopa County since 1993 and brings with him over 40 years of law enforcement experience.



Joe Brosius
Public Member

Governor Napolitano appointed Joe Brosius to the AATA Board of Directors in 2004. Mr. Brosius occupies one of two public member positions on the AATA Board. He is a retired sergeant with the Tempe Police Department, with over 20 years experience in the area of vehicle theft investigations.



Brian L. Garrett
State Farm Insurance Company

Brian Garrett was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in 2005. Mr. Garrett represents one of two insurance industry positions on the AATA Board. Mr. Garrett has been with State Farm Insurance Company since 1982 and is currently the Section Manager of the Special Investigative Units (SIU) in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico.



Chief Sherry Kiyler
Chandler Police Department

Chief Sherry Kiyler was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in 2004 by the Arizona Chiefs' of Police Association and represents a city with a population of one hundred thousand or more. Chief Kiyler was appointed Chandler Police Chief on February 2, 2004. Prior to her appointment as Chandler Police Chief, she served the citizens of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department for over thirty-one years.



Sheriff Ralph E. Ogden
Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ralph Ogden was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in 1997 by the Arizona Sheriff's Association. Sheriff Ogden occupies one of two Sheriff positions on the AATA Board, representing a county with a population of five hundred thousand or less. Sheriff Ogden began his career in law enforcement more than 30 years ago and was elected Yuma County Sheriff in 1993. His experience includes four years in the Marine Corps, Chief Deputy for the Yuma County Sheriff's Office and a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



Mary Snider
Public Member

Mary Snider was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors in 2008 and is one of two public members on the AATA Board. Ms. Snider is a resident of Oro Valley and is a community volunteer who founded Project Graduation in Oro Valley in 2002. Ms. Snider's career has consisted of 29 years in the health care industry. She attended Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Stat University in Portland, Oregon.



Director Stacey K. Stanton
Motor Vehicle Division, Arizona Department of Transportation

Stacey Stanton has been a member of the AATA Board of Directors since 1999. Ms. Stanton was appointed to lead the Arizona Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Division in December 1999. She has worked with the Motor Vehicle Division for many years, overseeing the division's customer service program in Phoenix and later, heading the division's legislative program and policy unit. Ms. Stanton has a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University.



Director Roger Vanderpool
Arizona Department of Public Safety

Roger Vanderpool was appointed Director of the Department of Public Safety by Governor Napolitano in March 2005. Director Vanderpool is the former Pinal County Sheriff. Prior to being first elected Sheriff, Director Vanderpool served 20 years with DPS and had been a police officer in Indiana. Director Vanderpool is a U.S. Army veteran, having served in Germany. He serves on over 40 different state boards and commissions.



Andrew P. Thomas
Maricopa County Attorney

Andrew Thomas was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors on January 19, 2007. Mr. Thomas occupies the County Attorney position on the AATA Board, representing a county with a population of one million or more. Mr. Thomas was elected Maricopa County Attorney in November, 2004. He is a former prosecutor and published author. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Missouri in 1988 and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1991.



James P. Walsh
Pinal County Attorney

Governor Napolitano appointed Mr. Walsh to the AATA Board of Directors on June 29, 2007. Mr. Walsh occupies the County Attorney position on the AATA Board, representing a county with a population of one million or less. Mr. Walsh became the Pinal County Attorney on May 18, 2007 after being appointed by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors. Before the Pinal County Attorney position, he served as Chief Deputy and Special Counsel for Southern Arizona in the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Staff

Enrique Cantu
Executive Director

Arthur Myer
Administrative Services Officer

Ann Armstrong
Public Affairs Officer

John Rares Almasan
Public Information Officer

Nichole Thompson
Administrative Assistant

Agency Summary

Introduction

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) fiscal year is from July 1st to June 30th. The budget is appropriated biannually by the Arizona Legislature.

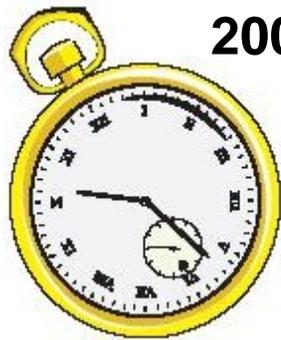
All motor vehicle theft statistics included in this report are based on the 2007 calendar year, including those statistics cited from the 2007 *Uniform Crime Report*, published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the 2007 *Crime in Arizona* Report published by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Accordingly, this report contains a combination of data sources reflecting both calendar year 2007 and fiscal year 2007/2008 information. Discrepancies are recognized between the *Uniform Crime Report* and the *Crime in Arizona Report*, due to different reporting requirements. Statistics listed in the *Crime in Arizona Report* do not include crimes reported to Federal or tribal agencies located in Arizona.

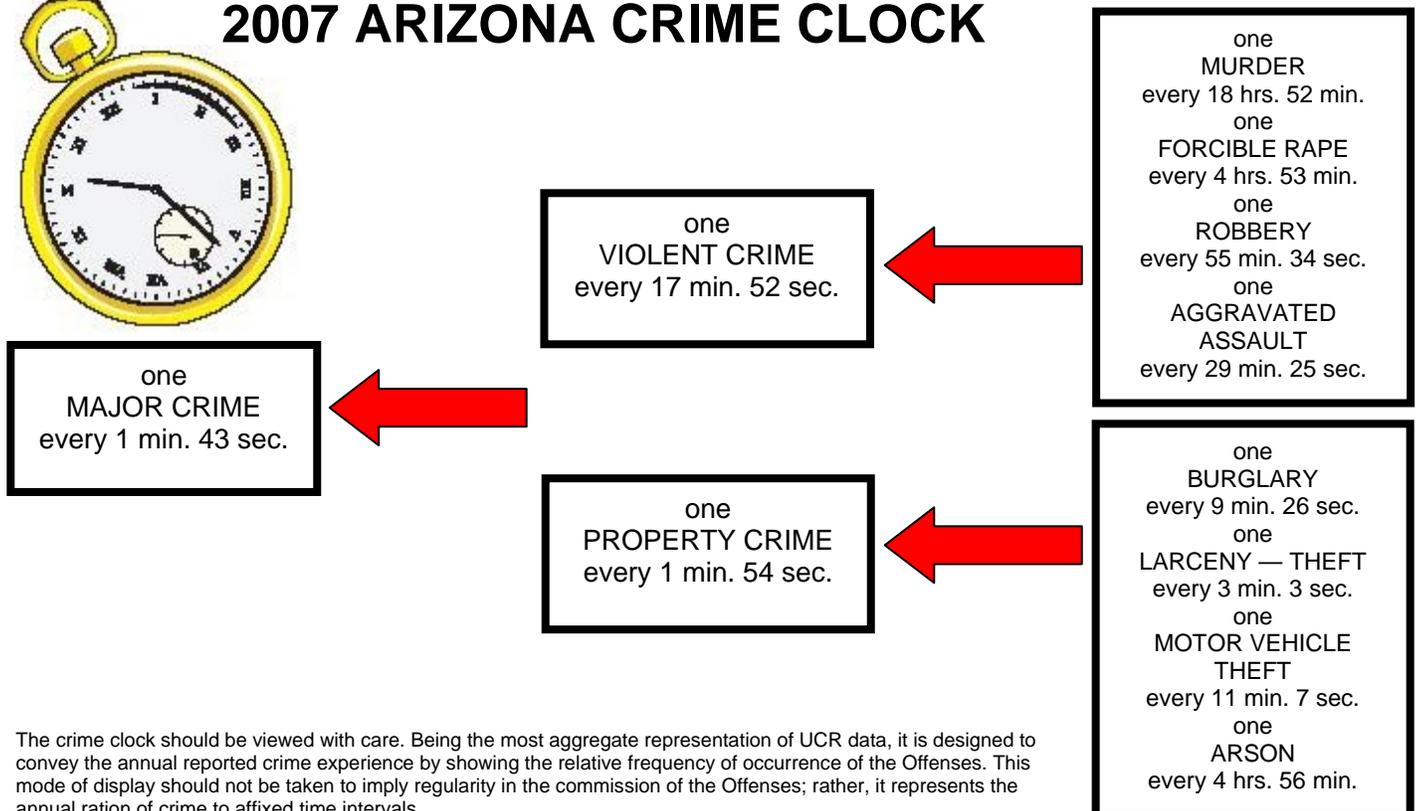
The funding mechanism for the AATA is a premiere example of a unique government/business/consumer partnership. The prime beneficiaries, specifically the insurance industry and vehicle owners/insurance consumers totally support the government services from which they benefit. Additionally, all citizens benefit from the services provided by this Agency, since vehicle theft is associated with many other criminal activities.

Vehicle Theft in Arizona & the U.S.

In Arizona, there were 48,389 vehicles reported stolen during 2007, which reflects a 14.2% decrease in the theft rate from 2006. The FBI's 2007 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) indicates there were more than 1.1 million motor vehicle thefts in the United States in 2007, with an estimated value of approximately \$7.4 billion dollars.



2007 ARIZONA CRIME CLOCK



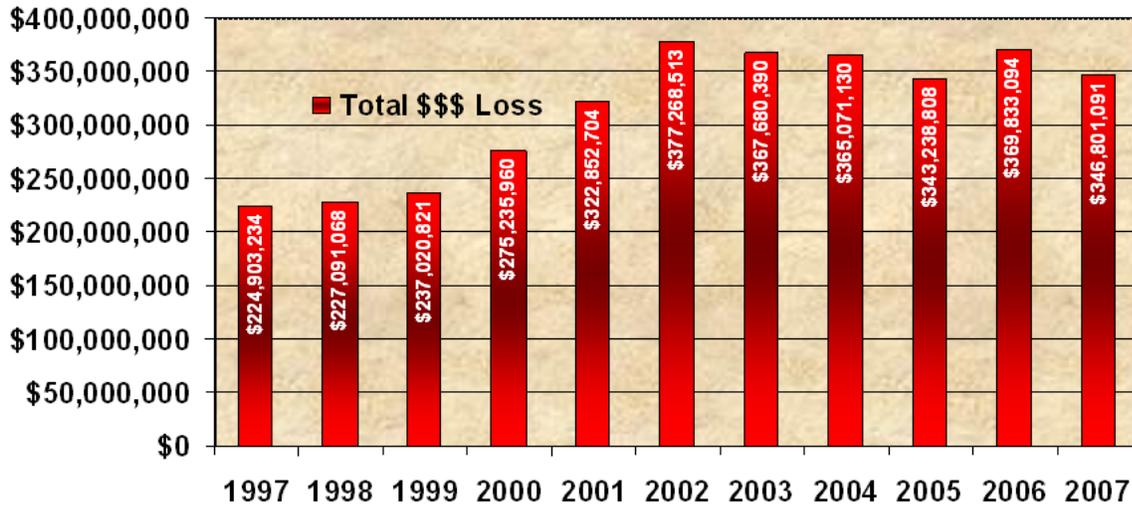
The crime clock should be viewed with care. Being the most aggregate representation of UCR data, it is designed to convey the annual reported crime experience by showing the relative frequency of occurrence of the Offenses. This mode of display should not be taken to imply regularity in the commission of the Offenses; rather, it represents the annual ration of crime to affixed time intervals.

Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety 2007 *Crime in Arizona Report*

The FBI's UCR reflects that in 2007 the Western United States had approximately 23 percent of the U.S. population and accounted for 36 percent of all motor vehicle thefts in the Nation. The estimated number of motor vehicle thefts in the U.S. in 2007 decreased

8.1 percent from the previous year. In addition, the U.S., motor vehicle theft rate, estimated at 363.3 thefts per 100,000 inhabitants, had a decrease of 8.8 percent.

Arizona Economic Loss: 1997-2007

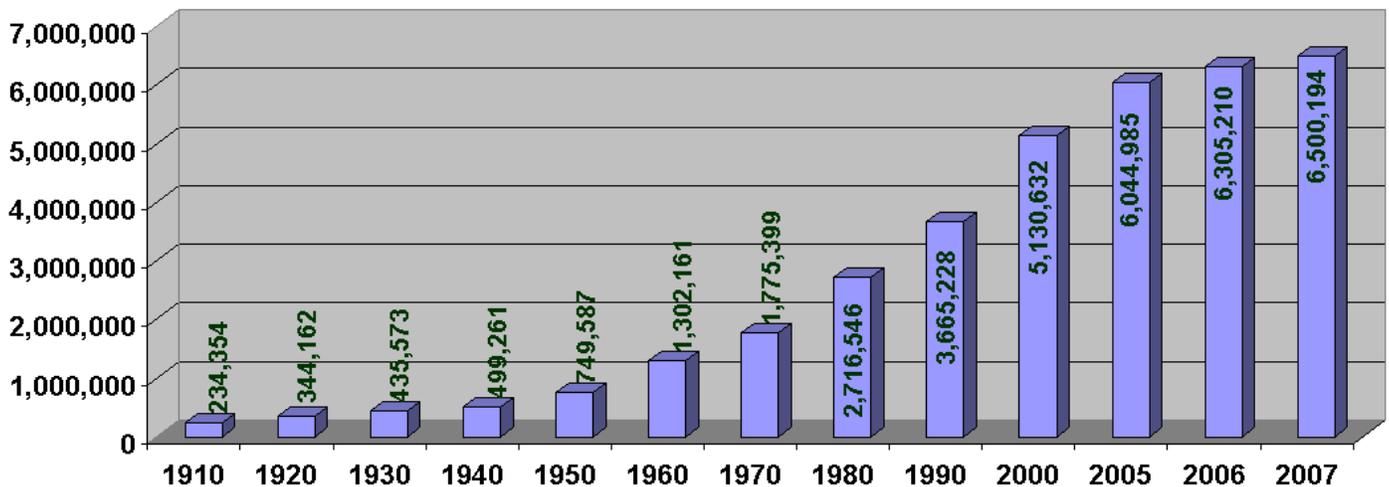


The UCR also shows that of the eight states in the West Mountain Region, Montana, Utah and Wyoming are the only states to experience an increase in the total number of vehicle thefts.

of over 1,369,562 people, or 22.9 percent, since 2000. Arizona's population growth and our proximity to Mexico, remain primary factors that significantly impact the vehicle theft rate and other criminal activity. Despite the tremendous growth in population, the 2007 UCR report shows that Arizona's theft rate decreased over 14 percent from 2006 and remained number two in the nation, behind Nevada.

According to the Arizona Department of Commerce, Arizona's population for 2007 is 6,500,194 which reflects an increase

Arizona Population: 1910 - 2007



*Arizona's current estimated population (2007) = 6,500,194
 Note: Source — Arizona Department of Commerce

Vehicle Theft in AZ and U.S. - continued

Arizona ranks fourth (4th) in the nation in total number of vehicles stolen, and remained in third (3rd) place in the country for vehicle thefts per capita, behind Washington, D.C., and Nevada. Arizona experienced a decrease in vehicle thefts and its theft rate for 2007, while other states posted significantly higher percentage increases as demonstrated on the chart below.



Motor Vehicle Theft by State

Comparison 2006/2007
Ranked by **Vehicle Theft Rate** for Calendar Year 2006 to 2007

RANK	STATE	TOTAL# in 2007	TOTAL# in 2006	% CHANGE	2007 THEFT RATE*	2006 THEFT RATE*	% CHANGE
1	District of Columbia	7,600	7,720	-1.55%	1291.9	1,258.9	2.62%
2	Nevada	22,331	26,931	-17.08%	870.5	1,080.4	-19.43%
3	Arizona	48,389	54,905	-11.87%	763.4	889.5	-14.18%
4	Washington	37,622	49,287	-23.67%	581.6	717.6	-18.95%
5	California	219,392	257,543	-14.81%	600.2	665.7	-9.84%
6	Hawaii	6,715	9,135	-26.49%	523.2	603.9	-13.36%
7	Maryland	28,393	34,070	-16.66%	505.4	543.5	-7.01%
8	Michigan	42,151	48,223	-12.59%	418.5	495.4	-15.52%
9	New Mexico	89,39	7,993	11.84%	453.8	472.0	-3.86%
10	Georgia	42,594	44,477	-4.23%	446.3	460.9	-3.17%
11	Colorado	16,792	26,101	-35.67%	345.4	437.5	-21.05%
12	Missouri	23,784	25,699	-7.45%	404.6	435.3	-7.05%
13	Florida	73,656	75,303	-2.19%	403.6	422.5	-4.47%
14	Texas	93,899	93,423	0.51%	392.8	405.9	-3.23%
15	Oregon	14,549	19,262	-24.47%	388.2	390.7	-0.64%
16	South Carolina	17,026	16,358	4.08%	386.3	379.6	1.77%
17	Alaska	2,418	2,595	-6.82%	353.8	377.4	-6.25%
18	Tennessee	21,658	25,078	-13.64%	351.8	374.1	-5.96%
19	Oklahoma	13,459	13,900	-3.17%	372.1	373.2	-0.29%
20	Louisiana	15,180	14,389	5.50%	353.6	364.8	-3.07%
21	Indiana	19,557	21,744	-10.06%	308.2	346.3	-11.00%
22	North Carolina	27,966	28,466	-1.76%	308.6	340.2	-9.29%
23	Rhode Island	3,226	4,398	-26.65%	305	335.5	-9.09%
24	Delaware	2,316	2,349	-1.40%	267.8	329.9	-18.82%
25	Ohio	33,779	41,379	-18.37%	294.6	326.1	-9.66%
26	Utah	8,812	8,493	3.76%	333.1	325.4	2.37%
27	Alabama	14,230	13,140	8.30%	307.5	322.7	-4.71%
28	Kansas	8,564	9,322	-8.13%	308.5	314.9	-2.03%
29	Connecticut	9,167	10,418	-12.01%	261.7	296.4	-11.71%
30	Illinois	33,887	39,385	-13.96%	263.7	293.3	-10.09%
31	Mississippi	7,381	7,492	-1.48%	252.9	286.8	-11.82%
32	Nebraska	5,201	5,567	-6.57%	293.1	284.9	2.88%
33	New Jersey	21,953	27,683	-20.70%	252.7	283.4	-10.83%
34	Massachusetts	14,992	18,880	-20.59%	232.4	279.0	-16.70%
35	Arkansas	7,010	7,284	-3.76%	247.3	265.5	-6.85%
36	Minnesota	12,526	14,281	-12.29%	241	258.9	-6.91%
37	Wisconsin	13,433	12,546	7.07%	239.8	252.5	-5.03%
38	Pennsylvania	26,461	29,394	-9.98%	212.8	237.4	-10.36%
39	Kentucky	8,675	8,796	-1.38%	204.5	219.8	-6.96%
40	Puerto Rico	7,822	9,299	-15.88%	198.5	218.8	-9.28%
41	West Virginia	3,492	3,816	-8.49%	192.7	215.6	-10.62%
42	Virginia	14,054	15,972	-12.01%	182.2	193.8	-5.99%
43	Montana	1,755	1,971	-10.96%	183.2	185.0	-0.97%
44	Iowa	4,885	5,475	-10.78%	163.5	167.9	-2.62%
45	New York	28,030	35,736	-21.56%	145.3	166.4	-12.68%
46	Idaho	2,226	2,884	-22.82%	148.5	165.6	-10.33%
47	North Dakota	914	1,057	-13.53%	142.9	159.2	-10.24%
48	Wyoming	796	739	7.71%	152.2	150.7	1.00%
49	New Hampshire	1,299	1,337	-2.84%	98.7	108.1	-8.70%
50	Maine	1,259	1,348	-6.60%	95.6	101.4	-5.72%
51	Vermont	641	641	0.00%	103.2	93.9	9.90%
52	South Dakota	735	841	-12.60%	92.3	91.8	0.54%



Motor Vehicle Theft by State

Comparison 2006/2007

Ranked by Vehicle Theft Rate % Change for Calendar Year 2006 to 2007

RANK	STATE	TOTAL# in 2007	TOTAL# in 2006	% CHANGE	2007 THEFT RATE*	2006 THEFT RATE*	% CHANGE
1	Vermont	641	641	0.00%	103.2	93.9	9.90%
2	Nebraska	5201	5,567	-6.57%	293.1	284.9	2.88%
3	District of Columbia	7600	7,720	-1.55%	1291.9	1,258.9	2.62%
4	Utah	8812	8,493	3.76%	333.1	325.4	2.37%
5	South Carolina	17026	16,358	4.08%	386.3	379.6	1.77%
6	Wyoming	796	739	7.71%	152.2	150.7	1.00%
7	South Dakota	735	841	-12.60%	92.3	91.8	0.54%
8	Oklahoma	13459	13,900	-3.17%	372.1	373.2	-0.29%
9	Oregon	14549	19,262	-24.47%	388.2	390.7	-0.64%
10	Montana	1755	1,971	-10.96%	183.2	185.0	-0.97%
11	Kansas	8564	9,322	-8.13%	308.5	314.9	-2.03%
12	Iowa	4885	5,475	-10.78%	163.5	167.9	-2.62%
13	Louisiana	15180	14,389	5.50%	353.6	364.8	-3.07%
14	Georgia	42594	44,477	-4.23%	446.3	460.9	-3.17%
15	Texas	93899	93,423	0.51%	392.8	405.9	-3.23%
16	New Mexico	8939	7,993	11.84%	453.8	472.0	-3.86%
17	Florida	73656	75,303	-2.19%	403.6	422.5	-4.47%
18	Alabama	14230	13,140	8.30%	307.5	322.7	-4.71%
19	Wisconsin	13433	12,546	7.07%	239.8	252.5	-5.03%
20	Maine	1259	1,348	-6.60%	95.6	101.4	-5.72%
21	Tennessee	21658	25,078	-13.64%	351.8	374.1	-5.96%
22	Virginia	14054	15,972	-12.01%	182.2	193.8	-5.99%
23	Alaska	2418	2,595	-6.82%	353.8	377.4	-6.25%
24	Arkansas	7010	7,284	-3.76%	247.3	265.5	-6.85%
25	Minnesota	12526	14,281	-12.29%	241	258.9	-6.91%
26	Kentucky	8675	8,796	-1.38%	204.5	219.8	-6.96%
27	Maryland	28393	34,070	-16.66%	505.4	543.5	-7.01%
28	Missouri	23784	25,699	-7.45%	404.6	435.3	-7.05%
29	New Hampshire	1299	1,337	-2.84%	98.7	108.1	-8.70%
30	Rhode Island	3226	4,398	-26.65%	305	335.5	-9.09%
31	Puerto Rico	7822	9,299	-15.88%	198.5	218.8	-9.28%
32	North Carolina	27966	28,466	-1.76%	308.6	340.2	-9.29%
33	Ohio	33779	41,379	-18.37%	294.6	326.1	-9.66%
34	California	219392	257,543	-14.81%	600.2	665.7	-9.84%
35	Illinois	33887	39,385	-13.96%	263.7	293.3	-10.09%
36	North Dakota	914	1,057	-13.53%	142.9	159.2	-10.24%
37	Idaho	2226	2,884	-22.82%	148.5	165.6	-10.33%
38	Pennsylvania	26461	29,394	-9.98%	212.8	237.4	-10.36%
39	West Virginia	3492	3,816	-8.49%	192.7	215.6	-10.62%
40	New Jersey	21953	27,683	-20.70%	252.7	283.4	-10.83%
41	Indiana	19557	21,744	-10.06%	308.2	346.3	-11.00%
42	Connecticut	9167	10,418	-12.01%	261.7	296.4	-11.71%
43	Mississippi	7381	7,492	-1.48%	252.9	286.8	-11.82%
44	New York	28030	35,736	-21.56%	145.3	166.4	-12.68%
45	Hawaii	6715	9,135	-26.49%	523.2	603.9	-13.36%
46	Arizona	48389	54,905	-11.87%	763.4	889.5	-14.18%
47	Michigan	42151	48,223	-12.59%	418.5	495.4	-15.52%
48	Massachusetts	14992	18,880	-20.59%	232.4	279.0	-16.70%
49	Delaware	2316	2,349	-1.40%	267.8	329.9	-18.82%
50	Washington	37622	49,287	-23.67%	581.6	717.6	-18.95%
51	Nevada	22331	26,931	-17.08%	870.5	1,080.4	-19.43%
52	Colorado	16792	26,101	-35.67%	345.4	437.5	-21.05%



Motor Vehicle Theft by State

Comparison 2006/2007

Ranked by **Total Vehicle Thefts** for Calendar Year 2006 to 2007

RANK	STATE	TOTAL# in 2007	TOTAL# in 2006	% CHANGE	2007 THEFT RATE*	2006 THEFT RATE*	% CHANGE
1	California	219392	257,543	-14.81%	600.2	665.7	-9.84%
2	Texas	93899	93,423	0.51%	392.8	405.9	-3.23%
3	Florida	73656	75,303	-2.19%	403.6	422.5	-4.47%
4	Arizona	48389	54,905	-11.87%	763.4	889.5	-14.18%
5	Georgia	42594	44,477	-4.23%	446.3	460.9	-3.17%
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8	Illinois	33887	39,385	-13.96%	263.7	293.3	-10.09%
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16	New Jersey	21953	27,683	-20.70%	252.7	283.4	-10.83%
17	Tennessee	21658	25,078	-13.64%	351.8	374.1	-5.96%
18	Indiana	19557	21,744	-10.06%	308.2	346.3	-11.00%
19	South Carolina	17026	16,358	4.08%	386.3	379.6	1.77%
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23	Oregon	14549	19,262	-24.47%	388.2	390.7	-0.64%
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25	Virginia	14054	15,972	-12.01%	182.2	193.8	-5.99%
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30	New Mexico	8939	7,993	11.84%	453.8	472.0	-3.86%
31	Utah	8812	8,493	3.76%	333.1	325.4	2.37%
32	Kentucky	8675	8,796	-1.38%	204.5	219.8	-6.96%
33	Kansas	8564	9,322	-8.13%	308.5	314.9	-2.03%
34	Puerto Rico	7822	9,299	-15.88%	198.5	218.8	-9.28%
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36	Mississippi	7381	7,492	-1.48%	252.9	286.8	-11.82%
37	Arkansas	7010	7,284	-3.76%	247.3	265.5	-6.85%
38	Hawaii	6715	9,135	-26.49%	523.2	603.9	-13.36%
39	Nebraska	5201	5,567	-6.57%	293.1	284.9	2.88%
40	Iowa	4885	5,475	-10.78%	163.5	167.9	-2.62%
41	West Virginia	3492	3,816	-8.49%	192.7	215.6	-10.62%
42	Rhode Island	3226	4,398	-26.65%	305	335.5	-9.09%
43	Alaska	2418	2,595	-6.82%	353.8	377.4	-6.25%
44	Delaware	2316	2,349	-1.40%	267.8	329.9	-18.82%
45	Idaho	2226	2,884	-22.82%	148.5	165.6	-10.33%
46	Montana	1755	1,971	-10.96%	183.2	185.0	-0.97%
47	New Hampshire	1299	1,337	-2.84%	98.7	108.1	-8.70%
48	Maine	1259	1,348	-6.60%	95.6	101.4	-5.72%
49	North Dakota	914	1,057	-13.53%	142.9	159.2	-10.24%
50	Wyoming	796	739	7.71%	152.2	150.7	1.00%
51	South Dakota	735	841	-12.60%	92.3	91.8	0.54%
52	Vermont	641	641	0.00%	103.2	93.9	9.90%

*Motor Vehicle Theft Rate Per 100,000 Inhabitants

Information obtained from the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation 2007 Uniform Crime Report



Motor Vehicle Theft by State

Comparison 2006/2007

Ranked by **Total Vehicle Thefts % Change** for Calendar Year 2006 to 2007

RANK	STATE	TOTAL# in 2007	TOTAL# in 2006	% CHANGE	2007 THEFT RATE*	2006 THEFT RATE*	% CHANGE
1	New Mexico	8,939	7,993	11.84%	453.8	472.0	-3.86%
2	Alabama	14,230	13,140	8.30%	307.5	322.7	-4.71%
3	Wyoming	796	739	7.71%	152.2	150.7	1.00%
4	Wisconsin	13,433	12,546	7.07%	239.8	252.5	-5.03%
5	Louisiana	15,180	14,389	5.50%	353.6	364.8	-3.07%
6	South Carolina	17,026	16,358	4.08%	386.3	379.6	1.77%
7	Utah	8,812	8,493	3.76%	333.1	325.4	2.37%
8	Texas	93,899	93,423	0.51%	392.8	405.9	-3.23%
9	Vermont	641	641	0.00%	103.2	93.9	9.90%
10	Kentucky	8,675	8,796	-1.38%	204.5	219.8	-6.96%
11	Delaware	2,316	2,349	-1.40%	267.8	329.9	-18.82%
12	Mississippi	7,381	7,492	-1.48%	252.9	286.8	-11.82%
13	District of Columbia	7,600	7,720	-1.55%	1291.9	1,258.9	2.62%
14	North Carolina	27,966	28,466	-1.76%	308.6	340.2	-9.29%
15	Florida	73,656	75,303	-2.19%	403.6	422.5	-4.47%
16	New Hampshire	1,299	1,337	-2.84%	98.7	108.1	-8.70%
17	Oklahoma	13,459	13,900	-3.17%	372.1	373.2	-0.29%
18	Arkansas	7,010	7,284	-3.76%	247.3	265.5	-6.85%
19	Georgia	42,594	44,477	-4.23%	446.3	460.9	-3.17%
20	Nebraska	5,201	5,567	-6.57%	293.1	284.9	2.88%
21	Maine	1,259	1,348	-6.60%	95.6	101.4	-5.72%
22	Alaska	2,418	2,595	-6.82%	353.8	377.4	-6.25%
23	Missouri	23,784	25,699	-7.45%	404.6	435.3	-7.05%
24	Kansas	8,564	9,322	-8.13%	308.5	314.9	-2.03%
25	West Virginia	3,492	3,816	-8.49%	192.7	215.6	-10.62%
26	Pennsylvania	26,461	29,394	-9.98%	212.8	237.4	-10.36%
27	Indiana	19,557	21,744	-10.06%	308.2	346.3	-11.00%
28	Iowa	4,885	5,475	-10.78%	163.5	167.9	-2.62%
29	Montana	1,755	1,971	-10.96%	183.2	185.0	-0.97%
30	Arizona 	48,389	54,905	-11.87%	763.4	889.5	-14.18%
31	Connecticut	9,167	10,418	-12.01%	261.7	296.4	-11.71%
32	Virginia	14,054	15,972	-12.01%	182.2	193.8	-5.99%
33	Minnesota	12,526	14,281	-12.29%	241	258.9	-6.91%
34	Michigan	42,151	48,223	-12.59%	418.5	495.4	-15.52%
35	South Dakota	735	841	-12.60%	92.3	91.8	0.54%
36	North Dakota	914	1,057	-13.53%	142.9	159.2	-10.24%
37	Tennessee	21,658	25,078	-13.64%	351.8	374.1	-5.96%
38	Illinois	33,887	39,385	-13.96%	263.7	293.3	-10.09%
39	California	219,392	257,543	-14.81%	600.2	665.7	-9.84%
40	Puerto Rico	7,822	9,299	-15.88%	198.5	218.8	-9.28%
41	Maryland	28,393	34,070	-16.66%	505.4	543.5	-7.01%
42	Nevada	22,331	26,931	-17.08%	870.5	1,080.4	-19.43%
43	Ohio	33,779	41,379	-18.37%	294.6	326.1	-9.66%
44	Massachusetts	14,992	18,880	-20.59%	232.4	279.0	-16.70%
45	New Jersey	21,953	27,683	-20.70%	252.7	283.4	-10.83%
46	New York	28,030	35,736	-21.56%	145.3	166.4	-12.68%
47	Idaho	2,226	2,884	-22.82%	148.5	165.6	-10.33%
48	Washington	37,622	49,287	-23.67%	581.6	717.6	-18.95%
49	Oregon	14,549	19,262	-24.47%	388.2	390.7	-0.64%
50	Hawaii	6,715	9,135	-26.49%	523.2	603.9	-13.36%
51	Rhode Island	3,226	4,398	-26.65%	305	335.5	-9.09%
52	Colorado	16,792	26,101	-35.67%	345.4	437.5	-21.05%

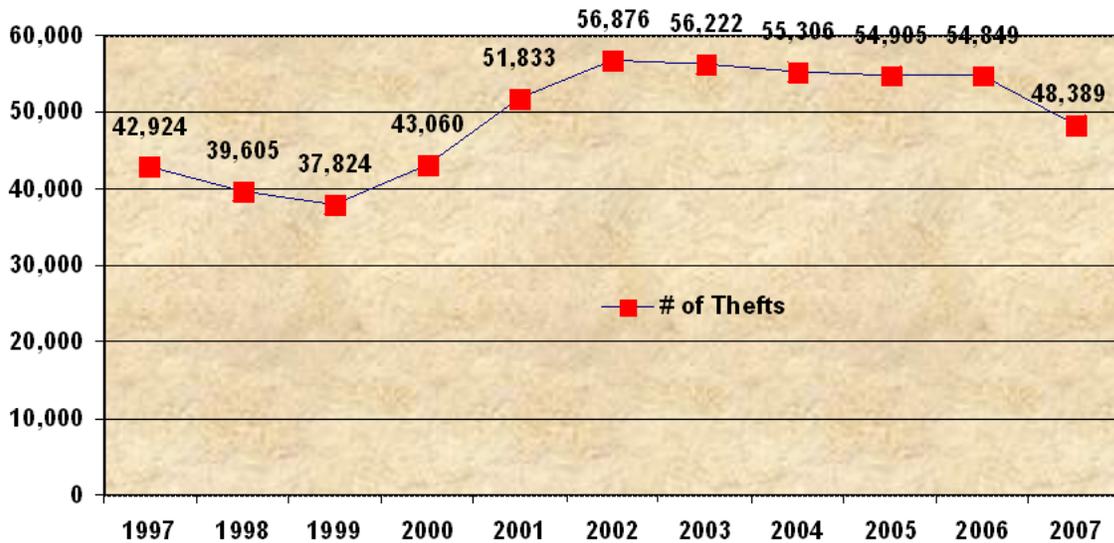
*Motor Vehicle Theft Rate Per 100,000 Inhabitants

Information obtained from the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation 2007 Uniform Crime Report

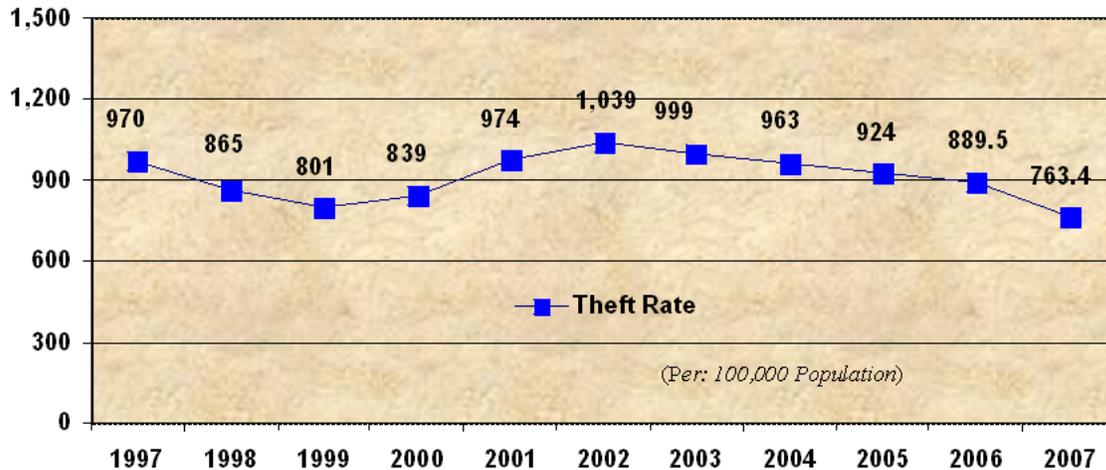
As of October 31, 2008, the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) reported that there were 6,701,737 vehicles registered in Arizona; with 48,389 vehicles reported stolen last year, this equates to less than 1% (0.72%) of the total number of vehicles registered in Arizona.

Vehicle theft continues to be a challenge for Arizona, and current statistics continue to reinforce the importance of a coordinated effort to effectively deter, investigate, prosecute as well as educate the public on vehicle theft prevention strategies.

Arizona Vehicle Theft Trends *Total Vehicle Thefts: 1997-2007



Arizona Vehicle Theft Trends *Vehicle Theft Rate: 1997-2007



*Note: Numbers/values used in the above graphs reflect information contained in the 2007 FBI Uniform Crime Report

Agency Summary - continued

The AATA is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor and other organizations. Members of the AATA Board include: two police chiefs; two sheriffs; two county attorneys; the Directors of the Department of Public Safety, and Motor Vehicle Division; two members representing the insurance industry; and two members of the general public. The AATA has a six-person staff responsible for executing the Agency's goals and strategic plan.

Each year the AATA Board of Directors awards grants to law enforcement agencies and county attorney offices throughout Arizona. Grant funds help support programs and services to prevent and deter vehicle theft, as well as apprehend and prosecute auto theft criminals.

In 2008, the AATA continued to focus the majority of its grant allocation (\$3,491,200 or 64% of total budget) to the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF), for

its continued statewide enforcement and investigative efforts and impressive stolen vehicle recovery results.

During 2008, the AATA also issued grant funding to statewide law enforcement and criminal justice agencies for enforcement, professional training, vertical prosecution and public awareness programs. The AATA approved grants and program expenditures in the amount of \$1,568,731 (29% of total budget) to statewide law enforcement and criminal justice agencies throughout Arizona as part of the Law Enforcement, Professional Training, Public Awareness, and Vertical Prosecution Programs.

This year, the AATA also successfully sponsored one key piece of auto theft related legislation, Senate Bill 1156, which provides consumer protection to Watch Your Car enrollees by providing safeguards against personal and vehicle information made available through public disclosure requests.

AATA 2008 Customer Satisfaction Survey

In July 2008, the AATA mailed 220 Customer Satisfaction surveys to a random sampling of current Watch Your Car Program members. The AATA received 97 completed surveys (44.1% return rate) and the responses have been tabulated (see Figures 1-9 on page 14).

In general, the returned surveys have served as an effective tool to measure awareness and effectiveness of the AATA and its Watch Your Car Program. Additional comments have also provided useful information about what additional steps the public is taking to prevent vehicle theft. (See Figure 7)

An overwhelming 73.20% of the respondents enrolled in the Watch Your Car program via the MVD mailer piece sent with their registration renewal tag. More than 8 percent of people (9.28%) applied for the Watch Your Car program by participating in law enforcement/AATA vehicle theft prevention events in their community. Another 5% of the members enrolled in the program through the Pay Check Inserts project developed by the AATA for government employees. The AATA was pleased to learn that over 12% of the respondents enrolled via the AATA website by completing an on-line application form. This is the easiest method of enrollment in this program and will continue to be actively promoted by the AATA. (See Figure 1)

Over 74% of the respondents learned about the Watch Your Car program from the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) partnership mailing. An additional 10.30% learned of the program from either a law enforcement agency or AATA presentation/special event. The remaining respondents learned of the program from a Blockwatch or neighborhood

meeting, or through other campaigns including mailing advertising/pay check inserts. (See Figure 3)

Most respondents (over 94.85%) did not request assistance at the time they enrolled in the program. This may be an indication that the on-line, electronic and hard copy Watch Your Car Program enrollment forms are user friendly to follow and do not require any further clarification. (See Figure 4)

Almost all respondents (98.97%) agreed or strongly agreed that overall, they are satisfied with the Watch Your Car Program. (See Figure 5)

Every respondent (100%) agreed that overall, AATA staff was readily available to assist them. (See Figure 6)

More than 5% of the respondents have had a vehicle stolen in the State of Arizona. The remaining 94.8% indicated they had not. (See Figure 8)

Regarding demographics, about 82% of the respondents were age 60 and over. Roughly 9% were between 41-59 years of age. More than 6% of the respondents were age 26-40, and 2% respondents were age 18-25. (See Figure 9)

The AATA appreciates the vehicle owners who took the time to complete the surveys. The AATA values the feedback and comments received and looks forward to enhancing the Watch Your Car Program as well as improving our overall customer service.

How did you enroll in the Watch Your Car program?

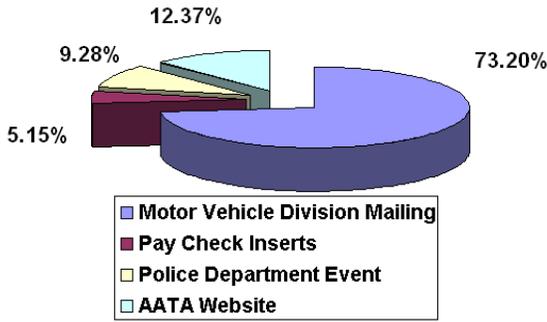


Figure 1

Percent Survey Response

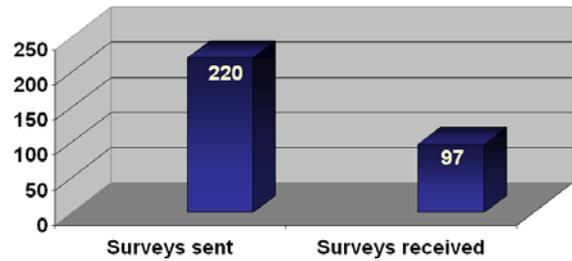


Figure 2

How did you hear about the Watch Your Car Program?

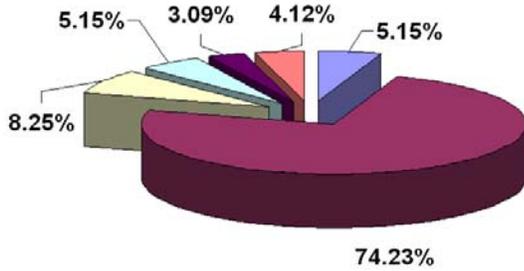


Figure 3

Did you request assistance at the time you enrolled in the WYC program?

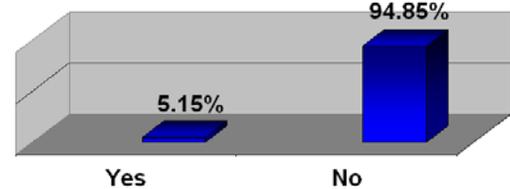


Figure 4

- AATA Special Event
- Motor Vehicle Division Motor Vehicle Division Mailing
- Blockwatch / Neighborhood Meeting
- Police Agency Presentation
- Mailing Advertising/Pay Check Inserts
- Employer Event/Presentation

Are you satisfied with the Watch Your Car Program?

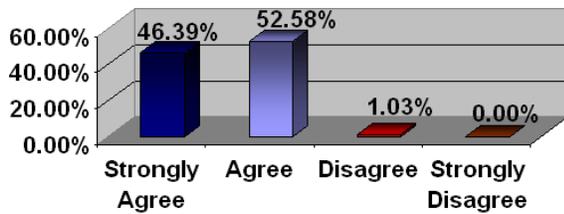


Figure 5

Was staff readily available to assist you?

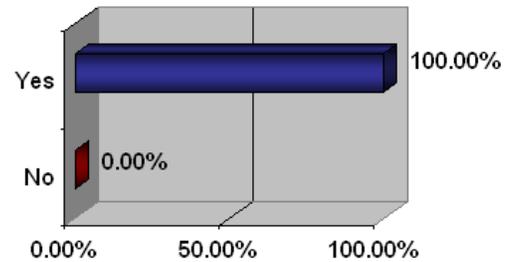


Figure 6

Has being a member of the WYC program encouraged you to take extra precautions in protecting your vehicle?

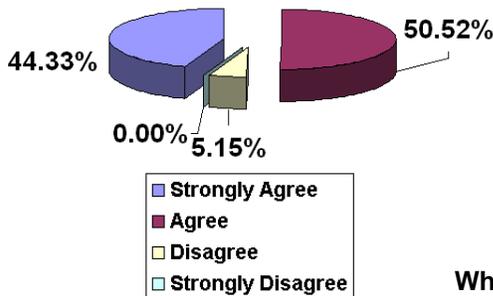


Figure 7

Have you ever had a vehicle stolen in the State of Arizona?

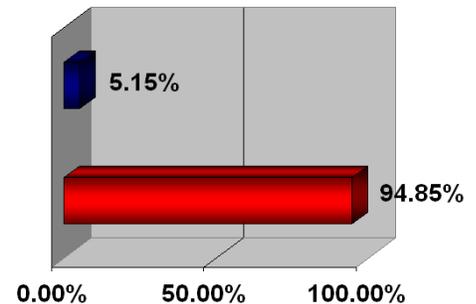


Figure 8

What is your age range?

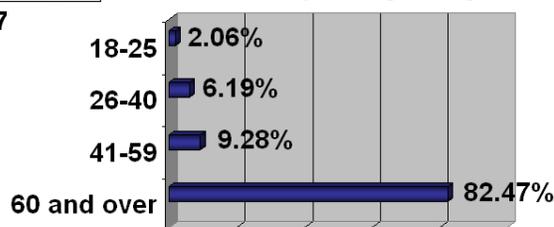


Figure 9

Agency Summary - continued

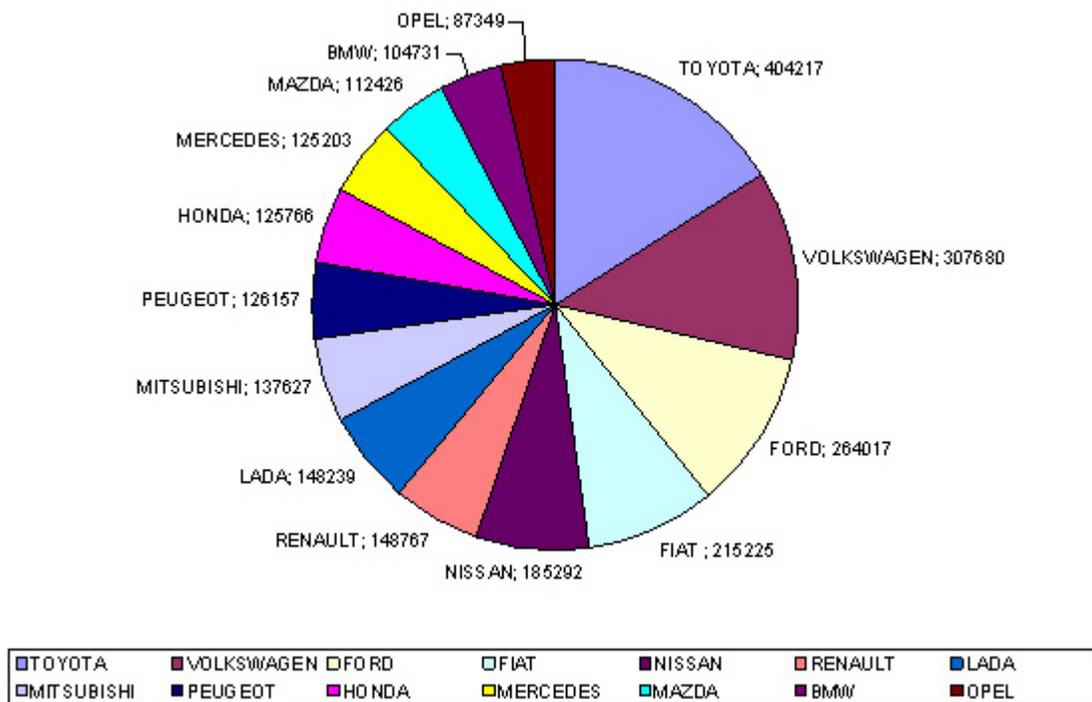
Problem Assessment

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons. They may be stolen simply as a means of transportation. Criminals often steal vehicles in order to facilitate other crimes, such as residential and commercial burglaries, robberies, ID theft, illegal drug and human smuggling activities as well as drive-by-shootings. Professional auto thieves steal vehicles for economic benefit. They operate "chop shops," where vehicles are stripped and component parts are sold to unsuspecting buyers, or unscrupulous auto repair shops. They also attempt to conceal the identity of stolen vehicles by "VIN-switching" with wrecked or salvaged vehicles and then sell them to unsuspecting buyers. VIN cloning is a growing national problem. This crime is similar to ID theft where the identity (VIN) of a good vehicle is taken and used to conceal the true identity of a stolen vehicle of an identical make and model. These vehicles are then titled in another state and sold to an unsuspecting victim. This is a crime that can be prevented through the use of a system called, NMVTIS.

Arizona is part of NMVTIS (National Motor Vehicle Title Information System) that allows titling to instantly and reliably verify information on the paper title with the electronic data from the state that issued the title. The main issue is that so far, only a handful of states are connected. The "VIN" is the vehicle identification number and is unique to only one vehicle.

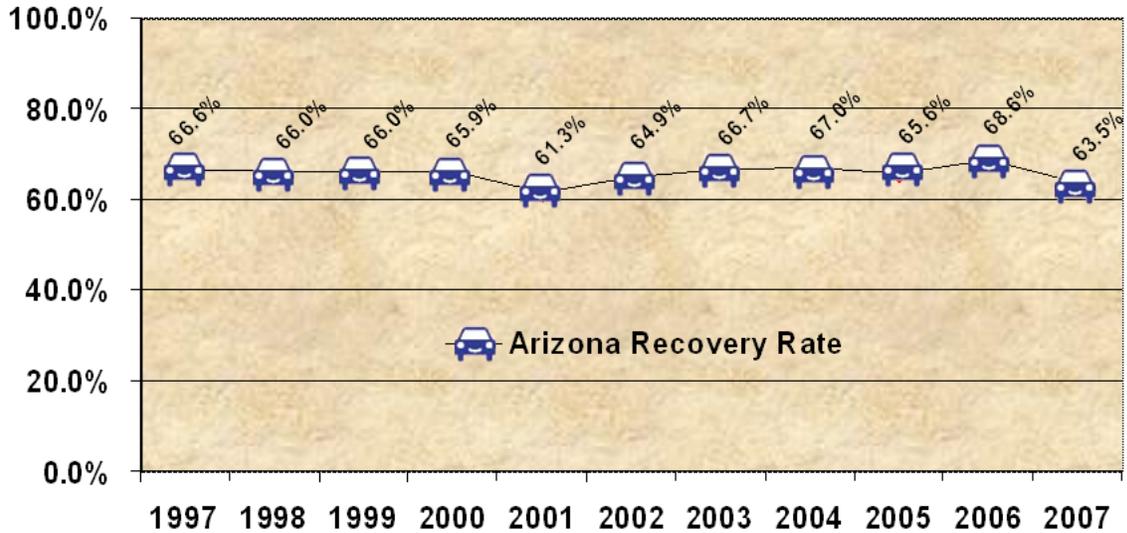
Vehicles are also stolen and smuggled out of the country; stolen vehicles from the U.S. and other affluent countries end up in Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Mexico, Central and South America. The moderate recovery rate of stolen vehicles indicates greater organized criminal activity and the problem of vehicles crossing International border lines. Additionally, Interpol, the international intelligence community, has identified vehicle theft and related criminal activity, including insurance fraud, as a primary illicit fund-raising source supporting international terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL TOP 14 - Makes of Stolen Motor Vehicles



*Reported to Interpol by December 2007

Arizona Vehicle Theft Trends Recovery Rate: 1997 - 2007



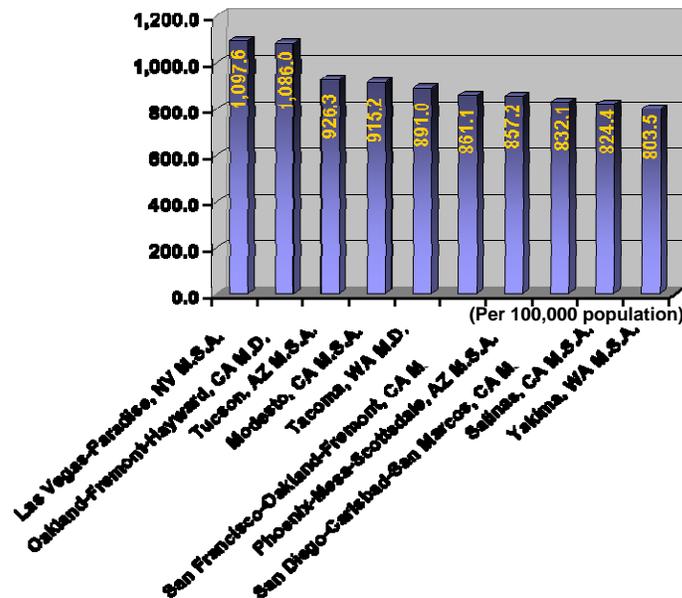
There are a number of reasons that contribute to the vehicle theft problem in Arizona. Arizona has experienced a dramatic population increase over the past 20 to 25 years. There is a rather transient nature of our population, with many people living in multi-family housing units, such as apartments, condominiums and so forth. In these types of residential areas, vehicles are at greater risk to be stolen. Due to the dry, moderate climate in Arizona our vehicles tend to maintain higher value than in other areas of the Nation.

Probably the greatest influence on Arizona's vehicle theft problem is due to the close proximity with Mexico. Research indicates that the highest motor vehicle theft vicinities are major metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's), near seaports or

international borders. In 2007, most of the leading MSA's vehicle theft rates were in the western United States; four of the top ten were in California. Phoenix dropped from fifth to seventh and Tucson moved up from seventh to third spot on the list.

There are seven official ports-of-entry along the 354-mile Arizona-Mexico border, and major California seaports are less than eight hours away. One of the biggest problems is that most vehicle thefts occur at night and it is typically hours later that the victim discovers that their vehicle is gone. A stolen vehicle can be stripped for parts, used to facilitate other crimes, or smuggled across international borders before the owner realizes that it's missing.

National Vehicle Theft Trends Vehicle Theft Rates 2007: Leading MSA's*



Source: 2007 FBI Uniform Crime Report

*MSA's – Metropolitan Statistical Area (encompasses multiple jurisdictions)

AATA Programs & Accomplishments

Each of the three strategic initiatives of the AATA – public awareness and community education, law enforcement, and vertical prosecution all work together to combat vehicle theft throughout the State of Arizona.

Public Awareness and Education

The AATA's public awareness initiatives during 2008, focused on strengthening our partnerships and collaborative efforts with community organizations, corporations and businesses, as well as criminal justice agencies throughout Arizona.

During FY 2008/2009, the AATA awarded \$162,708 in grant funds to twenty-six (26) criminal justice agencies to conduct public awareness activities on vehicle theft prevention, while also promoting the Watch Your Car Program, one of several elements of the "layered approach" to protect vehicles. Grant agencies are required to submit quarterly performance reports to the AATA on their public awareness and community education efforts. During fiscal year 2008, these agencies participated in 752 public awareness events and meetings; VIN etched over 5,600 vehicles, and conducted on-going law enforcement personnel training within their agencies.

On March 1, 2008, the AATA, in partnership with the Gilbert Police Department and statewide law enforcement agencies hosted the Third Annual Statewide Vehicle Theft Prevention Day. Seventy agencies participated throughout the state by hosting auto theft prevention and/or free Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching events in an effort to increase awareness about theft prevention.

In 2008, the AATA continued its partnership with the Arizona Multihousing Association to participate in the Annual Project S.A.F.E (Safety Awareness Family Education) program at statewide multi-family housing communities. The AATA conducted vehicle theft prevention presentations and provided resources to residents at these communities.

During 2008, the AATA continued promotion of a public service announcement (PSA) highlighting the Bait Vehicle Program. The PSA features two convicted bait vehicle thieves, which serves to warn the public, specifically any would-be-thieves, of the existence of this program. In addition, the "Stop the Fast Break to Auto Theft" PSA, featuring Al McCoy and developed in partnership with the Tempe Police Department, was distributed and promoted. These PSA's can all be downloaded from the AATA's website.

The AATA continues to promote our Youth Prevention Programs for middle school ("A Ride For Life: The Consequences of Auto Theft") and high school ("Park Smart New Driver") students. The AATA is in partnership with school districts and School Resource Officers to distribute and present these programs to students.

In addition, media releases were distributed regularly to encourage consistent coverage of the AATA's efforts, current crime trends and statistics, and consumer protection topics. As a result of these on-going press releases and media relations, the AATA participated in several newspaper, television, and radio interviews that generated over 50 million media impressions throughout the state.

In 2008, the AATA continued its partnerships with the Motor Vehicle Division Service Centers, AAA Arizona Travel Offices, Apartment Community and Rental Offices for distribution of Watch Your Car program brochures.

The AATA has also conducted a corporate outreach program to local businesses to educate their employees about vehicle theft prevention. The Agency continues to attend employee presentations and host on-site safety fairs and employee VIN etching events. Some of the corporations include: Wal-Mart, Target, MFS Investments, American Express, IKEA, and CNA National Warranty.

The AATA also partnered with Maricopa County and the State of Arizona to distribute payroll inserts containing vehicle theft prevention information inside employee paychecks.

The AATA has also participated in greater outreach to the Hispanic community as well as expanding media relations with local Spanish language newspapers, radio and television.

The AATA's web site at www.azwatchyourcar.com continues to be updated and enhanced for greater public



Governor's Proclamation for 2008 Arizona Vehicle Theft Prevention & Awareness Day

accessibility and averages approximately 20,000 hits per year. The site provides information on the AATA, current auto theft statistics, theft prevention tips, current community events, posting of all grant program application procedures and requirements, as well as information for the insurance industry on the semi-annual insurance assessment and numerous relevant links.

For the public's convenience, an on-line Watch Your Car application form is available for easy enrollment in the program. The AATA's website is continually updated to contain the most current motor vehicle theft related information, statistics and upcoming special events.



The AATA's Watch Your Car van continues to be a popular promotional tool utilized consistently by the AATA and its law enforcement partners at community events, safety fairs, and promotional opportunities throughout Arizona.

The van is complete with exterior advertising graphics and theft prevention messages to be used to promote vehicle theft prevention and the AATA's free Watch Your Car program. The van is also equipped with several theft deterrent devices to educate the public on the various choices available for theft prevention.

In 2008, the AATA continued its expansion of the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Etching Program. VIN Etching is the process of etching the vehicle's 17 digit (in most cases) VIN number on the vehicle's window glass and is an effective visual deterrent against auto theft. The AATA continues hosting and co-hosting free VIN etching events throughout the state in conjunction with

our criminal justice partners. In 2008, it is estimated over 10,000 vehicles received free VIN etching utilizing the AATA's equipment.



AATA Promotional Items

The AATA continues to participate and promote grass-roots public awareness campaigns targeting communities throughout the State. The AATA participated in numerous community events featuring vehicle theft prevention information, Watch Your Car program enrollment and free VIN etching.

The following are examples of these types of events the AATA participated in during 2008:

[Neighborhood Safety Fairs and Blockwatch Meetings](#)

[Law Enforcement Sponsored Safety Fairs](#)

[Corporate Employee Health/Safety Fairs and Presentations](#)

[Shopping Mall Crime Prevention Events](#)

[Senior Center and Retirement Community Presentations](#)

[Insurance Company Sponsored Vehicle Theft Prevention Fairs with Free VIN Etching](#)

[Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods \(GAIN\) Events](#)

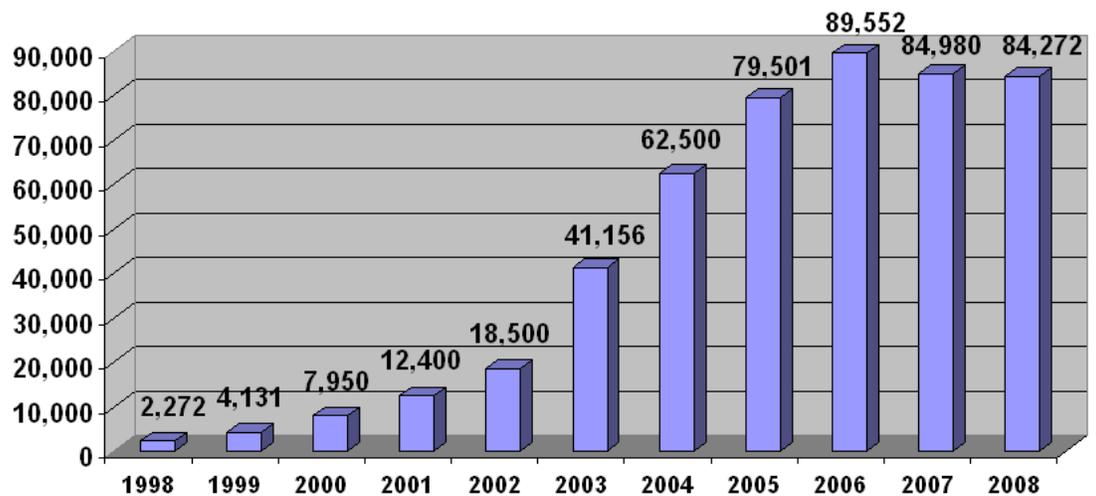
[State University and Community College Events](#)

[AARP's 55 Alive Driver's Education Classes and Town Hall Meetings](#)

[Civic Group Presentations](#)

Watch Your Car Program Enrollments

1998-2008



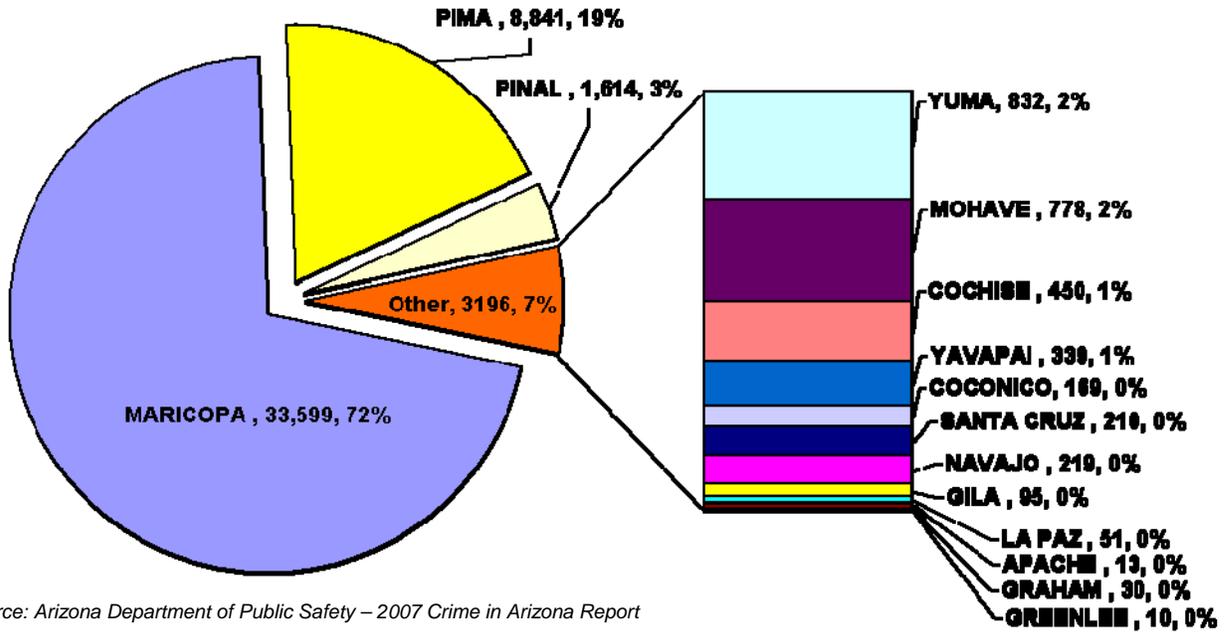
The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1994 authorized the U.S. Attorney General to develop, in cooperation with the states, a national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program. The National Watch Your Car program is designed as a cooperative initiative between the states and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Watch Your Car program serves as the centerpiece of the AATA's vehicle theft prevention and deterrence programs, and is just one element of a "layered approach" to protection recommended by the AATA to effectively deter vehicles from being stolen.

The Watch Your Car program is a voluntary enrollment program designed to deter vehicle theft, assist in the recovery of stolen vehicles, and apprehend auto thieves. After enrolling and signing an application form, participants in the program affix Watch Your Car decals to their vehicle, which authorizes law enforcement officials to stop the vehicle between the program hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM when most vehicle thefts occur, or within one mile of the international border. Enrollment forms are obtained by contacting the AATA by phone or accessing the information at events and/or via the Internet at the Agency's web site at www.azwatchyourcar.com. The Watch Your Car program is free and open to all citizens with cars registered in the State of Arizona.

To promote the Watch Your Car program and other comprehensive vehicle theft prevention tips, the AATA partners with criminal justice agencies throughout the State, participates in auto theft prevention events and safety fairs as well as homeowners association and Blockwatch meetings. Information displays are also located at every Motor Vehicle Division and AAA Arizona Travel Office statewide as well as at insurance company claims offices and apartment community rental locations. At the end of fiscal year 2008 (June 30th), the AATA had over 84,000 vehicles enrolled in the Watch Your Car program.

The partnership-mailing project between the AATA and the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), which was originally launched in 2003, was interrupted in 2008 due to new technology implementations at MVD. The AATA began limited distribution beginning in August this year. This project provides vehicle theft prevention and Watch Your Car program information in the registration renewal tag mailing to vehicle owners in Arizona and has demonstrated successful results over the last five years.

*2007 Arizona Vehicle Thefts By County



*Source: Arizona Department of Public Safety – 2007 Crime in Arizona Report

Vertical Prosecution Program

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority has identified vertical prosecution as a vital component of a comprehensive vehicle theft reduction strategy for the State of Arizona. Vertical prosecution refers to the concept of utilizing dedicated, specially trained deputy county attorneys to address all phases of the criminal justice process regarding vehicle theft, and associated crimes. Vertical prosecution has been highly successful in dealing with other criminal activities such as, homicide, narcotics, organized crime, sexual assault and crimes against children.

A review of performance evaluations, and information obtained from law enforcement personnel indicates a significant improvement in the prosecution of vehicle theft suspects, particularly those identified as career criminals. The AATA has received favorable support from the county attorneys, and law enforcement executives to continue and expand this program. The AATA provides funding to the county attorneys in those counties with the highest vehicle theft rates, and/or border counties, which encounter a significant number of suspects in stolen vehicles from other areas.

In 2008, the program funded prosecutors in Cochise, Maricopa, Mohave Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz counties.

The results of the Vertical Prosecution program over the last two years are as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Number of participating counties	6	6
Number of vehicle theft cases filed	871	1,355
Number of convictions	628	670
Percent of convictions to cases closed	93%	96%
Amount of restitution ordered (in millions)	\$1.1m	\$1.4m



Law Enforcement Programs

A critical role in the AATA's mission is to support proactive law enforcement activities. Since 1997, the AATA, in partnership with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, state, local, and county law enforcement agencies, has funded the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force.

Since 2002, the AATA has also issued statewide grants through our annual Law Enforcement Grant program. These grants are awarded to law enforcement agencies throughout Arizona to promote more efficient and effective law enforcement activities in vehicle theft investigations, enforcement and prevention within their jurisdictions. For FY 2008/2009, the AATA Board awarded \$178,089 in Law Enforcement Grants to thirteen (13) agencies. The awards included funding to law enforcement agencies for continuation and expansion of bait car programs, license plate readers and funding for vehicle theft investigations.

Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force or "RATTLER" Regional Auto Theft Team Law Enforcement Response

The Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF) serves as a statewide resource for the investigation of property crimes involving vehicles and related components. The task force provides technical expertise, training and investigative support to law enforcement agencies targeting vehicle theft and related crimes.

The AVTTF is comprised of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies and private company partners participating in a concerted effort to identify, apprehend, and prosecute individuals and criminal organizations that profit from the theft of motor vehicles and related crimes.

The AVTTF continues to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Arizona through various enforcement strategies and public awareness programs. The task force is recognized within the State of Arizona and nationally as a model multi-agency auto theft task force. The task force has clearly defined goals and objectives which are outlined in our mission statement, policies, and strategic plan.

The AVTTF has established numerous community and business partnerships. In FY08, the task force participated in a multitude of public awareness and community education programs in addition to providing law enforcement related training within the state and the Republic of Mexico.

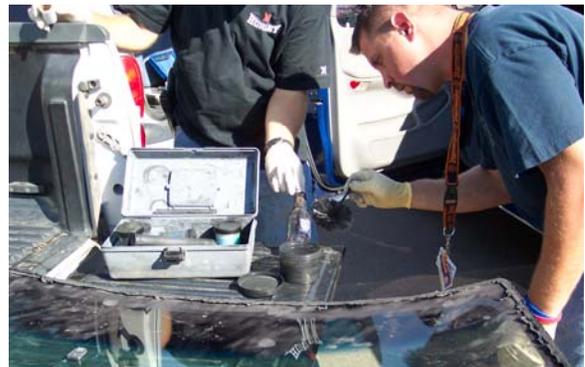
During FY08, the AVTTF conducted a number of special proactive enforcement operations in Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, and Yuma counties designed to detect and recover stolen vehicles. These operations were worked in partnership with

local/county law enforcement agencies and have been successful in locating and arresting auto theft suspects.

JULY - JUNE	2007 - 2008
Combined Activity	Number
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	3433
Estimated Value	\$47,340,551.00
Stolen Vehicle Locates	383
"Chop Shops" Investigated	27
Altered/Switched VIN's	449
Felony Arrests	326
Adults	302
Juveniles	24
Insurance Fraud Cases	58
Business Inspections	41
Border Interdiction Programs	0
CORE Programs	29
Training Provided	61
Assist to Other Agencies	892
License Plate Reader (LPR) Scans	501,218
LPR Stolen Recoveries (Included in Total Above)	119

In FY08, the Task Force recovered 3,433 stolen vehicles at an estimated value of \$47,340,551.

This year, the Task Force conducted a number of special proactive enforcement operations in Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, and Yuma counties designed to detect and recover stolen vehicles. These operations were worked in partnership with local/county law enforcement agencies and have been successful in locating and arresting auto theft suspects.



AZ Vehicle Theft Task Force detectives conduct proactive enforcement operation.

2007/2008 Auto Theft Task Force Case Highlights

On December 3, 2007, a burglary occurred at the Alexander Ford dealership in Yuma, AZ. Unknown subjects entered an office in the used car building and stole over 200 keys belonging to new and used vehicles. The following vehicles were also reported stolen from the dealership; 2008 Ford F250 truck, 2006 Ford F250 truck, 2004 Ford F250 truck, 2002 Toyota Tacoma truck and a 2004 Chevrolet Suburban.

On December 5, 2007, the Yuma Police Department received information that two of the vehicles were parked at a hotel in Algodones, Mexico. Vehicle Theft Task Force

detectives contacted the police in Algodones to check the hotel for the vehicles. The Mexican authorities located two of the stolen trucks from Alexander Ford in the parking lot of the hotel. In one of the hotel rooms, the Mexican authorities located a female who had the keys to both of the trucks. The female suspect was a resident of Yuma. Detectives traveled to Algodones to interview the suspect who later admitted her involvement in the crime.

On December 6, 2007, Yuma Police served a search warrant at the suspect's Yuma residence. Task Force detectives stopped a vehicle leaving the residence prior to the service of the search warrant and the driver provided information on where another stolen vehicle and the remaining missing keys were located.



Task Force recovery - chopped 1994 Acura

On August 6, 2008, Vehicle Theft Task Force detectives were conducting a follow up investigation on a VIN switched stolen Chevrolet Pickup Truck recovered in Mexico. While conducting surveillance at a Phoenix auto body shop, detectives observed a 2006 Ford F150 pickup leave the location. The Ford pickup was bearing an expired/fictitious Arizona 3-day permit. Detectives conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver (owner of body shop) had a valid misdemeanor warrant. Further investigation revealed that the 2006 Ford F150 was reported stolen out of Pinal County, AZ. A search warrant was executed and a stolen VIN switched 2006 Lincoln Navigator was located and recovered. Detectives seized approximately \$15,000.00 in tools and equipment used in the operation of this chop shop. One suspect was booked for theft of means of transportation and conducting a chop shop.

Bait Car Program – Taking Car Thieves For a Ride

The AATA began supporting law enforcement Bait Car Programs in 2003 as a joint project with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), statewide law enforcement agencies and the insurance industry. The program continues to demonstrate successful results; as of September 2008, the program has nearly 300 arrests since the program began. Vehicles provided by NICB and donated by insurance companies, are equipped with bait systems funded by the AATA.

The technology utilizes computers, satellites and tracking devices, which alert police when the bait car has been entered, therefore allowing the vehicle to be tracked then stopped by law enforcement. The vehicles are deployed in high auto theft areas throughout the state. The prosecution of these cases has been highly successful; resulting in a 100% conviction rate and funded through the AATA's Vertical Prosecution Grant Program.



Mesa Police Department Bait Car Video

License Plate Readers

The AATA, through grants to law enforcement agencies, supports automated license plate readers (LPR'S) to detect and interdict stolen vehicles. LPR's have the capability of scanning thousands of plates on a daily basis, sweeping parking lots, streets and highways to recover stolen vehicles faster than ever before. The use of LPR's is being embraced by law enforcement departments across the state, including the AZ. Department of Public Safety who reported over 1 million plates scanned last year alone, with approximately 150 vehicles recovered at a reported value over \$1.2 million.



LPR camera and system

Professional Training Grants

The Professional Training Grants are awarded to law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to promote professional training and development of its personnel. Criminal justice agencies within the State of Arizona are notified of the availability and purpose of grant funds, and are eligible to submit applications for grants provided they comply with the terms and conditions of the grant. Awards are based on the evaluation of the training requested as well as the impact the training will have on the statewide effort to combat vehicle theft.

Financial Report

For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Fund

The Automobile Theft Authority Fund is a special revenue fund, which was established by the Arizona Legislature and is the only operating fund of the Automobile Theft Authority. The AATA does not receive any tax dollars or appropriations from the General Fund of the State of Arizona.

All revenues received by the Authority, including investment income and monetary gifts, are deposited in the Automobile Theft Authority Fund. With the exception of grant awards to the Authority, expenditures of the Authority are appropriated by the Legislature and paid from collected monies in the Fund.

The financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 of the AATA have been audited by the accounting firm of Heinfeld, Meech & Co., P.C., Certified Public Accountants in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and government auditing standards. Their report gave an unqualified opinion of the Authority's financial statements and their report on compliance and internal controls stated, "We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses."

A copy of the full audit report prepared by Heinfeld, Meech & Co., may be obtained by contacting the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority.

Revenue

The revenue of the AATA is derived from a statutory semi-annual assessment of 50 cents per vehicle paid by each insurance company writing automobile liability in Arizona on motor vehicles weighing less than 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW).

Revenue collections from insurance assessments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 were \$ 5,118,433, an increase of \$289,883 or 6.0%.

All excess cash is invested with the State Treasurer and the Authority earned \$24,279 investment income in the current year. The decrease of \$17,977 from \$42,256

in the prior year resulted from lower rates of return in the current year due to market trends, the cash and investment balance declined by \$363,239.

Expenditures

Total expenditures for the current year were \$5,436,350 an increase of \$234,275 from the total expenditures from the previous year of \$5,202,075.

The Arizona Revised Statutes, A.R.S. §41-3451.H requires that "The costs of administration shall not exceed ten percent of the monies in the fund in any one year so that the greatest possible portion of the monies available to the authority is expended on combating motor vehicle theft." Accordingly, the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority tightly controls its administrative costs. Administrative expenses of the Authority are limited by statute and are not to exceed 10% of the revenue collected by the Authority. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, the Authority was in compliance with this statute with "costs of administration" being 7.3%, of "the monies in the fund" as verified by the audit. The AATA's administrative costs for the fiscal year were 6.9% of total expenditures.

The AATA ended the year with cash and investments with the State Treasurer of

Revenue Forecast

Revenue from the Insurance Assessment has continued to grow each year for the last seven years. The growth rate is expected to slow from an annual high of 6% or higher to approximately 2% for the current fiscal year. Economic factors driving and affecting the economy have reduced the agency's revenue growth.

Factors that will contribute to future revenue growth are:

- I. Increase growth in Arizona's population and corresponding growth in the number of vehicles registered and insured within the state.
- II. Continued review by staff to verify that the companies are paying the assessment on actual number of vehicles insured rather than just policies or other methods.

Arizona Auto Theft Authority Fund

Statement of Operations by Program for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

June 30, 2007

June 30, 2008

Revenue

Current Year Collections	\$4,819,338	\$5,069,788
Prior Year Collections	9,212	48,645
Auto Theft Summit	2,000	-
Investment Income	42,256	24,279
Grants	-	-
Refund of unused grant funds	11,608	3,728
Total cash Collections	4,884,414	5,146,440
Revenue Accrued at June 30th	(31,506)	291,963
Total Revenue	4,852,908	5,438,403

Expenditure by Program

Administrative Costs (1,2)	346,707	376,222
Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Grant	3,348,500	3,491,200
Vertical Prosecution Program	775,521	926,539
Public Awareness	323,378	273,756
Public Awareness Grant Program	195,763	162,708
Law Enforcement Grant Program	167,059	178,089
Professional Training Grant Program	42,926	20,141
Emergency Grant Program	-	7,498
Auto Theft Summit	2,220	197
Total Expenditures (3)	5,202,080	5,436,350
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(349,172)	2,053
Beginning Fund Balance (4,5)	3,003,315	2,654,148
Ending Fund Balance (4,5)	2,654,143	2,656,201

Footnotes

1. Administrative Costs as a percentage of cash collections	7.1%	7.3%
2. Administrative Costs as a percentage of total expenditures	6.7%	6.9%
3. Actual expenditures by category per audited financial statements		
Appropriated Current Operating Expenses		
Personal Services	328,685	337,519
Employee related expenses	114,516	122,356
Professional services	14,475	9,445
Travel-in-State	3,914	4,822
Travel-out-State	7,160	11,907
Aid to Organizations	4,560,659	4,807,686
Other Operating	159,190	139,473
Non-capital equipment	11,256	2,945
Total Expenditures	5,199,855	5,436,153
Non-appropriated Expenses		
Watch Your Car Grants		
Auto Theft Summit	2,220	197
Total non-appropriated expenditures	2,220	197

Total

\$5,202,075

\$5,436,350

4. Fund balance includes accrued income as per the audited financial statements

5. Cash invested with the State Treasurer as of June 30th

\$342,414

\$6693

6. Report based on audited financial statements

Impact of Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Programs on Vehicle Insurance Costs

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority reports annually on the impact of vehicle theft prevention programs on consumer automobile insurance rates, the AATA received the following statement from the Arizona Insurance Council (AIC):

Comprehensive coverage pays you if your automobile is stolen or for damage caused by things not covered under collision coverage, such as vandalism, flooding, fire, a broken windshield or damage from an animal.

The efforts of the AATA in implementing innovative theft-prevention awareness programs, coupled with its commitment to investigations and aggressive prosecutions of vehicle thieves, has played a significant role in stabilizing comprehensive insurance rates in Arizona.

For those Arizona consumers who purchase "full coverage" vehicle insurance, comprehensive coverage represents between 15 and 20 percent of their total premium, according to the Arizona Insurance Council.

Future of the AATA

In 2009, the AATA will continue to focus on its bold mission to address the epidemic problem of vehicle theft. The Agency is experiencing remarkable support from the criminal justice community, insurance industry and the general public. The AATA's Board of Directors has committed the maximum available resources to support an aggressive anti-vehicle theft campaign which it expects will result in a continued reduction in vehicle theft in Arizona.

The Authority will continue to expand cooperative efforts with other governmental agencies in Arizona and other states, the Federal Government, Mexico and Canada, including other auto theft prevention authorities, to combat vehicle theft. These efforts will include:

1. Continue to focus the Authority's resources on criminal justice agencies within the State of Arizona to develop effective law enforcement and prosecutorial programs to combat vehicle theft.
2. Continue to evaluate and seek support for deploying both fixed and mobile license plate reading cameras to aid in interdicting stolen vehicles.
3. Continue partnership with the Motor Vehicle Division to disseminate vehicle theft prevention and Watch Your Car enrollment information in registration renewals.
4. Cooperation with the State of Sonora, Mexico and to deter exportation of stolen vehicles.
5. Work with neighboring states to develop regional projects to combat vehicle theft.
6. Expand cooperative efforts with auto theft authorities in other states to promote cooperative efforts on a national level.
7. Petition automobile manufacturers and the Federal government to improve vehicles theft technology,

making it more difficult to steal and or provide enhanced recovery efforts by supporting component parts marking.

8. Continue to promote cross-border cooperation to stop criminal car theft rings operating along Arizona-Mexico border.
9. Continue to advocate for effective legislation related to auto theft issues and vehicle owner/consumer protection. We will continue to pursue seeking legislative measures to reduce vehicle theft similar to the affidavit legislation passed in 2007 which requires individuals reporting a stolen vehicle to sign an affidavit attesting that the information provided is accurate.

If fully operational, the license plate readers (LPR's) would capture the license plate of all vehicles entering and leaving the United States via the ports-of-entry. The LPR's will record the license plate, and the data will be instantaneously forwarded to the DPS in order to check ACIC and NCIC to determine if the vehicle is reported stolen. This will enable enforcement personnel to stop the vehicle before leaving the U.S.

If the vehicle cannot be stopped, the information will be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The AATA, with the assistance of the Task Force, has been actively fostering a collaborative approach with law enforcement officials in Mexico to effectively resolve this issue. The intent is to develop a means to immediately communicate law enforcement and intelligence related information between officials in Sonora and Arizona. The AATA will continue to foster and promote cooperation at both state and national levels by developing a viable partnership among the Border States, various law

enforcement agencies, the Department of Homeland Security and private sector stakeholders to expedite the completion and implementation of the LPR system.

The prosecution and public awareness efforts will continue to be vital components in the AATA's efforts to combat vehicle theft in Arizona. The AATA intends to continue and expand its annual grant assistance program to local law enforcement agencies and county attorney offices statewide. The efforts of the criminal justice agencies involved with the AATA's grant programs thus far have been impressively effective at addressing the law enforcement, prosecution and public awareness and community education components of the AATA's mission.

In 2009, the AATA will continue to sponsor VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching with partnering agencies throughout the state to actively promote free VIN etching on window glass as an effective visual vehicle theft deterrent and recovery aid.



In addition, the AATA will continue to seek additional opportunities to promote public awareness through partnerships with corporations and businesses in the sponsorship of employee events featuring the Watch Your Car Van, presentations by AATA staff and criminal justice personnel and VIN etching.

In 2009, the AATA plans to renew the partnership mailing project with the Motor Vehicle Division, which began in January 2003 and was interrupted in 2007 due to new mailing technology implementations and budget concerns. This partnership mailing entails sending vehicle theft prevention and Watch Your Car program information in the registration renewal tag mailer to all vehicle owners in Arizona. The AATA is also looking to increase exposure through the Service Arizona website as another effective medium to educate the public about the Watch Your Car program and general vehicle theft prevention safety tips.

The AATA will continue to provide grant funding to Arizona law enforcement agencies to implement and/or expand bait car programs, which continue to demonstrate impressive arrest and theft reduction results.

Also in 2009, the AATA, in partnership with statewide law enforcement agencies will host the Fourth Annual Statewide Vehicle Theft Prevention Day on March 7, 2009. This year's event, held on March 1, 2008 was another extremely successful event with over 70 sponsored events throughout the state.



In 2009, the AATA will continue distribution of our two 30-second PSA's highlighting the Bait Vehicle Program and our new auto theft prevention PSA featuring Al McCoy titled, "Stop The Fast Break To Auto Theft." The new auto theft prevention PSA is available for TV and Radio and may also be viewed and downloaded from the AATA's website. The Agency is hopeful that statewide media companies will continue their commitments to donate air-time, including prime time, to support these PSA's.

The AATA is continuing its distribution of the youth prevention curricula programs for middle school and high school students in Arizona and will be evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

During 2009, the AATA will continue its efforts to reduce its administrative costs and maximize resources through cost saving programs. Cost savings are being realized through utilization of bulk mail, additional reliance on the Internet for communication and greater utilization of our staff's talent to perform tasks, once contracted out. A good example of these efforts are represented in the production of this Annual Report which was entirely written, produced and displayed on the AATA website by AATA staff, at a significant cost-savings.

Special Thanks

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their continued support and assistance.

Camila Alarcon, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Sergeant David Azuelo, Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force – Tucson Squad
Officer Eric Breindl, Phoenix Police Department
Michelle Brooks, GAO, Central Services Bureau Manager
Ruben Chavez, AZ. DPS, CORE Video Unit
Melissa Cornelius, Arizona Attorney General's Office
Officer Bob Cummins, Phoenix Police Department
Senator Pamela Gorman, Arizona State Senate, District 6
Senator Chuck Gray, Arizona State Senate, District 19
Don Isaacson, Isaacson & Duffy, P.C.
Wayne Kaplan, AATA Volunteer
Kim Kelly, Gilbert Police Department
Deputy Chief Bill Knight, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Mary Jo Kuzmick, Gilbert Police Department
Chief Mikel Longman, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Ralph Lumpkin, National Insurance Crime Bureau
Sergeant Tom Macari, Scottsdale Police Department
Lieutenant Dan Mitchell, Commander, AZ. DPS/Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force
Victoria Otto, Pima County Attorney's Office
Vickie Owen, Gilbert Police Department
Bobby Owens, National Insurance Crime Bureau
Christine Pinuelas, Maricopa County
Representative Bob Robson, Arizona House of Representatives, District 20
Frank Scafidi, National Insurance Crime Bureau
Sergeant Terry Starner, AZ. DPS/Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force
Sergeant Howard Stevenson, Phoenix Police Department
Nancy Temporado, AZ. DPS/Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force
Ron Williams, Arizona Insurance Council
Michelle Wood, Arizona Attorney General's Office

Thank you to the state's criminal justice agencies for their continued participation in the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force and partnership with the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority.

A special thank you to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and the following insurance companies for providing vehicles for the AATA's Bait Car Program; Allstate, American Family, Country Mutual, CSAA, Farmers, Farm Bureau, Geico, Liberty Mutual, Nationwide-Victoria/Titan, Progressive, Safeco, State Farm, and USAA.

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