Trends and Approaches in Auto Theft Prevention

Lt. Keith Huntley
Washington State Patrol
• Washington is 4 out of 50 in the U.S. in stolen cars per capita
• 25,000 cars were stolen in 2015
• 90% of stolen cars are involved in other crimes
• Auto Theft is the biggest property crime in the U.S.
• Cars are normally the 2nd biggest investment a family makes

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and FBI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Honda Accord</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Honda Civic</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Subaru Legacy</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Toyota Camry</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ford Pickup (Full)</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Acura Integra</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chevrolet Pickup (Small)</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Honda CR-V</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Toyota Corolla</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chevrolet Pickup (Full)</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) - 2014
How They Are Doing It

• Unattended running cars
• Older vehicles
• Dealership theft
• Illegal wrecking yards - Photos
• Title fraud
• VIN switch (Cloned vehicles)
• Construction equipment
• Online auction/sales (Offer-up)
Strategies

• Tips and leads from the field
• Sources of information
• VIN Lanes
• Undercover shops
• Cooperation among LE agencies
• Public education
• Business education
Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority
  • Est. 2007, legislative funds

Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force
  • 1 Sgt. 3 Detectives

King County Regional Auto Theft Unit
  • 1 Sgt. 4 detectives

PATROL Task Force (King - Pierce Counties)
  • 1 Sgt. 4 detectives

Auto Crimes Enforcement Task Force (Pierce County)
  • 1 Sgt. 4 detectives

Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force
  • 1 Sgt. 4 detectives

WSP Vehicle Identification Number (VIN Lanes)
  • 17 VIN Officers
  • 21 VIN lanes throughout the state
• Automatic License Plate Readers

• GPS Tracking

• Video Surveillance

• Online cooperation and reporting

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For More Information
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