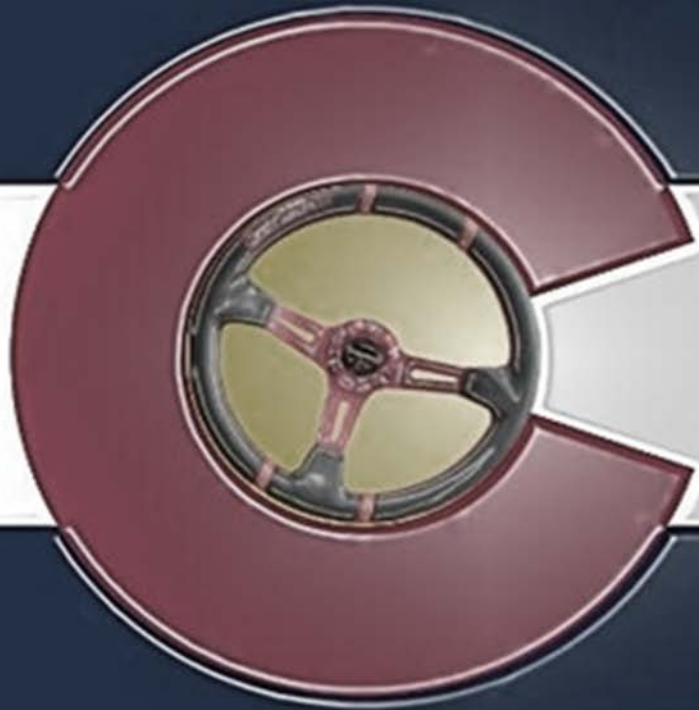


# Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center



## 2021 COLORADO AUTO THEFT ANNUAL REPORT

## AUTO THEFT INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION CENTER (ATICC)

(U) Purpose: The Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) is a Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) funded initiative that serves the Colorado auto theft law enforcement community. ATICC provides information, intelligence, and analytical judgements on the occurrence of auto theft. The ATICC report will include the influential factors of the crime of motor vehicle theft, statewide, five (5) year comparisons, CATPA region statistical data.

*Disclaimer: Information contained in the Stolen Vehicle Database Repository is considered dynamic; modifications to records are made on a daily basis. Stolen vehicle records were screened for accuracy and normalized for standardization prior to use in this analysis.*

## FINDINGS AND OUTCOMES

### Trends | Patterns

- The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent efforts by state and local governments to mitigate the spread of the disease are evident and reflect in the calendar year 2020 and 2021 auto theft statistics. In mid-2021, the majority of Colorado slowly began returning to somewhat normal operations in the state system. The COVID-19 variant, Omicron hit Colorado in the fall and winter of 2021, causing efforts of returning to normal operations to be sporadic and unstable. Auto theft in 2020 increased 40%, however increased by 31% in 2021, demonstrating the pace of auto theft is slowing.

In 2021, the ATICC reported on factors contributing to the increase in auto theft for the reporting years of 2020 and 2021, which include:

- Executive orders, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Corrections, and Colorado State Court Systems (CSCS): policy changes in response to COVID-19.
  - Stay at home mandate restricted travel, vehicles left parked (Executive Orders).
  - Businesses, offices, schools, etc... shut down (CDPHE)
  - Moratorium on new intakes, early release program (CDOC)
  - Suspension of certain court operations (CSCS)
  - Drivers not checking on vehicles
  - Home delivery services increased and delivery vehicles were targeted
  - Number of auto thefts associated with gangs increased
- In CY 21 Hyundai Sonata and Kia Optima remained in the top 10 most at risk vehicles for theft. This may be attributed to well-publicized vulnerabilities in the vehicle electronic entry and ignition systems to technology-enabled devices. Electronic devices, some of which are proprietary technologies used by vehicle manufacturers, are being marketed on the Internet and used by street gangs and auto thieves to defeat vehicle security systems.

- Auto thieves were burglarizing locksmith shops and service vehicles in order to steal automotive onboard diagnostic (OBD) scanners and devices that program vehicle smart keys. These devices are then used to defeat vehicle entry and ignition security systems and to fabricate and program smart keys for targeted vehicles. Some of these technologies are available for purchase on the Internet and do not require proof of a valid locksmith license. In Colorado, several incidents involving the theft of OBDs and key programming devices were reported, as well as cases in which stolen vehicles were recovered with OBDs and smart key programming devices still inside the car.
- Catalytic converter thefts continue to increase in Colorado. Mitigation strategies have been implemented and studies through the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI), Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA), National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). New state legislation has also been proposed in efforts to combat catalytic converter theft.
- In 2021, the auto theft community continued to see more large scale vehicle theft rings which contributes to the aggregate of auto thefts.

### **Hot Spots**

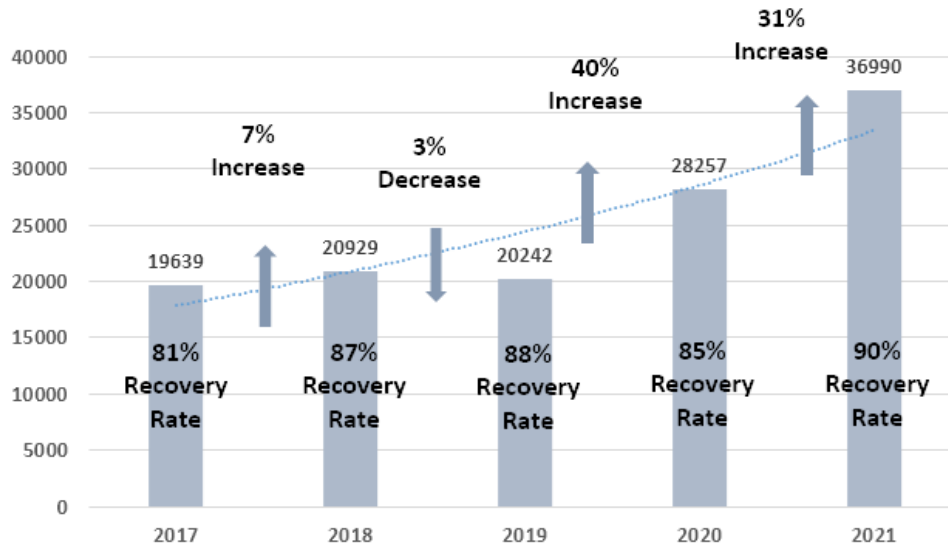
- Hot spots for auto theft consistently occur in and around larger cities with the majority of auto thefts occurring in the Denver Metro area, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. This pattern correlates to the areas with the greatest population growth areas in Colorado.

### **Analytical Modeling**

*Data pulled for the analytical modeling occurred on 01/30/2022 for the ATICC annual reporting for aggregated theft and recovery data. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent.*

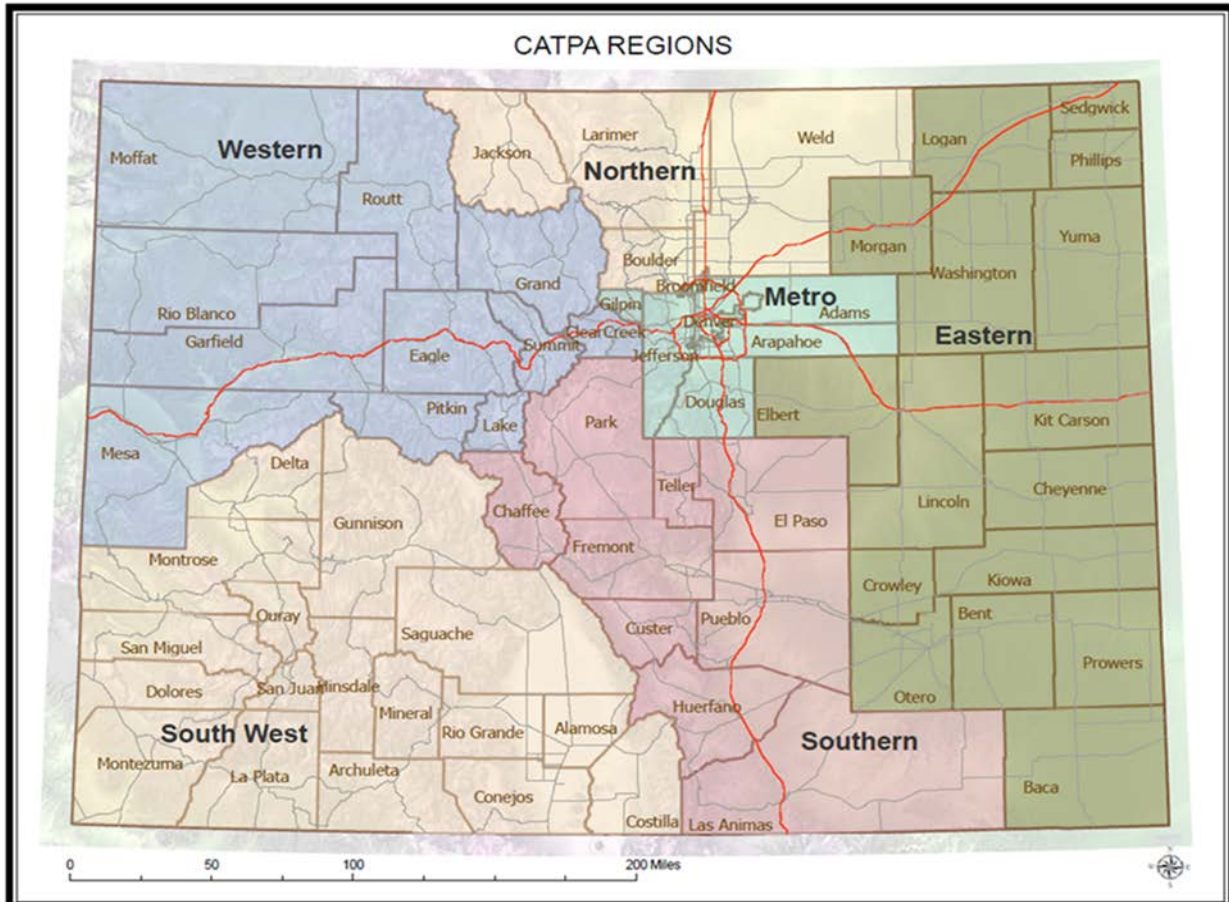
NOTE: Stolen and recovered vehicles in the ATICC Stolen Vehicle Database Repository are obtained directly from the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) system. These numbers will differ slightly from individual agency databases. The ATICC data does not include attempted vehicle thefts or vehicle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

Annual comparison of the last five (5) calendar years demonstrate statewide auto theft increased with the exception of 2019 with a 3% decrease compared to 2018.



*(The total number of theft and recoveries for the state will not equal the total number of theft and recoveries from the theft and recovery areas in Auto Theft areas due to missing address information of some records.)*

The CATPA regions are divided into six (6) areas within Colorado. Each respective region has a designated auto theft task force serving the area.



The auto theft comparison for 2019 vs. 2020, and 2020 vs. 2021 by theft area show increases in 2020 vs. 2019 with the exception of Southern Colorado with a 5% decrease.

2021 vs. 2020 show increases in Denver Metro, Northern Colorado, Southern Colorado, and Western Colorado with the exceptions of Eastern Colorado with a 3% decrease and South West Colorado with a 12% decrease. It should be noted that Southern Colorado increased by 25% in 2020 vs. 2021.

THEFT BY AREA	THEFTS CY 2019	THEFTS CY 2020	% CHANGE	THEFTS CY 2020	THEFTS CY 2021	% CHANGE
Denver Metro	12,884	19,738	53%	19,738	27,443	39%
Eastern Colorado	212	307	45%	307	299	-3%
Northern Colorado	1,867	2,496	34%	2,496	3,028	21%
South West Colorado	367	493	34%	493	436	-12%
Southern Colorado	4,100	3,904	-5%	3,904	4,878	25%
Western Colorado	439	726	65%	726	823	13%

THEFT   RECOVERY BY AREA	THEFTS CY 2017	RECOVERY CY 2017	RECOVERY RATE	THEFTS CY 2018	RECOVERY CY 2018	RECOVERY RATE	THEFTS CY 2019	RECOVERY CY 2019	RECOVERY RATE	THEFTS CY 2020	RECOVERY CY 2020	RECOVERY RATE	THEFTS CY 2021	RECOVERY CY 2021	RECOVERY RATE
Denver Metro	13,061	12,187	93%	13,452	12,548	93%	12,884	10,858	84%	19,738	15,301	78%	27,443	25,222	92%
Eastern Colorado	188	132	70%	262	166	63%	212	180	85%	307	228	74%	299	239	80%
Northern Colorado	1,533	1,094	71%	1,777	1,318	74%	1,867	1,424	76%	2,496	1,757	70%	3,028	2,149	71%
South West Colorado	406	290	71%	388	301	78%	367	234	64%	493	343	70%	436	326	75%
Southern Colorado	3,707	2,920	79%	4,199	3,565	85%	4,100	3,533	86%	3,904	3,221	83%	4,878	4,002	82%
Western Colorado	469	348	74%	483	372	77%	439	351	80%	726	516	71%	823	597	73%

**Recovery Rate by CATPA Region**

- Denver Metro at 92% in 2021 vs. 78% for 2020
- Eastern Colorado at 80% in 2021 vs. 74% for 2020
- Northern Colorado at 71% 2021 vs. 70% for 2020,
- South West Colorado at 75% 2021 vs. 70% for 2020
- Southern Colorado at 82% CY21 vs. 83% for CY20
- Western Colorado at 73% CY21 vs. 71% for CY20.

**Out of Area Recovery**

CATPA regional areas illustrating the volume and rate of reported vehicle thefts recovered outside of the respective area. Eastern Colorado demonstrated 41% of thefts were recovered outside the Eastern Colorado region and Northern Colorado with 39% of thefts recovered outside of the Northern region.

CATPA THEFT REGION	TOTAL RECOVERY	IN AREA RECOVERY	OUT OF AREA RECOVERY	% of OUT OF AREA RECOVERY
Denver Metro Area	24,425	23,146	1,279	5%
Eastern Colorado	203	119	84	41%
Northern Colorado	2,428	1,486	942	39%
South West Colorado	307	223	84	27%
Southern Colorado	4,108	3,719	384	9%
Western Colorado	608	461	147	24%

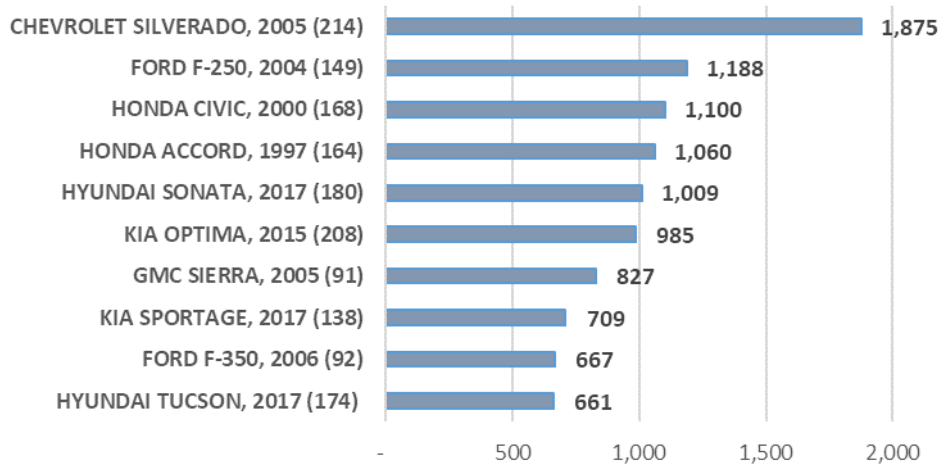
**Top Vehicle Style by CATPA Region**

The passenger car is the top vehicle style stolen in Denver Metro, Northern Colorado, and Southern Colorado which are considered urban areas with higher populations. The pickup truck is the top vehicle style stolen in Eastern Colorado, South West Colorado, and Western Colorado which are considered more rural areas with lower populations with a strong heritage in the food and agriculture industry.

Vehicle Style	Denver Metro	Eastern Colorado	Northern Colorado	South West Colorado	Southern Colorado	Western Colorado
Motorcycle	1,258	18	230	46	361	89
Active	679	13	127	31	202	62
Inactive	579	5	103	15	159	27
Passenger Car	9,271	76	885	98	1,639	166
Active	446	10	62	14	125	12
Inactive	8,825	66	823	84	1,514	154
Pickup Truck	5,837	100	703	119	996	232
Active	531	22	123	27	136	38
Inactive	5,306	78	580	92	860	194
SUV	8,375	31	705	78	1,060	184
Active	467	3	57	8	89	22
Inactive	7,908	28	648	70	971	162
Trailer	1,009	39	262	42	398	77
Active	527	28	144	24	258	51
Inactive	482	11	118	18	40	26
Van	861	10	88	10	111	21
Active	55	1	7	1	7	5
Inactive	806	9	81	9	104	16

**Top Stolen Vehicles**

2021 Top Ten Most At-Risk Vehicles



**Looking Ahead**

The ATICC is dedicated to combating auto theft and will refine reporting products to what matters most for field operations.

## Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center Points of Contact

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