



# 2019 California Vehicle Theft Facts

## VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2019, 151,244 vehicles were stolen, at an estimated total value of approximately \$1.2 billion.<sup>1</sup> This is an 8.2 percent decrease from the 2018 total for vehicle thefts statewide. The average rate of theft in 2019 was one vehicle every 3.5 minutes.

Of the vehicles stolen in 2019, 46.1 percent were automobiles, 41.2 percent were personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, 5.4 percent were commercial trucks and trailers, and 4.9 percent were motorcycles. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, special construction, etc.) accounted for 2.4 percent of thefts.

- Top theft targets:

### 1) Automobiles

Honda Civic 2000  
Honda Civic 1998  
Honda Accord 1997

### 2) Personal Trucks/ Sport Utility Vehicles

Honda CRV 2000  
Honda CRV 1999  
Honda CRV 2001

### 3) Motorcycles

Yamaha 2016  
Yamaha 2017  
Yamaha 2015

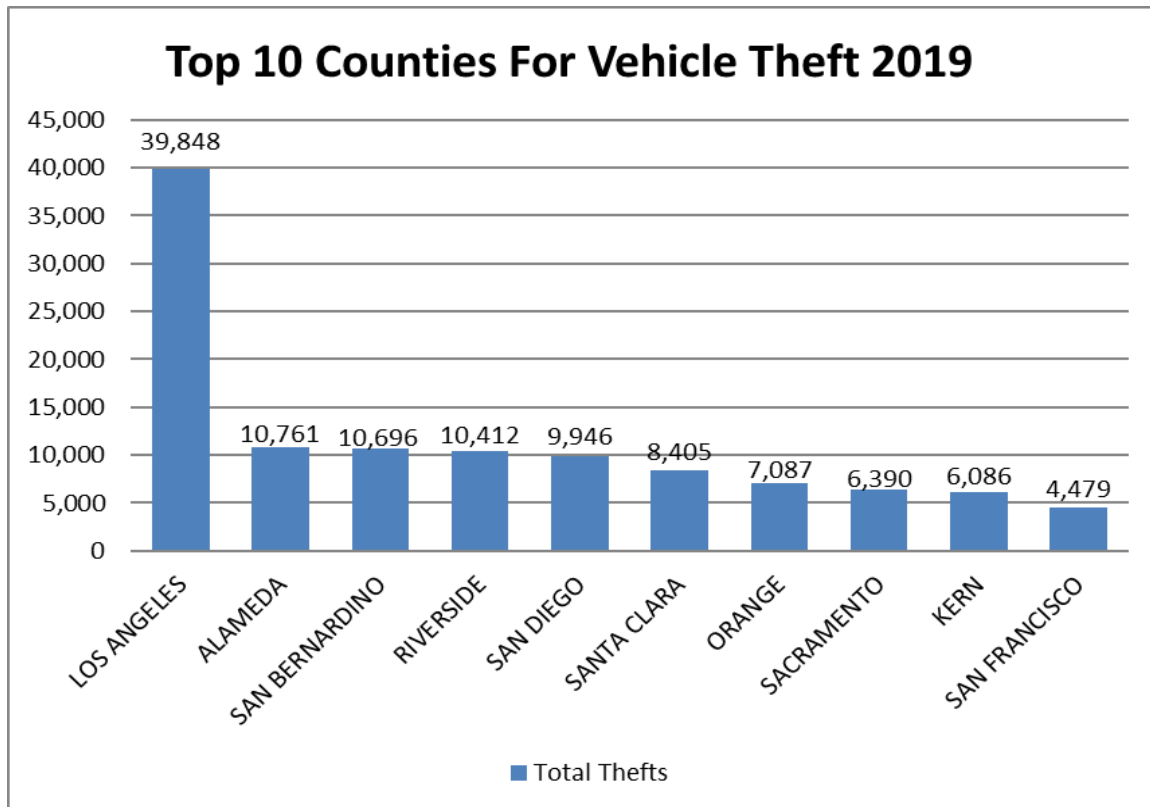
### 4) Commercial trucks

Freightliner 2012  
Freightliner 2016  
Freightliner 2014

<sup>1</sup> <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2018/crime-in-the-u.s.-2018/topic-pages/motor-vehicle-theft>

### **WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED**

- Approximately 51.6 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties). Of the thefts in Southern California, 51.1 percent occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 17 percent of all thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties). Of the thefts in the San Francisco Bay Area, 42.1 percent occurred in Alameda County.
- Approximately 13.8 percent of all thefts occurred in the Central Valley (Kern, Fresno, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Merced, Madera, and Kings counties). Of the thefts in the Central Valley, 29.1 percent occurred in Kern County.
- The remaining 17.6 percent of thefts occurred throughout the remainder of California.



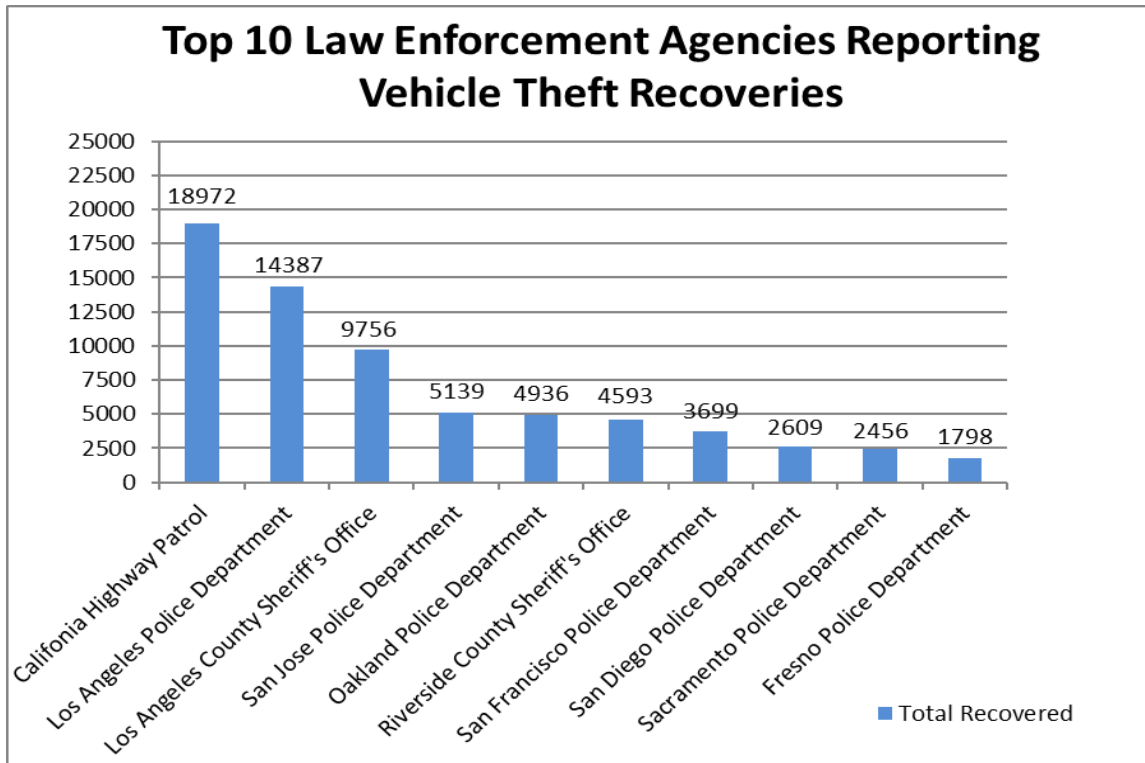
### **VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS**

- For the second consecutive year, the 2000 and 1998 Honda Civic rank as the number one and two stolen vehicles statewide, respectively, and the 1997 Honda Accord ranked at number three.
- For the third year, the Honda CRV leads the list for the top three stolen personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, with the 2000, 1999, and 2001 models ranking number one, two, and three, respectively.
- The 2016 and 2017 Yamaha were the number one and two stolen motorcycles, respectively. The 2015 Yamaha replaced the 2007 Suzuki at number three. This is the first year since 2008 the 2007 Suzuki did not rank in the top three most frequently stolen motorcycles.
- Freightliner commercial trucks model years 2012, 2016, and 2014 ranked number one, two, and three, respectively. Other vehicles include farm and construction equipment. In these categories, Melroe Division construction equipment ranked as the number one brand of stolen construction equipment for the second year in a row, and John Deere farm equipment has ranked as the number one brand of stolen farm equipment every year since 2008. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

### **VEHICLE RECOVERIES**

- Of the 151,244 vehicles stolen statewide in 2019, 89.1 percent were successfully recovered, representing 134,867 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 95.6 percent of the automobiles, 92.9 percent of the personal trucks and sport utility vehicles, 80.5 percent of the commercial trucks, and 53.8 percent of the motorcycles were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 65.7 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 3 percent were missing major components, 8.3 percent were stripped of minor parts, and 22.3 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked. Less than one half percent of the thefts were considered cargo theft only.

- In 2019, it was determined 32 of the recovered vehicles were cargo theft only. At less than half a percent, the total number of cargo thefts in California is low compared to overall vehicle thefts; however, it is considered an ongoing problem as cargo theft is estimated to cost Californians millions of dollars annually.



### INFORMATION SOURCES

- California Department of Justice, Stolen Vehicle System
- California Highway Patrol, Vehicle Theft Information System
- Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program