



# 2020 California Vehicle Theft Facts

## **VEHICLE THEFTS**

- In 2020, 180,939 vehicles were stolen, at an estimated total value of approximately \$1.6 billion.<sup>1</sup> This is a 19.6 percent increase from the 2019 total for vehicle thefts statewide. The average rate of theft in 2020 was one vehicle every 3 minutes.

Of the vehicles stolen in 2020, 40.5 percent were automobiles, 45.9 percent were personal trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUV), 5.6 percent were commercial trucks and trailers, and 5.1 percent were motorcycles. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, special construction, etc.) accounted for 2.9 percent of thefts.

- Top theft targets:

### **1) Automobiles**

Honda Civic 2000  
Honda Civic 1998  
Honda Civic 1999

### **2) Personal Trucks/Sport Utility Vehicles**

Chevy Silverado 2001  
Chevy Silverado 2002  
Honda CRV 2000

### **3) Motorcycles**

Yamaha 2015  
Yamaha 2017  
Yamaha 2016

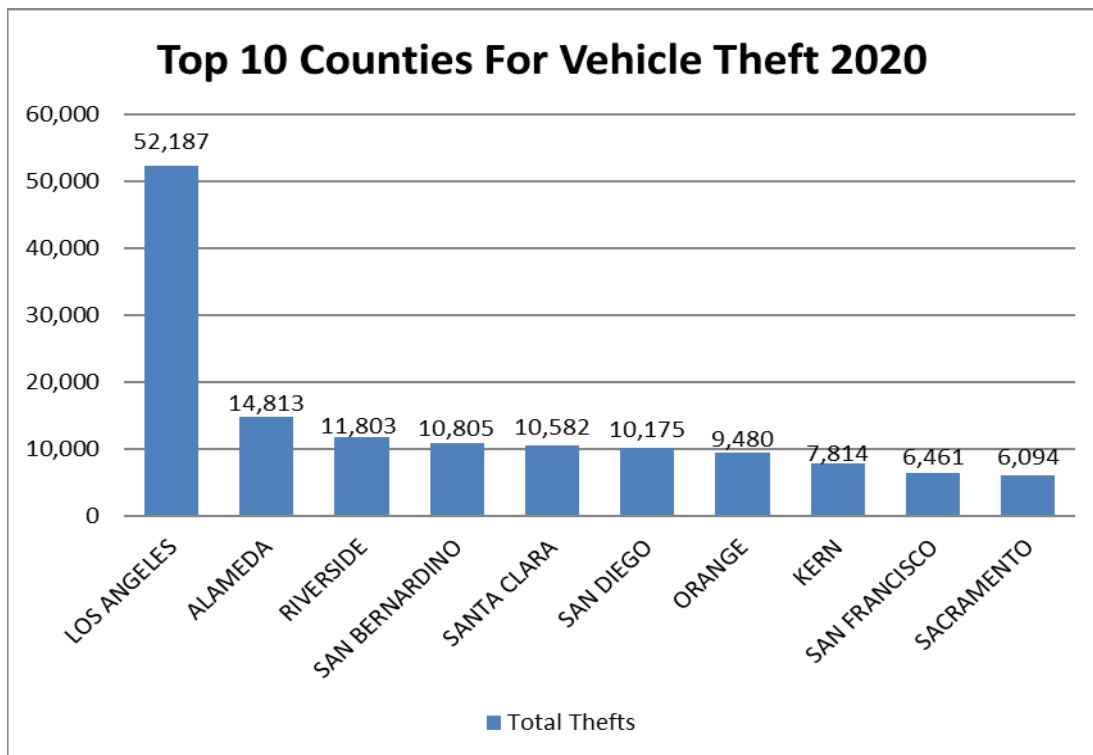
### **4) Commercial Trucks**

Freightliner 2015  
Freightliner 2012  
Freightliner 2013

<sup>1</sup> <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/motor-vehicle-theft>

### **WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED**

- Approximately 52.2 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties). Of the thefts in Southern California, 42.2 percent occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 19.3 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, 42.3 percent occurred in Alameda County.
- Approximately 12.4 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, 34.8 percent occurred in Kern County.
- The remaining 16.1 percent of thefts occurred throughout the remainder of California.



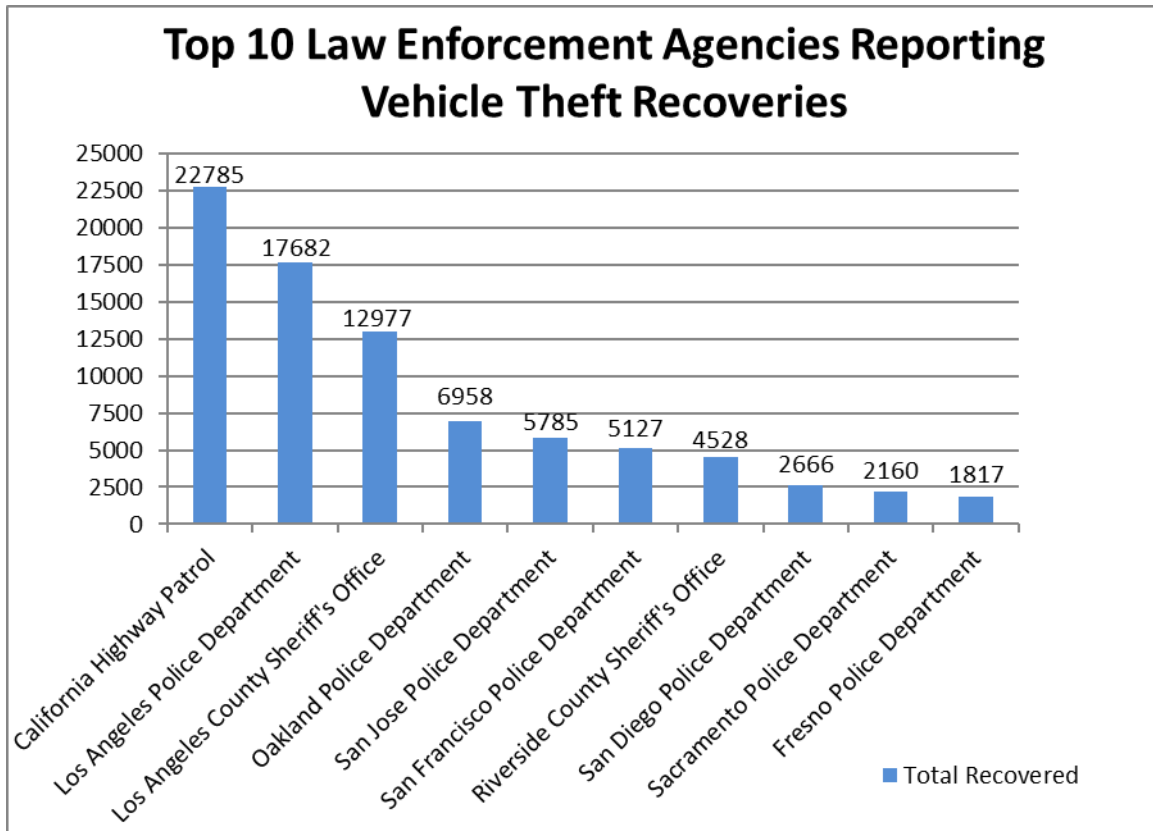
### **VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS**

- For the third consecutive year, the 2000 and 1998 Honda Civic rank as the number one and two stolen vehicles statewide, respectively, and the 1999 Honda Civic ranked at number three.
- The 2001 and 2002 Chevy Silverado took the number one and two spots, respectively, for personal trucks and SUVs for the first time. After three years in the number one spot, the 2000 Honda CRV took the number three spot.
- For the second consecutive year, Yamaha ranked as the number one, two, and three most frequently stolen motorcycles with the model years 2015, 2017, and 2016 respectively.
- Freightliner commercial trucks model years 2015, 2012, and 2013 ranked number one, two, and three, respectively. Other vehicles include farm and construction equipment. In these categories, an unpublished construction equipment corporation ranked as the number one brand of stolen construction equipment, 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 180,939 vehicles stolen statewide in 2020, 89.2 percent were successfully recovered, representing 161,464 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 96.0 percent of the automobiles, 93.6 percent of the personal trucks and SUVs, 81.4 percent of the commercial trucks, and 57.1 percent of the motorcycles were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 63.6 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 3.1 percent were missing major components, 8.6 percent were stripped of minor parts, and 24.6 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- In 2020, it was determined 39 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