



2021 California Vehicle Theft Facts

VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2021, 194,876 vehicles were stolen, at an estimated total value of approximately \$1.7 billion.¹ This is a 7.7 percent increase from the 2020 total for vehicle thefts statewide. The average rate of theft in 2021 was one vehicle every 3 minutes.

Of the vehicles stolen in 2020, 37.1 percent were automobiles, 48.7 percent were personal trucks and sport utility vehicles (SUV), 6 percent were commercial trucks and trailers, and 4.8 percent were motorcycles. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, special construction, etc.) accounted for 3.4 percent of thefts.

- Top theft targets in 2021:

1) Automobiles

Honda Civic 2000
Honda Civic 1998
Honda Civic 1999

2) Personal Trucks/Sport Utility Vehicles

Chevy Silverado 2001
Chevy Silverado 2002
Chevy Silverado 2004

3) Motorcycles

Yamaha 2015
Yamaha 2016
Suzuki 2007

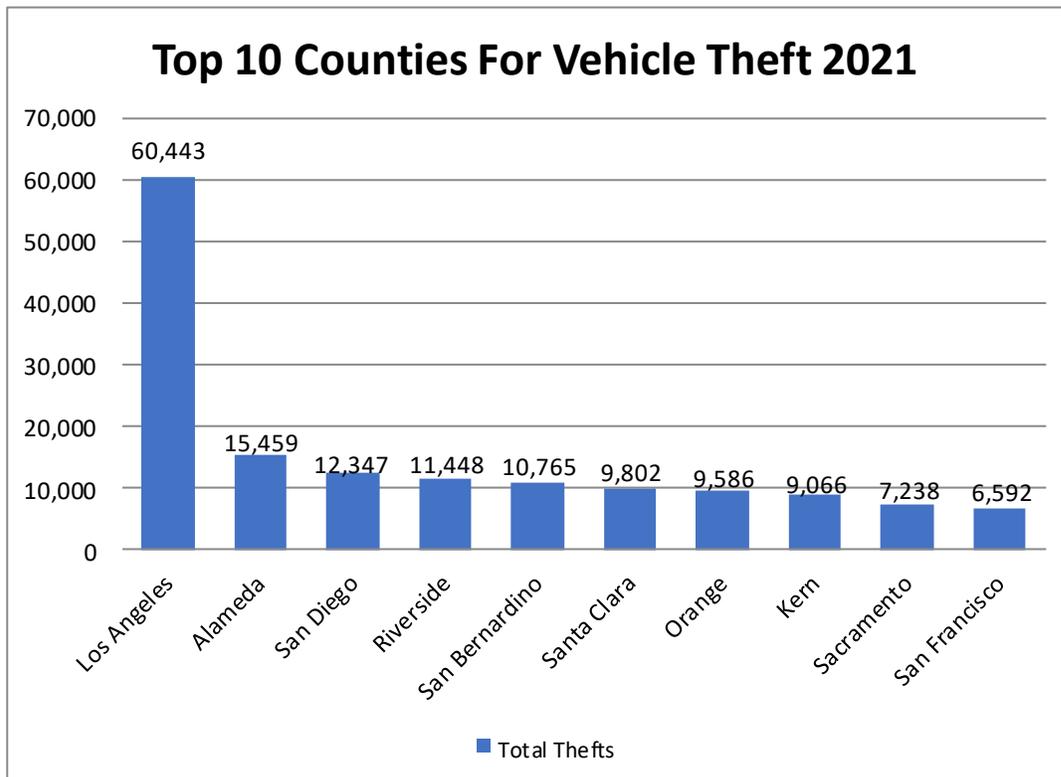
4) Commercial Trucks

Freightliner 2015
Freightliner 2014
Freightliner 2016

¹ <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/report-crime>

WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED

- Approximately 53.7 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties). Of the thefts in Southern California, 57.8 percent occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 17.9 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, 44.2 percent occurred in Alameda County.
- Approximately 12.7 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, 36.5 percent occurred in Kern County.
- The remaining 15.7 percent of thefts occurred throughout the remainder of California.

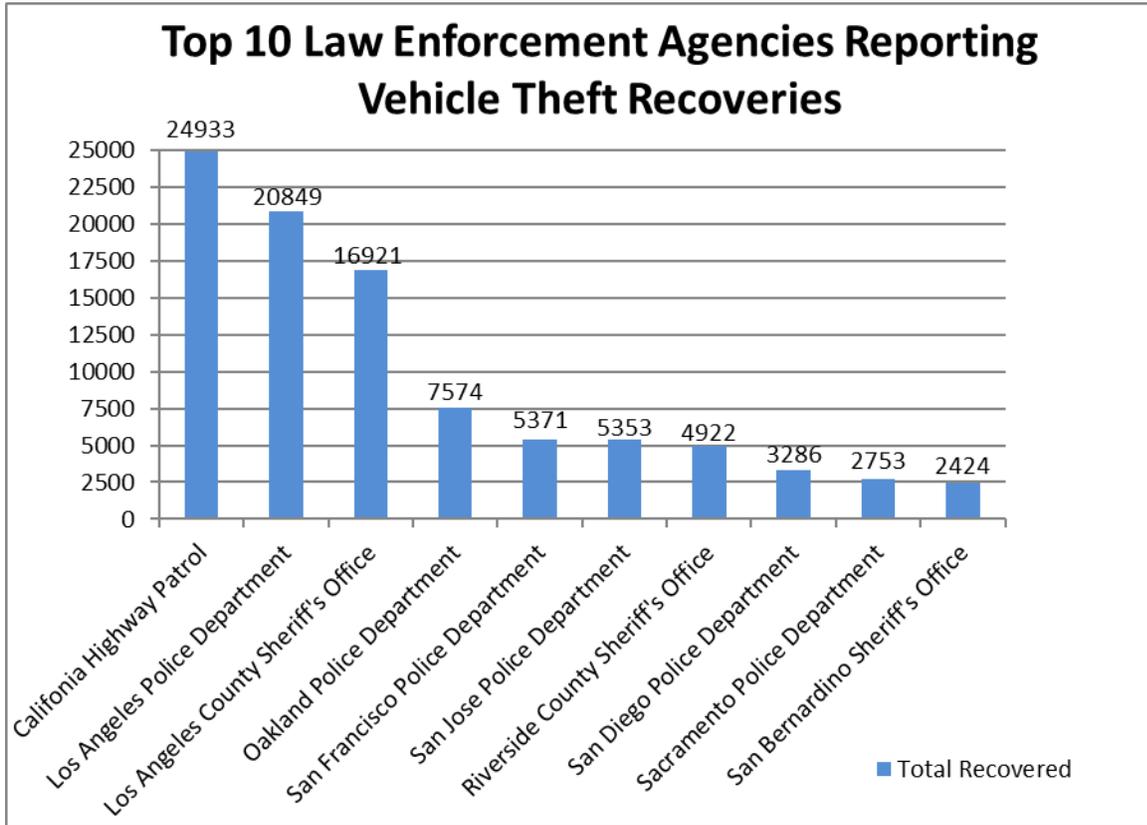


VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS

- For the fourth consecutive year, the 2000 and 1998 Honda Civic ranks as the number one and two stolen vehicles statewide respectively. The 1999 Honda Civic ranked at number three for the second year.
- For the first time, the Chevy Silverado took the top three spots with the 2001, 2002, and 2004 at one, two, and three respectively.
- For the third consecutive year, the 2015 and 2016 Yamaha took the first and second spots respectively for the most frequently stolen motorcycles. The 2007 Suzuki has re-entered the top three in the third spot. Apart from 2019, the 2007 Suzuki has ranked in the top three every year since 2011.
- Freightliner commercial trucks model years 2015, 2014, and 2016 ranked number one, two, and three, respectively. Other vehicles include farm and construction equipment. In these categories, Melroe Division 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 194,876 vehicles stolen statewide in 2021, 88.1 percent were successfully recovered, representing 171,654 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 94.9 percent of the automobiles, 92.4 percent of the personal trucks and SUVs, 87.6 percent of the commercial trucks, and 56.1 percent of the motorcycles were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 60.2 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 3.8 percent were missing major components, 9.4 percent were stripped of minor parts, and 26.5 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- In 2021, it was determined 62 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