

1.1 Million Vehicles were stolen in 2000...

And more than 30% are never recovered according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

The NICB study, released April 10, analyzes the year 2000 vehicle theft rates of metropolitan areas using vehicle theft data collected from the FBI. The vehicle theft rate is the number of stolen vehicles divided by the population, then divided again by 100,000.

Robert Bryant, president and CEO of the NICB, an Arlington, VA. Nonprofit organization that combats insurance fraud and vehicle theft, says that although overall vehicle theft rates have declined in recent years, vehicle theft is still the No. 1 property crime in the U.S., with more than \$7 billion worth of vehicles stolen each year.

Bryant says that port and "border communities" near large bodies of water are boon areas for vehicle theft. Unrecovered vehicles are often shipped overseas or driven across state and international borders. Approximately 200,000 stolen vehicles are illegally exported each year.

All vehicles are targets for theft. "Newer models are more likely to be illegally shipped abroad, while older vehicles are mainly stolen for their parts," says Bryant.

Theft Prevention Tips

The NICB suggests that consumers use a "layered approach" to protect their vehicles.

- The first layer is a common sense approach, which includes removing your keys from your vehicle and locking your doors at all times.
- The second is a visible or audible theft prevention device, such as steering wheel locks and car alarms.
- The third is a device that immobilizes the vehicle, such as smart keys or kill switches.
- The fourth is a tracking device that allows police officers to find your vehicle quickly after it has been stolen.

"If your city appears toward the top of your list, you need to be extra careful and take steps to protect your vehicle from theft," says Bryant.

Top 50 highest vehicle theft rates by city in 2000.

The vehicle theft rate is the number of stolen vehicles divided by the city's population, then divided again by 100,000.

Rank	City	No. of thefts	Theft rate
1	Phoenix	29,506	979.1
2	Miami	20,812	956.6
3	Detroit	40,685	909.2
4	Jersey City, N.J.	4,502	814.4
5	Tacoma, Wash	5,565	807.92
6	Las Vegas	10,971	794.4
7	Fresno, Calif	6,897	783.4
8	Seattle	18,242	781.26
9	Jackson, Miss	3,191	737.6
10	Flint, Mich	3,184	728.02
11	Newark, NJ	14,002	716.3
12	Tuscon, Ariz	5,739	714.15
13	Albuquerque, NM	4,802	707.4
14	Kansas City, MO	12,186	694

15	Memphis, Tenn.	7,635	690.9
16	Sacramento, Calif.	10,694	673.9
17	Myrtle Beach, SC	1,202	673.2
18	Modesto, Calif.	2,844	651.1
19	Atlanta	25,026	648.8
20	Houston	25,416	633.7
21	Stockton, Calif.	3,532	627.2
22	Dallas	20,500	624.9
23	San Diego	17,617	624.5
24	West Palm Beach, Fla.	6,539	623.1
25	New Orleans	8,059	617.3
26	Gary, Ind.	3,847	612.21
27	Topeka, Kan.	1,029	602.6
28	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	9,235	601.45
29	Lawrence, Mass	2,192	601.45
30	Trenton, NJ	1,862	557.7
31	Savannah, Ga.	1,585	549.5
32	Bridgeport, Conn.	2,432	545.2
33	Laredo, Tex.	1,051	544.1
34	Chicago	43,329	541
35	Fort Myers, Fla.	2,144	535.3
36	Columbus, Ohio	7,917	531.53
37	Waco, Texas	1,084	530.7
38	Macon, Ga.	1,697	527.7
39	Yakima, Wash.	1,165	527.7
40	St. Louis	13,498	525.4
41	Orlando, Fla.	8,005	521.5
42	Washington D.C.	24,521	517.32
43	Spokane, Wash.	2,100	512.5
44	Charleston, S.C.	2,827	511.39
45	Tulsa, Okla.	3,991	507.69
46	Visalia, Calif.	1,813	505.8
47	Little Rock, Ark.	2,793	499.6
48	Baltimore	12,253	491.8
49	Portland Ore.	9,056	490.6
50	Charlotte, N.C.	6,855	483.69