92% Recovery Rate of Colorado stolen vehicles—40 percentage points above the national average.

97% Adult Auto Thieves involve charges of additional crimes, including drugs, other property crimes, and violent crimes.

121 Multiagency Task Force Partnerships from law enforcement agencies in the metro area, southern, southwest, western, and northern Colorado.

965 Major Crime Investigations involving criminal enterprises, multiple thefts and other violent crimes.

$1 Annual Fee supported and collected from companies issuing Colorado auto insurance policies.

Investment Value of more than $12.00 for every $1 invested from the CATPA Cash Fund by vehicle loss value of recovered stolen vehicles.

Comprehensive Approach to assist in combatting auto theft by providing specialized programs for education, training, enforcement and prosecution to prioritize auto theft.

National Leader in auto theft prevention programs and best practices.

Renewal Recommended by Department of Regulatory Agencies 2017 CATPA Sunset Review Report.

The Rise of Auto Theft Since 2011

In 2005, Colorado experienced the highest rate of reported vehicle theft accounting for 25,315 stolen vehicles. During the course of the next six years, auto thefts declined by 54%, to an all-time low of 11,413. Over the next three years, the number of reported auto theft crimes gradually increased to 12,478. However, in 2015, significant increases of auto theft have been observed accounting for a 66% increase from 2014 to 2017. This increase has not gone without the attention, deliberation and study by CATPA. Through collaborative efforts with local, county and state law enforcement, specialized auto theft investigators, prosecutors and crime analysts, CATPA believes there are several influential factors for this recent trend. Among these factors are:

1. Elevated use of drugs by auto theft offenders,
2. Commonality of criminals using stolen vehicles to engage in property crimes (e.g., residential burglary, identity theft, etc.), drug crimes (e.g., drug trafficking, contraband, etc.), and violent crime (e.g., armed robbery, homicide, home invasion, etc.).
3. Increase in Colorado population where newer residents may be unaware of preventative efforts to minimize the risk of having their vehicle stolen.
4. Similarity to other western U.S. states, in observing sentencing of offenders, complexity of auto theft in the commission of other crimes, and the rise of all crimes reported in the Uniform Crime Report.

CATPA’s Response

Since 2012, CATPA has responded with providing countermeasures to combat the rise in auto theft. These countermeasures have heightened cooperative relationships among auto theft prevention projects as well as increasing investment return and efficiency.

- Implemented a statewide centralization of auto theft database tracking multijurisdictional auto theft criminal activities,
- Consolidated 121 law enforcement partnerships from eight (8) task forces to two (2) task forces,
- Incorporated intelligence-led policing efforts through use of crime analysis in identifying multijurisdictional criminal organizations, associations, and offenders,
- Increased effectiveness by more than 35% from 2014 to 2017 with investigative workload, recovery of stolen vehicles and arrests of auto theft offenders,
- Enhanced investigative efforts and statewide training for sharing of resources, information and maximizing best practices,
- Maximized spending authority for grant project awards since 2016,
- Expanded public education efforts through the Coloradans Against Auto Theft, where paid and earned media has reached a larger number of Coloradans on the dangers and preventative efforts of auto theft,
- Participated in national and international auto theft consortiums and investing in a national model for centralization of reported auto thefts and supporting the deployment of full time auto theft crime analysts to support local, county, state and CATPA funded task force personnel, and
- Assisted New Mexico and Utah for initiation of an auto theft prevention authority.