



The Pennsylvania
Auto Theft Prevention Authority
2011 Annual Report

OUR TEAM AT WORK



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TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR TOM CORBETT AND MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) has once again had a successful year fighting auto theft. Our law enforcement grantees and partners arrested 937 individuals which yielded 441 convictions. Their investigative efforts led to the recovery of \$27.1M worth of stolen vehicles and parts.

Our success is significant to every citizen in the Commonwealth as it impacts our communities' safety and our insurance costs.

Insurance companies that do business in Pennsylvania fund our efforts. It is a smart investment. For every dollar collected from insurers since inception, the Authority has realized a return on investment of \$7 in vehicles and parts recovered and reduced auto thefts.

ATPA was created by the General Assembly in 1994. Since then, we are proud to say our work has contributed to a 68% decrease in the rate of motor vehicle theft in Pennsylvania, a marked difference compared to the national decrease of 57%.*

But, we cannot become complacent. After years of decline, the number of auto thefts across the state leveled in 2011, and the Greater Philadelphia Area witnessed a 4% increase.** Auto theft is a complex, ever-changing crime. We must remain committed. Pennsylvania is a national leader in auto theft prevention. We appreciate your support and know you are counting on us to work effectively and efficiently to curtail auto theft and its impact on the Commonwealth.

Respectfully,



Alan P. Demers

* Theft rates are from the FBI and available through 2010 only at the time this report was published.

** Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Definition: Motor vehicle theft is the illegal taking of a motor vehicle, or driving the vehicle without the owner's consent. Attempted motor vehicle thefts are included. Includes theft of motor-driven vehicles, such as autos, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters and snowmobiles. Data finalized for publication on 03/1/12. UCR numbers are subject to continual edit and not complete until the UCR Annual Report is compiled.

WHO IS THE PA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY?

The Authority is a team of highly skilled auto theft crime fighters. We have a board of directors and two full time staff members (an executive director and a grant assistant); our anti-theft network includes police officers, state troopers, detectives, prosecutors, and mediators across the state.

The Authority funds eight law enforcement/investigative units statewide, including the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), which distributes grants to three regional task forces (comprised of state and local law enforcement agencies).

We also fund two units dedicated to investigating and curbing juvenile auto theft.

The Authority uses no tax dollars. We are funded through an annual assessment of the more than 350 insurance companies doing business in Pennsylvania.

Created under Act 171 of 1994, the Authority has supplied funding to law enforcement/investigative units since 1995. Grant funds are used for compensation, training, and equipment-related expenses for nearly 100 investigators, prosecutors and support staff statewide.

Our law enforcement and prosecutorial partners are intensely dedicated professionals. They take their jobs seriously and make daily contributions to our cause.

WHY NOW? WHY SUPPORT ATPA?

When cars are stolen, insurance rates go up and we all pay the price.

ATPA continues to be a great steward of insurance industry assessments—using only 6.5% for administrative costs, with the bulk of funds devoted

\$7

FOR EVERY DOLLAR ASSESSED TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY SINCE INCEPTION, THERE IS A \$7 RETURN* ON THAT INVESTMENT.

* i.e., reduced auto theft rates each year and recovered stolen vehicles and parts

to street level enforcement, equipment upgrades, training, public awareness, and prosecution.

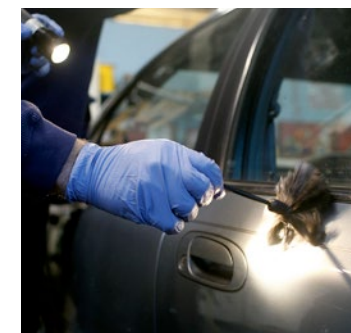
Few states devote as much attention to vehicle theft as Pennsylvania—and it shows. Since 1995, the ATPA funded law enforcement units have recovered stolen vehicles and parts worth \$456 million.

In that same period, theft rates in Pennsylvania dropped by more than

68%, while the national theft rate declined by only 57%.**

Though auto theft rates continue to decline in Pennsylvania, thieves continue to evolve. Skilled partners and modern equipment are paramount in our fight.

** National theft rate from the FBI was only available through 2010 at the time this report was published.



Det. John Logan, Officer Francis Leaden, Officer Lawrence Rawte, Sgt. Daniel Buckley



PHILADELPHIA AUTO THEFT SQUAD

In one of the largest theft ring busts in recent history, the Philadelphia auto squad nabbed two brothers suspected of stealing more than 300 cars. Most of the stolen vehicles were late-1990's model year Honda Accords that have valuable catalytic converters. The brothers would allegedly steal four or five cars a night, strip them, and sell the parts.

Due to expert surveillance, the Philadelphia auto squad detected an increase in stolen cars, quickly identified the suspects, and apprehended them. Some of the stolen vehicles also contained Christmas presents, which along with the recovered vehicles, were returned to their rightful owners just days before Christmas.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

The Pennsylvania State Police Central Auto Theft Unit, assisted by the Eastern Unit, busted a theft ring responsible for more than 40 vehicle thefts valued at more than \$1 million worth of vehicles. The “re-tagging ring” stole vehicles, changed their VIN’s, then re-titled and re-sold them.

The eight alleged thieves lived in New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Vehicles were recovered out-of-state, as well as Chambersburg, Reading, Philadelphia, Poconos, and State College. The case was adopted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for prosecution.

Crpl. Dane Colyer, Lt. Andrew Wenger, Cpt. David Relph, Major Bret K. Waggoner



Allentown Police Dept. Det. Sgt. Salvatore Aprile

LEHIGH COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE

The grantees with the Lehigh County Auto Theft Task Force keep a close watch on car thieves. They have more than 50 photos of suspected and convicted auto thieves posted on their “watch list.” Officers identify members of local auto theft gangs and post their pictures on the wall. Once apprehended, an officer “checks off” the thief by placing evidence tape across the thief’s picture. New suspects are continually identified, but nearly every picture on the “watch list” has tape stretched across it.

GRANTEES: LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS

The Authority provides grant money to fund personnel costs and other expenses for investigators, prosecutors and limited support staff statewide. In several cases, the law enforcement agency funds similar levels of investigative personnel to match that provided by the ATPA grant. In addition, some of the Authority’s grantees work in partnership with local police, who assign grant-paid investigators to a squad specializing in auto theft; others provide personnel on an over-time basis to expand the capacity of the grant-funded team. All of these models serve to multiply the investigative resources focused on arresting and convicting auto thieves and recovering stolen vehicles and parts.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

- Assistant district attorney
- Paralegal

DELAWARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

- Assistant district attorney
- Detective
- Analyst
- Overtime expenses for police officers from local departments that assist with auto theft investigations throughout the county

LANCASTER CITY POLICE/COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

- Investigator
- Assistant district attorney

LEHIGH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

- Senior deputy district attorney
- Secretary
- 4 full-time investigators from local police departments

LACKAWANNA COUNTY* DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

- Assistant district attorney
- 1 full-time and 3 part-time investigators from local police departments
- Administrator
- Secretary

* Serves 11 counties, including Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Bradford, Monroe, Wayne, Wyoming, Sullivan, Columbia and Carbon.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

- 14 full-time investigators from local police departments across the state
- 17 state police troopers (grant pays overtime only)
- 4 state police supervisors (grant pays overtime only)
- Secretary

PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 12 police officers and detectives

PITTSBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 3 detectives

GRANTEES: PROSECUTORS MEDIATORS

JUVENILE AUTO THEFT OFFENDER/PREVENTION GRANTS:

The Authority funds two grantees that work to curtail recidivism and reach at-risk youth before they commit vehicle theft.

GOOD SHEPHERD MEDIATION PROGRAM

Good Shepherd Mediation Program has a solid success record. It delivers an Authority-funded program to first-time offenders selected by the Philadelphia District Attorney's Youth Task Force. Of the 50 juvenile offenders who completed the program in 2011, only 12% were re-arrested, whereas 33% who did not complete the program recidivated. The organization also continually facilitates an in-school theft prevention seminar targeted toward at-risk youth in Philadelphia. In 2011, Good Shepherd worked with 186 middle school students to reduce the chances of vehicle theft behavior among young people in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office grant supports one detective, one prosecutor, two trial assistants and two law clerks. The funds are used to continue their juvenile auto theft investigation and diversion program in Philadelphia.



Kyle Morris, Juvenile Justice Initiatives Coordinator,
Good Shepherd Mediation Program

SUCCESS AFTER ARREST: ANDREW'S* STORY

Andrew entered our doors a skeptic. He was fifteen years old, one grade behind in school, and in danger of failing yet another year. Philadelphia police officers arrested him after he drove down the wrong side of the street in a stolen car. Andrew spent the night in jail. The following day, he was offered the option of diversion through the Youth Aid Panel (YAP). This panel consists of volunteers from various walks of life who give their time to assist juveniles. After a lengthy interview delving into the particulars of his crime, academic history, home life, and personal goals he was granted a three-month YAP contract.

He was required to maintain contact with a panel monitor, write a number of essays, attend school and improve his grades, and attend the Good Shepherd Auto Theft Program. When he arrived at Good Shepherd, his outlook was bleak. He had little regard for his own potential. But, Andrew began his transformation the day he attended our workshop. He began to improve his academics. He was tested by his new school and placed in his correct grade. Teachers have written letters of accolades about his performance and improved attitude. Andrew has stopped associating with his former group of friends, and wants to go to college.

* Andrew is a pseudonym given to protect the juvenile's confidentiality.



68%

SINCE ATPA'S
INCEPTION, AUTO
THEFT RATES IN
PA DROPPED BY
MORE THAN 68%
COMPARED TO 57%
NATIONALLY.*

* Theft rates are from the FBI and
available through 2010 only at the
time this report was published.

David Mussel, Sr. Dep. DA, Lehigh County DA's Office; Jarrod Caruso, Asst. DA, Allegheny County DA's Office;
Michael Cleary, Asst. DA, Philadelphia DA's Office; Jennifer Blackledge, Asst. DA, Lancaster County DA's Office



PERCENTAGE
OF STOLEN
VEHICLES THAT
WERE LEFT
UNLOCKED.

50%

PREVENTION PUBLIC EDUCATION

One simple step can significantly reduce your likelihood of theft—locking your car. Auto theft squad detectives tell us more than 50% of PA's stolen cars were left unlocked! Though the message is common sense, many drivers need the reminder.

In 2011, the Authority delivered creative prevention messaging through two partnerships. The goal was to maximize exposure to diverse, captive audiences during peak theft months.

ATPA partnered with the Philadelphia Phillies to remind the tens of thousands of fans in the stadium and listening on the radio—"Is your car where you left it? Lock your car to prevent theft." This partnership offered a unique opportunity to reach a vast number of people in the southeast region of the state, which continues to have the highest concentration of auto theft statewide.



ATPA also partnered with National Cinemedia, operator of the largest digital in-theater advertising network in North America. During the holiday season and summer months, ATPA sponsored 30-second commercials on hundreds of screens throughout the state reminding viewers to "lock the car, take the keys, and hide valuables."

VINGRAVING PROGRAM:

The Authority conducted several VINgraving events across the Commonwealth. VINgraving (or VINetching) is a proven prevention tool where the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is chemically-etched onto all windows of a vehicle. If a thief intends to steal a vehicle to dismantle it for parts, he would then have to replace all the windows. Replacing the glass can be expensive and time-consuming. The Authority also offers free do-it-yourself VINgraving kits on its website (www.watchyourcar.org).

TRAINING

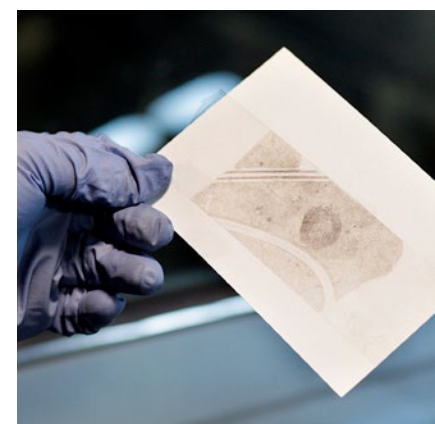
Patrol officers need special training to spot stolen cars. Auto theft is a complex crime, and thieves are quick to adopt new tactics.

The Authority offers a statewide multi-faceted training program. Courses range from general theft detection to detailed identification of theft rings and tactics.

Our annual training conference is open to all grantees and features special seminars based on current trends. In 2011, the focus was identifying gang activity.



Sgt. Paul Lorenzo



Det. Charles Yeiter, Det. Stephen Kershaw

AUTHORITY IMPACT

IMPACT OF GRANTEES' COMBINED EFFORTS

	FY 2010-2011	INCEPTION
Grants Paid	\$5.7 m	\$87 m

	2011	INCEPTION
VALUE OF RECOVERED		
Vehicles	\$26.5 m	\$435.9 m
Parts	\$0.6 m	\$20.2 m
Total	\$27.1 m	\$456.1 m

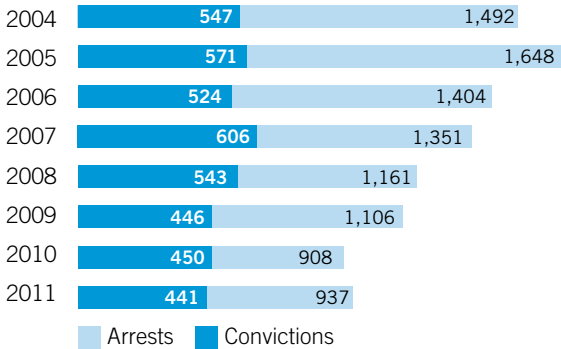
SENTENCES		
Restitution	\$2.5 m	\$24 m

\$456M

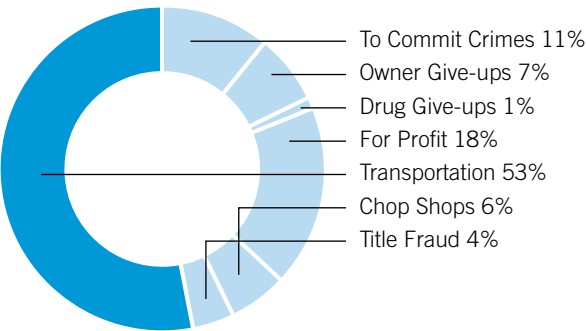
Total value of recovered vehicles and parts since inception in 1994

INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED & CONVICTED

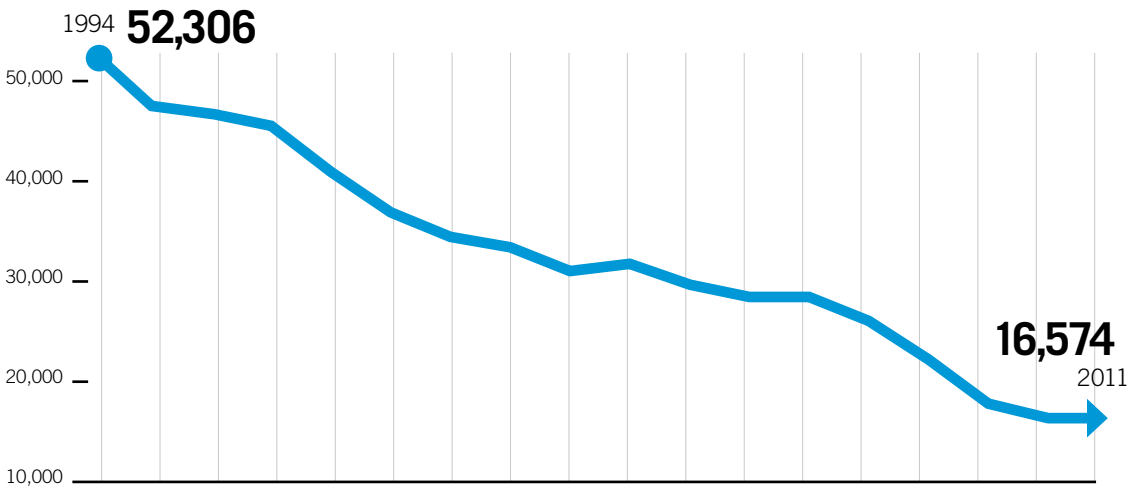
by funded positions only



TYPES OF ARRESTS

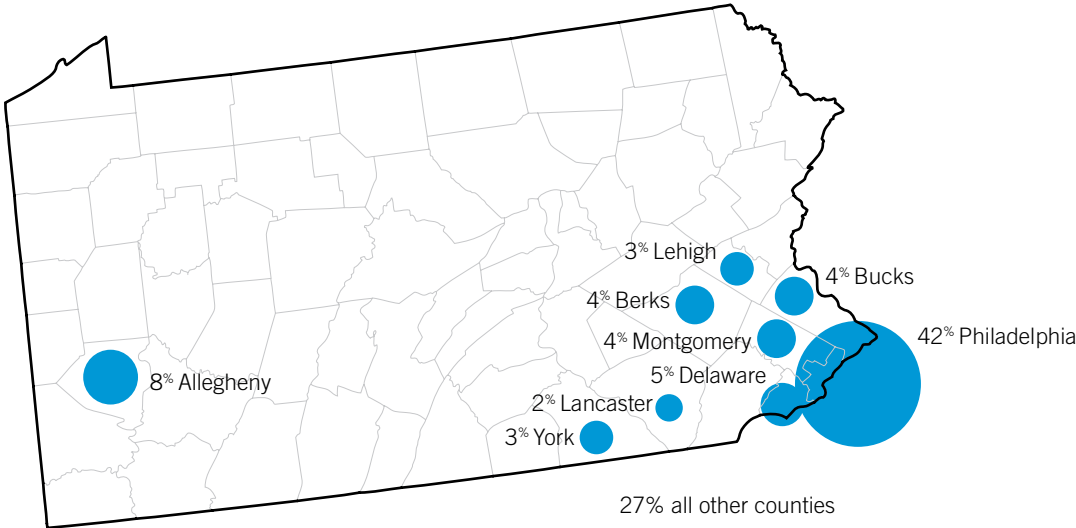


MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS IN PENNSYLVANIA*



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AUTO THEFTS BY COUNTY**



** Source: 2011 NCIC Data

FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

Assessments.....	\$6,463,087.00
Interest Earned	12,589.00
Total Revenue	6,475,676.00
Balance carried over from previous year	1,815,448.00
Total Funds Available	\$8,291,124.00

Program Expenses:

Grants Paid.....	(\$5,739,040.00)
Grant Reviews.....	(72,196.00)
Public Awareness.....	(625,093.00)
Training	(17,979.00)
Total:	(\$6,454,308.00)

Operating Expenses:

Personnel Expenses.....	(\$226,071.00)
Operating Expenses	(\$162,363.00)
Capital Asset Expenses.....	\$29,500.00
Total:	(\$417,934.00)

Net Effect of Balance Sheet Changes\$83,257.00

Year-End Balance\$1,502,139.00
(to be applied to future grants and operational expenditures)

The ATPA operated at 6.5% (\$417,934.00) of the total assessments collected.

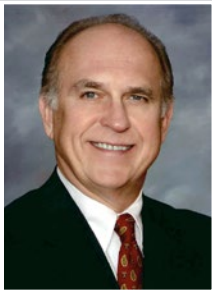
BOARD MEMBERS



Alan P. Demers
Current Chairman (from July)
Secretary (through June)
Vice President,
Nationwide Insurance



Julia K. Hearthway, Esq.
Former Chairperson
(through July)
Chief Deputy Attorney
General, Office of the
Attorney General



Ronald W. Kosh
Treasurer
Vice President, Public
& Government Affairs,
AAA Mid-Atlantic



Celeste C. Dodson
Secretary (from July)
Operations Manager,
State Farm Insurance



Iva Dougherty
(from October)
Chief Deputy Attorney
General, Office of the
Attorney General



Frank Noonan
(from May)
Commissioner,
Pennsylvania State Police



Frank E. Pawlowski
Retired Colonel,
Pennsylvania State Police

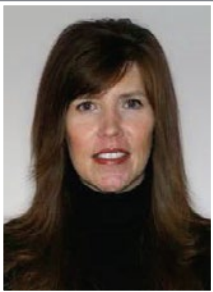


Charles H. Ramsey
Commissioner, Philadelphia
Police Department

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Cynthia T. Tolsma
Current Executive Director
(from September)



Michelle L. Staton
Former Executive Director
(through August)

STAFF

Christine E. Cassel
Grant Assistant
Lt. Joseph W. Boyd (retired)
Training Instructor
(through September)



Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority
2 Kacey Court, Suite 102 | Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
P: 717-591-7097 | F: 717-591-9046
www.watchyourcar.org