

THE AUTHORITY

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



What’s Inside

Authority Impact	1
What is the Authority?	2
Authority Grantees	4
Statewide Cases of Note	6
Training & Public Awareness	10
Financial Statement/ Board & Staff	12

* 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 3/3/14. UCR numbers are subject to continual edit and not complete until the UCR Annual Report is compiled.

** Theft rates are from the FBI and available through 2012 only at time of publication.

To the Honorable Governor
Tom Corbett & Members of the
Pennsylvania General Assembly:

The complex crime of auto theft continues to pose a threat to the personal safety and the economic security of our communities across the Commonwealth. In 2013, 14,414 vehicles were stolen in Pennsylvania.* **While many vehicles are stolen as a crime of opportunity for the thief to “get across town,” many are stolen by complex, professional theft rings whose tactics often involve violence, financial fraud, identity theft, and international trafficking.**

The Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) continues to have an impact fighting this complex and ever-evolving crime. Once again, we have worked diligently to realize a reduction in auto theft across the state. I am pleased to report:

- \$7 return on investment since inception
- 9% decrease in auto theft statewide in 2013*
- 7% decrease in auto theft in Philadelphia
- ATPA grantees and partners recovered \$29M in stolen vehicles and parts

Thieves are always adopting new tactics and looking for ways to expand their business. It’s our job to stay one step ahead. Through insurance company assessments, not taxpayer dollars, the Authority provides grants to enforce, prosecute, and prevent auto theft.

ATPA was created by the General Assembly in 1994. Since then, our work has contributed to a 71% decrease in the rate of motor vehicle theft in Pennsylvania, compared to the national decrease of 59%.** I am happy to have fought against this costly crime alongside my colleagues for the past 11 years as a board member, and most recently chairman, of ATPA. It is with pride in our success and confidence in our future that I leave the mission in the capable hands of my fellow board members and turn over leadership to longtime board member and my successor, Ronald W. Kosh.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you and the citizens of the Commonwealth. Know that the grantees, partners, board members, and employees of the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority continue to combat theft, protect Pennsylvanians, and keep auto insurance rates low. Please support them in their effort.

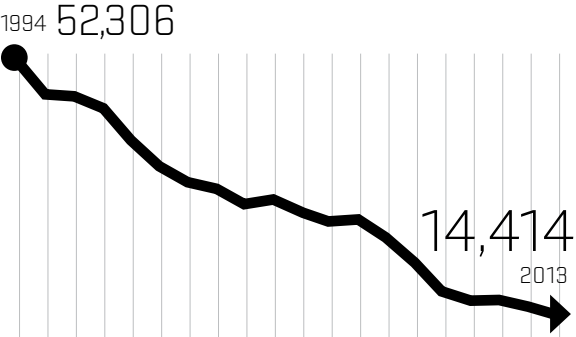
Respectfully,

Alan P. Demers

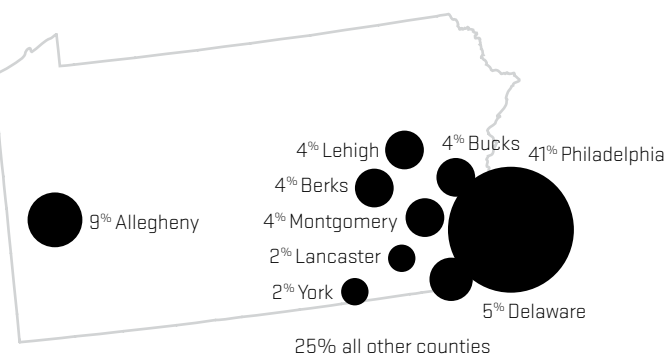
Alan P. Demers
Chairman

AUTHORITY IMPACT

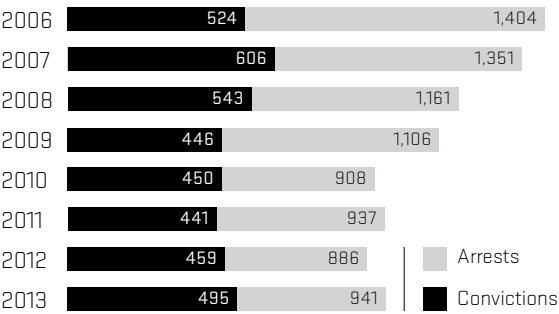
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS IN PENNSYLVANIA*



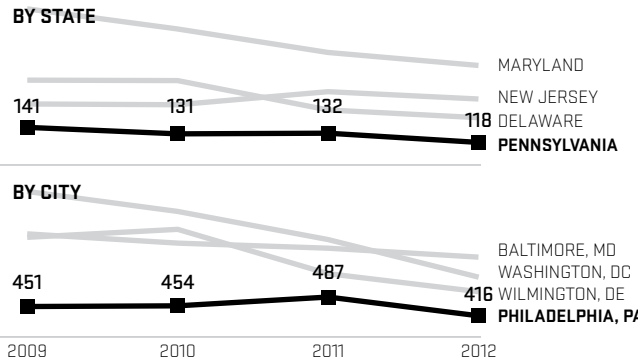
AUTO THEFTS BY COUNTY Source: 2012 NCIC Data



INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED & CONVICTED

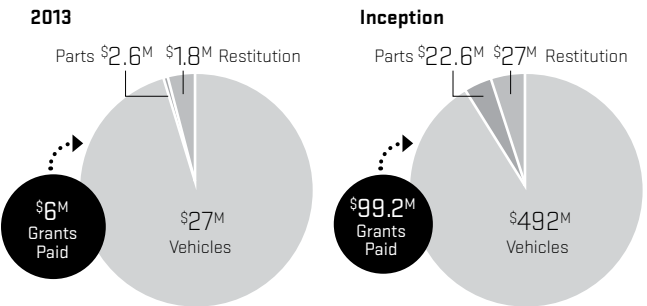


THEFT RATES PER 100,000 INHABITANTS



IMPACT OF GRANTEES’ COMBINED EFFORTS

Value of Recoveries



TOTAL VALUE OF RECOVERED VEHICLES
AND PARTS SINCE INCEPTION IN 1994

\$515^M

WHAT IS THE AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY?

The Authority (ATPA) is a statewide network of nearly 100 highly-skilled police officers, state troopers, detectives, prosecutors, paralegals, and support staff. They work together to prevent, detect, and prosecute auto theft.

Many municipalities have slashed their police department and law enforcement budgets, making ATPA more important than ever. Few states devote as much attention to vehicle theft as Pennsylvania. Since 1994, ATPA grantees have recovered stolen vehicles and parts worth \$515 million. In that same period, theft rates in Pennsylvania dropped by more than 71%, compared to 59% nationally.

ATPA does not use tax dollars. Our funds come from an annual assessment of more than 370 insurance companies that conduct business in Pennsylvania. Through this funding, we award grants to eight investigative and/or prosecutorial units statewide, two juvenile programs, and the Pennsylvania Anti Car Theft Committee (PACT).

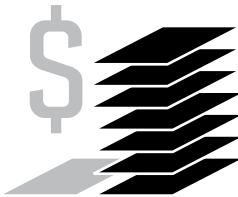
The Authority is guided by a board of directors and employs an executive director and a grants analyst. ATPA continues to be an effective steward of insurance industry assessments, using only 5% of its funds for administrative costs, with the bulk of funds devoted to investigation, prosecution, equipment, training, public awareness, and prevention.

In addition, between 2007-2013, assessments increased at a slower rate (8.1%) than the PA Personal Auto Premium Index (14.8%).

Why Should I Care?

Auto theft affects you. When cars are stolen, insurance rates go up and we all pay the price. Auto theft often triggers or accompanies other violent crime in your community.

For many people, a stolen car is more than an inconvenience and disruption of their daily routine; it means an unbudgeted expense and even job loss.



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

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



GRANTEES

Law Enforcement Partners & Prosecutors

The Authority provides grants for personnel costs and other expenses for detectives, prosecutors, and specialized support staff. The goal of our grant distribution is to provide the most efficient personnel framework to investigate, recover vehicles/parts, prosecute thieves, and seek restitution. In some cases, law enforcement agencies will contribute matching resources. In other cases, ATPA will fund overtime costs to expand the capacity of the team. All of these models serve to multiply resources and streamline our investigative–prosecutorial approach.



Philadelphia Major Crimes Auto Squad

↙	↙	↙
<p>Pennsylvania State Police 13 investigators from county and municipal police departments across the state, 17 state troopers and 4 state police supervisors (grants pay overtime only), administrative grant assistant (fully funded)</p> <p>Philadelphia Police Department 12 police officers and detectives (fully funded by grant), 12 police officers and detectives (grants pay overtime and equipment only), 6 division detectives (grants pay overtime only)</p> <p>Pittsburgh Police 3 detectives (fully funded), 3 detectives (grants pay overtime only)</p> <p>Lancaster City Police 2 investigators (fully funded), assistant district attorney (50% funded)</p>	<p>District Attorney Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ALLEGHENY COUNTY: assistant district attorney (fully funded), paralegal (fully funded)▪ DELAWARE COUNTY: assistant district attorney (50% funded), detective (fully funded), analyst (50% funded)▪ LEHIGH COUNTY: senior deputy district attorney (50% funded), secretary (50% funded), 4 investigators from local police departments (fully funded)▪ LACKAWANNA COUNTY:* assistant district attorney (50% funded), 2 investigators from local police departments (partially funded), secretary (50% funded)▪ PHILADELPHIA: detective (50% funded) 2 prosecutors (partially funded), and 2 law clerks (fully funded)—all dedicated to juvenile auto theft investigation and diversion. Juvenile offenders diverted from prosecution must complete a rehabilitation and restitution program.	<p>Good Shepherd Mediation Program Good Shepherd delivers an Authority-funded program to first-time offenders selected by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Youth Task Force. Good Shepherd facilitates an in-school theft prevention seminar for at-risk youth in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Pennsylvania Anti Car Theft Committee (PACT) PACT provides public outreach to increase theft prevention awareness throughout the state.</p>

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



Julia Kocis, program manager, Regional Intelligence & Investigation Center and Allentown Police Dept. Det. Sgt. Sal Aprile



Joseph Pochron, commanding officer, Officer David M. Petzold Digital Forensics Laboratory of Lehigh County



evidence photos

OPERATION ANYONE DRIVES

The Lehigh County Auto Theft Task Force (LCATTF) brought down a sophisticated and elaborate car and identity theft ring. The thieves allegedly used fake documents to buy vehicles from local car dealerships.

They also stole personal property and assumed the identities of more than 50 Pennsylvanians, who became identity theft victims in this case. Investigators estimate the amount of fraudulent credit card purchases at more than \$450,000, with the value of the stolen vehicles exceeding an additional \$277,000. Through diligent, detailed investigative work, surveillance operations, and social media monitoring, a team of investigators identified five co-conspirators. LCATTF investigators also retrieved important evidence: more than 150 counterfeit documents including Pennsylvania driver licenses, Social Security cards, pay stubs, 67 credit cards obtained with fake IDs, and stolen Pennsylvania Department of

Transportation hologram laminates used to create Pennsylvania driver licenses. All of the stolen vehicles were identified and recovered. The five alleged co-conspirators await federal trial. LCATTF also worked with the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Allentown Police, Coopersburg Police, New Jersey State Parole, Insurance Fraud Task Force, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Secret Service. One of the lead investigators in this case, Chad Wasserman, received the ATPA 2013 Scott A. Wertz Investigator of the Year Award and the 2013 Auto Theft Investigator of the Year for the Pennsylvania Auto Claims Investigators Association.

CRIME MAPPING & ANALYSIS

The Lehigh County Auto Theft Task Force (LCATTF) leads the state in using crime mapping forensics, computer/video/mobile technology, and surveillance to sort, analyze, and use data to investigate auto theft. This approach has helped to

quickly identify theft patterns, suspects, and yield confessions. The LCATTF works with the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center (RIIC) in Allentown, and its partnering agencies to collect and analyze data.

STATEWIDE CASES OF NOTE

Philadelphia

Chrysler Thefts

The Philadelphia Major Crimes Auto Squad led an investigation that brought down two suspects accused of stealing 35 Chrysler vehicles in June and July. Investigators first detected an increase in Chrysler car, van, and truck thefts, and then they mapped out a pattern of theft locations. Auto squad investigators worked closely with the Northeast District officers who patrolled the area and stopped a man fitting the suspect’s description. He confessed and identified his co-conspirator.

Contractor Van Thefts

The Philadelphia Major Crimes Auto Squad worked closely with several jurisdictions in Delaware and Montgomery counties to stop a rash of more than 30 work van thefts from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. Thieves stole contractor vans, box trucks, and pickup trucks and drove them to Philadelphia to empty them of more than \$500,000 worth of power tools, generators, ladders, copper fittings, and more. Investigators tracked down the culprit who confessed.

Delaware County

In October, Delaware County prosecutors put 2012 chop shop conspirators behind bars. The thieves stole vehicles from Philadelphia and surrounding areas and brought them to a chop shop in Darby Township. The thieves pleaded guilty to conspiracy to chop shop and other charges and were sentenced to at least 9 months in prison and \$94,000 in restitution.

Pennsylvania State Police

Through careful investigative work and confidential informants, the Pennsylvania State Police Western Auto Theft identified the suspects responsible for a crime spree in Fayette County. The main suspect confessed to stealing 12 cars, trucks, ATVs, and motorcycles. He also confessed to seven burglaries of bars, a restaurant, and a barber shop. This case brought an end to nearly 30 criminal investigations. The suspect pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 7.5-to-20 years in prison.

Lackawanna County

The Northeast Pennsylvania Auto Theft Task Force is prosecuting a man for buying eight vehicles using bad checks. The alleged thief is a repeat offender who pleaded guilty to similar cases earlier this year. Prosecutors were shocked to find that only one car dealership attempted to verify the checking account before finalizing the sale of a car, the rest fell prey to the scheme.

Bill Abraham, Lackawanna County assistant district attorney, has sharpened the focus on auto theft prosecution in the northeast, resulting in the highest increase in convictions among all grant-funded prosecutors from 2012 to 2013.

Lancaster

School Bus Thefts

One day after being released from Lancaster County prison on vehicle theft charges, a serial auto thief was back in business. Lancaster City Police Auto Theft Unit caught him again and he admitted to stealing or attempting to steal eight vehicles (including three school buses) in a three week period.

Tow Driver Conviction & Restitution

In July, A Lancaster mechanic pleaded guilty to towing more than 12 broken-down vehicles from Lancaster and Berks County roads, then stripping them for parts and dumping the vehicle frames at a scrap yard. Auto theft investigators used a bait car to catch the thief. He was sentenced to 4-to-8 years in state prison along with 10 years of probation and more than \$36,000 in restitution. Several ATPA grantees participated in this case that began in 2012.

Burglaries & Auto Theft

Lancaster City Bureau of Police Auto Theft Unit arrested more than 20 people suspected of auto theft and related burglaries. Thieves broke into homes where the owners were often older women who lived alone and were asleep. They stole cars and personal items. The group of suspects identified themselves as “Loud Pack,” saying they enjoyed the thrill of joy-riding and crime. Investigators also arrested several suspects accused of auto theft and “car hopping,” which is street slang for going through parked cars to steal personal items. In these cases, suspects would also find the vehicles’ keys and steal the cars.





Central Dauphin East High School's Key Club



TRAINING & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Auto theft is complex. It is often part of other violent organized crime, and therefore requires specialized units to teach patrol officers and prosecutors how to spot stolen vehicles, identify theft rings, or prosecute auto theft cases. It takes a specialized force with focused training to have an impact on vehicle theft. ATPA's grantees both receive and provide specialized training throughout the year.

For Grantees

ATPA holds training for grantees twice a year. In 2013, auto theft investigators attended a three-day physical surveillance training sponsored by ATPA at the Pennsylvania National Guard Northeast Counterdrug Training Center outside of Harrisburg. Grantees also receive intensive training at ATPA's annual meeting. This year's training included physical surveillance, locking and ignition technology, and vehicle purchase fraud.

By Grantees

ATPA investigators and prosecutors teach patrol officers from local and regional police departments and police academies how to identify stolen cars and parts. Grantees also teach communities how to protect themselves from vehicle break-ins and recommend cost-effective prevention strategies. They teach community members about the signs of chop shops and illegal salvage and body shop operations. Lancaster grantees began teaching car dealerships how to better account for their keys in order to prevent theft. Grantees in Scranton held a Citizens Police Academy.

Preventing a majority of the auto theft crime across the state is simple. Owners must remove their keys and lock their cars. While it's a common sense idea, it's not widely practiced. Auto theft investigators say more than 50% of Pennsylvania's stolen cars are left unlocked. The goal of ATPA's public outreach is to educate drivers and encourage personal theft prevention. From grassroots awareness programs to large-scale partnerships, our goal is to reach the highest number of people in our highest crime areas during peak theft months.

VINetching

In 2013, ATPA grantees VINetched more than 650 cars at twelve events across the state. Investigators chemically etch the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) onto all windows of a vehicle as a proven theft deterrent. (A thief would have to replace all that etched glass before attempting to dismantle the vehicle for parts.) In addition to providing a free service to the community, detectives often find stolen vehicles or parts at the event.

WatchYourWheels

ATPA launched a successful four-week pilot program to increase use of its Watch Your Wheels (WYW) website. The goal of the site is to expose young drivers to anti-theft habits as they learn to drive. More than 944 students participated in the competition. ATPA awarded the winning school a \$3,500 grant.

Phillies

The Authority partnered with the Philadelphia Phillies to reach a large audience in the southeast, which continues to experience the highest rate of auto theft statewide. ATPA reminded the hundreds of thousands of Phillies fans in the stadium and listening to the radio broadcasts to lock their cars to prevent theft. On July 14, ATPA sponsored a Phillies Giveaway Day. More than 41,000 fans received a red travel mug with ATPA's logo, website address, and message, "Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys, Prevent Theft." Also for that game, more than 30,000 fans were present to view our pre-game anti-theft message on the stadium's scoreboard.

Cinemedia

The Authority also partnered with National Cinemedia, operator of the largest digital in-theater advertising network in North America. In July, our 30-second commercial ran in 32 theaters statewide, reminding more than 1.6 million viewers to "lock the car, take the keys."

FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013

Assessments	\$6,786,239.00
Interest Earned	2,596.00
Miscellaneous	18,356.00
Total Revenue	6,807,191.00
Balance carried over from previous year	1,339,697.00
Total Funds Available	\$8,146,888.00

Program Expenses:

Grants Paid	(\$6,004,098.00)
Grant Reviews	(63,863.00)
Public Awareness	(304,781.00)
Training	(22,578.00)
Total:	(\$6,395,320.00)

Operating Expenses:

Personnel Expenses	(\$187,985.00)
Operating Expenses	(\$148,517.00)
Capital Asset Expenses	(\$5,150.00)
Total:	(\$341,652.00)

Net Effect of Balance Sheet Changes	\$587,649.00
--	---------------------

Year-End Balance	\$822,267.00
(to be applied to future grants and operational expenditures)	

The ATPA operated at 5% (\$341,652.00) of the total assessments collected.

BOARD & STAFF

Board Members



Alan P. Demers
Chairman
Vice President,
Nationwide
Insurance



Jim Fitzpatrick
(from June)
Chief Deputy
Attorney General,
Office of the
Attorney General



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



Frank Noonan
Commissioner,
Pennsylvania State
Police



Celeste C. Dodson
Secretary
Claims Manager,
State Farm
Insurance



Frank E. Pawlowski
Retired Colonel,
Pennsylvania State
Police



Iva Dougherty
(through May)
Chief Deputy
Attorney General,
Office of the
Attorney General



Charles H. Ramsey
Commissioner,
Philadelphia Police
Department

Staff



Cynthia T. Tolsma
Executive Director



Patti Lane-Lesniak
Grants Analyst

Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority

2 Kacey Court, Suite 102 | Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

P: 717-591-7097 | F: 717-591-9046

www.watchyourcar.org