

## **Fact Sheet**

- On average, a vehicle is stolen in Pennsylvania about every 40 minutes (source: PA Uniform Crime Report)
- 13,036 vehicles were stolen in Pennsylvania in 2014 (source: PA Uniform Crime Report); 11,796 vehicles were stolen in Pennsylvania in 2015 (**Note:** This is not yet a final number as reported by PA Uniform Crime Report)
- Older, common models are frequent targets for thieves because the spare parts for older cars are harder to find, therefore more valuable. A car worth \$3,000 is worth about \$5,000 in parts.
- It is illegal in Pennsylvania to leave your car “puffing” (unlocked, unattended, and running) on a public road. In some municipalities, it’s also illegal to leave your car puffing on private property, ie. your driveway or store parking lot.
- About 50% of PA’s stolen cars are left unlocked with the keys inside (source: ATPA)
- How do you prevent auto theft?
  - Lock your car and take your keys, every time.
  - Don’t leave valuables in the car, they attract thieves.
  - Use a steering wheel locking device.
  - Park in well lit, populated areas.
- What to do if your car is stolen:
  1. Call your local police department. Confirm your car has not been towed or impounded.
  2. Gather your car’s VIN (vehicle identification number), make, model, color, any distinguishing marks or features, any pictures you may have of your car, and your insurance information.
  3. Report your car stolen to your police department, insurance company, and financing/leasing company.
- Auto theft directly impacts you and your community:
  1. When cars are stolen, insurance rates go up and we all pay the price.
  2. Stolen vehicles are often used to commit other violent crimes that impact your neighborhood and community.
  3. If your car is stolen, your daily routine quickly comes to a halt.
  4. Paying a deductible or trying to replace your car takes time and money.
  5. If you left mail, bills, car registration, work files, or other sensitive information in your car, you have now also made yourself a possible victim of identity theft.
  6. Did you leave your house keys or garage door opener in the car? A thief now has access to your home.
- The Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) is a statewide network of nearly 100 highly skilled police officers, state troopers, detectives, prosecutors, paralegals, and support staff funded by assessments made to insurance companies who write auto policies in Pennsylvania.
- Since 1994, ATPA grantees have recovered stolen vehicles and parts worth more than \$540 million, with theft rates in Pennsylvania dropping by more than 73%, compared to 53% nationally.

**Go to [www.watchyourcar.org](http://www.watchyourcar.org) for surveillance video of stolen cars and more information.**