

Oregon Vehicle Thefts

- ▶ Between 2012 and 2017, vehicle thefts in Oregon increased by 53.51 percent, whereas nationally, during the same time period, vehicle thefts only increased 10.74 percent.
- ▶ Nearly all recent Oregon vehicle theft growth occurs – and sharply -- immediately after the Shipe and Korth appellate court cases.
- ▶ Vehicles are stolen, often violently, to fund criminal crime rings and in the commission of other crimes.
- ▶ Of the top ten vehicle makes and models stolen in Oregon, all are model years 2000 or earlier – disproportionately affecting those of lower socioeconomic status.

Vehicle theft:

In 2017, over 800,000 automobiles were stolen – often violently -- across the United States. Organized criminal rings are increasingly turning to stolen cars to make big money or finance their operations by reselling them to unsuspecting buyers, shipping them overseas, stripping them of their valuable parts, or using them in the commission of other crimes. The chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police’s Vehicle Crimes Committee states “the first step of violent crime and high-impact crime begins with stolen vehicles. You need stolen vehicles for crimes like shootings, robberies, homicides, drug dealing and insurance fraud.”

Relevant Oregon court cases:

Two Court of Appeals cases – State v. Shipe, 264 Or. App. 391 (2014) and State v. Korth, 269 Or. App. 238 (2015) – have raised the bar necessary to secure a conviction against an alleged car thief. The judges opined that state statute requires proof of knowledge that the vehicle was stolen, rather than a preponderance of the evidence. “In sum, the record does not include evidence legally sufficient to support a determination that defendant actually knew that the truck he was using was stolen, even when the evidence is viewed as a whole and in the light most favorable to the state,” wrote Judge Andrew Erwin in the Shipe case.

Vehicle thefts on the rise in Oregon:

- Between 2012 and 2017, vehicle thefts in Oregon increased by 53.51 percent, whereas nationally, during the same time period, vehicle thefts only increased 10.74 percent.
- Nearly all recent Oregon vehicle theft growth occurs, sharply, immediately after the Shipe and Korth appellate court cases.
- Comparing two years prior (2012) and post (2017) the Shipe and Korth cases every Oregon Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) except for one experienced an increase in vehicle theft, ranging from an increase of 16.22 percent to 79.31 percent.
- Of the top ten vehicle makes and models stolen in Oregon, all are model years 2000 or earlier – disproportionately affecting those of the lower socioeconomic status.

	Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)									
	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro MSA	Grants Pass MSA	Salem MSA	Medford MSA	Eugene MSA	Albany MSA	Bend-Redmond MSA	Corvallis MSA	Oregon	USA
2012 Thefts	7,485	234	1,177	261	793	170	163	57	9,558	745,086
2013 Thefts	6,916	368	1,066	307	990	263	158	56	9,489	717,455
2014 Thefts	6,959	300	1,134	373	843	252	159	47	9,646	712,786
2015 Thefts	7,797	362	1,213	492	835	269	134	64	10,778	747,849
2016 Thefts	9,634	356	1,149	625	995	226	218	73	12,829	815,123
2017 Thefts	12,577	359	1,685	604	933	265	202	54	16,540	829,608
2012-2017 Total Diff.	5,092	125	508	343	140	95	39	-3	6,982	84,522
2012-2017 % Diff.	50.76%	42.16%	35.50%	79.31%	16.22%	43.68%	21.40%	-5.26%	53.51%	10.74%

* Vehicle theft data is derived from the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 * Total thefts for the state of Oregon will not exactly match the aggregate of the MSAs because the state total may include portions of the state not within an MSA and the MSAs may include portions of a neighboring state but within the MSA.

2017 Top-10 Most Stolen Vehicles in Oregon			
1.	1997 Honda Accord	2.	1998 Honda Civic
3.	1998 Subaru Legacy	4.	1999 Ford Pickup (Full Size)
5.	1998 Honda CR-V	6.	1991 Toyota Camry
7.	1995 Chevrolet Pickup (Full Size)	8.	2000 Subaru Impreza
9.	1994 Acura Integra	10.	1993 Toyota Pickup

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, not-for-profit organization supported by over 1,100 property property/casualty insurance companies including many who write business in Oregon. Working with our member companies and law enforcement, our nearly 400 employees investigate organized criminal conspiracies dealing with insurance fraud and vehicle theft. To learn more, visit: NICB.org

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