



## Motor Vehicle Theft

### ***Definition***

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines motor vehicle theft as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. In the UCR Program, a motor vehicle is a self-propelled vehicle that runs on land surfaces and not on rails. Examples of motor vehicles include sport utility vehicles, automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. Motor vehicle theft does not include farm equipment, bulldozers, airplanes, construction equipment, or water craft such as motorboats, sailboats, houseboats, or jet skis. The taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access is excluded from this definition.

### ***Overview***

- Nationwide in 2007, there were an estimated 1.1 million (1,095,769) thefts of motor vehicles.
- The national rate for motor vehicle thefts was 363.3 per 100,000 residents.
- In 2007, the estimated number of motor vehicle thefts decreased 8.1 percent from the 2006 estimate, 13.1 percent from the 2003 number, and 11.8 percent from the 1998 figure. (See Tables 1 and 1A.)
- An estimated 93.1 percent of the Nation's motor vehicle thefts occurred in Metropolitan Statistical Areas in 2007. (Based on Table 2.) (See Area Definitions for more information about Metropolitan Statistical Areas.)
- The estimated value of motor vehicles stolen in 2007 was \$7.4 billion, averaging \$6,755 per stolen vehicle. (Based on Tables 1 and 23.)
- Among vehicle types, automobiles accounted for 73.4 percent of the motor vehicles reported stolen in 2007. (Based on Table 19.)

### ***Expanded motor vehicle theft data***

Expanded offense data are the details of the various offenses that the Program collects beyond the count of how many crimes law enforcement agencies report. These details may include the type of weapons used in a crime, type or value of items stolen, and so forth. In addition, expanded data include trends (for example, 2-year comparisons) and rates per 100,000 inhabitants.

Expanded information regarding motor vehicle theft is available in the following tables:

Trends (2-year): Tables 12, 13, 14, and 15

Rates (per 100,000 inhabitants): Tables 16, 17, 18, and 19

Offense Analysis: Tables 7, 23, and 24

Vehicle Type: Tables 15 and 19

Motor Vehicle Theft Table, "Motor Vehicle Theft, Percent Distribution by Region, 2007"

### ***What you won't find on this page***

- **Makes and models of stolen motor vehicles.** The UCR Program does not collect this information.
- Clearance and arrest data for motor vehicle theft.