



National Motor Vehicle  
Theft Reduction Council  
*driving down vehicle theft*

# theft matters

## YOUTH STRATEGY KEY TO LOWER THEFT

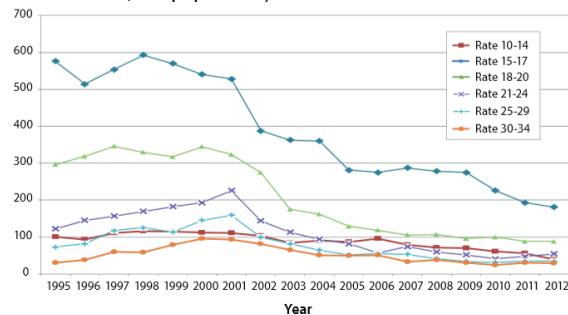
Nationally, motor vehicle theft has fallen by over 60 per cent since 2001. In NSW the reduction is closer to 70 per cent. Young people commit the largest proportion of vehicle theft and the latest NSW offender data demonstrates the strong correlation between the decline in theft numbers and the arrest of young offenders.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's (BOCSAR's) latest report on trends in age-specific rates of offending reveals that the total number of people arrested by police for motor vehicle theft has fallen dramatically since 2001 in line with the overall fall in the number of thefts.

Figure 1 shows however, that a significant proportion of this reduction is in the number of arrests in the 15 – 17 and 18 – 20 year old age groups with rates falling by 70 per cent. By comparison, the number of people arrested for vehicle theft in the 25 – 34 year age group has remained relatively stable over the past decade.

Despite the decline, young people aged 15 – 17 and 18 – 20 still had the highest offence rates in 2012 and half of all motor vehicle theft offenders were aged between 15 and 20 years.

Figure 1. NSW - Age-specific rates of motor vehicle theft 1995 - 2012 (offenders proceeded against per 100,000 population)



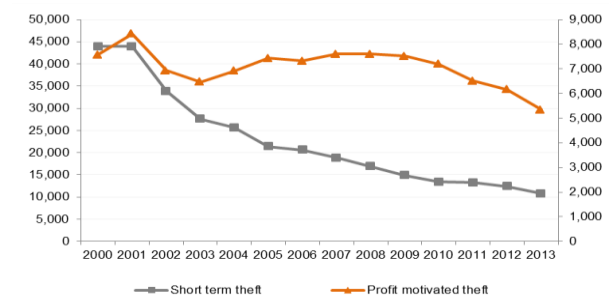
Of the 16,129 vehicles stolen in NSW in 2013:

- Two thirds were considered to be short term thefts (STT) and a third were profit motivated (PMT). This compares to 84 per cent STTs and 16 per cent PMTs in 2001.
- Short term thefts have declined at a greater rate (down 75%), reflecting the reduction in youth arrest rates, while profit motivated thefts have declined at half that rate (37%).

With an uncertain economic outlook and rising youth unemployment around the country the NMVTRC sees the potential for the decline in youth offending to stall if not reverse. Maintaining a focus on responses to youth offending is a vital part of securing the hard won gains in vehicle theft. Assisting young offenders to choose a non-offending lifestyle and ensuring young people at risk are exposed to realistic and engaging educational resources on the consequences of car theft remain core aims of the NMVTRC's overall strategy.

The full BOCSAR report can be found at:  
[http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/agdbasev7wr/\\_assets/bocsar/m71685414/bb98.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/agdbasev7wr/_assets/bocsar/m71685414/bb98.pdf)

Figure 2. NSW – Short term and profit-motivated theft, 2013



The NMVTRC acknowledges all police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Glass's Information Services, Polk Autospec and Insurance Australia Group for the supply of the data on which this report is compiled. Theft incident data may be subject to later revision by the data providers.

**CARS**   
comprehensive auto-theft research system

This work is copyright. Material may be reproduced for personal, non-commercial use or for use within your organisation with attribution to the NMVTRC.  
© 2015 NMVTRC. All rights reserved.



The NMVTRC is an initiative of all Australian Governments and the Insurance Industry

National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council Inc

50-52 Howard Street, North Melbourne  
Victoria 3051 Australia

Tel (03) 9348 9600 Fax (03) 9348 9988  
info@carsafe.com.au

[www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)