



National Motor Vehicle
Theft Reduction Council
driving down vehicle theft

theft matters

BETTER VISUALISATION OF TIME OF THEFT

A recent look at theft location data confirms that thieves are predominantly targeting homes to steal vehicles. Our latest figures indicate that almost two thirds (65%) of passenger/light commercial vehicles stolen in Western Australia (WA) and two fifths (42%) stolen in New South Wales (NSW) were from a residential location. There was an even greater proportion of motorcycles stolen from the residence (70% in WA, 63% in NSW).

So when are thieves stealing vehicles? Victims are not always aware of the exact time their vehicle was stolen and consequently we need to work within a timeframe between two dates and times. Therefore we have introduced the aoristic analysis technique in order to provide better visualisation of when thefts occur. This analysis deals with an incident timeframe by distributing an incident proportionally across all appropriate time intervals. Using our CARS data, we have conducted aoristic analysis on the day and time vehicles were stolen. In the 12 months to March 2015, analysis of vehicles stolen from a residential location or the street revealed that:

In Western Australia:

- Passenger/light commercial vehicle (PLC) thefts from a residence mainly occurred in the evening to the early hours of the morning (10pm to 6am), predominately Friday night to Sunday morning (Figure 1).
- Motorcycles were frequently stolen from the home in the early hours of the morning however thefts were more scattered during the week than that of PLCs (Figure 2).
- PLCs stolen from the street were more evenly distributed throughout the day, with a slight tendency towards weekends and late nights.

In New South Wales:

- PLCs stolen from a residential location, like in WA, also seem to be taken between 10pm and 6am. However in NSW this occurs most nights of the week (Figure 3).
- As in WA, motorcycles in NSW were frequently stolen in the early hours of the morning however thefts were more scattered throughout the week than that of PLCs (Figure 4).
- PLCs were predominately stolen from the street between Friday night and Sunday morning.
- Motorcycle thefts from the street occurred throughout the day on most days of the week.

Figure 1. WA residential PLC thefts using aoristic analysis*

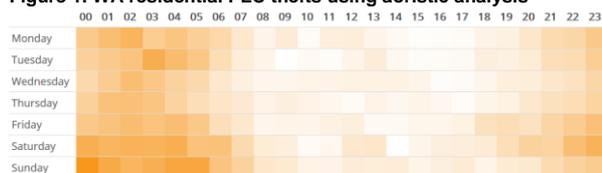


Figure 3. NSW residential PLC thefts using aoristic analysis*



Figure 2. WA residential motorcycle thefts using aoristic analysis*

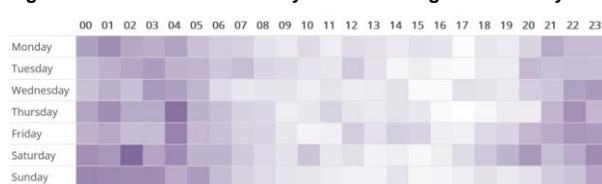
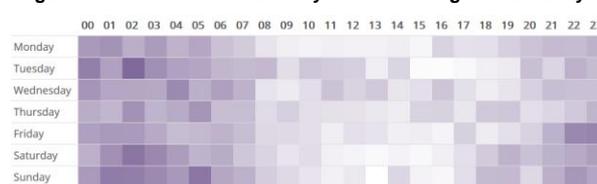


Figure 4. NSW residential motorcycle thefts using aoristic analysis*



*The darker the colour the greater the likelihood of theft.

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

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

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