



ICPSR 4278

Assessing Trends and Best Practices of Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Programs in the United States, 2003

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Data Documentation, City Summary Form Data



National Institute of Justice
Data Resources Program

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Data Documentation Notes

1. A list of the 10 cities with the highest auto theft rates by region is included as part of this documentation file. Please note that the data includes responses from 5 of 10 cities that were sent surveys, including: Las Vegas, Nevada, Modesto, California, Phoenix, Arizona, Sacramento, California, and Seattle, Washington.

List of the Ten Cities with the Highest Auto Theft Rates, by Region

Region	Cities
Northwestern	Seattle, Tacoma – WA
Western	Fresno, Modesto, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton – CA Las Vegas – NV Phoenix – AZ
Southern	Miami – FL

City Surveys

The following example survey was sent to the ten cities with the highest vehicle theft rates

*Note: This letter was included with each city survey *

Pat Curtin, Ph.D.,
Senior Associate
Caliber Associates
Fairfax, VA

Re: Best Practices in Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Programs.

The United States Department of Justice is exploring ways to improve the prevention of motor vehicle theft. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research and evaluation agency of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, is assessing trends and best practices in motor vehicle theft prevention. Toward this end, the NIJ has commissioned Caliber Associates, an independent research organization, to canvass all states and a number of cities to determine what sort of motor vehicle theft prevention methods are currently being employed. The NIJ also would like to determine the familiarity of motor vehicle theft prevention authorities with the Watch Your Car program that is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The short survey that accompanies this letter contains questions about motor vehicle theft prevention efforts in your city. The survey should take less than 30 minutes to complete. The information you provide will help the NIJ to make recommendations to the Bureau of Justice Assistance regarding how to better guide and support motor vehicle theft prevention on a national level. Please return the survey using the postage-paid envelope or return your survey by fax at the following number 703-218-6930 - care of Eric Weingart. I appreciate your time and consideration with this matter.

Best regards,

Pat Curtin

CALIBER

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Survey

Northwestern Region- Cities

Caliber Associates
10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-385-3200 Fax: 703-218-6930

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Survey

INSTRUCTIONS

This survey contains two sections. The first section presents general questions that ask about the motor vehicle theft prevention activities in your city. The second section presents questions that ask about your familiarity with the national motor vehicle theft prevention program - Watch Your Car. This survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and greatly appreciated. Your individual responses will not be reported to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Individual responses will be combined before information is reported to NIJ. Please read each question carefully and respond by either marking the circle that best represents your opinion or by writing a response where indicated.

- Use pencil or pen. Make heavy dark marks that fill in the circles completely and write legibly in the spaces provided. If you wish to change an answer, erase cleanly or put an "X" over the incorrect response.
- Fill in only one answer circle for each question unless it tells you to "*mark all that apply.*"

Example:

21. Over the past 4 years, has your state experienced a decrease in automobile thefts?

- Yes
- No

PLEASE WATCH FOR "SKIP" INSTRUCTIONS — THEY TELL YOU WHEN TO SKIP OVER A GROUP OF QUESTIONS THAT YOU DO NOT NEED TO ANSWER.

Please return the survey using the postage-paid envelope or return your survey by fax at the following number ###-###-#### - care of Eric Weingart.

Thank you for your participation, if you have any questions regarding your participation, contact:

Pat Curtin, Ph.D.
Caliber Associates

Eric Weingart
Caliber Associates

Section 1: Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention

1. Is there an agency, such as a Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Authority, that addresses motor vehicle theft prevention in your city?

Yes (Please answer question 1A)

No (Please answer question 1B)

1A. What is the name of the agency and where does it fall within the city's organizational structure?

1B. How is motor vehicle theft prevention addressed in your city?

2. Please indicate and describe, as appropriate, the motor vehicle theft prevention methods that are officially endorsed by your city or agency.

V.I.N. etching

Parts marking

Motor vehicle theft sticker/decal program

Theft prevention public awareness campaigns

Other _____

Other _____

Other _____

Other _____

3. Using your answers to # 2, list the methods in order of effectiveness (most effective to least).

4. If there are other particularly effective methods that help prevent motor vehicle theft other than what your city or agency is currently endorsing, list and describe them below.

5. Do you assess the effectiveness of the motor vehicle theft prevention methods used in your city?

- If Yes (Please describe below the measures and methods you use to assess effectiveness)
- If No (**SKIP** to question 9)

6. If you are using more than one method of data tracking, in your opinion is one method superior?

- Yes (Please elaborate below)
- No

7. Is there collaboration between different city/state agencies with regard to tracking motor vehicle theft?

- Yes (Please elaborate below)
- No

8. Are you assessing other factors that may be driving the rate of motor vehicle theft or causing changes in the rate of motor vehicle theft over time in your area (e.g., economic trends)?

Yes (Please elaborate below)

No

9. In your opinion, what were some good decisions made in your city regarding the choice and use of motor vehicle theft prevention methods?

10. In your opinion, what were some bad decisions made in your city regarding the choice and use of motor vehicle theft prevention methods?

11. To the best of your knowledge, how much funding is allotted to motor vehicle theft prevention in your city per fiscal year (e.g., expenditure-per-resident or expenditure-per-registered automobile)?

12. Given your city is located in the Northwest region of the United States and contains international ports, are there approaches to motor vehicle theft prevention that are particularly effective or that you think would be particularly effective in your city?

13. Please indicate and describe, as appropriate, the methods used by your city to increase public awareness about motor vehicle theft prevention? (*mark all that apply*)

- Pamphlets/brochures
- Newspaper ads/inserts
- Flyers
- Radio public service announcements
- Television public service announcements
- Presentations to clubs/groups
- Presentations to law enforcement agencies
- Other _____
- Other _____

14. Using your answers to #13, list the methods in order of effectiveness (most effective to least).

Section 2: The Watch Your Car Program

15. Are you aware of the Federally funded *Watch Your Car (WYC)* motor vehicle theft prevention program?

- Yes
- No (**SKIP** to question 20)

16. Do you and/or the people in your department or agency view the **WYC** program as effective?

- Yes
- No

17. If your city is not using the WYC program, why, in your opinion, has your city decided **not** to adopt the **WYC** program?

18. From your knowledge, what about the **WYC** program works well?

19. From your knowledge, what about the **WYC** program does not work well?

20. Do you think that a Federally funded, nationally organized motor vehicle theft prevention program is a good idea?

- Yes (Please elaborate below)
- No (Please elaborate below)

Please take the time to double check the contact information on the next page.

The information will be kept confidential and is for data analysis purposes only.

Contact Information

Please use the space below to update our contact information.

Name: _____

State: _____

Title/position: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Fax number: _____

Email address: _____

Years associated with motor vehicle theft prevention: _____

Please return the survey using the postage-paid envelope or return your survey by fax at the following number ###-###-#### - care of Eric Weingart.

Thank you for completing our survey. Your input is valuable and appreciated.

Once again, if you have any questions regarding your participation, please contact:

Pat Curtin, Ph.D.

Eric Weingart