



Legislative Report

Automobile Theft Prevention Program

September 30, 2025

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
1430 Maryland Ave. East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-793-7000
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca>

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Program background

The Automobile Theft Prevention Program was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1996. The program is authorized under [Minnesota Statute 65B.84](#) and is funded by a 50 cents per vehicle surcharge¹ collected every six months from automobile insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the state of Minnesota. The program utilizes this funding for a competitive grant process for activities to address automobile theft in the state of Minnesota.

The legislature [amended the statute in 2025](#) to move the program from the Minnesota Department of Commerce to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety where it is administered by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Report scope

The information in this report is required by [Minnesota law](#) to report the activities and expenditures of the Automobile Theft Prevention Program. The report covers Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). The adjustment to fiscal year reporting was made to more accurately reflect the activities of the grants, which are awarded on a fiscal year basis.

Statistical information provided in this report was derived from Minnesota law enforcement agencies' reporting to the BCA and from data submitted to Automobile Theft Prevention Program by grant recipients.

As required by [Minnesota law](#): This report cost approximately \$800.60 to prepare. *Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille or audio recording.*

¹ Only passenger vehicles, motorcycles and light trucks are included. Fleet vehicles, recreational vehicles and larger trucks are not subject to the surcharge.

Statewide analysis

During FY25, 10,293 automobile thefts were reported in Minnesota — a 23% decrease (3,018 fewer offenses) compared to FY24. The automobile theft rate per 100,000 people dropped from 232 in FY24 to 176 in FY25.²

The Twin Cities Metro Area continues to account for most automobile thefts in the state. The 8,943 thefts in FY25 represent 87% of the statewide total. However, they also represent a 23% decrease from FY24.

Within the metro area, Carver County saw a 62% reduction after experiencing a 21% increase the previous fiscal year.

According to the [National Insurance Crime Bureau](#), the national automobile theft rate decreased 17% from the previous year. This was the first year since 2021 that the total number of stolen vehicles fell below the one million mark nationwide.

Automobile Theft Prevention Grant Program overview

Beginning in FY24, two different grants were awarded by the Automobile Theft Prevention Program: 1) a three-year grant for agencies to employ an investigator dedicated to automobile theft investigations, and 2) a two-year, general grant for relevant equipment and other costs related to automobile theft investigation, prevention and prosecution.

Seventy-two percent of Minnesota's automobile thefts in FY25 occurred in the jurisdictions of the 23 law enforcement agencies that received grant funding. Some law enforcement agencies received a general grant as well as a dedicated grant.

² The rate per 100,000 people was calculated using the Minnesota State Demographic Center's estimates of 5,842,388 Minnesota residents in 2024.

Dedicated Investigator Auto Theft Prevention Grant

The Automobile Theft Prevention Program offered grant funding to agencies that assign an investigator to focus on auto thefts in their jurisdiction. Agencies with at least 75 auto thefts and recoveries per year were eligible for \$12,000 annually if they assigned all auto theft cases to a single investigator. Agencies with at least 250 auto thefts and recoveries per year could receive \$100,000 annually for assigning a full-time investigator to these cases. Agencies with over 500 auto thefts per year were eligible for grant funding for multiple positions. Agencies could also consolidate to meet higher eligibility thresholds. All participating investigators also received funding for specialized training and attendance at intelligence meetings. The grant was extended from two to three years based on the program's success and participant feedback.

Dedicated Investigator Grant recipients

For FY25, 13 agencies requested grant funding for positions. Table 1 lists the 10 agencies receiving the grant as well as the number of funded positions.

| Dedicated Investigator Grant recipient agencies | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Coon Rapids Police Department (1) | Maplewood Police Department (2) |
| Duluth Police Department (1) | Minnetonka Police Department (1) |
| Edina Police Department (Part-time) | Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (3) |
| Fridley, Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park police departments combined (1) | Roseville Police Department (1) |
| Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (2) | Saint Paul Police Department (1) |

Table 1. Dedicated Investigator Grant Award recipient agencies and number of positions

Dedicated investigator grantee performance

During FY25, investigators funded by the Dedicated Investigator Grant recovered 925 vehicles with an estimated value of \$12,119,454. Figure 1 details the number of arrests and stolen vehicle recoveries made by dedicated auto theft investigators per quarter.

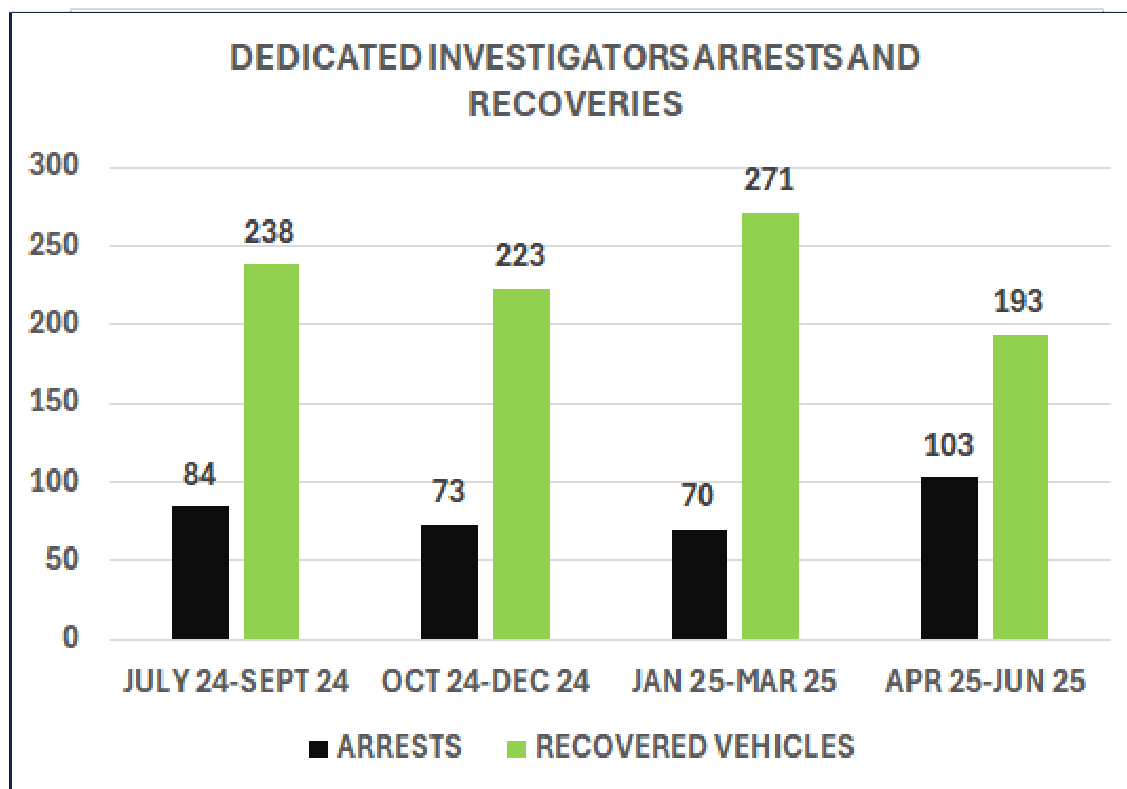


Figure 1. Dedicated investigator arrests and recovered vehicles

Figure 2 below illustrates the frequency of the different types of auto theft cases investigated by grant-funded dedicated investigators per quarter. The data was collected from quarterly grantee reports.

- “UUMV” as used in Figure 2 is Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. These are cases where a vehicle is primarily used for quick transportation. Grantees report that many vehicles in the UUMV category are used to commit other crimes.
- “Permanent” are cases where the offender attempts to keep the vehicle, such as removing the VIN, removing the license plates, painting the vehicle or selling the vehicle.
- “Organized” includes theft rings and chop shops that conspire or operate for the purpose of financial gains.

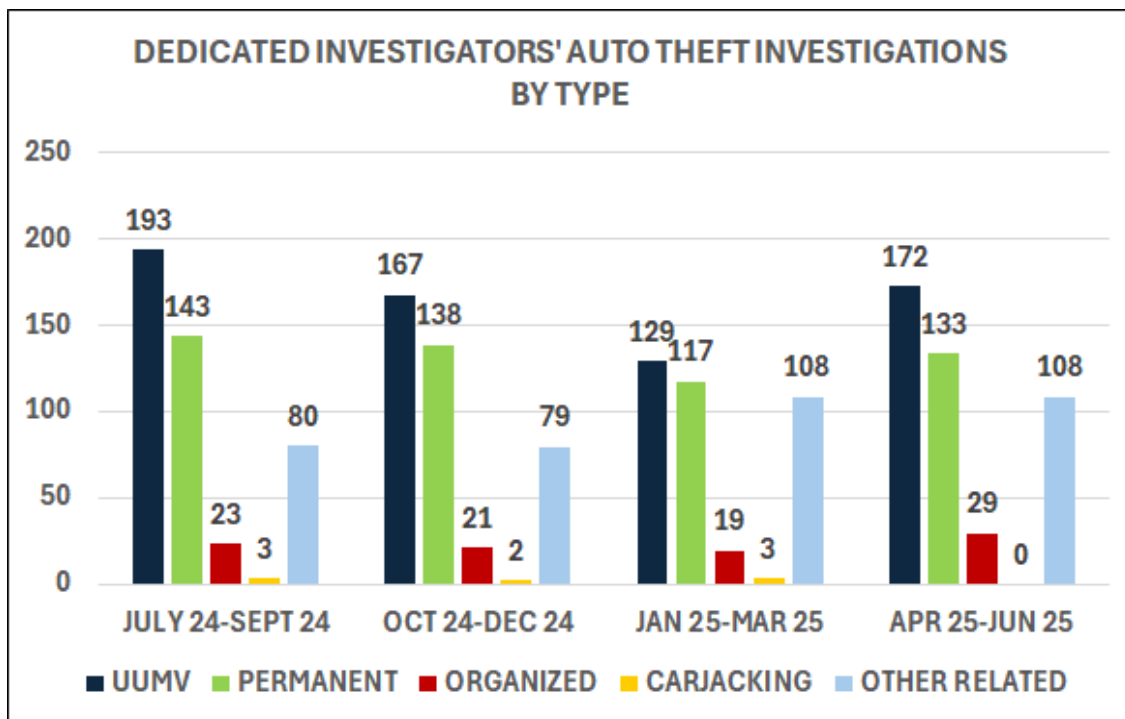


Figure 2. Types of auto theft investigated by dedicated investigators

General Auto Theft Prevention Grant

Agencies requested a total of \$4,244,336.46 from the General Auto Theft Prevention Grant for FY25. The Commissioner approved grants totaling \$2,921,733.44 under this program. The amount awarded represents 69% of the FY25 applicant funding requests. The grant funds were distributed to 20 law enforcement agencies, four prosecutor offices, one public benefit corporation and one law enforcement collaborative effort that includes a non-profit group.

The grantees used these funds to pay prosecution staff, furnish analytical support, obtain equipment, create training opportunities, provide Minnesota State Patrol air support and pay overtime for automobile theft investigations. Tables 2, 3 and 8 provide lists of General Auto Theft Prevention Grant recipients by category and their awards.

Law enforcement agencies

Law enforcement agencies were awarded \$1,758,273.26 in grants, which accounted for 60% of General Auto Theft Prevention Grant dollars. Table 2 lists the grantees and their award amounts.

| Law enforcement agencies | Award |
|---|--------------|
| Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council ³ | \$111,200.00 |
| Brooklyn Center Police Department | \$30,000.00 |
| Bloomington Police Department | \$60,937.35 |
| Carver County Sheriff's Office | \$67,623.00 |
| Duluth Police Department | \$6,560.69 |
| Eden Prairie Police Department | \$82,975.00 |
| Edina Police Department | \$41,100.00 |
| Hennepin County Sheriff's Office | \$217,000.00 |
| Hibbing Police Department | \$5,910.00 |
| Minnetonka Police Department | \$37,710.00 |
| Minneapolis Police Department | \$332,922.70 |
| Minnesota State Patrol | \$95,481.86 |

³ Includes the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the Blaine, Centennial Lakes, Coon Rapids, Anoka, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, Lino Lakes, Ramsey and St. Francis police departments.

| Law enforcement agencies | Award |
|---|--------------|
| Oakdale Police Department | \$8,700.00 |
| Ramsey County Sheriff's Office | \$219,250.00 |
| Shakopee Police Department | \$15,000.00 |
| South Lake Minnetonka Police Department | \$10,000.00 |
| St. Louis Park Police Department | \$23,771.03 |
| St. Paul Police Department | \$347,881.63 |
| South St. Paul Police Department | \$28,000.00 |
| Woodbury Police Department | \$16,250.00 |

Table 2. Law enforcement agency General Auto Theft Prevention Grant recipients

The largest portion of the grant funds awarded to law enforcement was used to purchase equipment required to investigate auto theft. The second largest expenditure was on auto theft analysts. Figure 3 shows expenditures by these agencies during FY24.

LAW ENFORCEMENT GENERAL GRANT EXPENDITURES

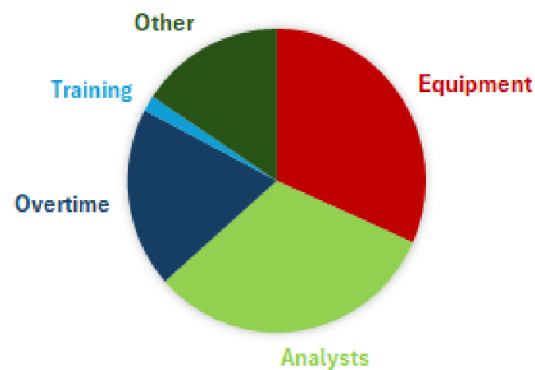


Figure 3. General Auto Theft Prevention Grant expenditures by law enforcement

Prosecutor offices

Four prosecutors' offices were awarded a total of \$657,820.20 in FY25. These funds were primarily spent on costs related to prosecutors and other staff assigned to handle auto theft cases. Table 3 provides an overview of the awards to each office.

| Prosecutor offices | Funds |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Anoka County Attorney's Office | \$142,622.40 |
| Hennepin County Attorney's Office | \$107,968.80 |
| Ramsey County Attorney's Office | \$335,861.00 |
| Washington County Attorney's Office | \$71,368.00 |

Table 3. County attorney General Auto Theft Grant award recipients

Anoka County Attorney's Office

The Anoka County Attorney's Office was awarded \$142,622.40 to support a full-time prosecutor to prosecute auto theft cases where the offender was an adult. Table 4 shows their FY25 reporting.

| Cases | Referred | Charged | Convicted/Adjudicated | Diversions | Dismissed | Restitution awarded |
|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Adult | 113 | 108 | 87 | 8 | 7 | \$135,727.26 |
| Juvenile | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | \$500.00 |

Table 4. Anoka County Attorney's Office grant data

Hennepin County Attorney's Office

The Hennepin County Attorney's Office was awarded \$107,968.80 to support a full-time prosecutor to prosecute auto theft cases where the offender was an adult. Table 5 shows their FY25 reporting.

| Cases | Referred | Charged | Convicted/Adjudicated | Diversions | Dismissed | Restitution awarded |
|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Adult | 401 | 297 | 98 | 32 | 85 | \$65,331.06 |
| Juvenile | 379 | 202 | 106 | 63 | 51 | \$48,891.03 |

Table 5. Hennepin County Attorney's Office grant data

Ramsey County Attorney's Office

The Ramsey County Attorney's Office was awarded \$335,861 to support a full-time auto theft charging attorney, a prosecutor to handle adult auto theft cases, an investigator and training for these staff. Table 6 shows their FY25 reporting.

| Cases | Referred | Charged | Convicted/Adjudicated | Diversion | Dismissed | Restitution awarded |
|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Adult | 348 | 299 | 180 | 7 | 111 | \$170,735.95 |
| Juvenile | 30 | 21 | 13 | 0 | 5 | \$0 |

Table 6. Ramsey County Attorney's Office grant data

Washington County Attorney's Office

The Washington County Attorney's Office was awarded \$71,368 to support a part-time prosecutor. Table 7 shows their FY25 reporting.

| Cases | Referred | Charged | Convicted/Adjudicated | Diversion | Dismissed | Restitution awarded |
|----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| Adult | 46 | 44 | 22 | 3 | 8 | \$21,474.46 |
| Juvenile | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | \$285.99 |

Table 7. Washington County Attorney's Office grant data

Non-profit and public benefit corporation

General grant funds were also awarded to a non-profit organization and a public benefit corporation. Table 8 outlines the grantees and awards.

| Non-profit and public benefit corporation | Funds |
|---|--------------|
| Ramsey County Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project | \$374,828.40 |
| Treuth | \$129,500.00 |

Ramsey County Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project

For FY25, \$376,139.98 was awarded to Ramsey County to continue administering its Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project. Ramsey County initiated the project in 2020 after discussions between the Commerce Fraud Bureau and the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. These discussions identified that many auto thefts were committed by a relatively small group of repeat offenders, and enforcement methods in place at the time were not deterring these offenders. The Ramsey County Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project is funded and governed by a board composed of law enforcement and community members.

Automobile theft in Ramsey County decreased by 24% in FY25. While there are likely multiple causal factors for the decrease, information received from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Carjacking and Auto Theft ("CAT") Team and the Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project suggest that the combination of these two programs may have had an impact. The CAT Team identified, investigated and arrested many repeat offenders. Many of these juveniles were the same ones who navigators with the youth project worked with to reduce recidivism. According to the navigators, in FY24 juveniles self-reported having stolen between three and 12 vehicles per week before the program and none while in the program. This reduction in recidivist activity may have contributed to the overall reduction in Ramsey County auto thefts.

Treuth

Treuth, an Illinois-based public benefit corporation, has developed a crime investigative platform and secure communication system for screened Minnesota investigators. This system provides data access, collaboration and analytics within a secure workspace. Although Treuth has been used for retail theft and other investigations in the past, Minnesota is the first state to utilize it for automobile theft investigations. Treuth was awarded \$129,500 for FY25.

All grantees are required to enter their auto theft and recovery data into Treuth. The data that the grantees input into Treuth is more detailed than general law enforcement statistics, representing critical information such as a street address, location type (e.g., single-family residence, apartment complex, street/highway or auto dealership), offense type, and contributing factors (e.g., whether the vehicle was left running, taken by fraud or involved in a burglary or carjacking). Recovery details are also included such as vehicle damage or if suspects fled from police. This data is used in part in grant program reporting. The platform also allows for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on auto theft investigations.

Users can search and map data of interest in Treuth using specialized filters and geospatial mapping. This functionality assists law enforcement in narrowing investigative leads, identifying trends and uncovering connections between suspects and other crimes. Treuth also features an automated link that matches vehicle recoveries with stolen vehicle records, saving officers time and enhancing the accuracy of data maintained by the grant program. However, there is not yet an easy method for deduplicating data in reports.

