**Office of Program Development and Funding**

Anne Marie Strano, Director

Ron Dickens, Assistant Director

**MVT & IF Prevention Staff**
Eileen I. Langer-Smith
Lyle Hartog
Michele Mulloy
Paula Raiti
Terri Wainwright

**Other Report Contributors:**
Office of Justice Research and Performance
Paula Lockhart
Adam Dean


**NYS Department of Insurance**
Insurance Frauds Bureau
Frank Orlando, Director
Roy Zabala

# New York State

# 2007 Annual Report
## to the Governor and Legislature

## Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

New York State
Motor Vehicle Theft and
Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

# Board Members and Affiliations

**Denise E. O'Donnell,** Commissioner
New York State
Division of Criminal Justice Services

**Honorable Richard A. Brown**
Queens County District Attorney

**Honorable Janet DiFiore**
Westchester County District Attorney

**Honorable Robert Johnson**
Bronx County District Attorney

**Thomas Lohmann**
National Insurance Crime Bureau

**V. Daniel Robinson**
New York Central Mutual Insurance

**David Swarts**, Commissioner
New York State
Department of Motor Vehicles

**Christine Ziemba**
Chief of the Cheektowaga Police Department

**Motor Vehicle Theft and Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud**
**Statewide Strategy Working Group**

The Statewide Strategy Group is comprised of dedicated professionals from prosecution, (District Attorney offices), law enforcement and the insurance industry who, through their hard work and commitment, have been instrumental in the dramatic reductions in motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in New York State during the past decade.

The Group meets semi-annually to discuss current issues that impact motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance in New York and surrounding states. By sharing intelligence and other information on a myriad of topics, a better picture of problems faced each day by law enforcement agencies and insurance carriers across the state is revealed. These discussions lead to the development and implementation of the most effective solutions and enable DCJS staff to provide more effective services to the district attorneys and law enforcement agencies that receive grants under this vital program.

The members of the Statewide Strategy Group are as follows:

Frank Orlando
NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau

Angelo Carbone
NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau

Richard Ehlinger
NYS DMV Field Operations Unit

Owen McShane
NYS Dept. of Motor Vehicles

Mike Mulcahy
NYSP Motor Vehicle Theft Unit

Mark Yanitelli
NY State Police Motor Vehicle Theft Unit

Pete Kontos
NYSP Motor Vehicle Theft Unit

William Zelenka
Bronx Co. District Attorney's Office

Celeste Lopes
Kings Co. District Attorney's Office

Thomas Wornom
New York Co. District Attorney's Office

Robert Wetzel
Monroe Co. District Attorney's Office

Maria Testagrossa
Nassau Co. District Attorney's Office

Charles Pitarresi
Niagara Co. District Attorney's Office

Eileen Sullivan
Queens Co. District Attorney's Office

Carl Stowell
Rensselaer Co. District Attorney's Office

Matthew Spano
Richmond Co. District Attorney's Office

Matthew Sypniewski
Schenectady Co. District Attorney's Office

Shiry Gash
Suffolk Co. District Attorney's Office

# Mission Statement

# Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

In accordance with Executive Law §846-1 and 846-m, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board, as its stated mission and purpose, shall make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (Commissioner) with respect to the exercise of his or her functions, powers and duties as set forth in Executive Law §846-1(3).

The Board shall also:

In accordance with the legislative intent of Article 36-A of the Executive Law, develop and recommend to the Commissioner a plan of operation which shall provide for a coordinated approach to curtailing motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud throughout the State (hereinafter "Plan").  The Plan shall provide an integrated means to detect, prevent, deter, and reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by providing funds, upon the recommendation of the Board and approval by the Commissioner, to meet these objectives.

The Plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- An assessment of the scope of the problem of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud, including a regional analysis of the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud and related activities;

- An analysis of various methods of combating the problem; and

- The development of a request for proposals process, consistent with the Plan, for applications from provider agencies to receive grants from the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Fund established pursuant to §89-d of the State Finance Law.

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# I. INTRODUCTION

During the 1980s, New York State experienced a dramatic increase in motor vehicle theft and fraud related crimes. From 1986 through 1990, the number of motor vehicles reported stolen increased by 65%. In response to the prevalence and economic costs of the crimes of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud, New York State enacted Executive Law, Article 36-A (L.1994, c.170) creating the *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* to help reduce the overall cost of motor vehicle insurance in the State. Legislation extending the program has been enacted annually since 2005 and the current law expires on July 1, 2008. (L. 2007, c. 56)

A 12-member *Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* was authorized under this statute to oversee the program. Members of the Board, selected by the Governor and the Legislature, include representatives of law enforcement, consumers of motor vehicle insurance, insurance carriers, and relevant state agencies. The Board became operational in September of 1997 with the appointment of its members.

This is the eighth annual report to the Governor and members of the Legislature by the *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* as required under Executive Law §846-1(3)(h).

Funding for the Demonstration Program is provided for under State Finance Law §89-d which established a special fund consisting of monies received from the $5 dollar fee assessed on each insurance policy issued for a portion of passenger vehicles and all other motor vehicles registered in New York State Insurance Law §9110. The 2007/08 State Budget appropriated $5.3 million in spending authority for support of demonstration projects. Previous funding levels were:

| State Fiscal Year | Funds Appropriated | Agencies Funded |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | $1,200,000 | 8 |
| 1998 | $1,800,000 | 16 |
| 1999 | $3,800,000 | 30 |
| 2000 | $4,700,000 | 38 |
| 2001 | $4,700,000 | 32 |
| 2002 | $4,700,000 | 28 |
| 2003 | $4,700,000 | 27 |
| 2004 | $4,700,000 | 32 |
| 2005 | $4,700,000 | 31 |
| 2006 | $4,700,000 | 32 |
| 2007 | $5,310,000 | 32 |

Having completed its organizational tasks of crafting bylaws and a mission statement, as well as creating a strategy for conducting a Request For Proposal (RFP) process, the Board was able to make its first awards (from SFY97 monies) late in 1997. In subsequent years, the Board issued RFPs, resulting in awards for every year. 2007 marked the 11th full year of the Board's operation.

The completion of these tasks and the making of these awards are part of an organized and planned pursuit of reducing motor vehicle theft rates and insurance fraud in New York. The impact of motor vehicle theft cannot be understated . It is a highly organized criminal activity that costs hundreds of millions of dollars each year. The cost of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud is passed on to each law abiding citizen and legitimate business, and results in increased costs of doing business and in consumer products.

**Motor Vehicle Theft**

Great strides continue to be made in reducing motor vehicle theft in New York, as it has decreased **more than 60%** since 1997. Motor vehicle theft, however, still remains a significant problem throughout the State and the nation. In 2006, there were 31,939 motor vehicles stolen with a value of $212,362,411.

### Crime Trends:  Motor Vehicle Theft
#### 1997-2006
#### Rate 100,000 population

**-62.3%**

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MV Theft | 439.7 | 372.6 | 341.8 | 303.8 | 269.3 | 252.2 | 235.2 | 212 | 184.5 | 166 |
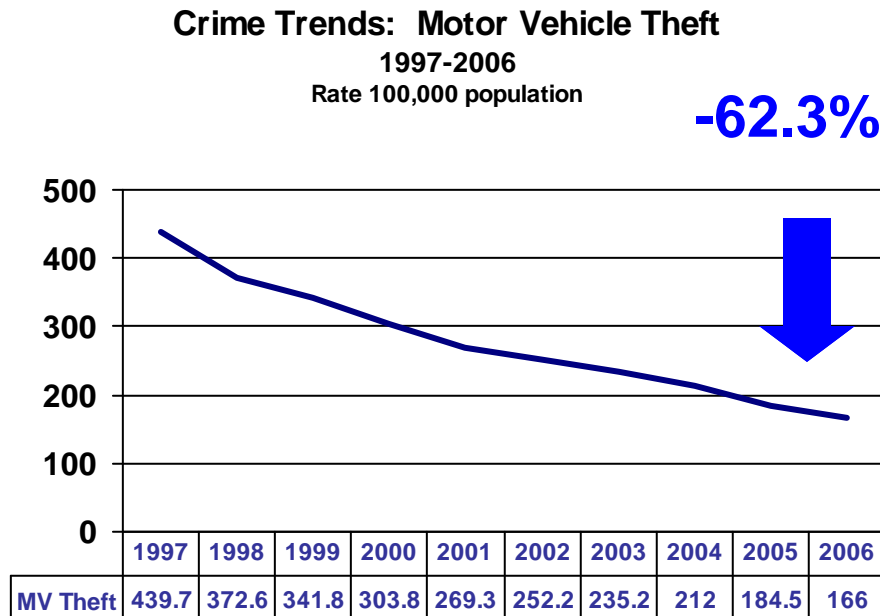
Law enforcement knowledge gained in the dynamics of motor vehicle theft makes it apparent that the trafficking of stolen vehicles knows no state or international boundaries and that insurance fraud, in many cases, is perpetrated by well organized groups of profit-motivated conspirators.

Reports for 2007 from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports note that on a national scale, motor vehicle theft has decreased by 7.4%.   In the Northeast, it continued to decrease by another 13.3%.  The Division of Criminal Justice Services has identified the top eighteen localities in New York with the highest Uniform Crime Report Part 1 crimes, which  include motor vehicle theft.  Preliminary 2007 data for these localities shows a continued  decrease in motor vehicle theft in the greater metropolitan New York City area and its suburban municipalities of 28.1%.  The cities in the Western Region experienced a 13% decrease while those in the Central New York Region also experienced a decrease of  18.6%.  However, the Capital District/ Hudson Valley Region has experienced an increase of  7.8% in motor vehicle theft.

| Motor Vehicle Thefts Reported - 2006 - 2007 | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Police Agency | 2006 | 2007 | Change |
| Albany City PD | 241 | 286 | 18.7% |
| Binghamton City PD | 49 | 37 | -24.4% |
| Buffalo City PD | 2,125 | 2,270 | 6.9% |
| Jamestown City PD | 46 | 37 | -19.5% |
| Kingston City PD | 26 | 26 | 0% |
| Nassau County PD | 1,171 | 1,151 | -1.7% |
| Newburgh City PD | 66 | 69 | 4.5% |
| New York City PD | 15,936 | 13,256 | -16.8% |
| Niagara Falls City PD | 195 | 212 | 8.7% |
| Poughkeepsie City PD | 88 | 107 | 21.5% |
| Rochester City PD | 2,413 | 1,641 | -31.9% |
| Schenectady City PD | 336 | 290 | -13.6% |
| Spring Valley Village PD | 36 | 37 | 2.7% |
| Suffolk County PD | 2,328 | 2,096 | -10% |
| Syracuse City PD | 736 | 561 | -23.7% |
| Troy City PD | 183 | 173 | -5.4% |
| Utica City PD | 151 | 162 | 7.3% |
| Yonkers City PD | 451 | 376 | -16.6% |

**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud**

Between 1986 and 1993, New York had seen a **166% *increase*** in the number of suspected reported fraudulent insurance claims. Estimates put the cost to policyholders for fraudulent activities at 10% percent of all premiums paid. According to the NYS Department of Insurance, the number of reported incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased 14.7 % from 19,852 in 2005 to 16,917 in 2006. No-fault insurance fraud reports had increased from 489 in 1992 to 17,831 in 2003 but since then decreased by 35.6% to 11,472 in 2006. No-fault insurance fraud accounts for 67.8% of all reports of suspected insurance fraud received. Besides the obvious property loss and trauma endured by victims of motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cost every driver hundreds of dollars each year in increased insurance premiums.[1] The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) has estimated that motor vehicle insurance fraud costs consumers an additional $200 to $300 per year on their insurance premiums.

During 2004, the combined investigative and prosecutorial efforts of state and local law enforcement agencies to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud as well as effective changes in the insurance laws of the state have produced positive results. Following the implementation of changes in the law that shortened the period of time for filing no-fault accident claims, losses dropped significantly, according to the NYS Insurance Department. From December 31, 2002 to June 30, 2004 the average personal injury claim dropped from $8,489 to $6,229. Looked at another way, New York's motor vehicle insurers were paying out 86 cents in claims for every premium dollar collected in 2002. By June 30, 2004, they were paying out 61 cents in claims. Rates for drivers in the state's assigned risk plan, the motor vehicle insurance market of last resort, dropped 2% in August 2004.

### No-Fault Insurance Claim Costs
**Decreased by 26.6%**



Average Cost of Personal Injury Claims

■ 2002   ■ 2004
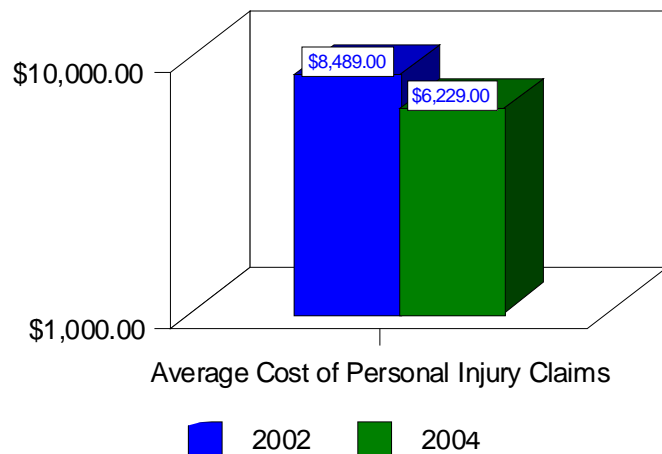
The NYS Insurance Department wrote to some of the state's largest insurers in late 2004 and asked that they meet with the agency's senior management team to discuss possible rate reductions. The correspondence cited compelling industry data indicating the New York motor vehicle insurers' losses had dropped substantially. As a result of this effort, 10 major insurance carriers have decreased their rates between 3% and 7%.

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[1] The actual incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud is difficult to measure accurately. The NYS Insurance Department receives reports from insurers of <u>suspected</u> fraud but this number cannot be considered to be an accurate representation of the problem since the term can be used administratively by insurance companies. The New York State Penal Law does not distinguish between vehicle-related insurance fraud charges and all other insurance fraud. Consequently, DCJS uses the insurance industry numbers as it works to develop a more accurate reflection of the crime vehicle related insurance fraud.

The suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud continued to decrease by 3.7% from 16,917 in 2006 to16,276 in 2007.  No-fault insurance fraud decreased as well by 1.9% from 11,472 in 2006 to 11,246 in 2007.

| Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| County | No-Fault Insurance Fraud | All Other MV Insurance Fraud | Total |
| Kings | 2,994 | 755 | 3,749 |
| Queens | 2,184 | 736 | 2,920 |
| Bronx | 1,632 | 487 | 2,119 |
| New York | 1,110 | 384 | 1,494 |
| Nassau | 986 | 410 | 1,396 |
| Suffolk | 728 | 468 | 1,196 |
| Erie | 198 | 248 | 446 |
| Westchester | 210 | 199 | 409 |
| Richmond | 204 | 141 | 345 |
| Monroe | 84 | 180 | 264 |

**Statewide Plan of Operation**

In August 1999, the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board, in keeping with its mission, initiated the development of a statewide plan for curtailing motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud throughout New York State.  The Board determined that the experience and expertise gained as a result of the ongoing operations of the funded demonstration projects provided a solid foundation upon which to build a realistic Statewide Plan.  To research and develop a plan that was reflective of the problem in all regions of New York State, the Board recommended that several agencies having extensive expertise in this area be involved in its development.  In addition, officers representing 16 law enforcement agencies were added to the Statewide Work Group which first met in January 2000.

Since the initial meetings in 2000, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Strategy Work Group, which is comprised of individuals with backgrounds in combating motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud, has grown as the number of grantees has grown.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cheektowaga Town Police | Monroe County District Attorney |
| City of Buffalo Police | Nassau County District Attorney |
| City of New York Police | New York County District Attorney |
| City of Rochester Police | Niagara County District Attorney |
| City of Syracuse Police | Onondaga County District Attorney |
| Hempstead Town Police | Queens County District Attorney |
| Monroe County Sheriff's Office | Rensselaer County District Attorney |
| Niagara County Sheriff's Office | Richmond County District Attorney |
| Nassau County Police | Westchester County District Attorney |
| Suffolk County Police | NYS Department of Motor Vehicles |
| Westchester County Police | NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services |
| Bronx County District Attorney | NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau |
| Eire County District Attorney | NYS Division of State Police |
| Kings County District Attorney | National Insurance Crime Bureau |

The insurance industry also has representation on the Statewide Work Group through the following carriers: Allstate, Auto One, Mercury, New York Central, Progressive, The Robert Plan and State Farm.

The Board approved the completed Statewide Plan in 2001. The Strategy Work Group reconvenes every year since and charged the members with the following tasks:

- researching and developing updates for both plans reflecting the current crime trends of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud;

- recommendations for a statewide motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud shared information database; and,

- recommendations for utilization of SAFETNet for all motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance investigations.

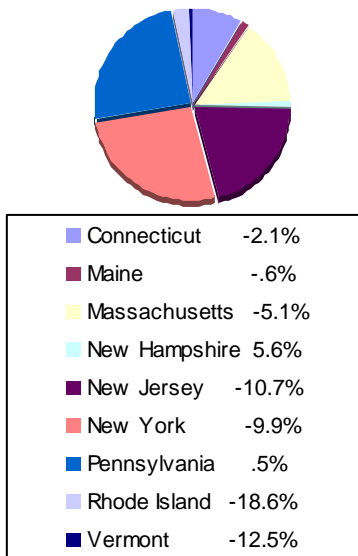The annually updated Statewide Plan of Operation is available as a resource on the DCJS web site, www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us, especially for reference by those law enforcement agencies applying in the next Request for Proposal. Following the recommended format for the Statewide Plan, the Annual Report will present information on the dimensions of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in two separate sections.

# II. Dimensions of Motor Vehicle Theft In New York State

## National Overview

Since 1990, the number of motor vehicle thefts reported in the United States had steadily declined until the year 2000 when it showed an increase of 1.2%. In its 2006 annual report, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) noted that the number of motor vehicle thefts reported in 2006 had **decreased by 3.5%**, as compared to 2005 totals. There were 1,192,809 motor vehicle thefts reported in 2006 as compared to 1,235,226 in 2005 with the Western States showing a decrease of 6.3 %, and the Midwestern States an decrease of 2.4%, while the Southern States increased by 0.1% .

### 2006 Motor Vehicle Thefts

| | |
|---|---|
| Connecticut | -2.1% |
| Maine | -.6% |
| Massachusetts | -5.1% |
| New Hampshire | 5.6% |
| New Jersey | -10.7% |
| New York | -9.9% |
| Pennsylvania | .5% |
| Rhode Island | -18.6% |
| Vermont | -12.5% |

The **Northeast States experienced the greatest decrease** in motor vehicle thefts in 2006 with a decline of **6.5%.** Only New York and Pennsylvania have dedicated funds administered by a board or authority for the prevention of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

FBI statistics revealed that California had the greatest number of thefts at 242,693 or 20.3% of the national total, followed by Texas (95,429), Florida (76,437), Arizona (54,849), and Michigan (50,017). The number of motor vehicle thefts for New York State as estimated by the FBI was 32,040, or 2.6% of the national total.
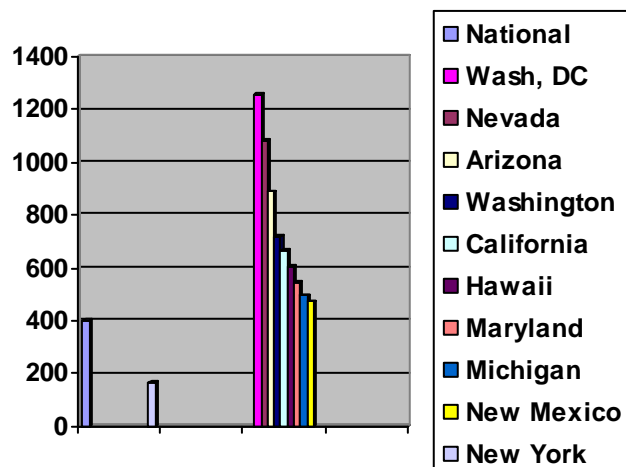
Despite the large number of vehicles stolen in New York in 2006, the State rate of motor vehicle thefts at 166.0 per 100,000 population was 58% below the national average of 398.4 per 100,000 population. The highest rate is in Washington, D.C., where its rate of 1,258.9 stolen vehicles per 100,000 population is followed by Nevada (1,080.4), Arizona (889.5), Washington (717.6), California (665.7), and Hawaii (603.9), respectively. **New York's** motor vehicle theft **rate of 166 per 100,000** is at its **lowest rate in decades**.

### 2006 Motor Vehicle Theft Rate per 100K Population

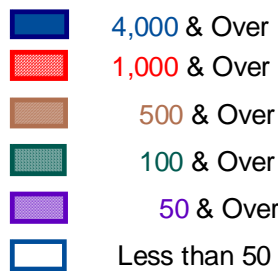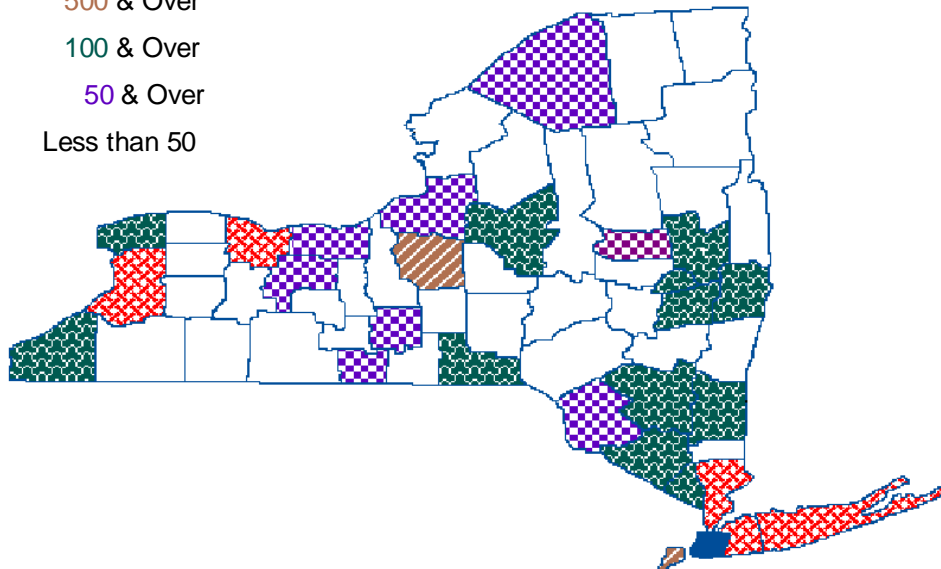| |
|---|
| National |
| Wash, DC |
| Nevada |
| Arizona |
| Washington |
| California |
| Hawaii |
| Maryland |
| Michigan |
| New Mexico |
| New York |

## Statewide Statistics

New York State has experienced a continued reduction in the number of reported stolen vehicles — from 79,740 in 1997 to 32,040 in 2006 **(a 59.8% decrease).  This reduction in New York far exceeds the national reduction of  11.8% in reported motor vehicle thefts between 1997 and 2006.**  New York's dramatic decrease in stolen vehicles followed a five-year period from 1986 to 1990 during which reported motor vehicle thefts increased by 65%.  The net result of these changes is that the number of vehicles reported stolen in New York is now at its lowest level in more than two decades.

The decline in motor vehicle thefts has not been evenly distributed throughout the State. New York City and most of its surrounding suburban counties (Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester) have generally experienced significant declines in reported vehicle thefts since 1990.  The upstate counties as a whole have remained at higher levels reached in the early 1990s (16,104 in 2006 versus 16,333 in 1996).  Of the 26 counties which experienced increased motor vehicle thefts from 2005 to 2006, 24 were upstate counties.

New York State
Motor Vehicle Thefts Reported - Year 2006

Statewide: 32,040

| | |
|---|---|
| ▨ | 4,000 & Over |
| ▨ | 1,000 & Over |
| ▨ | 500 & Over |
| ▨ | 100 & Over |
| ▨ | 50 & Over |
| ☐ | Less than 50 |

The number of motor vehicle thefts in New York City has decreased from  51,912  in 1997 to 15,936 in 2006, or **69.3%**.  The rate of motor vehicle thefts based on population has also decreased by  **62.2%**, 439.7 per 100,000 population in 1996 to 166 per 100**,**000 population in 2006.  As a region New York City no longer has the highest rates of theft per population; for counties, Monroe County had the highest at 412.06 per 100,000 population.  From 2005 to 2006, the New York City region witnessed a 13.3% reduction in reported vehicle thefts.

The economic impact of motor vehicle theft is significant.  Using an estimate of $6,649 per vehicle, the total value of stolen vehicles nationally for 2006 was $7.9 billion.  The value of vehicles stolen in New York State in 2006 totaled $212,362,411.  As the price tags on vehicles increase, victims of this crime will most certainly bear increased losses.

## Motor Vehicle Theft
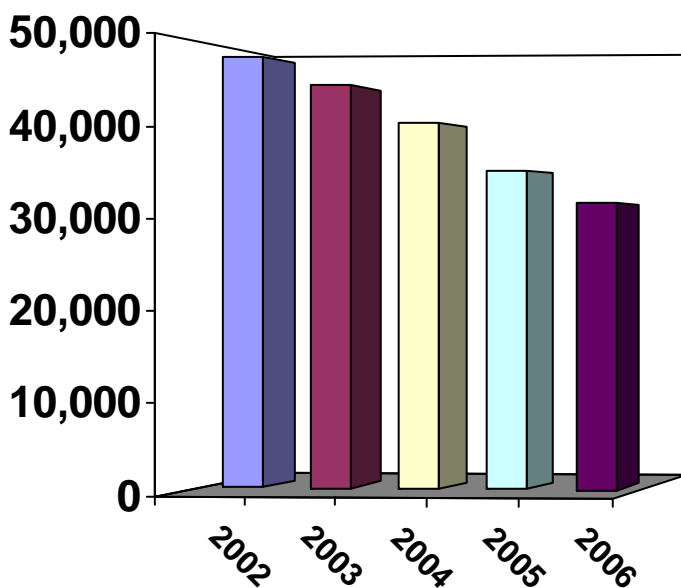


## Since 2002, New York State has experienced a decrease of 34% in motor vehicle theft.

# III. Dimensions of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud In New York State

## National Overview

During the 1960s, traditional motor vehicle liability insurance became the target of public criticism due to the often expensive and time-consuming process of determining who was at fault and, therefore, legally liable when an accident occurred. In response to this dissatisfaction by consumers and the insurance industry, many states enacted no-fault legislation that allows accident victims to recover such financial losses as medical and hospital expenses and lost income from their own insurance companies without liability being assigned. Enacted in 1974, New York was one of 12 states that initiated true no-fault motor vehicle insurance.

However, as claims increased in the area of no-fault insurance, insurance fraud crimes involving motor vehicles also increased across the United States. In many states, the financial benefits of having no-fault insurance are being eliminated due to the higher premiums now paid for coverage. According to the Insurance Information Institute, as of February 2008, only 11 states have no-fault insurance laws.

On a national level, identifying the crimes of motor vehicle insurance fraud in order to develop trends which assist in targeting enforcement initiatives is difficult. Unlike the crimes of motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle and theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories, statistics on motor vehicle insurance fraud crimes are not part of the Uniform Crime Report maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Currently, there are no uniform definitions of insurance fraud among the states. While insurance fraud is illegal in all states, the level of seriousness attached to the crime also varies by state. Some states classify insurance fraud or certain types of fraud as a felony, others as a misdemeanor. In addition, the dollar amount involved can affect whether it is considered a felony.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, only 20 states require the special investigation units of insurance companies to forward all suspicious claims to their state's fraud bureau. These reports are "suspected incidents" of insurance fraud and not all are prosecuted criminally by the insurance company, rather they are handled in-house or by civil actions. Prompted by the incidence of insurance fraud, 41 states have set up fraud bureaus (some bureaus have limited powers, and some states have more than one bureau to address fraud in different lines of insurance).

Indicators of trends for motor vehicle insurance fraud crimes are collected by research groups that represent the insurance industry, such as the Insurance Information Institute, the Insurance Research Council, Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, and National Insurance Crime Bureau. It is from these resources and the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau that the following information has been compiled.

At the end of 2004, the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud reported that motor vehicle insurance fraud amounts to $14 billion in false claims a year. A ground-breaking study by the Insurance Research Council in 1996 found that one-third of all bodily injury claims for motor

vehicle accidents contained some amount of fraud. Most of the 33 out of 100 bodily injury claims identified as fraudulent included "padding" or "build up" exaggeration of injuries based on actual accidents.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau has identified the 10 cities with the highest numbers of staged auto accidents. One of the many types of staged accidents involves a vehicle that is positioned in front of an unsuspecting motorist and brakes suddenly, causing a rear-end crash. Miami, Florida leads the list, which was compiled in March 2006.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Miami, FL | 6. | Tampa, FL |
| 2. | Los Angeles, CA | 7. | Cleveland, OH |
| 3. | Houston, TX | 8. | Orlando, FL |
| 4. | Chicago, IL | 9. | New York, NY |
| 5. | Philadelphia, PA | 10. | Boston, MA |

## Statewide Statistics

In 2006, there were 16,917 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud reported to the Insurance Frauds Bureau of the NYS Insurance Department (Appendix G), including motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle fire, and larceny from a motor vehicle, motor vehicle vandalism, motor vehicle collision damage, motor vehicle fraud bill, motor vehicle insurance cards, and motor vehicle miscellaneous and No-Fault.

New York State
Incidents of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Reported-Year 2006

Statewide: 16,917

3,000 & Over
1,000 & Over
500 & Over
100 & Over
50 & Over
Less than 50
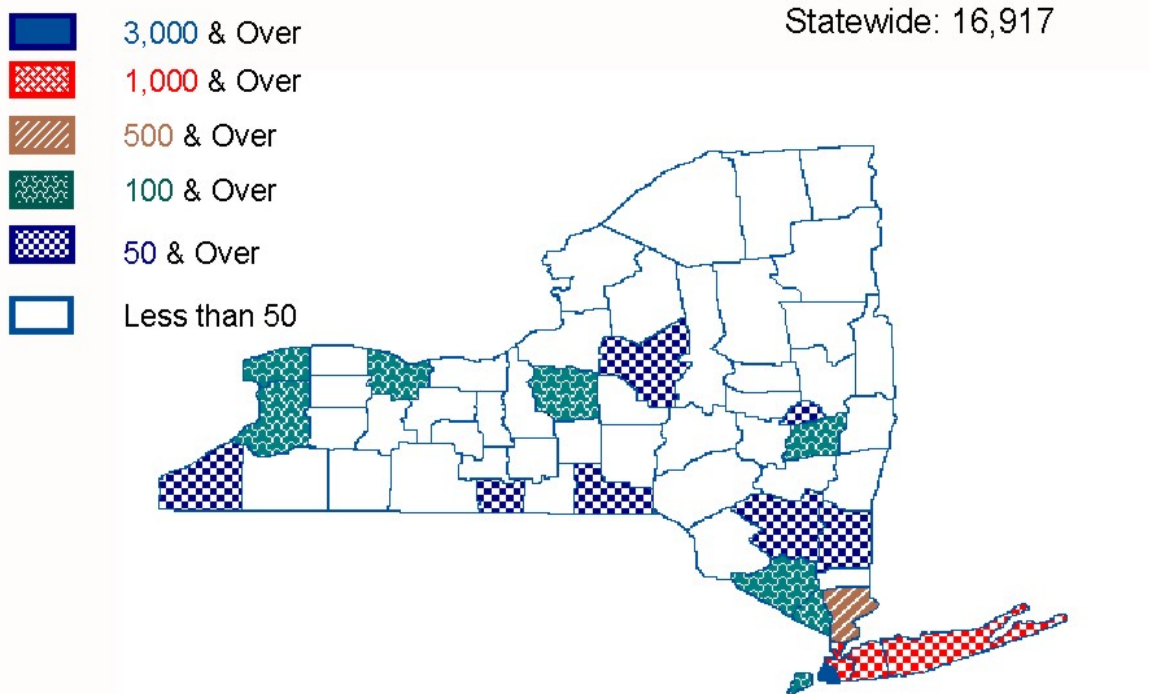
These crimes add an estimated 10% to the cost of insurance premiums paid by policy-holders in New York State.  As the legislative findings associated with the creation of the Demonstration Program point out:  "Motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud are a major problem in New York and costs honest motor vehicle policyholders billions of dollars annually.  As the cost of motor vehicle insurance continues to rise, this essential coverage has become less affordable and more out of reach for many New Yorkers."

Since 1997, New York State has experienced an alarming increase in the number of reports of suspected insurance fraud from insurers in the State (please see note, Appendix G).  The area of fraud showing the greatest increase is that of no-fault related fraud.

**2006 Reported Incidents of
Insurance Fraud**

68%

32%

☐ **All Other Incidents of Insurance Fraud**
☐ **No-Fault Incidents of Insurance Fraud**
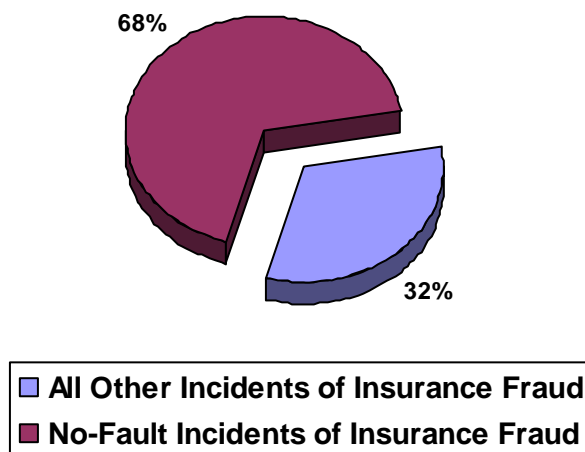
The NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau has seen reports of no-fault insurance fraud decrease from 15,095 incidents in 2002 to 11,472 in 2006, but no-fault insurance fraud still accounts  for more than 68% of all reported motor vehicle insurance fraud.  Excluding no-fault motor vehicle insurance, the number of fraud reports increased by 12.4% between 2002 and 2006.

A recent study by the Insurance Research Council (IRC) compared private passenger motor vehicle claim patterns for New York State and New York City with national no-fault trends and the results of previous IRC studies.  In every category, claim patterns within metropolitan New York City drove insurance costs significantly higher than in the rest of the state.

Although New York City has documented declining reports of motor vehicle theft, the City of New York, as a region, still has the highest rates of motor vehicle insurance fraud (112 per 100,000 population) in the State.  In 2006, Bronx County had the highest rate of motor vehicle insurance fraud based on population (153.93 per 100,000 population) and accounted for approximately 22.9% of the reported incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud in the State.

In New York City, a bill aimed at curbing motor vehicle insurance fraud, particularly targeting medical clinics established specifically to file fraudulent no-fault claims, was signed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2006. The legislation requires medical clinics that handle a large volume of no-fault claims to file information with the City about their ownership, management and the percentage of medical bills that are no-fault claims. The law also prohibits the hiring of "runners" to help solicit individuals to participate in no-fault fraud. An IRC study found that although the city's residents are not more seriously injured then other New State residents, their claims cost far more and are far more likely to be seen as involving fraud or some degree of "build-up" of legitimate claims by professionals who reviewed the files. Recent State legislation requiring the purchase of an index number for all court filings may also reduce the number of fraudulent cases.

The State agency primarily responsible for addressing the problems of insurance fraud is the Insurance Frauds Bureau of the State Insurance Department, which was created in November 1981 to detect and apprehend those who commit insurance fraud and to change the public perception of insurance fraud as a victimless crime. The Insurance Frauds Bureau assists law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and insurance companies throughout the state through investigations, data sharing and training. Through the coordination of investigations with state and local law enforcement agencies, the NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau arrested 604 individuals in 2006.

The combined investigative and prosecutorial efforts of state and local law enforcement agencies to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud as well as effective changes in the insurance laws of the state have produced positive results. From December 31, 2002 to June 30, 2004, the average personal injury claim decreased from $8,489 to $6,229. Looked at another way, New York State's motor vehicle insurers were paying out 86 cents in claims for every premium dollar collected in 2002. By June 30, 2004, they were paying out 61 cents in claims. Rates for drivers in the state's assigned risk plan, the motor vehicle insurance market of last resort, dropped 2 percent in August 2004. As a result of this effort, the following insurance carriers have decreased their rates between 3 and 7 percent: Allstate, AMICA, GEICO, MetLife, Nationwide, New York Central Mutual, Progressive, State Farm and Travelers.

**Suspected Incidents of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud New York State 2006**



☐ Auto Theft Fraud          ■ Auto Fraud Fire
☐ Theft from Auto           ☐ Auto Vandalism
■ Auto Collision Damage     ■ Fraud Bill
■ Fraud Insurance Cards     ☐ Misc. Auto Fraud
■ No-Fault
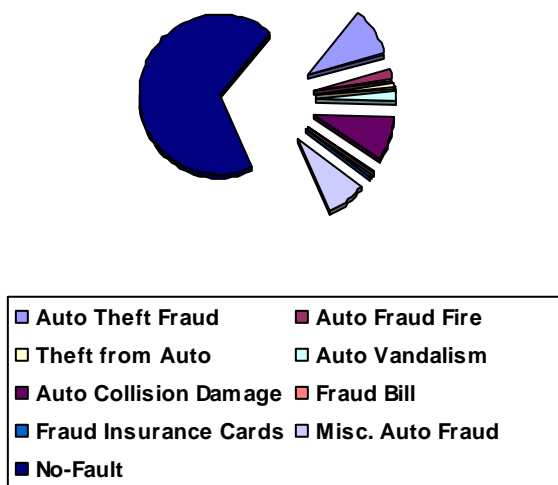
# IV. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* supports a variety of initiatives targeting motor vehicle theft and related motor vehicle insurance fraud.

## A.    Program Goals

The goals of the program are to provide an integrated means to prevent, deter and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by developing and providing funding for demonstration programs which include:  education on theft and fraud prevention; programs on motor vehicle theft and fraud prevention; and specialized law enforcement units to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.  Provider agencies eligible to participate are defined as any locality, governmental agency, or not-for-profit organization that provides one or more of the motor vehicle theft or insurance fraud prevention programs approved by the Board.  Current budget language restricts program funding to local assistance projects only.

## B.    Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

The administration of the program is under the direction of a 12-member board chaired by the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), or their designee.  All Board members are appointed by the Governor:  three appointees are recommended by the Speaker of the Assembly; three by the Temporary President of the Senate; and the remaining five by the Governor.  The members, who are not considered public officials, serve a four-year term.  The Board is to be representative of consumers of motor vehicle insurance, motor vehicle insurance companies, law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system.  The Board must meet a minimum of four (4) times per year.

The Board is charged with developing and recommending a coordinated plan of operation which provides for the statewide reduction of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.  Elements of the plan must include:

1.    An assessment of the magnitude and scope of the problem including an analysis of theft and fraud by region;

2.    Methods for combating the problem; and

3.    Development of a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

The enabling legislation authorizes the Commissioner of DCJS, pursuant to the recommendations of the Board, to:

1.  Execute contracts;

2.  Accept grants and other contributions;

3.  Make grants through an RFP process;

4.  Appoint employees and affix compensation;

5.  Request assistance and information from the State Police, police departments, the Insurance Department, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Court Administration, or any other agency or from any insurer;

6.  Assist political subdivisions in the development of local programs;

7.  Advise and assist the Superintendent of Insurance pursuant to Insurance Law § 2348. (This section now requires that rate filings reflect insurers' savings resulting from the program); and,

8.  Submit by February 15 of each year to the Governor and Chairpersons of Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means a report on the Board's activities, activities of grant recipients and the results or impact achieved.

## C.    Program Priorities

Program priorities identified in the enabling legislation are:  **motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.**

Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

1.  Prosecution and adjudication

2.  Law Enforcement

3.  Community-based organizations

4.  Educational programs for motor vehicle owners

5.  Programs to examine the efficacy of theft prevention devices

Funds must be used to augment, not supplant, locally supported initiatives.

# V.  BOARD ACTIVITY

## SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON MARCH 28, 2007

**Board Members & Representatives Present**
Commissioner Denise O'Donnell
Kenneth Beijen
Janet DiFiore
Christine Ziemba
Eileen Sullivan (for Judge Brown)

Commissioner O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.  Since a quorum was not present there could not be a vote on any business brought before the Board this day**.**  Attendees introduced themselves.

Commissioner O'Donnell stated that the Motor Vehicle Theft Program is of great importance and that DCJS supports the work of the Board.  Efforts by DCJS and our partners to reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud clearly have been very successful.  The Commissioner stated that new insurance theft and insurance fraud schemes continue to take tolls on consumers.  Commissioner O'Donnell spoke briefly about the need to fill vacant positions for Board members.  The Commissioner noted that she is looking forward to working with  the Board.

Staff provided an update on the following topics:
- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud
- SFY 2007/2008 Budget
- Status of MVTIFP Award Contracts
- Legislative Update

Representatives from the Hempstead Police Department, the Nassau County Police Department, and the Nassau County District Attorney made detailed presentations of their grant activities.

## SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON JULY 10, 2007

**Board Members & Representatives Present**
Commissioner Denise O'Donnell
Richard Brown
Robert Johnson
Rosanne Kitchner (for David Swartz)
Thomas Lohmann
Daniel Robinson II
Steve Vandervelden (for Janet DiFiore)
Christine Ziemba

Commissioner O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Commissioner introduced two new proposed Board members: Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson and Thomas Lohmann, Director of Operations for the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Attendees introduced themselves. Since a quorum was not present the minutes to the meetings were not approved and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Staff provided an update on the following topics:
- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud
- Updates on the Statewide Plans of Operation
- 2007 Request for Proposals Update
- Legislative Update

Representatives from the New York City Police Department's Auto Larceny, the Auto Crime Division, the Fraudulent Accident Investigation Unit, and the Queens County Office of the District Attorney presented a summary of their activities. The Board members held a discussion on the information presented at the meeting.


## SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON OCTOBER 4, 2007

**Board Members & Representatives Present**
Commissioner Denise O'Donnell
Janet DiFiore
Robert Johnson
Tim Hotaling (for David Swartz)
Thomas Lohmann
Jim Potts (for Daniel Robinson II)
Eileen Sullivan (for Richard Brown)

Commissioner O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Board members and attendees introduced themselves. Since a quorum was not present, the minutes to the meetings were not approved and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Staff provided an update on the following topics:
- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud
- Dates for regional meetings of Statewide Work Group were announced
- 2007 Request for Proposal Update
- Legislative Update

Representatives from the Suffolk County Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office presented a summary of their activities that have helped reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in their respective jurisdictions.

## SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON NOVEMBER 19, 2007

**Board Members & Representatives Present**

Commissioner O'Donnell
Richard Brown
Robert Johnson
Thomas Lohmann
Mark Petruniak (Proxy for Christine Ziemba)
Daniel Robinson
David Swarts
Steve Vandervelden (Proxy for Janet DiFiore)

Commissioner O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 11:15 am. The Commissioner welcomed everyone. At this time, those representing absentee Board Members were requested to present their proxy letters to the Commissioner. A quorum being present, the Board approved the minutes from the November 1, 2006; March 28, 2007; July 30, 2007 and October 4, 2007 meetings. Staff provided the Board with an update on the following topics:

- Status of MV Awards
- Review of applications received in response to the 2006 Request for Proposal and awarding of grant funds.
- The Board members voted on the SFY 2006 motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prevention grant awards as follows:

*New York City Agencies*

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bronx County District Attorney | $340,500 | $340,500 | Mr. Robert Johnson recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Kings County* District Attorney | $272,399 | $125,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| New York County District Attorney | $402,300 | $300,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Queens County District Attorney | $691,445 | $652,805 | Mr. Richard Brown recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Richmond County District Attorney | $140,558 | $110,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| New York City PD – Auto Crime Unit | $503,130 | $400,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| New York City PD – FAIS | $212,000 | $212,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| New York City PD – Auto Larceny Unit | $386,179 | $240,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

*New York City Suburbs Agencies*

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hempstead Village Police Department | $54,000 | $40,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Nassau County District Attorney | $280,733 | $200,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Nassau County Police Department | $237,307 | $177,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Suffolk County District Attorney | $428,000 | $300,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Suffolk County Police Department | $160,000 | $154,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Westchester County District Attorney | $682,684 | $462,500 | Mr. Steve Vandervelden recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Yonkers City Police Department | $265,283 | $150,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

*The Commissioner recommended that staff meet with the Kings County District Attorney's Office to discuss an effective strategy for their grant.

*Capital Region/Hudson Valley*

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albany City Police Department | $163,507 | $90,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Albany County District District Attorney | $208,000 | $140,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Fishkill Town Police Department | $49,607 | $0 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Rensselaer County District Attorney | $116,940 | $110,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Saratoga County District Attorney | $70,000 | $70,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Schenectady County District Attorney | $95,578 | $72,500 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Schenectady City Police Department | $47,500 | $0 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

## Central Region Agencies

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| Syracuse City Police Department | $132,678 | $60,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Onondaga County District Attorney | $77,229 | $77,119 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

## Western Region Agencies

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amherst Town Police Department | $37,025 | $0 | Commissioner O'Donnell recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Buffalo City Police Department | $139,000 | $139,000 | Commissioner O'Donnell recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Cheektowaga Town Police Department | $61,961 | $61,911 | Commissioner O'Donnell and Lt. Mark Petruniak recused themselves from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Corfu Village Police Department | $11,000 | $0 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Erie County District Attorney | $188,876 | $162,520 | Commissioner O'Donnell recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation |
| Gates Town Police Department | $30,000 | $0 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Greece Town Police Department | $18,000 | $0 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Lackawanna City Police Department | $25,814 | $0 | Commissioner O'Donnell recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Monroe County District Attorney | $161,959 | $161,759 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Monroe County Sheriff Department | $169,524 | $75,920 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Rochester City Police Department | $89,512 | $86,012 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Niagara County District Attorney | $232,639 | $195,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Niagara County Sheriff Department | $34,795 | $34,795 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| Niagara Falls City Police Department | $44,798 | $44,798 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

*Statewide Agencies*

| Applicant | Amount Requested | Amount Recommended | Vote by members to accept amount recommended |
|---|---|---|---|
| New York Anti-Car Theft & Fraud Assoc. | $180,000 | $140,000 | All members were in favor of the recommendation. |
| New York Prosecutor Training Institute | $135,734 | $0 | Mr. Brown recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation. |

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Mr. Richard Brown motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Mr. Thomas Lohmann seconded the motion and all voted in favor.


**Note: The complete minutes of the Board's meetings are available upon written request to the address listed below:**

**New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services**
**Office of Program Development and Funding/Motor Vehicle Theft Unit (3rd Floor)**
**4 Tower Place**
**Albany, New York 12203**

# VI. 2007 Demonstration Grant Program Descriptions

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## Albany County District Attorney

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In 2007, the Albany County District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit engaged in extensive and successful efforts to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related insurance fraud in Albany County. Efforts ranged from conducting the longest trial in County history, to investigating and prosecuting motor vehicle crime and insurance fraud cases throughout the County. The Unit also was instrumental in implementing new and effective programs designed to collaborate and share resources and intelligence with law enforcement agencies and District Attorney's offices from neighboring counties as well.

Throughout 2007, motor vehicle insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft continued to be a formidable problem in Albany County. A major function of the Unit included holding regular meetings with members of state and local police agencies as well as insurance company investigators to review new arrests and pending cases and train and educate attendees on various trends and methods of auto related insurance fraud and auto theft matters

As a result of these meetings and contacts, the unit was uniquely positioned in 2007 to identify certain characteristics relating to the problem of motor vehicle insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft in Albany County.

**Motor Vehicle Theft**

In 2007, the Unit saw a higher concentration of motor vehicle thefts in and around the City of Albany and the Town of Colonie (which is the county's largest town). A large number of motor vehicle thefts in Albany County are crimes of opportunity including 'jump-ins'; owners leaving keys in the vehicle or unlocked vehicles and "crack rentals."

The Unit has developed an offender profile and generally it is a person who has had previous contact with the criminal justice system; often they have been previously convicted of an auto theft-related crime (Grand Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Unauthorized Use, Auto Stripping or Criminal Mischief). Offenders of all of the above types of theft in Albany County are not generally organized, although, as set forth above, Albany County has successfully prosecuted an organized theft ring, known as "Hood Rentals."

**Major Case Investigations**

In the first quarter of 2007, the activities of the unit were concentrated on preparing for trial in the case of *People v. Houghtaling.* In this case, the Unit prosecutor and investigator continued their involvement with the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB), New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV), the Albany Police Department (APD), Town of Colonie Police Department (CPD), the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and with invaluable assistance from the New York State Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI), to prepare for a trial against a local family indicted for running a staged motor vehicle

accident ring located in the Albany area.  Specifically, the defendants would target and intentionally crash motor vehicles into other motor vehicles being operated by drivers who were either intoxicated or disobeying other vehicle and traffic laws, then submit claims for property damage and rental vehicles to the other drivers' insurance companies. During the course of the Unit's investigation, valuable information was obtained about the inner workings of this staged accident ring through the cooperation of a former member of the organization.

On March 6, 2006, the Albany County District Attorney obtained a sealed, 36-count indictment charging eight defendants with the top count of Enterprise Corruption and multiple felony counts of motor vehicle insurance fraud and grand larceny. The Unit worked with investigators from a number of law enforcement agencies to coordinate the execution of search warrants on three locations. All of the defendants were arrested and the case began with jury selection during March 2007.

An investigator from the NYSIFB was assigned full time to this case and her presence and expertise on site enabled the Unit to handle this complex case in an effective and efficient manner.  During this time period, the Unit prosecutor conducted 78 conferences with witnesses and/or experts in preparation for this trial. Experts included a computer forensics expert who examined five computers seized as the result of the execution of a search warrant issued in March of 2006; a handwriting expert, who examined thousands of exemplars (taken from seven defendants) in order to determine authorship of more than 20 questioned documents; and a NYSDMV expert who analyzed the title and crash history of more than 15 vehicles owned and crashed by the defendants.  The prosecutor also conducted a two-day suppression hearing related to the seizure of items pursuant to the search warrant as well as statements obtained prior to trial.  The Unit also met with members of the special arson task force regarding this case.

The trial of this case, against the six defendants was the longest trial in Albany County history and lasted more than 10 weeks.  More than 40,000 pages of documents were turned over, in excess of 80 witnesses testified, including experts in computer forensics, handwriting, banking and NYSDMV related issues.  In order to manage the immense amount of data and exhibits, the Unit utilized the services of a computer programmer, who assisted in the pre-trial preparation of evidence and data bases. This programmer also assisted during the trial, sitting at counsel table each day and managing and presenting the trial exhibits which had been digitized in a computer format.

The trial culminated in mid-May 2007 with the felony convictions of the two ring-leaders. Both were found guilty of Falsifying Business Records, a felony, and both were sentenced in August 2007 to state prison.  Out of the eight original defendants charged in this staged accident ring, convictions were obtained against four defendants.

In addition to the extensive investigation and prosecution of the aforementioned case, the Unit in conjunction with the APD, CPD and the New York State Police (NYSP), obtained a multi-count indictment charging a defendant with multiple counts of Grand Larceny for his role in a car theft scam. The defendant had previously been investigated and prosecuted by the Unit in 2005 and 2006. The defendant would visit new car dealers and take high-end pick-up trucks for test drives. When the time came to return the keys to the sale person, the defendant kept the

actual key and returned a blank. He would then come back to the scene at night and steal the vehicle. The defendant was indicted for perpetrating this scam upon four different motor vehicle dealerships where numerous vehicles were stolen and then sold for drugs. Importantly, and at the same time, both Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties also had charges against this defendant. The Unit prosecutor collaborated with the District Attorney of these neighboring counties in an effort to prosecute this defendant effectively and efficiently. The defendant ultimately pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny and will be sentenced to 3 to 6 years in State Prison.

During the third quarter of 2007, the Albany County District Attorney's Economic Crime Bureau opened and reviewed 35 files and six new investigations were commenced relating to auto theft and insurance fraud during 2007. Seventeen cases were returned for local court disposition. Of the remaining files, 10 indictments were handed up. The Bureau was responsible for 12 felony pleas, resulting in five state prison sentences and three local jail sentences. In connection with the various new files, the Unit conducted approximately 50 conferences with law enforcement personnel from throughout the county to discuss the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular cases.

In collaboration with the APD, an indictment was obtained against a defendant for a brutal car-jacking. The defendant asked an elderly woman for a ride. After a few blocks, he asked to get out of the car. Upon stopping the car, he picked up a rock and brutally beat the victim. He left the scene with her car and her pocketbook. The car was later discovered abandoned in Washington County. The defendant had crashed the car in a ditch. In his haste to leave the scene, he left his wallet in the car. On the eve of trial, the defendant agreed to plead guilty to car-jacking. He received a sentence of seven years in State Prison.

In collaboration with the CPD, indictments were obtained against two individuals who had been responsible for a string of thefts from local car dealerships. These defendants would enter the car lots at night, jack up the cars and steal the tires and rims. They would later re-sell the stolen goods at local parts stores. These defendants both entered guilty pleas and await sentencing.

In collaboration with the NYSDMV Field Investigations Unit and the APD, indictments were obtained against a female defendant. The defendant had stolen her victim's identity and had made numerous transactions using the stolen identity, including the purchase of a car from an unsuspecting used car dealer. As a result of this indictment, the defendant entered a plea of guilty and awaits sentencing.

In connection with an investigation instituted by the NYSP, the Unit obtained a Grand Larceny indictment against a Canadian defendant. The defendant had defrauded an Albany County resident through an eBay Internet scam involving the purported sale of a classic car valued at $30,000. During the last quarter, the Unit finalized its request for international extradition, made via the US Department of Justice and the New York State Governor's Office.

The Unit has continued to reach out to every law enforcement agency in the County to conduct training/information sessions for local law enforcement in issues relating to both motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Formal meetings/training sessions were con-

ducted with the APD, the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and the Town of Bethlehem Police Department.

The Unit Prosecutor and Investigator have regularly attended of the Capital District Auto Theft Task Force meetings. These meetings not only offered valuable training on issues related to stolen cars and theft schemes, but afforded the prosecutor and investigator the opportunity to interact with local law enforcement agencies and insurance personnel.

During the last quarter, the Unit has created a work group consisting of prosecutors from Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties, and the NYSIFB and the NYSP. Also in regular attendance are two attorneys from the New York Prosecutor Training Institute (NYPTI). The group was created to share information and collaborate on investigations which were common to the Capital Region. To date, three meetings have been held and have provided each prosecutor a forum to discuss ongoing trends and investigations. Furthermore, in connection with this work group, an online secure bulletin board has been created so that members can share information, article and other investigative leads.

In the last quarter of 2007, the Economic Crime Bureau opened and reviewed 36 cases and four new investigations relating to motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Thirteen cases were returned for local court disposition. Of the remaining files, 11 indictments were handed up. The Bureau was responsible for 9 felony pleas, resulting in four state prison sentences and five local jail sentences. In connection with the various new files, the Unit conducted approximately 40 conferences with law enforcement personnel from throughout the county to discuss the facts and circumstances surrounding the particular cases.

In collaboration with the APD, an indictment was obtained against a female defendant alleging that she had taken advantage of an elderly man and stolen his identity. The unit investigated and prosecuted this matter because the defendant also stole the victim's motor vehicle and drove it out of state. The case is currently pending as there is an active arrest warrant pending.

The unit has collaborated with the APD in leading the investigation into a home invasion during which an elderly woman was robbed at knife-point in her own home. The defendant was captured after authorities were able to track him down after an acquaintance reported that he had stolen her car. In the last quarter, the unit counseled and reviewed eight cases from the NYSDMV Field Investigations Office related to allegations of filing false instruments with DMV headquarters. These cases all resulted in felony arrests and local court dispositions.

| Albany County District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 57 | MVIF Investigations Initiated | 16 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 20 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 8 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 13 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 4 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 4 | SAFETNet Referrals | 0 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 0 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 0 |

## City of Albany Police Department

**Overview**

In March of 2003, the Albany Police Department (APD) received its first grant to enhance law enforcement and investigations in the City of Albany to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. This report reflects the third full year in operation as a specialized investigative unit. One of the primary objectives was to conduct investigations in the field of motor vehicle theft (grand larceny), unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, and motor vehicle insurance fraud.

The APD has developed two forms to assist in the investigation of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud cases and the recovery of stolen vehicles. The standardized form for the recovery of stolen vehicles has assisted the APD in tracking where stolen motor vehicles are being dropped off. The supplemental form to the New York State Incident Report has given the APD additional information that was utilized to conduct investigations. All members of the APD received training in the in-service school on the use of these forms. Since the development of these forms other police agencies throughout our area and the state have used our forms to develop their own or are using ours for their needs.

The Capital District Auto Crime Task Force recently held its 15th meeting which was conducted in cooperation with the New York Anti Car Theft and Fraud Association (NYACT) and provided those in attendance with a one-day auto crime investigation seminar for law enforcement, S.I.U. insurance claims personnel and prosecutors. Representatives from the New York City Police Department (NYPD) the New York State Police (NYSP), New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) and vendor representatives covered current topics in motor vehicle theft trends, license plate scanning technology, developing confidential informants and fraudulent documents. The Task Force also met in April 2007, to bring attention to the increased number of older vehicles being stolen in the area. This is similar to a pattern in New York City.

The 18th meeting included a discussion of vehicle arsons. The program consisted of post vehicle fire investigation, vehicle fire investigative indicators, vehicle fire statistics, and vehicle systems and their relationship to vehicle fires. A live demonstration was held and included lectures by professional insurance arson investigators.

A license plate reader (LPR) was purchased through the grant and is deployed daily with officers of the traffic bureau. The LPR also is deployed during street sweep operations, in cooperation with Operation IMPACT, to recover stolen motor vehicles and other motor vehicle related crimes. During one such operation in February 2007, 26 suspended registrations were identified, one arrest was made more than $1,450 in scofflaw unpaid parking tickets were identified. On March 22, 2007, another detail recovered two stolen vehicles and two license plates were recovered.

**Training**

During 2007, two detectives and two officers attended the New York City Police De-partments Auto Crime School. Continued training and education is very important and the APD continues to work with NYACT to provide essential training for the APD.

**Case Summaries**

On January 20, 2007, an Albany man reported his 2002 Pontiac Grand Am stolen. Just prior to this report the vehicle has been involved in a property damage motor vehicle accident in the City. After reporting the motor vehicle stolen, the man went to Progressive Insurance to file a report and an affidavit of theft with them. He also gave them a recorded statement in regards to his claim. The investigation revealed that in fact the motor vehicle had never been stolen. The suspect then admitted that he had let a friend use the motor vehicle and the friend was in-volved in an accident and didn't have a driver's license. It was also discovered that the suspect filed the false report to cover for his friend because he was on parole. Both men were charged and await disposition.

On March 9, 2007, APD officers and investigators from the NYSDMV conducted an inspection and search of a possible chop shop at an Albany location. While no stolen motor vehicles or stolen motor vehicle parts were recovered, the repair shop was found to be in viola-tion of several NYSDMV regulations and was closed down until they complied with the regula-tions.

On April 4, 2007, an Albany man reported that a 1996 Ford Taurus that had no license plate on it had been stolen from in front of his place of business. The APD was aware of sev-eral reports that older vehicles were being stolen and had not been recovered. The APD con-tacted A-1 Crushers in Albany and inquired about the vehicle. The investigation revealed that in fact the vehicle had been crushed by A-1 Crushers without the proper paperwork being filed. The APD and NYSDMV conducted an inspection and audit of their records to ensure that the business was complying with applicable regulations. Since this first incident, the APD has been able to recover two stolen vehicle that have been brought to the business.

On June 29, 2007, the HSBC bank at 30 South Pearl was robbed at gunpoint and the suspect fled in a 1991 Toyota Corolla with a New York State license plate. The next day, the APD had identified a suspect. An officer with a license plate reader in a patrol vehicle discov-ered the vehicle in Albany. It was determined that the suspect to the bank robbery was inside a nearby residence. After a search warrant was obtained the APD entered the home and arrested the suspect and was able to recover some of the stolen money.

The APD continues to actively investigate the rentals of vehicles by drug addicts to drug dealers in exchange for illegal narcotics. This is commonly referred to as a "crack rental." This crime is suspected in many cases and the vehicle owners are charged with Filing a False Report and Loitering for the purpose of illegal drugs.

The APD continues its proactive approach on investigating motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud and its cooperative efforts with other agencies and the insurance companies through the Capital District Auto Crime Task Force has yielded positive results and made Albany a safer community.

**Community Relations**

The APD continues its proactive approach to investigating motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud and its cooperative efforts with other agencies and the insurance companies through the Capital District Auto Crime Task Force. The Community Service Officers are continuing the VIN etching program as a community service to the citizens of the City of Albany.

| City of Albany Police Department: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Reported Stolen Vehicles | 278 | Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle | 57 |
| Recovered Stolen Vehicles | 249 | Arrests: Unauthorized Use | 102 |
| Arrests: Grand Larceny Auto | 54 | Arrests; Insurance Fraud | 2 |
| Arrests: Criminal Possession Of Stolen Property | 59 | Value of Recovered Vehicles | $2, 700,000 |

## Bronx County Office of the District Attorney

The Bronx County District Attorney's Office Anti-Auto Theft Unit, in collaboration with individual precincts, continued its work investigating both motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud matters. The unit also continued to place the bait cars in precincts as needed.

In 2007, as in the previous eight years, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention grant enabled this Office to continue its focus on motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud with impressive results. Between 1990 and 2007 complaints of grand larceny auto (GLA) declined by 90% in Bronx County, from nearly 23,000 complaints to 2,995. Moreover, despite 17 previous years of declining auto theft, the number of Grand Larceny Auto complaints in 2007 was nearly 12% lower than in 2006. This Office continues to recommend jail time on all cases involving theft of a motor vehicle in Bronx County.

Every week since September 2006, Bronx District Attorney's Office Detective Investigators have worked with New York City Police Department (NYPD) precincts for three to four days and three to four nights using the License Plate Reader provided by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. By the end of 2007, these collaborative efforts resulted in a total of 78 arrests, 537 summonses issued, and the recovery of 189 reported stolen motor vehicles.

| Bronx County District Attorney:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 63 | Stolen/altered Vehicles Recovered | 361 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 578 | Values of Vehicles Recovered | $4,314,570 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 63 | Number of Times Lojack Used | 371 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 193 | Cars Recovered with Lojack | 18 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 94 | Value of Cars Recovered with Lojack | $269,875 |
| MVIF Investigations Initiated | 40 | SAFETNet Referrals | 3 |
| MVIF Felony Arrests | 44 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 11 |
| MVIF Felony Convictions | 11 | MVTIF Debriefings | 58 |

# City of Buffalo Police Department

Throughout 2007, the Buffalo Police Department (BPD) continued with its aggressive approach targeting motor vehicle theft, and motor vehicle insurance fraud by developing effective strategies and working with the many local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Erie County and surrounding counties.  This team approach is necessary as motor vehicle theft continues to be a "crime of opportunity and skill," and in Buffalo, there was a 1% increase in reported motor vehicle theft from 2,084 in 2006 as compared to 2,107 in 2007.  However, there was a 10% increase in recovered vehicles in 2007, as the BPD recovered 82% (1,738) of all motor vehicles reported stolen in the City of Buffalo that year.

The BPD has assigned one detective to work exclusively on motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations.  Arrests by the detective increased from 27 to 45 in 2007, a 67% increase from the previous year and included 30 felony charges and 15 misdemeanor charges.  The detective meets weekly with various law enforcement partners, including members from the Erie County District Attorney's Office (ECDA), Cheektowaga Police Department (CPD), New York State Police (NYSP), Erie County Sheriff's Department (ECSD), Niagara County Sheriff's Office (NCSO), Niagara Falls Police Department (NFPD), Buffalo Fire Arson Unit (BFD Arson), New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV), National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), and New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau (NYSIFB).

There were several cases of note during 2007 that took a great deal of time to develop and revealed a level of sophistication on the part of the criminals that had not been seen in this area.  A particular example demonstrates this point.  Since 2004, the BPD has tracked an increase in Honda and Acura thefts in the B District area (Central City, including Downtown/ Theatre District) of Buffalo and in July of 2007, the detective began looking into the thefts by examining daily Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle reports.

The Detective also noted that during this time period there was a steady increase in stolen Hondas and Acuras from suburban jurisdictions being recovered in the City of Buffalo. As a result of a detailed analysis of information, the BPD notified patrols in the area to pay particular attention to Honda and Acura thefts and to send any recovered stolen vehicle to the Seneca Street Police Garage for evidence collection. Ten vehicles were recovered and each was examined and evidence was collected. BPD officers developed intelligence information on suspect garages in their districts and surveillance was initiated in a targeted area where most of the stolen vehicles were recovered.

In early August, the detective was contacted by patrol officers to examine three motor vehicles that had been chopped, stripped and dumped behind a neighborhood auto glass and plate business located on William Street. The total value of the recovered parts from this neighborhood location exceeded $18,000. In addition, the detective notified patrol and other detectives of the crimes involved and asked patrols to be on the look out for suspected stolen car parts in commercial areas near the scene. The detective also notified patrol officers and detectives from the adjoining patrol district where a concentration of stolen motor vehicles was occurring. The detective and investigators then began to examine the core area in the Downtown/Theatre area to determine were these stolen motor vehicle were being dismantled.

As this investigation continued, the detective responded to a call at a commercial warehouse where a chopped and stripped stolen motor vehicle had been dumped at a business. The vehicle was identified as a 1994 Acura Integra, which had been reported stolen to the Town of Tonawanda PD on 6/9/07. As a result of this find, the detective actively notified all surrounding police agencies of these crimes and requested information on any related thefts, recoveries or arrests. In August, a detective from the Town of Tonawanda Police Department contacted Buffalo's detective and provided intelligence information on a possible suspect, who resided in the City of Buffalo. This suspect was subsequently arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle near the Buffalo-Tonawanda limits, the vehicle in question was a 2001 Acura Integra reported as stolen to the Amherst police Department in mid-August.

The detective, along with a detective from the Cheektowaga Police Department, conducted surveillance at the suspect's residence. While there, they discovered a 1996 Honda Civic that had been reported stolen the previous evening in the Town of Cheektowaga. Detectives surreptitiously removed the vehicle and secured it as evidence at the Seneca Street Police Garage. Additional covert surveillance was set up at this perpetrator's residence with the assistance of investigators from the NYSP, NYSDMV, and NICB. During this surveillance, a single bay garage door was open and various motor vehicle parts present in the garage. The suspect was present and was observed working on a white Acura Integra. Investigators approached the suspect and questioned him about the various vehicles he was working on, as well as about the auto parts in the garage. The suspect agreed to a consent search of the garage. Of the parts inside the garage, investigators identified two stolen engines and transmissions with the confidential VIN plate removed. Both the engines and transmissions were identified as belonging to the stolen motor vehicles that were dumped at the auto glass business. During the search, a driver's side air bag was located and identified as coming from a 1997 Honda Civic that was reported

stolen to the Town of Tonawanda PD in July. Investigators also discovered that the vehicle the suspect had been working on was a 1994 Acura which contained the engine and transmission from a 1994 Acura that had been reported stolen to the Buffalo Police Department in September 2006.  They also discovered that the vehicle was titled to the suspect, but the public vehicle identification number (PVIN) and the confidential vehicle identification number (CVIN) had been both switched.  Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the suspect had switched the CVIN plate affixed to the firewall of the vehicle.  The suspect covered the CVIN by tack welding and fiberglassing the weld. The suspect then put the donor CVIN number over the actual VIN number plate.  Investigators also located additional stolen property such as air bags and engines that were linked to reported Acuras and Honda Civics.  The suspect was arrested on several felony charges.  Many of the engines and vehicles seized by the BPD were of show quality and had been raced at Lancaster Speedway.  Some of the vehicles, including the suspects own vehicle, were displayed in various car shows across Western New York.

In September 2007, a joint investigation was conducted with the NYSP and the Niagara County District Attorney in which the owner and another suspect were purchasing allegedly stolen vehicles from an undercover officer.  Both suspects were arrested and await trial.

Salvage yard investigations continue as investigators have worked several MV-35 investigations from seized records from various salvage locations.   Some of the cases involve secondary examinations of recovered vehicles with suspected switched VINs.  At one salvage yard, a reported stolen vehicle was recovered after the VIN number had been switched.  The original vehicle was located during an inventory of vehicles stored at the impound lot.  Buffalo's detective, working with the Pennsylvania State Police (PASP) and NICB, assisted with an investigation of vehicles that had been reported stolen in Pennsylvania and then resold with a switched VIN. Buffalo's Detective located, examined and recovered vehicles for the PASP in the Buffalo area after being registered with switched VINs.

 The BPD continues to assist the Buffalo Fire Marshall's Office with several auto arsons. One case of particular interest was the reported theft of a 1998 Chrysler Towne and Country. This vehicle was reported stolen from Buffalo's West Side. The investigation revealed that the suspect had approached a source and indicated that he wanted the vehicle burned so that he could collect on his insurance. The vehicle was subsequently reported stolen and found burned. A three-month undercover operation was initiated and several recorded meetings were held with the suspect and his uncle.  Eventually, charges of Attempted Grand Larceny Insurance Fraud and Falsely Reporting an Incident were brought against the suspects.  In addition to Buffalo Police, this joint investigation involved the Buffalo Fire Department's Fire Marshalls, NYSP, NYSIFB, the Western New York Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.  This investigation was a great example of collaboration with law enforcement partners, including federal agencies.

BPD patrol officers were instrumental in assisting the assigned detective with many investigations.  One of note occurred when the detective and several patrol officers searched a garage in North Buffalo.  The particular location has been a target of the BPD for the past two years.  The search resulted in the property owner's arrest for the theft of a New Holland L-160 Skidsteer that was reported stolen and was found to be partially dismantled in the garage. A

search warrant was obtained and during the execution of that warrant, five pin plates were discovered and other construction equipment that had been reported stolen during a three year period was recovered. Additional charges were brought by the ECDA.

Buffalo's detective, along with other law enforcement partners, was able to conclude a case involving a suspect who was a supplier for an auto parts store. This investigation involved a $1 million recovery with the majority of the reported stolen vehicles located during the execution of the search warrants in the Town of Lancaster. The defendant pleaded to a D felony and was sentenced to 2 1/2 to 7 years in State Prison.

Another investigation being conducted at the same time involved an owner/operator of a garage in Buffalo who was a licensed dealer with DMV. During the course of this investigation, a total of 13 stolen vehicles were recovered with either switched VINs or no public VIN. The perpetrator pled to a D Felony concerning the theft of a 1967 Pontiac GTO and an E Felony for the other four vehicles, in addition to restitution.

The detective also has initiated a program with six of the most active scrap processors in the Buffalo area. Currently, all stolen vehicle reports that are filed with Buffalo Police are reviewed and categorized by the information listed on the NYSDMV Form MV-35. A list of the corresponding VINs is then compiled and faxed to those yards currently participating in the program. Once a stolen vehicle is discovered the original MV-35 is then collected and an investigation begins. Once the suspect is identified, a request to all participating yards is then submitted for them to examine their records for any transactions with the identified suspect. Those vehicles are then checked, and in some cases, additional stolen vehicles are located and the case is then presented to the Erie County District Attorneys Office for prosecution. Since establishing this initiative in January of 2006, 24 arrests have been made.

| City of Buffalo Police Department:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Reported Stolen Vehicles | 2,107 | Motor Vehicle Theft Arrests | 451 |
| Stolen Vehicles Recovered | 1,638 | MVT Felony Prosecutions | 170 |
| Unauthorized Use Reports | 3,394 | MVT Misdemeanor Prosecutions | 166 |
| SAFETENet  Targets Entered | 68 | MVIF Investigations | 11 |
| | | Value of Stolen Vehicles and Parts Recovered | $10,200,000 |

## Town of Cheektowaga Police Department

The Town of Cheektowaga Police Department has dedicated a detective to conduct field investigations into the crimes of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. The detective was assisted at various times by other members of the Cheektowaga Police Department Detective Bureau. The detective's efforts focused on the investigation of motor vehicle

theft, motor vehicle insurance fraud, and heavy equipment theft. Field efforts consisted of surveillance, collection of evidence (this included fingerprint identification and photography), and information sharing, which included meetings with outside agencies in the area. Agencies which the detective interacted with include the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB), National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), Erie County District Attorney (ECDA), Buffalo Police Auto Theft Squad (BPD), New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV), New York State Police (NYSP), Niagara County Sheriff's Department (NCSD), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Joint Terrorism Task Force, Michigan State Police and the Miami-Dade Police. The insurance industry was represented by the Farmer's Insurance, Progressive, State Farm, Geico, and Allstate insurance companies.

**February 2007**– The detective attended a Motor Vehicle Identification & Auto Theft Symposium sponsored by the Miami-Dade Police Department. A major component to this training was information relative to developing cases regarding stolen heavy equipment.

**May 2007** – The detective attended a three-day training seminar sponsored by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators-Northeast Chapter in Manchester, N.H. Training elements focused on fraudulent document recognition, heavy equipment identification, identity theft investigations, arson investigations, vehicle cloning, and auto auctions.

**July 2007**- The detective, in collaboration with BPD Auto Theft Squad and the NICB, developed information and investigated a case involving a stolen Skid Steer. The investigation culminated in the recovery of this $22,000 piece of equipment and the arrest of an individual who was subsequently charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree and Illegal Possession of a Vehicle Identification Number.

**December 2007**- Through the use of DNA, the detective bureau was able to collect blood evidence at the scene of a car radio theft and match it with the suspect. It is anticipated that the suspect will be turning himself in shortly.

| Town of Cheektowaga Police Department: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Reported Stolen Vehicles | 124 | MVT Felony & Misdemeanor Arrests | 16 |
| Stolen Vehicles Recovered | 45 | MVTIF Arrest Warrants Issued | 15 |
| Investigations Initiated | 74 | MVIF Investigations | 9 |
| SAFETNet Targets Entered | 6 | Auto Stripping Investigations | 3 |
| | | Training Seminars Conducted | |

# Erie County Office of the District Attorney

Throughout 2007, the Erie County District Attorney's Office has continued collaboration with our Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud (MVTIF) partners and other local law enforcement agencies to prosecute and prevent motor vehicle theft in Erie County. As has been noted in previous years, many reported motor vehicle thefts in Erie County can be linked to the economic duress of the local economy and the individual vehicle owner. They can be separated into two main categories: First, there are the owners who cannot afford car repairs or cannot make loan payments. The owner hires a person to take the vehicle and it is either burned, dumped in a local waterway, or sold to a scrap processor where it is crushed before detection. The second category involves tow truck operators who steal motor vehicles from streets, parking lots and private property for the scrap value of the metal.

There also was a notable increase in the investigation of thefts of large and small construction equipment. In one example, a woman was indicted for the possession of stolen property including commercial compressors and a wood chipper mounted on trailers and valued more than $15,000. This equipment was stolen from work sites and private property located in both Erie and Niagara counties. The defendant and her accomplices stored this stolen equipment at a residence in Erie County, listed it for sale on eBay, and sold the equipment to buyers located out of state and in New York. She was arrested when a potential buyer called the police after he observed her scratching off a serial number on a compressor. eBay was very cooperative in the investigation and was prepared to send a representative from Utah to testify at the trial in Buffalo. However, this defendant pled guilty to two D Felonies on the day the case was scheduled for trial.

Many resources were invested into the investigation of a suspect who was attempting to steal large construction vehicles from Erie County that were valued at almost $200,000 each. This investigation relied on the cooperation of multiple agencies and offices. The equipment owners were manipulated into delivering the equipment to a location in Erie County based on the fraudulent representation by the suspect that he was leasing the equipment for a construction job. Although the equipment sat in this location for many days, the defendant's accomplices failed to move the equipment. The owner was able to recover their property before the defendants could dispose of it. This same suspect convinced a separate company to move large construction equipment from Erie County to Cayuga County. This property also was recovered before an accomplice could repaint and cover the owner's name and identification.

The District Attorney's Office continued the focus on tow truck drivers and scrap yards. In one example, two defendants were indicted for the theft of multiple cars. They sold the vehicles to a scrap yards using DMV Form MV-35's. One of the defendants was a career criminal who had committed most of his prior crimes in the New York City area and had recently moved to Erie County. The defendant pled guilty to three separate Felony counts as a Second Felony Offender for the possession of stolen vehicles sold to a scrap yard.

The District Attorney's Office investigated and prosecuted various defendants for insurance fraud. In one case, two defendants engaged in an insurance fraud scheme in which the

male defendant supposedly sold a SUV to a female accomplice. Soon thereafter, the female defendant reported the vehicle as stolen in Buffalo. However, upon further scrutiny, it became clear that the reported theft was false and the man who supposedly sold her the vehicle was using her as a front to perpetuate this fraud upon the insurance company. The female defendant pled guilty to a felony for Insurance Fraud in the 4th Degree. In a separate investigation, a defendant reported her vehicle as stolen from the town of Evans, when it was actually disposed of, and later recovered, in Cattaraugus County.

The Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud assistant district attorney stays in constant contact with law enforcement officials as well as representatives from the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. Communications are made both on a case-by-case basis and at the regular meetings of the task force. Task force meetings have allowed for the dissemination of information on identifying fraud to law enforcement officials. In 2007, the MVTIF ADA continued to improve the expertise of the lower court ADA's in identifying and prosecuting MVTIF cases with stricter pleas and harsher sentencing recommendations.

| Erie County District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Performance Measure | Total | Performance Measure | Total |
| MVT Indictments | 23 | MVIF Investigations Initiated | 9 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 146 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 10 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 58 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 2 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Convictions | 24 | SAFETNet Referrals | 0 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 144 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 3 |

## Kings County Office of the District Attorney

Since the inception of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention project, the Rackets Division of the Kings County District Attorney's Office has continued to be at the forefront of law enforcement in the area of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prosecution. This office continues to work in cooperation and conjunction with more than 14 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In addition to the prosecution of summary arrest cases, the District Attorney engages in undercover investigations, wiretaps, and grand jury investigations.

The Rackets Division devotes two assistant district attorneys and one detective investigator on a full-time basis to the investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud related cases. Additionally, other Rackets Division assistant district attorneys, including an experienced Executive Assistant District Attorney, Unit Chief, and Deputy Bureau Chief, as well as financial investigators, worked on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases on a part-time basis. Also, assistant district attorneys from the trial zones han-

dle less complicated motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases.   In the Red Zone, our targeted zone, one assistant district attorney is devoted full-time to these matters.

| Kings County District Attorney:  MVTIF Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 88 | MV Insurance Fraud Indictments | 7 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 262 | MV Insurance Fraud Felony | 22 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 47 | MV Insurance Fraud Misdemeanors | 63 |

# Monroe County Office of the District Attorney

In August, 2004 the Monroe County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) assigned a full-time investigator and full-time assistant district attorney to the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention (MVTIF) unit, funded through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).  The chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau was assigned to supervise the unit, and to act as the primary liaison with DCJS staff in implementing the program in Monroe County.

During the first few months of its operation, the District Attorney/Investigator assigned to the program worked with the various police agencies to develop and adopt a uniform, standardized form to capture relevant information regarding reported motor vehicle thefts throughout the County (the type of vehicle, where stolen and recovered, damage, whether keys were in the vehicle and the type of theft ), and then set up a data base to track the information provided, and to determine what trends were suggested by the data. The sharing of this information has helped to coordinate efforts in stolen vehicle and insurance fraud investigations throughout Monroe County.

There were twenty-five (25) meetings held during  2007.  These meetings were attended by members of all of the agencies who are participants in the Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force.  These meetings have proven to be quite helpful in meeting the goals and objectives set forth by the Task Force.  Participating in these meetings, are representatives from the assorted law enforcement agencies from within Monroe County, as well as representatives from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau.  By having the Insurance Frauds Bureau involved in the Task Force, it has been able to address and pursue suspected insurance fraud cases, which was something that was almost non-existent prior to the inception of the Task Force.  These meetings have also been very helpful in keeping the lines of communication open.

The year 2007 brought yet another assistant district attorney to the forefront in prosecuting individuals charged with auto theft and insurance fraud related crimes.  The assistant district attorney works very closely with the other members of the Task Force, and has a good working relationship with them. Questions and concerns, as well as points of law are discussed at the meetings, which are often attended by the assistant district attorney assigned to the Task Force.

In April of 2007, members of the Task Force, including the District Attorney/ Investigator assigned to the Task Force, attended a meeting held in Buffalo, which addressed issues relative to the possible start-up of an Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force in Erie County, which would somewhat mirror the concept being practiced in Monroe County.

For one week in June, District Attorney/Investigator assigned to the Task Force attended an Advanced Auto Theft School at the Monroe Community College Regional Training Center. This training which was very relevant and informative was taught by Detective Thomas Burke of the New York City Police Department.

2007 also brought additional challenges to the Task Force in the form of an increase in the number of vehicles which were being towed from both local streets and highways, as well as from private property. These vehicles were subsequently towed into a number of different salvage yards and ultimately scrapped for money. The forms that were used in order to facilitate this were New York State Department of Motor Vehicle Forms MV-35 and MV-37. The Task Force discussed these problems at our regularly scheduled meetings, and began to formulate ideas in order to attempt to remedy the problem. Some arrests have been made relative to these crimes, and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office is aggressively prosecuting these cases.

Another problem experienced in Monroe County as well as some adjoining counties was the increase in the number of stolen vehicles from auto dealerships and repair facilities. These vehicles were generally stolen after the thief managed to retrieve the vehicles keys from the drop box that is used when people leave their vehicles at a repair garage, when the facility is closed. The Task Force did at one point identify a few suspects involved in this type of activity, along with the so-called "ring leader". Just prior to setting up a detail to monitor this person's activities, this individual was arrested by an adjoining county and is still incarcerated.

The 2007 year also brought to closure a case involving staged accidents. This investigation centered mostly around U-Haul trucks and Budget Rental trucks however, there were also staged accidents involving passenger vehicles. Three of the five individuals arrested in this case cooperated with the prosecution, while a fourth died shortly after her arrest. The main player in this case finally agreed to a plea agreement on October 29, 2007, and was subsequently sentenced to five to 10 years in the State Prison. This was a very lengthy investigation, in which all agencies involved in the Task Force participated.

Another interesting case that is being worked on is an arson investigation whereupon the registered/titled owner of a vehicle is suspected of setting fire to his vehicle with the assistance of another. This suspected insurance fraud involves the sum of approximately $124,000, which was an insurance claim that the insurance carrier had already declined. This investigation is still pending as only one suspect has been charged up to this point.

# Monroe County Sheriff's Office

On October 4, 2007, deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff Department (MCSO) responded to a robbery that had just occurred. Deputies spotted a possible suspect driving a vehicle in the area. The vehicle was a 2000 Mitsubishi that had been reported stolen in Monroe County. Members of the Monroe County Stolen Vehicle Task Force (MCSVTF) were working a special detail, responded and after a 30-minute pursuit, the suspect was taken into custody. The suspected was remanded to the Monroe County Jail with no bail based upon numerous previous felony convictions.

Wilbert's Auto reports during the past several months they discovered that an unknown suspect had stolen approximately 80 catalytic converters from inside their lot. The owners originally thought the theft was internal and did not contact the MCSO. Once their security cameras were operational, they showed a male suspect entering the fenced in lot and stealing the converters. Investigators from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) and the MCSO conducted a surveillance detail for several days. While conducting the detail the team observed the suspect enter the fenced area of the lot and begin to stack copper tubing. The suspect cut seatbelts off cars in the lot and used the belts to carry the tubing. Once the suspect exited the lot he was taken into custody. The suspect admitted to other converter thefts at Wilbert's, but would not give any further information. The suspect was remanded to the Monroe County Jail with no bail due to his double predicate Felon status.

On November 4, 2007, a deputy and investigator from the MCSO responded to an address to interview two suspects about car larcenies and garage burglaries in the Town of Pittsford. Upon arrival they observed both suspects in a 2003 Grey Honda Accord, parked in front. The two exited the vehicle and entered the location. A check of the plates revealed that they did not match the vehicle and belonged to a Honda that was reported stolen in the Town of Gates. The suspects fled, but were taken into custody on November 11, 2007, at the same address. Both suspects were charged in Rochester and transported to the Monroe County Jail awaiting trial.

MCSO investigators and deputies arrested a male and female suspect associated with a forged motor vehicle title. The investigation began when a deputy was dispatched to investigate a dispute over a 1998 Firebird. The investigation revealed that the male suspect had victimized an ex-girlfriend by taking a 1998 Firebird that belonged to her and by having the female suspect forge the original title to show that the male suspect was the vehicle owner. The male suspect then presented the forged documents at a NYSDMV Office in Greece, N.Y. to obtain a new title in his name. A search warrant was executed at the male suspect's residence and the 1998 Firebird was recovered and returned to the rightful owner. The male suspect remains in custody on unrelated Burglary charges. Both suspects await trial on Forgery and other charges.

| Monroe County Office of the Sheriff:  MVTIF Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Motor Vehicle Thefts Reported | 197 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 6 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 244 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 13 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 61 | MV Insurance Fraud Felony Arrests | 19 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 48 | MV Insurance Fraud Misdemeanors Arrests | 4 |
| | | MVTIF Task Force Meetings | 12 |

## Nassau County Office of the District Attorney

During 2007, the Nassau County District Attorney's Office (NCDA) continued to successfully investigate and prosecute motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle-related insurance fraud.  Multi-agency cooperation continues to be an integral part of the NCDA strategy.  By promoting the exchange of information and intelligence, as well as the development of collaborative investigations, numerous investigations were successfully completed, resulting in multiple arrests and convictions.  During 2007, there were approximately 128 new arrests for motor vehicle theft related offenses and approximately 50 new arrests for motor vehicle related insurance fraud.  During this period the NCDA also initiated approximately 11 new short- and long-term investigations of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related insurance fraud.   Many of the investigations are still ongoing.

In continuation of  these cooperative efforts, during this year an investigator for the NCDA participated in several license plate reader operations with the Hempstead Police Department.  The NCDA also assisted the Suffolk County Police Department in the execution of search warrants involving an auto dealership located in Nassau County.  The NCDA referred motor vehicle related insurance fraud cases to Queens County and Bronx County, in cases where the jurisdiction was more appropriate in those counties, and in turn had cases referred to the NCDA by Richmond County and Queens County.

During 2007 the NCDA continued the practice of debriefing defendants charged not only with motor vehicle related crimes, but also those charged with unrelated crimes  with possible  connections that could make them a source of intelligence regarding motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related insurance fraud.  Assistant district attorneys (ADAs) assigned to bureaus unrelated to our grant activities have been asked to take note of defendants' occupations, and to advise the motor vehicle theft investigator about any defendants employed as auto mechanics, tow truck operators,  insurance adjusters,  or as staff in medical clinics and other related fields who may be sources of information.  A number of these debriefings resulted in substantive leads that developed into active investigations.

Several recent successful owner give up investigations, which are still active, were initiated as a direct result of intelligence obtained during these debriefings.   In two of these cases, a defendant undergoing a debriefing provided information of an acquaintance's plans to give up

his car prior to the actual give up.  This enabled NCDA to substitute an undercover officer as the individual who would accept the cars from the vehicle owners.   In one of the cases, the vehicle owner surrendered his car in March of 2007, but surprisingly failed to report it stolen. Several months later the NCDA learned that the vehicle owner had been arrested and jailed on unrelated Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) charges.  When the DWI sentence was completed and he was released from incarceration, in late November 2007, he finally reported the car stolen.  The NCDA is currently tracking the case and expects that he will complete the filing of the insurance claim paperwork very shortly.  This investigation was conducted with the assistance of the Nassau County Police Department's Electronics Squad, and the National Crime Insurance Bureau (NICB), who assisted the NCDA Investigators with video and audio surveillance as well as securing the car as evidence.  The investigation is continuing.

Another investigation initiated pursuant to a debriefing of a defendant charged with unrelated crimes involves a body shop suspected of enhancing damages and other fraud.  With the assistance of NICB and Nationwide Insurance, the NCDA has obtained a vehicle which, is expected to be introduced into this shop in the near future.  The NCDA is  awaiting a pretext policy to proceed with the investigation.

In addition to the body shop cases,  the NCDA continued to investigate and prosecute other motor vehicle related insurance fraud cases.  A number of cases involved suspects who acted as "jump-ins"  which is  a  suspect who alleges injuries from a motor vehicle accident that the suspect was not involved in with the goal of receiving cash payments and insurance benefits.  Several other cases involved vehicle owners voluntarily giving up their motor vehicles and reporting them stolen to recoup insurance payments.  One case of interest that was recently referred to the NCDA by the NICB involved a suspected cloned vehicle registered to a Nassau County resident.   Through a routine review, an NICB agent found that a vehicle whose vehicle identification number (VIN) appeared on export records as having been exported to Finland in 2006, had been registered in Nassau County in July 2007 even though there were no import records to indicate that the vehicle with the corresponding VIN number had re-entered the United States.  The NCDA obtained a search warrant and seized the motor vehicle in order to examine the confidential VIN numbers.  As suspected, the vehicle was a reported stolen motor vehicle with a retagged VIN number.  The vehicle owners turned out to be unsuspecting victims who purchased the car for a "great price" on Craig's List.  However, since all the prosecutable conduct, including purchase transactions and all contact with the sellers, occurred outside of Nassau County, the case was referred to Queens County.

In addition to auto repair shop, owner give-up and theft-for-profit investigations, the NCDA has an ongoing commercial rate evasion investigation involving independent taxis operating in New York City which are insured as lower rate airport limousines operating in Nassau County. Individuals acting as runners for certain target insurance brokers have steered numerous owners of independently operated taxis to the target brokers with the promise of very low insurance rates. The brokers list the independently owned taxis as part of legitimate airport limousine fleets based in Nassau County and other lower premium rate locations for the purpose of getting the lower rates available to the airport limousine fleets. In most cases, the legitimate airport limousine fleet owners are unaware that independently owned taxis are listed as part of their fleets.  In some cases the brokers have listed the independent taxis as parts of fictitious

fleets using bogus livery company names. A taxi operating in New York City pays an average of $20,000 per year in premiums, while an airport limousine operating in Nassau County pays a premium closer to $4,000 per year. The target individuals charge the independent taxi owners between $5,000 to $8,000 for the annual premium, pocketing the difference and still saving the taxi owners a considerable amount in premiums. It is estimated that the fraudulent classification of the insured vehicles has resulted in a rate evasion of approximately $1 million dollars. This case is related to a much larger investigation being conducted by the New York State Attorney General's Office, which has already resulted in several prosecutions.

| Nassau County District Attorney: MVTIF Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 11 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 10 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 6 | MV Insurance Fraud Felony Prosecutions | 144 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Convictions | 45 | MV Insurance Fraud Misdemeanor | 41 |
| SAFETNet Targets Entered | 19 | MVTIF Task Force Meetings Held | 12 |

# Nassau County Police Department / Project S.A.V.E.

At the beginning of 2007, an initiative of the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) expanded the motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prevention program through the Search Apprehension Vehicle Enforcement (S.A.V.E.) Unit. The Program has expanded from the Fifth Precinct to now include the First Precinct, Third Precinct, Fourth Precinct, and the Crime Against Property (CAP) Squad. These precincts and the Detective Unit will be training members of the patrol force to identify the specific characteristics common to vehicle insurance fraud, and crimes related to motor vehicle theft.

A statistical analysis of stolen vehicles reveals that motor vehicle insurance fraud is a significant causal factor in the crime of Grand Larceny Auto. False reports to law enforcement and costly pay-outs by insurance companies have caused regional insurance rates to rise. The NCPD officers with expertise in motor vehicle insurance fraud will further interview a vehicle owner, who is suspected of falsely reporting a stolen vehicle. By the use of this proactive intervention strategy, the NCPD will help reduce the occurrences of falsely reported stolen vehicles.

The objectives of the S.A.V.E. Unit are met with investigations and enforcement activity. The S.A.V.E. officers of each of the four precincts are responsible for training each officer in their commands, including supervisors and detectives. The training goal of these S.A.V.E. Officers is to provide training to each officer assigned to their respective precincts.

Investigations are focused on identifying fraudulently reported stolen motor vehicles. This is accomplished through the systematic review of stolen vehicle reports to identify key indicators the S.A.V.E. officers will be able to track, and further investigate these reports. Once

identified the officer will commence an investigation and utilize all resources available, including detectives from the CAP Squad to develop the case. Currently, only the four designated precincts will be reviewed; however, if a squad detective deems a case to be fraudulent, the CAP Squad will assist. The CAP Squad will initiate enforcement of suspected motor vehicle related crimes at scrap yards and vehicle dismantlers. They also will provide assistance in regard to fraudulent reports.

In addition to fraudulently reported stolen vehicles, the S.A.V.E. Unit investigates staged motor vehicle accidents. Through careful review of all motor vehicle accidents S.A.V.E. officers will identify and investigate reports that are deemed to be fraudulent. Assistance from insurance investigators and CAP Squad detectives will be utilized when necessary to develop the case.

The NCPD regularly deploys license plate readers to identify violators and enforce the vehicle and traffic law. The plate readers will be deployed in areas that have a high incidence of stolen motor vehicles, such as malls, to locate and arrest suspects in motor vehicle theft crimes. Additionally, the license plate readers will be used in conjunction with chase cars to maximize their effectiveness on major thoroughfares to locate violators. S.A.V.E. officers will review all stolen motor vehicle reports and make a determination as to the locations to best deploy the plate readers. The high incident locations will be amended as needed after reviewing the reports. SAVE officers shall document any changes in the locations.

The NCPD has devoted significant resources to interdicting the continuing problem of vehicles being fraudulently registered in Pennsylvania and operated in Nassau County without proper insurance. S.A.V.E. Unit officers are able to identify fraudulent Pennsylvania registrations and insurance cards and effect arrests when forgeries are discovered. These suspects will be interviewed to obtain any additional information on the origin of these fraudulent documents. Any information that is obtained will be forwarded to CAP Squad detectives for further investigation.

Many vehicles are stolen or intentionally brought to scrap yards or vehicle dismantlers to be destroyed for their scrap value. The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) requires that specific records be kept and maintained. CAP Squad detective have initiated investigations into scrap yards and vehicle dismantlers that neglect to maintain the proper records and appear to be involved in illegal activity. S.A.V.E. officers assist CAP Squad detectives during inspections of junkyards.

| Nassau County Police Department: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 791 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 92 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 420 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 7 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 467 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 19 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 252 | Staged Auto Accidents Investigated | 42 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 124 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 301 |

## New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association (NYACT)

The New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc., (NYACT) sponsored 19 full-day seminars and five half-day training meetings across the state, training a total of 1,739 attendees, including 731 law enforcement officers from 131 different agencies, and 1,008 investigators and claims personnel from the insurance industry.

During 2007, NYACT continued to add new instructors and training topics to its roster of programs and continued to offer training seminars to the far-most reaches of the state. NYACT featured 22 new speakers and 23 new topics in its 2007 training programs.  The new topics focused on SIU investigations claims handling and the pre-trial process.  In response to completed evaluations NYACT  collected from prior training seminars as well as having introduced and trained law enforcement and SIU personnel in the use of "key" database systems developed specifically to aid in their no fault insurance fraud and auto theft investigations, such as CARFAX, MAGLOCLEN and the NYSID's New Fraud Case Management System, among other relevant, sensitive and timely information surfacing at the forefront of the industry. New topics included: W*hat Cooperation Must a Medical Provider Render to an Insurance Company with Respect to a Claim?, presented by* Kevin Reilly, Esq., Smith Mazure Director Wilkins Young & Yagerman; *Doctor Depositions and How to Utilize Them in Larger Scale SIU Investigations,* presented b*y* John J. Rossillo, Esq., Senior Partner, Rossillo & Licata, LLP; *Trial of a No-Fault Case and Utilization of an SIU Defense Anatomy of a Lawsuit,* presented by James T. Ehrhardt, Esq. and Jeffrey S. Seigel, Esq., Bruno, Gerbino & Soriano, LLP; *NYSID's New Fraud Case Management System: Submitting a Fraud Report: A Live Demonstration,* presented by John Marcone, Senior Investigator & Training Officer for the New York State Insurance Department Frauds Bureau; *No Fault Insurance Fraud: What Prosecutors Should Know,*  presented by William Zelenka, Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Chief, Arson / Auto / Economic Crimes Bureau, Bronx County District Attorney's Office; *Obtaining Voice, Data, Surveillance and Tracking Evidence*, presented by Kevin P. Bruen, Assistant Counsel, New York State Police; *Automobile Pre-Insurance Inspection: The Evolution of the Program From Phantom Car Prevention to Clone Hunting,* presented by Philip Crepeau, Senior Anti-Fraud Programs Advisor, CARCO Group, Inc.; *Legislative Update. Discovery of Electronic Evidence,* presented by Roy A. Mura, Esq., Mura & Storm, LLC; *Immigration Issues: Review of Alien Documents in Use,* presented by Gregory J. Harlin, Law Enforcement Coordinator, MAGLOCLEN; *MAGLOCLEN Overview & Review of Database Search Capabilities for Law Enforcement,* presented by Gregory J. Harlin, Law Enforcement Coordinator, MAGLOCLEN; *CARFAX: Available Resources (a melding of records from NICB, DMV, etc.) in Conducting Criminal Investigations. How CARFAX Can Assist Law Enforcement with Criminal Investigations. A History of CARFAX and How it Operates / Gathers Information,* presented by Christopher Basso, Media Relations Manager, CARFAX; *Manipulation Under Anesthesia (MUA): Key Indicators of a Fraudulent Claim. Criteria for Ordering an MUA; Protocol to Follow Prior to Performing an MUA,* presented by Daniel A. Sposta, DC (Little Neck, New York); *Manipulation Under Anesthesia (MUA) and Other Health Provider Claims*, presented by Skip Short, Esq., Short & Billy, PC; *What to Look for in Provider Investigations. Insight into the Corporate Structure of Medical Mills,* presented by Roger Brick, Consulting Medical Editor, The Haworth Press (former No Fault Medical Doctor); *NYS OAG: Investigation into Commercial No-Fault Auto Insurance*

*Fraud*, presented by Ellen Baruch-Zion, AAG, Chief, Auto Insurance Fraud Unit and Irwin Weiss, AAG, Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, New York State Office of Attorney General; *The Top 10 Most Vexing Issues Challenging No-Fault Insurers in New York State,* presented by Roy A. Mura, Esq., Mura & Storm, PLLC; *Forensics of Fraud: A Look at the Various Auto Theft Components from Auto Theft Devices to Transponders,* presented by Terry Corrinne, Forensic Analyst, Northeastern Technical Services; *NYC DOI: Enforcement of Local Law 11: A Look at how the New NYC DCA Report Form Addresses the Use of Runners by No-Fault Clinics,* presented by Marjorie B. Landa, Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Robert C. Joyce, Associate Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI); and *The Role of the Criminal Runner in No-Fault Fraud*, presented by Sergeant John Moran, S.D.S., Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad of the Organized Crime Control Division, NYPD.

NYACT also continued its efforts in reaching out to and cooperating with other related organizations – that have similar goals and agendas – to pool its resources and develop/sponsor joint education training sessions.  NYACT co-sponsored its well-received annual training conference with New York Prosecutor Training  Institute for the fifth year in a row, attracting 89 attendees and 33 agencies across New York State. NYACT co-sponsored two training seminars with the Albany-based Capital District Auto Crime Task Force in 2007, up one from 2006, training 180 at its January training seminar and 88 at its November training seminar which included an off-site, live vehicle burn demonstration.  The bulk of this full-day training seminar was instructed by James P. Ryan, Fire Investigator, Arson Bureau, New York State Department of State - Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Academy of Fire Science, which focused on post vehicle fire investigations including *Interview Tips & Techniques,* which was presented by Investigators Phil D'Angelo and Sean Ralph of the NYSID Fraud Bureau. NYACT also co-sponsored two four-day Auto Theft Schools in 2007, up one from 2006, one at the NYSP Academy in February, which attracted 88 students, and another at the Monroe County Public Safety Training Center in Rochester in June, which attracted 48 students.  Finally, NYACT's Annual November two-day Education Conference for SIU and Insurance Claims Personnel continues to draw in the law enforcement sector into its training program in an effort to promote cooperation between the insurance industry and law enforcement in the fight against vehicle theft and insurance fraud. Speakers representing the law enforcement sector included keynote speaker Steven Nachman, Deputy Superintendent, Fraud & Consumer Services, New York State Insurance Department Frauds Bureau; Ellen Baruch-Zion, AAG, Chief and Irwin Weiss, AAG, Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, New York State Office of Attorney General who presented on the *NYS OAG: Investigation into Commercial No-Fault Auto Insurance Fraud;* and Det. Thomas Burke, New York City Police Department, Auto Crime Division, who presented on *No-Fault Fraud; Latest Schemes and Scams.  An Update on the Latest in No-Fault Fraud.*  The two-day conference attracted a total of 377 attendees.

**Following is a summary of Training Programs offered by NYACT in 2007:**

**January 24, 2007 – General Meeting** was held at Allstate Insurance, Lake Success and featured Todd M. Child, Director of Development at Remington ELSAG Law Enforcement Systems, who discussed "License Plate Scanning Technology;" and Kevin Reilly, Esq., member of the law firm Smith Mazure Director Wilkins Young & Yagerman, who discussed "What Coop-

reported their vehicles as stolen in order to fraudulently obtain insurance settlements.

District Attorney Brown said, "Motor vehicle theft is the most expensive property crime in the United States.  According to government figures, more than 1.2 million vehicles are stolen each year, resulting in property losses of more than $7.5 billion nationwide. These losses are ultimately passed onto the consumer by way of ever-increasing insurance premiums. Here in Queens County auto theft has long been a benchmark in measuring our effectiveness in combating crime. In 1991, when I first took office, there were some 52,000 cars stolen in Queens County. Last year we were at less than 5,000 cars stolen – a decrease of more than 90 percent. As such, we remain committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting such conduct. Those who make the mistake of setting up shop in Queens County face serious felony charges and prison sentences."

Commissioner Kelly said, "This ring had the audacity to steal cars from three of the five boroughs, Nassau County, and New Jersey, sometimes stealing from other livery companies for parts ultimately used and sold by a competitor. The outstanding work of our detectives and prosecutors contributed to the fact that car thefts in New York City have declined by 66% in the last decade, from 51,312 stolen vehicles in 1997 to 17,855 last year. We expect another decline for 2007 with car thefts currently running 17% below last year's low."

State Insurance Superintendent Dinallo said, "I am proud of the role that the Auto Unit of the Insurance Department's Frauds Bureau played during this investigation by the NYPD and Queens District Attorney Richard Brown.  This case is a great example of how law enforcement agencies and this Department can work together to eliminate auto insurance fraud, which for too long has victimized New York's honest consumers and businesses."

Six of the defendants – including the livery cab fleet owner – have been charged in a 148-count indictment charging, among other crimes, Enterprise Corruption under New York State's Organized Crime Control Act. The indictment alleges that five of the defendants operated an auto theft and dismantling ring out of an illegal chop-shop located in Queens. These defendants are accused of stealing dozens of automobiles – which included mostly Lincoln Town Cars, as well as other such expensive vehicles as BMWs, Mercedes Benzs, Jeep Cherokees, Chrysler Town and Country cars and Ford and Dodge vans – from Queens County, Atlantic City, NJ and elsewhere. After dismantling the stolen vehicles, it is alleged that the defendants then supplied the usable parts to the livery cab fleet owner – either at no cost or below market value.  All fifteen defendants have been variously charged with enterprise corruption, third- and fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, illegal possession of a vehicle identification number, third-degree insurance fraud, third-degree auto stripping, first-degree offering a false instrument for filing, first-degree falsifying business records and fifth-degree conspiracy.

The charges are the result of a sweeping 21-month joint investigation by the New York City Police Department's Auto Crime Division and the Queens District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau. Dubbed "Operation Caliente Cabs," the investigation utilized court-authorized wiretaps, intensive surveillance and electronic tracking devices.  Allegedly Provided Stolen Auto Parts to Livery Cab Fleet Owner Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and New York State Insurance Department

eration Must a Medical Provider Render To An Insurance Company with Respect to a Claim." – 105 attendees.

**January 26, 2007 – Joint NYACT/Capital District Auto Crime Task Force** was held at Progressive Insurance, Albany, N.Y. – 180 attendees.

**February 5 – 9, 2007 – Advanced Auto Theft School (four-days)** was held at NYS Police Academy, Albany, N.Y. – 88 attendees.

**February 13, 2007 – General Meeting** was held at Travelers, Melville, NY and featured John J. Rossillo, Esq., Rossillo & Licata, who discussed "Doctor Depositions and How to Utilize Them in Larger Scale SIU Investigations;" and James T. Ehrhardt, Esq. and Jeffrey S. Seigel, Esq., Bruno, Gerbino & Soriano, LLP, who discussed "Trial of a No Fault Case and Utilization of an SIU Defense Anatomy of a Lawsuit." – 102 attendees.

**April 17, 2007 – General Meeting** was held at GEICO, Woodbury, N.Y. and featured John Marcone, Senior Investigator & Training Officer for the New York State Insurance Department Frauds Bureau, who discussed "NYSID's New Fraud Case Management System;" and Supervisory Special Agents William J. Callaghan and Marian Chuda of the New York Office FBI Health Care Squad, who discussed "New Health Care Fraud Task Force Takes Root." – 151 attendees.

**May 3, 2007 – Joint NYACT/NYPTI "Auto Crime Training Seminar for LE, SIU & Prosecutors"** was held at Best Western Sovereign Hotel, Albany, N.Y. – 89 attendees.

**June 11 – 15, 2007 – Advanced Auto Theft School (four-days)** was held at Monroe County Public Safety Training Center, Rochester, N.Y. – 48 attendees

**June 12, 2007 – General Meeting** was held at Travelers, Melville, N.Y. and featured Sergeant James A. Daily, New York State Police, who discussed "Electronic Police Accident Report (E-TraCS);" and Philip Crepeau, Senior Anti-Fraud Programs Advisor, CARCO Group, Inc., who discussed "Automobile Pre-Insurance Inspection." – 93 attendees

**June 19, 2007 – NYACT / NYSSIU / NYAIP co-sponsored Fraud Training Conference for SIU and Insurance Claims Personnel** was held at Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel, Syracuse, N.Y. – 98 attendees

**June 20, 2007 – Advanced Auto Crime Investigation Seminar for Law Enforcement** was held at Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel, Syracuse, N.Y. – 61 attendees

**September 26, 2007 – Advanced Auto Crime Investigation Seminar for Law Enforcement** was held at SUNY Buffalo, Center for Tomorrow, Buffalo, N.Y. – 65 attendees.

**September 28, 2007 – General Meeting** was held at Allstate Insurance, Lake Success, N.Y. and featured Marjorie B. Landa, Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Robert C. Joyce, Associate Commissioner, from the New York City Department of Investi-

gation (DOI) who discussed "The NYC DOI (Department of Investigation):  Enforcement of Local Law 11: A Look at how the New (yet to be released) NYC DCA Report Form Addresses the Use of Runners by No-Fault Clinics;" and **Sergeant John Moran, S.D.S., Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad of the Organized Crime Control Division, NYPD, who discussed "**The Role of the Criminal Runner in No-Fault Fraud." – 95 attendees.

**November 2, 2007 – Joint NYACT/Capital District Auto Crime Task Force** was held at Progressive Insurance, Albany, N.Y. – 88 attendees.

**November 13 & 14, 2007 – Two-Day Education Conference for SIU and Insurance Claims Personnel** was held at the Huntington Hilton Hotel, Melville, N.Y. – November 13th:  272 attendees; November 14th:  309 attendees.

**December 4, 2007 – Advanced Auto Crime Investigation Seminar for Law Enforcement** was held at the Rockland County Fire Training Center, Pomona, N.Y. – 102 attendees.

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## New York City Police Department – Auto Crime Division

The NYPD Auto Crime Division was established in 1980 and is part of the Organized Crime Control Bureau. The Auto Crime Division is a citywide investigative unit whose efforts are directed primarily at chop shops, auto salvage yards, organized auto theft rings, and auto theft export. The unit also actively investigates insurance fraud, and closely monitors businesses associated with the automotive industry.

Total Grand Larceny Auto complaints decreased by 16.8 % citywide as compared to 2006.  The two-year decrease is 27.8%, the five-year decrease is 38.3% and the 10-year decrease is an astounding 69.9%.  The acquisition of funding from the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board (MVTIFP) continues to permit the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to effectively combat auto crime and develop strategies for 2007. Some of the methods utilized by the Auto Crime Division were sting operations, Multi-Agency Response for Community Hot-spots (MARCH) operations, undercover vehicle buy back operations, Get Legit or Quit Operations (GLQ), training for members of the department and the continued operation of two undercover auto related yards. In addition, new technology is being successfully utilized by members of the division.  License Plate Readers have been designed for covert installation into division vehicles and are used during  48 hour operations, resulting in substantial arrests and recoveries.

During the period of January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007, there were three major cases brought to completion by the Auto Crime Division.  The following are highlights of these operations.

**Operation "Key Ring"**

On March 21, 2007, at approximately 4:00 a.m., members of the Auto Crime Division initiated the takedown of the Major Case module's MC 06-003, affecting 12 arrests with the following results. This case, designated "Operation Key Ring" was opened on July 5, 2006, by Major Case module Detective Kenneth DeStefano under the supervision of Sergeant Jonathan Schwartz, and Lieutenant Eugene Borelli at the direction of the previous Commanding Officer of the Auto Crime Division, Inspector Howard Lawrence. The investigation targeted an organized group that steals high-end luxury sport utility vehicles, alters those vehicles' identification numbers, then sells the stolen vehicles to others within and outside of New York State. Two locksmiths facilitated the thefts of these vehicles in one of two ways. The complicit locksmiths either obtained key codes from a General Motors parts dealer from vehicle identification numbers provided by the thieves, or fabricated keys utilizing lock cylinder codes obtained from vehicles selected for theft, beforehand. To date, at least 79 GMC Denali(s), AM Hummer H2(s), and Cadillac Escalades have been stolen by participants in this criminal enterprise from within New York City, predominately in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The stolen vehicles have a total aggregate value in excess of $3 million. More than 40 of the vehicles have been recovered at the time of this report.

Numerous investigative tools were employed to achieve the goals of Operation "Key Ring." The Major Case module investigators obtained court orders for and monitored electronic eavesdropping of five cellular telephones belonging to the primary suspects, installed two global positioning satellite tracking systems on vehicles that were marked for theft, and performed physical surveillance on nearly a daily basis. Global positioning satellite-tracking capability of the subjects' cellular telephones also was exploited. In addition, Major Case module investigators analyzed department records, documents garnered from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, General Motors Corporate Security, as well as various documents from telephone, banking, and insurance companies. The cooperation of two of the subjects was secured to further enhance the case.

After presenting the accumulated evidence to a Queens County Grand Jury by the Queens District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, nine subjects were indicted for Enterprise Corruption. Inclusive of these charges are numerous pattern acts of Grand Larceny Auto, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, and Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle. Additionally, three other persons are slated to be arrested based on their activities during the investigation.

**Operation "Caliente Cab"**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and New York State Insurance Department Superintendent Eric R. Dinallo, announced that the owner of a Queens-based livery cab fleet has been indicted along with five others on charges of profiting from a large scale auto theft and dismantling ring allegedly responsible for the theft of dozens of luxury automobiles over a twelve-month period in Queens County and elsewhere. Nine other individuals are accused of participating in the scheme, including car owners who allegedly turned their vehicles over to the ring and then falsely

vehicles over to the ring and then falsely reported their vehicles as stolen in order to fraudulently obtain insurance settlements.

**Operation "Disappearing Act"**

Sixty-one individuals have been charged in a $1.7 million undercover insurance fraud "sting" operation that has resulted in the recovery of 70 vehicles that had been falsely reported as stolen by their owners in order to get large insurance settlements. Fifty-one of the individuals are in custody. The remaining 10 are presently being sought or are expected to surrender today.

According to the charges, a vehicle owner would deliver his/her car to a so-called "middleman" with the understanding that the middleman would then dispose of the vehicle. The owner would then falsely report the car stolen to the police and file an insurance claim for the "theft." In turn, the middleman would deliver the car to a Queens garage – known to accept insurance job vehicles and discretely dispose of them – for a fee based upon the condition of the vehicle. The middleman typically would give the garage owner the vehicle keys with the understanding that the keys would be returned within a week so that the car owner could return them to their insurance company as evidence of the vehicle's "stolen" nature. Unbeknownst to those charged in the scheme, the owner of the garage was an undercover detective.

The 18-month investigation dubbed Operation Disappearing Act was conducted utilizing various law enforcement techniques – including court-ordered wiretaps, as well as video and physical surveillance. The arrests are the latest in a series of undercover operations in Queens County targeting auto theft and insurance fraud that began in 1991 and is being conducted by the NYPD's Organized Crime Control Auto crime Division. Operation Disappearing Act has resulted in the recovery of 70 vehicles, which include many luxury, late-model automobiles, such as the Cadillac Escalade and numerous BMWs, including a BMW 650i with a purchase price of $67,000. The operation also led to the discovery of a total of more than 40 false insurance claims that potentially could have cost various insurers, including Geico and Allstate, hundreds of thousands of dollars in settlements. The total amount of payoffs by undercover detectives for all 70 vehicles involved in the investigation was about $70,000, or approximately $1,000 per vehicle, with the total value of the recovered vehicles estimated at $1.7 million.

| New York City Police Department  Auto Crime Division: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 542 | Vehicles Reported Stolen | 13,256 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 38 | Vehicles Recovered | 221 |
| Major Cases Initiated | 3 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 413 |
| Search Warrants Executed | 17 | Officers Trained at Auto Crime School | 1,210 |

**BROOKLYN NORTH AUTO LARCENY UNIT**

The Brooklyn North Auto Larceny Unit is deployed by Patrol Borough Brooklyn North on a daily basis and is designed to provide additional support and expertise to New York City Police Department (NYPD) Patrol Precincts experiencing increases in reports of stolen motor vehicles.  In 2007, the Auto Larceny Unit made 90 arrests for Grand Larceny Auto, a 21.62% increase from 2006.

The NYPD Patrol Borough Brooklyn North has had 1,782 motor vehicles reported stolen in 2007.  The 75th Precinct led with 391 reported motor vehicle thefts.  Though the volume of stolen vehicles is staggering, the crime reduction efforts of the NYPD Patrol Borough Brooklyn North are immediately evidenced by a 14.2% reduction for 2007, a 19.9% reduction for the past two years, and an 81.3% reduction for the past 14  years. Strategies are closely monitored and adjusted to address current trends and unexpected increases.

The complexity of motor vehicle theft crimes has changed along with the citywide crime reduction efforts. The thieves have had to become more resourceful and as a result, law enforcement has employed such technologies as the License Plate Reader, Bar-Code Scanners to detect fraudulent registrations, and OBD II readers.  During the last several years, thefts of high intensity discharge headlights and airbags have dominated the focus of auto parts related theft enforcement. Currently the trend of theft has shifted to both manufacturers installed and portable GPS/Navigation Systems. The Auto Larceny Unit conducts sting operations and "Get Legit or Quit" shop inspections to tackle this condition.

Due to the recent increase in the price of scrap metal, enforcement efforts have turned toward shredder plants (Scrap Metal Processors).  NYPD Brooklyn North is focusing on scrap metal dealers in Brooklyn as the Motor Vehicle Law states that a vehicle eight years or older does not require that motor vehicle title be surrendered prior to the car being crushed for scrap metal.  The only requirement is NYS Department of Motor Vehicle form (MV-35).  Needless to say, the business is very profitable.  Additionally, tow operators have come under surveillance as they traditionally tow vehicles to scrap yards and have the ability to steal vehicles regardless of their anti-theft deterrents. Continued surveillance as well as a marked increase in tow truck and tow yard inspections focus on this relevant issue.

Additionally, the following listed strategies as well as the focused deployment of the License Plate Reader System will continue to assist NYPD Patrol Borough Brooklyn North in its crime reduction efforts:

## STRATEGIES:

- Conduct proactive enforcement at targeted locations where grand larcenies of autos are occurring.
- Operations consisting of: conducting computer plate checks, vehicle stops, tracking LoJack signals, inspecting tow trucks with vehicles in tow, preparing UF-250's and issuing summonses.
- Inspections at vehicle repair shops and possible chop shops.
- Surveillance at the "shredder" plant and increased vigilance pertaining to vehicle crushers.
- Utilize computer-based applications to conduct limited investigations into vehicle based crime.

## COORDINATION:

- Maintain liaisons with the Kings County District Attorney's Office to ensure prosecution of all cases and enhancement of career criminals.
- Communicate with the Auto Crime Division and Borough Operations to better coordinate information sharing and enforcement protocols.
- Work with the Legal Bureau, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Department of Consumer Affairs to enforce regulations and bring civil proceedings against illegal locations.
- Confer with the Borough PIMS Unit and Precinct Crime Analysis to better analyze vehicle thefts and recoveries for patterns and trends.
- Continue the successful partnership with the Avis Budget Group.

## TRAINING:

- Increased department and private training for all unit members in the areas of theft recognition and deterrence.

## RESPONSE:

- The continuous surveillance of dump locations and shredder plants.
- Probation debriefings, including recidivists and new releases not on parole.
- GLQ's (Shop Inspections) and resource coordination operations.

## BROOKLYN SOUTH AUTO LARCENY UNIT

The Brooklyn South Auto Larceny Unit has experienced a decrease of more than 70% in the number of reported motor vehicle thefts during the past 10 years (8,500 thefts reported in 1997 vs. 2,470 reported in 2007).  For  2007, the number of motor vehicle thefts has decreased an additional 20%, or 520 few reported motor vehicle thefts.  The trend continues in the first quarter of  2008, with a decrease of more than 100 reported motor vehicles stolen.

An integral part of the success in reducing auto thefts was the utilization of grant funds to conduct investigations and surveillance that resulted in the apprehension of suspects involved in motor vehicle thefts.  In 2007, a new program was initiated in Brooklyn South that encompassed the overt surveillance of a targeted list of past motor vehicle theft suspects.  In addition to the targeting of known suspects, Brooklyn South Auto Larceny Unit had a 33% increase in arrests (367 in 2007 vs. 277 in 2006). A portion of these arrests were the residual effects of surveillance and investigations of motor vehicle theft related crimes.

Assisting the motor vehicle theft decrease in Brooklyn South is the continued deployment of the mobile license plate reader.  The license plate reader played an important role in locating stolen vehicles in transit and parked on the streets in Brooklyn. The increase in locating parked stolen parked vehicles in some cases resulted in lengthy surveillance and apprehension of motor vehicle theft perpetrators.   Moreover, the increase in recovered vehicles was substantial, which assisted insurance companies in  recovering losses and helped keep insurance premiums down.

## BRONX AUTO LARCENY UNIT

The Bronx Auto Larceny Unit is comprised of supervisors and officers who were chosen for their knowledge, background, and expertise in the auto field. The Unit is deployed throughout the 12 NYPD precincts that comprise the borough of the Bronx to provide additional support and expertise for Precincts that are experiencing increases in motor vehicle related crime or generally tend to have a higher incidence of motor vehicle related offenses. Unit personnel assist and instruct precinct patrol officers in motor vehicle-related matters while acting as an informational gathering tool for the Auto Crime Division.

Throughout the last 10 years, Bronx County has consistently led the five counties that comprise New York City in the number of reported stolen motor vehicles.  Through the efforts of this unit and other police personnel, the Bronx has seen a tremendous drop in both stolen vehicles and auto related crime:  since 1994, motor vehicle theft has decreased by 84%.

Since 1999, the Bronx Auto Larceny Unit has effected more than 2,600 arrest for motor vehicle related offenses and recovered approximately 2,500 vehicles.  The Bronx Auto Larceny Unit has, in part, been able to effectively combat auto theft and related offenses through the use of funds provided by the motor vehicle theft grant.  The unit has used both the equipment purchased through the grant and other grant funds to conduct numerous operations to combat motor vehicle related crimes and significantly reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft in the Bronx.  Some examples of the equipment purchased include the following:

LICENSE PLATE READER - Enables officers to computer check a vastly greater volume of vehicles in a given time frame. In its first year of use, it has been instrumental in more than 20 separate vehicle related arrests.

G.P.S. UNITS - (Used in conjunction with License Plate Reader) These units are used to track locations of stolen vehicles that were not yet reported stolen when the plate reader originally read the plate. Upon ascertaining that the plate reader previously ran a stolen vehicle, officers

obtain coordinates from the plate reader, input them into G.P.S units and attempt to recover said vehicle. These G.P.S Units have also been used in numerous reverse sting operations to discourage the purchasing of stolen equipment.

OBD 11 READERS and BAR CODE SCANNER - These tools enable unit personnel to conduct faster more efficient vehicle inspections in the field, allowing officers to conduct a greater volume of these inspections.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS - Used in conjunction with Bar Code Scanners, OBD 11 Readers, V.I.N. Assist and I.S.O. Programs, the laptop is an invaluable tool supplied by grant monies. These laptops have enabled this unit to make both alter VIN/CPSP and Insurance Fraud arrests in the past year.

DIGITAL CAMERAS - Digital cameras purchased with grant money have been instrumental in the documentation process for all our insurance fraud cases.

OVERTIME HOURS - Grant money has enabled the unit to conduct numerous operations and surveillances throughout the years enabling the Auto Larceny Unit to close numerous illegal chop shops, recover numerous vehicles, and place many car thieves in jail.

During the past 10 years, technology has changed significantly the manner in which motor vehicle are stolen and how and which parts which are removed (airbags, G.P.S., high intensity lights). Suspects have had to become more resourceful and daring, while law enforcement has and must continue to use both training and new technologies to combat both motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The NYPD Bronx Auto Larceny Unit shall continue to coordinate its strategies and response to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud with other Auto Larceny Units, NYPD Auto Crime Division, and other law enforcement agencies.

**QUEENS SOUTH AUTO LARCENY UNIT**

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) Queens South Auto Larceny Unit (ALU) is deployed by Patrol Borough Queens South on a daily basis and is designed to provide additional support and expertise to patrol precincts experiencing increases or spikes in reported motor vehicle thefts. The Queens South ALU patrols the area that encompasses south of the Long Island Expressway, east of Woodhaven Boulevard, west to the Brooklyn Border and includes the Rockaway Peninsula. This area is primarily residential.

NYPD Queens South ALU consists of a lieutenant, two sergeants, and 13 police officers. Throughout the past 10 years this ALU has worked with the NYPD Auto Crime Division, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), New York State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigations and New York State Department of Motor Vehicles to engage in short-term investigations. The Queens South ALU has conducted short-term investigations into illegal repair shops, salvage shops, chop shops and various other organized crime relating to motor vehicle offenses.

Throughout the past 10 years, reported incidences of stolen vehicles has decreased substantially in Queens. In 2005, motor vehicle thefts decreased by 16.9%; in 2001, the rate of

motor vehicle thefts reported decreased by 25.6%; and since 1997 the decrease has been approximately 88% in Queens.

With all the changing crime trends in the last 10 years, such as thefts of air bags, headlights, tires/rims, and defacing Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plates, the Queens South ALU has been able to keep up with the patterns due to the equipment and support given by the motor vehicle theft prevention grant as well as the Criminal Justice Bureau. This support has allowed the Queens South ALU to purchase cameras, surveillance equipment, GPS systems, laptop computers, handheld Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) and night vision goggles.

The significant reduction in reported stolen motor vehicles and motor vehicle related thefts throughout the last 10 years has enabled the NYPD Patrol Borough Queens South to focus on short-term investigations and the reductions of street crimes related to Auto Crimes. The success of the last 10 years has enabled the Queens South ALU to develop more in-depth investigations, including white collar crimes such as insurance fraud, identity theft, interstate re-titling and lien washing.

| New York City Police Department Auto Larceny Units: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Repair Shops Inspected | 693 | Accidents Responded To | 343 |
| Chop Shops Identified/Closed | 7 | Possible Accidents Involved Fraud | 65 |
| Arrests effected | 757 | Vehicles Recovered | 1,139 |
| Vehicles Reported Stolen | 13,380 | Vehicle Parts Recovered | 92 |
| ALU Members Trained | 168 | | |

## New York City Police Department – F.A.I.S.

The year 2007 was one of transition and change in the New York City Police Department Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad (NYPD FAIS). In April, the unit was consolidated within the Organized Crime Investigation Division of the Organized Crime Control Bureau. The Document Fraud Unit was placed within the Detective Bureau.

In July, 2007 NYPD FAIS North and South were combined to form one citywide Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad housed in the 45th Precinct. This coincided with the formation of a Healthcare Fraud Task Force which is comprised of numerous federal, state and local law enforcement agencies pooling resources and expertise to fight the growing problem of healthcare fraud. Recognizing the significant role no-fault fraud plays in the healthcare fraud arena, FAIS participation in the Task Force was requested. In response, the NYPD assigned a

detail of four experienced detectives to the Task Force.
**Manhattan Medical**

On February 16, 2006, an investigation was initiated into Manhattan Medical P.C. Information was developed that Manhattan Medical was involved in the practice of using criminal runners to acquire fraudulent patients for the clinic.

On February 22, 2006, the NYPD FAIS commenced an undercover operation into Manhattan Medical P.C. One undercover detective and one confidential informant were utilized to infiltrate the clinic. These operations revealed a pattern of large-scale fraud being perpetrated by the medical personnel and the management of the clinic.

On November 28, 2006, the NYPD FAIS executed a search warrant at Manhattan Medical's main place of business. This warrant was executed with the assistance of the New York State Attorney General's Office which also had an ongoing investigation into the management company connected with the medical clinic. The search warrant was executed without incident. Items recovered included numerous medical and financial records.

On May 31, 2007, NYPD FAIS arrested a runner who was responsible for setting up staged accidents and bringing fraudulent patients to Manhattan Medical P.C. Shortly after the arrest this suspect was debriefed and supplied information regarding illegal activities being conducted at the medical clinic.

On October 3, 2007, the two medical doctors, a psychologist and the owner of the medical clinic were arrested and charged with Money Laundering in the Second Degree, Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, and Falsifying Business Records.

| New York City Police Department  Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad: Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 30 | Warrants Executed | 9 |
| MVIF Felony Arrests | 78 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 53 |
| Investigations Initiated | 119 | | |

# New York County Office of the District Attorney

In 1999, the New York County District Attorney's Office (DANY) established a program within its Investigation Division to address the problem of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in Manhattan. Since then, this group of assistant district attorneys (ADAs) has worked to fully understand motor vehicle-related crimes and improve the prosecution of them. The DANY has also expanded the program to draw on the experience of senior attorneys throughout the Investigations Division including the Special Prosecutions Bureau, Rackets Bureau, Frauds Bureau, and the Money Laundering and Tax Crimes Unit, enabling the DANY to devote substantial office resources to the investigation and prosecution of increasingly complex and serious motor vehicle insurance fraud cases. Within the past two years, the Bureau of Planning and Management has developed systems enabling them to better collect and track data on motor vehicle theft cases, most of which are prosecuted by ADAs in the Trial Division working closely with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) patrol officers and specialized units.

The continued its coordinated efforts throughout 2007 to effectively investigate, prosecute and reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud in Manhattan. The ADAs in the DANY's motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prevention program are members of several different bureaus within the Investigation Division. The program is supervised by the Bureau Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, which investigates and prosecutes white collar crime cases. Other ADAs in the program came from the Rackets Bureau, which conducts long-term investigations into the corrupt activities of criminal enterprises; the Frauds Bureau, which conducts investigations to expose and prosecute complex business schemes that have been committed and concealed in sophisticated ways; and the Money Laundering and Tax Crimes Unit investigates and prosecutes large-scale laundered transactions and financial crimes in which the state and city are defrauded of millions of dollars in tax revenues.

While the ADAs in the DANY's Investigation Division handle long-term investigations usually related to insurance fraud, ADAs in the Trial Bureaus simultaneously prosecute motor vehicle-related street crimes. These cases originate with an arrest by an NYPD officer, typically for a motor vehicle theft, and enter the DANY's via its Early Complaint Assessment Bureau where charges are reviewed and formal complaints are drafted against the defendants.

This year, ADAs continued to work closely with the NYPD, the New York City Fire Marshals, the New York State Police (NYSP), the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB), the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, (NYSDMV), the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), other District Attorney's Offices, insurance carriers, and other agencies to combat these crimes. Now in its ninth year, the program saw several long-term investigations come to successful conclusions.

In 2005, a long-term investigation resulted in the arrest and indictment of 16 individuals and six corporations in a major no-fault insurance fraud scheme. The owners of Premier Medical Care P.C., Omni Medical Care P.C., University Psychological Care P.C., Focus Acupuncture P.C., and Optimal Healthcare Medical P.C., their medical management company, doctors, a

dentist, a psychologist and others were charged in connection with a long-running scheme in which insurance carriers were systematically billed for services that were never provided, services that were totally unnecessary, or services that were fraudulently inflated and exaggerated. This investigation involved the use of undercovers as well as extensive analysis of the complex corporate and financial arrangements designed to conceal the true ownership of the corrupt clinics and the disposition of the proceeds of their criminal activity. By the fall of 2007, all of the defendants had pleaded guilty except for two physicians who chose to go to trial. In December 2007, after a lengthy trial, they were both found guilty of Enterprise Corruption, Insurance Fraud and related crimes. Most defendants are awaiting sentencing and it is expected that this case will ultimately result in the imposition of several substantial state prison sentences and the imposition of financial penalties totaling several million dollars.

A second long-term investigation into corrupt personal injury lawyers and "runners" engaging in schemes involving the bribery of hospital employees to obtain confidential patient information on car accident victims resulted in the arrest and indictment of another attorney. This was the 11th attorney charged in connection with this investigation, which has been in progress since 1999. The attorney will be disbarred and will forfeit $110,000 in fees he wrongfully received during the bribery scheme. All together, the 11 defendants, all lawyers, have agreed to pay more than $1.5 million dollars in restitution, forfeiture and fines.

A long-term undercover investigation conducted with the Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad and the NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau resulted in the arrest of a "runner" who had been participating in staged accidents, recruiting others to do so, and referring his accomplices to various clinics since at least 2000. A number of other defendants were charged in "owner give-up" and fraudulent accident schemes.

This was a particularly active year in the area of fraudulent documents. Throughout the year, defendants in pending cases were sentenced to state prison after pleading guilty, and many new arrests were made. The defendants charged in the new cases possessed a wide variety of fraudulent documents including driver's licenses, insurance certificates, vehicle registrations, inspection stickers, vehicle identification number (VIN) plates, license plates, parking plaques, and taxi licenses. In one case, an insurance broker was charged with stealing client funds and providing fraudulent insurance certificates. One defendant in a pending indictment pleaded guilty to a Scheme to Defraud involving the production and use of numerous forged documents in hearings before the Parking Violations Bureau. He was sentenced to three to six years imprisonment.

**Motor Vehicle Theft**

In one carjacking case, the defendant and another accomplice, who was not apprehended, attempted to steal two cars from a Manhattan parking garage. The garage attendant saw the defendant and accomplice and followed them down the ramp. As he was following the perpetrators, the two cars came speeding up the ramp, swerved to hit him, and knocked him over the ramp's railing onto a lower level. The defendant was convicted after a jury trial and sentenced to 13 years in prison.

In another case, the defendant was spotted by police operating a car without headlights at night. When police gave chase, the defendant attempted to elude them, traveling at speeds exceeding 50 miles per hour on Broadway and disregarding several traffic signals, before driving for several blocks on the sidewalk until hitting a post. Police apprehended the defendant and a passenger when they fled on foot. The officers found that the car had its rear window broken out and that the motor vehicle has been reported stolen in upstate New York. The defendant pleaded guilty to multiple charges before the case went to trial and was sentenced in August to 1 to 3 years in prison.

In another case of note, the defendant and two accomplices robbed a parking lot by tying up the attendant and threatening him with a fake gun. The defendant had previously worked at the parking lot and knew where the money was kept. After stealing $130, the defendant and his two accomplices stole a Volkswagen Passat to escape. Before the case reached trial, the defendant pleaded guilty to attempted robbery in the second degree and was sentenced in August to 3 years in prison.

| New York County District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 92 | MVIF Fraud Indictments | 42 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 341 | MVIF Felony Prosecutions | 169 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 89 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 52 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Convictions | 224 | MVIF Misdemeanor Prosecutions | 187 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 495 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 53 |

# New York Prosecutor's Training Institute

The New York State Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI) actively supported and directly participated in New York's ongoing efforts to reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by providing specialized training, research and support to prosecutors and law enforcement throughout New York State. NYPTI continued to devote its resources to assist in New York's ongoing aggressive fight against these complex crimes that negatively impact New York State insurance rates, business costs, and the costs of goods and services in general.

With NYPTI's support, prosecutors were trained and equipped to dismantle criminal enterprises and protect consumers from higher motor vehicle insurance costs. The programs featured presentations from premier members of the prosecutorial and law enforcement community, in order to coordinate and enhance motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prosecutions. NYPTI also conducted state-of-the-art computer training focusing on utilizing software to organize cases and enhance trial presentation. This technology can be used to organ-

ize and present complex motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud cases.  In addition, NYPTI continues to publish articles relating to motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud prosecution in its magazine, *Empire State Prosecutor*, to maintain and enhance its Brief Bank and video lending libraries, and to provide legal assistance to prosecutors as requested regarding motor vehicle insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft cases.

**Training Activities**

This year, NYPTI conducted training on motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations and prosecutions for more than 150 prosecutors, members of law enforcement, and representatives of the insurance industry.  The training was completed in three separate programs.

- The first training program was conducted in New York City on April 26, 2007, which provided a unique opportunity for prosecutors and law enforcement to learn together, and coordinate efforts to more effectively combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.

- NYPTI worked together with the New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association Inc., (NYACT), to host a second program in Albany on May 3, 2007.  The focus of this training was three-fold. The challenges of motor vehicle crime were addressed from the vantage point of prosecutors, insurance carrier investigators, and law enforcement to provide a holistic presentation of the crimes and the ways in which they negatively impact New Yorkers. NYPTI and NYACT's collaboration also provided prosecutors, insurance carrier investigators, and law enforcement with the invaluable opportunity to share experiences, crime fighting and prevention strategies, and contact information with motor vehicle crime experts from every possible area of investigation, or law enforcement.

- NYPTI's third program was a two-day presentation at its 9th Annual Summer College in Syracuse on August 1 and 2 , 2007.  This unique two-day course allowed prosecutors from every area of New York to come together, share experiences, and consult with experts about the challenges facing them in their fight against motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.  The two-day design of the Summer College course fostered a group dynamic that encouraged participation from attendees, and interaction with speakers.  The Summer College course also provided an opportunity to present a wide audience of prosecutors with the latest developments in motor vehicle crime trends.

NYPTI training programs provide attendees with high quality presentations on relevant topics such as, the prosecution of motor vehicle theft and no-fault insurance fraud cases, nationwide trends in motor vehicle crime and motor vehicle insurance fraud, an update from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) on identity theft and fraudulent documents, effective collaboration with other agencies, prosecuting enterprise corruption, search and seizure issues in motor vehicle theft cases, and the use of technology to present motor vehicle crime cases. NYPTI integrated state-of the-art computer training into its Summer College presentation to open prosecutors' eyes to the many ways that technology can be used to organize

cases and enhance trial preparations. NYPTI distributed lecture outline materials to all attendees at each training. NYPTI also videotaped these training programs, and added the tapes to its extensive video library. Copies of the videotapes and the written outlines that accompanied the programs are available upon request to prosecutors free of charge.

## Publications

NYPTI continued to supplement its training efforts through the publication and distribution of the issues of its magazine, *Empire State Prosecutor*. The Fall 2007 edition of this magazine contained an article by *Heather M. Abissi, NYPTI Staff Attorney*, titled *The Automobile: A "Vehicle to Major Offenses."* This article focused on the use of the Enterprise Corruption statute in the prosecution of complex motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud rings.

In addition, the Winter 2007 edition of the *Empire State Prosecutor* featured an article titled *Proliferation of Identity Theft Scenarios in the Purchase of Luxury Vehicles* that was written by Michael F. Mulcahy, Deputy Director of Field Investigations for the Suffolk County District Attorney and Daniel Haughney, NYSDMV Senior Investigator. This article provided prosecutors with a reference guide that explains various motor vehicle crime scams, and provides them with useful "red flags" to fraud.

## Legal and Technical Assistance

NYPTI also continued to support New York prosecutors by providing legal and technical assistance upon request, and through the maintenance of the NYPTI Brief Bank and the NYPTI Video Library as valuable prosecutorial resources.

For the Albany County District Attorney's Office, NYPTI staff provided assistance in a complex motor vehicle insurance fraud case involving nine defendants and a 67-count indictment charging Enterprise Corruption, Grand Larceny and Insurance Fraud. The case was the result of a more than two-year-long investigation of approximately 35 accidents and insurance claims involving multiple members of a family organized crime ring. NYPTI staff worked with Albany County prosecutors in preparing this case for trial. NYPTI provided technical computer assistance involving the use of state-of-the-art computer software to organize the evidence digitally to help enhance its presentation to the jury.

NYPTI also continued to maintain and enhance the NYPTI Brief Bank. The Brief Bank contains a wide variety of useful resource documents to assist prosecutors. The Brief Bank includes approximately 2,500 resource documents, including documents relating to motor vehicle crime and insurance fraud cases, many of which were written by experienced attorneys from throughout New York State. Within the NYPTI Brief Bank is a wealth of information, including briefs, memoranda of law, affirmations, articles, resumes, transcripts, court decisions, sample questions and more. Several years ago, NYPTI created this helpful tool for prosecutors as a direct dial-up service, and has since converted it to an Internet-based system. During the year, NYPTI solicited materials from prosecutors to add to the Brief Bank and loaded onto the Brief Bank useful documents relevant to motor vehicle insurance fraud prosecutions.

## Niagara County Office of the District Attorney

At the present time, a dedicated motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud investigator for the Niagara County District Attorney's Office (NCDA) is working on several cases that highlight the issues faced in Niagara County regarding motor vehicle related crimes.

The investigator is working on a joint investigation with Canadian Law Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Customs Service (USCS), New York State Police (NYSP), and the Vestal Police Department in a case where the victim is from Port Jefferson, Suffolk County, who filed a complaint with the FBI in Long Island, New York.

A group of suspects in Niagara County listed under different motor vehicle dealerships contact a motor vehicle dealer in Canada and buy a certain number of vehicles for re-sale in the United States. Arrangements are made for the vehicles to be transported from Canada to local motor vehicle dealerships with payment due upon receipt of the motor vehicles. When the motor vehicles arrive, the Niagara County dealer does not pay the Canadian dealer for the vehicles. When the dealers in Niagara County get the vehicles they sell the motor vehicles again to other motor vehicle dealerships in New York and across the United States. The Niagara County dealer gets the money from these unsuspecting dealers up front and subsequently does not deliver the vehicles to the new owner. Apparently, the Niagara County dealers eventually re-sells the vehicles and deliver them to another unsuspecting dealership.

An investigator from the Niagara County District Attorney's Office has worked with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, NYSP, Niagara Falls Police Department (NFPD), New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau (NYSIFB), on a case involving a reported stolen and burned 2002 Chevrolet.

Close collaboration with investigators of the NYSIFB, members of insurance industry special investigation's unit, NFPD and the NCSD has resulted in several arrests and convictions involving owner give-ups in Niagara Falls, Newfane and Lockport.

An investigator with the NCDA has worked with the NFPD, NYSIFB, United States Department of Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE) and the Niagara Regional Police on a case involving a stolen motor vehicle from the City of Niagara Falls that was burned and recovered in Niagara Falls, Canada. The investigation revealed that the vehicle owner maybe involved smuggling illegal narcotics into the United States from Canada.

The Niagara County District Attorneys Office was involved in investigations and prosecutions of many cases, some of the highlighted cases are:

- An informant was developed through an arrest by investigators from the NYSP, NYSIFB and the NCDA. With this informant's cooperation, information was gathered that assisted the New York Attorney Generals Office that has lead to the indictment of a gang leader and drug dealer who was forming a large-scale cocaine ring from his residence in Niagara Falls. His distribution area was in Buffalo, Lockport, Rochester, Geneva and Elmira. The drug

supply was coming from Atlanta, GA and Cleveland, OH.  The suspect pleaded guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree.

- Four suspects were arrested in the City of Niagara Falls involving a chop shop and drug sales out of an auto repair shop. This case is ongoing with more arrests pending.

- The Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested a suspect from Guyana for entering the United States from Canada illegally. The suspect was in possession of a " Jump Drive" that contained blank copies of forged New York State drivers licenses and New York State vehicle of title certificates. This case was turned over to the NCDA, NYSP, and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) for investigation.   Investigation revealed that the suspect was traveling to Queens to distribute the forged documents. This information was provided to the NYSP and the Queens County District Attorney.  The suspect was  indicted in Niagara County on charges of  Possession of Forgery Devices and felony violations of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law

- A suspect was arrested in Niagara County through the investigation of the NYSIFB, NCDA and the Buffalo Police Department involving a reported stolen motor vehicle that was actually at an auto auction in Rochester.  Other suspects at automobile dealers in Buffalo and Florida have also been identified and the investigation continues.

The NCDA investigator and assistant district attorneys held meetings with investigators and supervisors from the Niagara County Sheriff's Department,  NFPD, North Tonawanda Police Department, Lockport Police Department, Towns of Niagara and Lewiston Police Departments, NYSP, NYSDMV, the NYSIFB regarding a targeted salvage yard that is suspected of receiving stolen motor vehicles and operating a salvage yard without a license.  An undercover officer from the NYSP has taken two vehicles into the salvage yard that have been accepted even though the officer provided false identification and no proof of ownership.  Two additional vehicles have been obtained and will be presented to the salvage yard dealer.  As a result of this ongoing investigation,  a National Grid employee was arrested for taking three full spools of electrical wire (valued at  $11,500 to the salvage yard for disposal.  Two people have been indicted by a Grand Jury and took pleas for Auto Stripping.

| Niagara  County District Attorney:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 8 | MVIF Fraud Investigations | 34 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 54 | MVIF Felony Prosecutions | 14 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Arrests Prosecuted | 94 | MVIF Misdemeanor Prosecutions | 7 |
| Warrants Issued | 13 | Task Force Meetings | 28 |
| SAFETNet Targets Entered | 10 | Training Sessions  Conducted | 3 |

## City of Niagara Falls Police Department

The Niagara Falls Police Department (NFPD) has implemented an investigative and surveillance strategy to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in the City of Niagara Falls. The city borders the Canadian Province of Ontario and has two international bridges and a state park within its jurisdiction. Each year, Niagara Falls hosts between 10 million and 12 million tourists visiting in the downtown section or the south end of the city. Due to the popularity of the recently expanded Seneca Niagara Gambling Casino and Hotel, the typical tourist season has been extended and there is an influx of vehicles and people in the downtown area that were not present in previous years. The motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations continue to focus on specific areas of the city or suspects rather than rely on random surveillance.

The NFPD continues to participate in interagency investigations and communications with the Niagara County District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force. Frequent meetings to discuss motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases between members of the NFPD, the Niagara County District Attorney's Office (NCDA) and the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau (NYSIFB) and the New York State Police (NYSP). Motor vehicle theft crime data is analyzed by the NFPD crime analyst and crime maps are provided and utilized to assist in the prevention of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud related crimes.

**Program Highlights:**

In early September 2007, after a six-month intensive investigation, nearly 50 law enforcement officers including the NFPD, NYSP, Niagara County Sheriffs Department (NCSD), Town of Niagara, Cheektowaga, North Tonawanda, Buffalo and Lockport police departments descended on the home and business of a suspect involved in, among other things, motor vehicle theft and operating as a vehicle dismantler without a license. Investigators searched the home and business and collected evidence and seized documents. Also, seized were a stolen .22-caliber rifle, $22,000 in cash, and a stolen motor vehicle was recovered. Charges against two suspects accuse both of them of buying stolen vehicles and selling them as scrap. The investigation continues and the suspects await trial.

An investigation involving the NFPD, NYSIFB, Buffalo Police Department (BPD), and Geico Insurance Company investigators uncovered a false insurance claim. A suspect reported a 2005 Buick Century had been stolen in Niagara Falls and the vehicle ended up damaged at the BPD Impound Yard. The investigation revealed that complainant falsified an insurance claim when in fact the car was lent out in exchange for crack cocaine. The suspect was arrested and charged with Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny and Falsely Reporting an Incident. The investigation was closed when the suspect died in January 2008.

A joint investigation conducted by the NFPD, NYSIFB, and Progressive Insurance into a false insurance claim stemming from a motor vehicle accident in which the suspect attempted to submit an application for benefits under the no-fault provisions of the automobile insurance pol-

icy. The suspect claimed that he was unable to work due to his injuries. At the time the application was submitted, the suspect falsified his employment information and his employer falsely claimed the suspect was a salary employee at his contracting company. This false application was submitted to Progressive Insurance for benefits and as a result of the joint investigation, two suspects were arrested and charged with Insurance Fraud in the Fourth Degree and Grand Larceny Fourth Degree.

| City of Niagara Falls Police Department: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 214 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 9 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 137 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 3 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 33 | MVTIF Meetings | 20 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 32 | MVTIF Training | 5 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 42 | Value of vehicles recovered | $569,149 |

# Queens County Office of the District Attorney

The Queens County Office of the District Attorney is one of the most proactive agencies in the state with a dedicated staff that works effectively with other agencies to reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in Queens County. Below are some examples of investigations and prosecutions that the District Attorney's Office handled during 2007.

**"Operation Caliente Cabs**

As a result of this 21-month joint investigation, which concluded in September 2007, the owner of a Queens-based livery cab fleet was indicted, along with five others, on charges of profiting from a large scale motor vehicle theft and dismantling ring allegedly responsible for the theft of dozens of luxury automobiles over a 12-month period in Queens County and elsewhere. Nine other individuals are accused of participating in the scheme, including car owners who allegedly turned their vehicles over to the ring and then falsely reported their motor vehicles as stolen in order to fraudulently obtain insurance settlements. Six of the defendants, including the livery cab fleet owner have been charged in a 148 count indictment charging, among other crimes, Enterprise Corruption under New York State's Organized Crime Control Act. The indictment alleges that five of the defendants operated a motor vehicle theft and dismantling ring out of an illegal chop-shop located in Queens. These defendants are accused of stealing dozens of automobiles which included mostly Lincoln Town Cars, as well as other such expensive vehicles as BMWs, Mercedes Benzs, Jeep Cherokees, Chrysler Town and Country minivans as well as Ford and Dodge vans from Queens County, Atlantic City, NJ and elsewhere. After dismantling the stolen vehicles, it is alleged that the defendants then supplied the usable parts to the livery cab fleet owner either at no cost or below market value. Two of the

six defendants, have pled guilty on the case, three were sentenced to conditional discharges and one was sentenced to a fine or jail.

- Charges for the remaining defendants on the case remain pending at this time.

**"Operation Key Code"**

As a result of this 14-month investigation, which concluded in March 2007, nine members of an auto theft ring allegedly responsible for stealing more than 60 high-end luxury automobiles with a total value exceeding $2 million during the last year from owners in Queens and elsewhere was closed down.  Many of the alleged stolen motor vehicles were recovered in Michigan, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Georgia and Mexico.  The motor vehicles were allegedly stolen using key codes surreptitiously obtained from auto manufacturers.  This investigation utilized both court-authorized wiretaps and surveillance to dismantle the auto theft ring which allegedly specialized in fulfilling demand for luxury automobiles by stamping a new vehicle identification number (VIN) on stolen motor vehicles and selling them to out-of-state buyers. It is alleged that each member of the ring had a specialized role in the operation, such as:

- Ringleaders - who received orders for vehicles and coordinated their theft;
- Locksmiths -  who cut keys for the targeted vehicles using a VIN provided by the ringleaders;
- Steal Men - who actually stole the vehicles and delivered them to lay up locations under the control of the ringleaders; and,
- Taggers/brokers -  who replaced or altered the stolen vehicles true VIN plates and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHSTA) stickers with forgeries before the altered vehicles were sold.

Charges to date have yielded three convictions, with two defendants sentenced to 1 to 3 years in jail and one defendant sentenced to a conditional discharge; an additional two defendants have pled guilty on the case to date.

| Queens County Office of the District Attorney:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 94 | MVIF Indictments | 5 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 37 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 41 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 6 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 9 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 197 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 35 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 248 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 31 |
| MVT Search Warrants Issued | 67 | MVIF Search Warrants Issued | 4 |
| MVT SAFETNet Referrals | 15 | MVIF SAFETNet Referrals | 43 |

## Rensselaer County Office of the District Attorney

The Rensselaer County District Attorney will continue its countywide efforts to reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud by enhancing coordination between local police agencies and the District Attorney's Office. These local law enforcement agencies will include the agencies with the highest theft rates: The cities of Troy and Rensselaer Police Departments, towns of Schodack, East Greenbush and North Greenbush Police Departments, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, the New York State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles Investigators, State Insurance Department, Insurance Frauds Bureau and Special Investigation Units (SIU) of Insurance Companies. This effort will include but is not limited to continuing in-service MVTIFP training of all police agencies within Rensselaer County, encouraging county and local agencies to utilize the offices specialized vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigators who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and continuing participation in the Capital District Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force.

| Rensselaer County Office of the District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Performance Measure | Total | Performance Measure | Total |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 114 | MVIF Investigations | 10 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 85 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 6 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 41 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 2 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 25 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 3 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Convictions | 19 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 2 |
| MVT Search Warrants Issued | 11 | Inter-agency Meetings on MVTIF | 19 |
| Vehicles Recovered | 21 | Value of Recovered Vehicles | $118,000 |

## Richmond County Office of the District Attorney

The Office of the Richmond County District Attorney (RCDA) has completed the ninth year of the MVTIFP grant project that enhances investigative and prosecutorial efforts in conjunction with the New York City Police Department's Auto Crime Unit, NYS DMV, the Sheriff's Department the NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau, the United States Postal Inspectors and other agencies. The grant provided partial funding for two senior detective investigators and a Supreme Court assistant district attorney, as well as the lease of two vehicles to conduct investigations.

The increase in document fraud crime, as reported last year, continues to be a significant problem on Staten Island. The rapid population growth, including an influx of both documented and undocumented immigrants, has made document fraud and subsequent falsification of insur-

ance and registration documents a primary issue within the county.

The District Attorney has a long-standing working relationship with the Auto Crime Squad, which relies on program staff to prosecute any arrest to the fullest. The Auto Crime Squad works in conjunction with the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau in the investigation of insurance fraud crimes on Staten Island, and with the program's prosecutors and senior detective investigator. The private insurance investigators are also key players and resources in uncovering and prosecuting insurance fraud. During this funding year, the RCDA senior detective investigators and United States postal inspectors were collaborating with an investigation of auto insurance fraud.  That case still is open.

Close cooperation ensures that evidence is gathered in a way that maximizes effective prosecution. The District Attorney also has a close working relationship with the three Staten Island police precincts and other city, state, and federal agencies, and, due to Staten Island's geographical location, out-of-state agencies such as the New Jersey DMV.

Staten Island has the fastest growing population in New York. As the population rapidly increases, it is only logical to assume that the number of MVTIF cases also will increase. The RCDA is a unifying law enforcing agency bringing together NYPD, state, federal law enforcement and private insurance investigators together.

| Richmond County Office of the District Attorney:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 33 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 1 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 21 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 1 |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 519 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 1 |
| Vehicles Recovered | 198 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 1 |

## City of Rochester Police Department

In 2007, the Rochester Police Department continued to have an officer and investigator assigned full-time to the multi-agency Auto Theft Task Force that was formed in March 2005. All grant-related initiatives and investigations are coordinated through the Auto Theft Task Force and Special Operations Section of the Rochester Police Department.  On September 13, 2007, the two members assigned to the Auto Theft Task Force were cross-designated as members of the New York State Police (NYSP).

**Motor Vehicle Theft Investigations**

A total of 1,577 vehicles were reported stolen in the City of Rochester during the last year. This represents a decrease of approximately 33% from  2006 when 2,413 motor vehicles

were reported stolen. In 2007, 61 motor vehicles were recovered with a total estimated value of $283,000. The total value for recoveries might be higher if not for a new trend identified this year: stealing a motor vehicle for its scrap value. Approximately 10 of the stolen motor vehicles recovered were determined to have no value, as they were located after having been crushed at local scrap processors. Additionally, motor vehicle parts with a combined value of $3,650 were also recovered during grant-funded investigations.

As a result of the 99 investigation started in 2007, 85 suspects were charged with one or more felony crimes and 26 other suspects were charged with misdemeanors. A total of 20 targets of motor vehicle theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations were entered into SAFETNet.

On March 28, 2007, a juvenile was arrested for the theft of a 2003 Jeep that he stole during a burglary. The respondent had indicated that he was involved in at least three other motor vehicle thefts that day. He was charged with four felonies (Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, and Burglary in the Third Degree.) On March 29, 2007, two more juveniles were arrested and charged with two felonies and one misdemeanor each (Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the Third Degree.) The juveniles stole a 2001 Jeep and had several hit and run accidents with it. They also admitted to involvement in several other stolen vehicle cases. The vehicle they were operating was one of the vehicles stolen the previous day by the juvenile arrested the day before.

In February 2007, uniformed officers making a traffic stop requested the assistance of Auto Theft Task Force members after noting some possible evidence of tampering with the public vehicle identification number (VIN) on the vehicle. After examination, the vehicle was identified as a stolen motor vehicle that had been re-tagged with another VIN plate. An investigation was initiated and in the next months several potential suspects were identified and additional stolen/stripped and/or retagged vehicles were recovered. The investigation also included the execution of three search warrants and use of a GPS tracking device deployed on one of the suspect's vehicles. Five suspects were charged with 16 felonies, including multiple counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, Forgery of a Vehicle Identification Number, Illegal Possession of a Vehicle Identification Number, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the Second Degree, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation in the First Degree. The Rochester Police Department (RPD) has gained additional information relative to motor vehicle theft and chop shop operations from those arrested. Additionally, the RPD was able to use two of the defendants as informants in exchange for plea bargains.

In March, a local dismantler alerted Auto Theft Task Force members to a male and female couple who had been calling the dismantler and selling vehicles to them utilizing New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) MV35 forms (Statement of Vehicle Owner Who Does Not Have a Valid Title) and MV37 forms (Statement of Abandoned Vehicle). With the help of the dismantler, a sting operation was conducted when the male suspect called to sell another vehicle to the dismantler. Undercover officers waiting nearby arrested the male suspect when he signed the NYSDMV form selling a vehicle in a parking lot to the tow

truck operator working for the dismantler. The male was identified and interviewed. During the course of the interview the female suspect arrived at the location and also was identified. The two suspects were released pending further investigation as the RPD attempted to locate the lawful owners of the vehicles they had tried to sell.

Approximately two months after the initial investigation started the RPD learned of another group on the opposite side of the City selling vehicles in the same fashion to a different dismantler. Another sting operation was conducted as this group tried to sell three vehicles to the dismantler's tow operator using NYSDMV forms. None of the three vehicles belonged to the persons and all were taken into custody. Amongst those arrested during the sting were the two suspects from the previous investigation. The RPD later learned that after the initial interview, they moved to the other side of Rochester. At their new residence they instructed a relative and her friends how to sell vehicles using the DMV forms.

As a result of the investigation, four suspects were charged with 27 felonies, three misdemeanors, and seven traffic violations relating to 10 incidents/vehicles. The charges included multiple counts of Grand Larceny 4th, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th, Forgery 2nd, Burglary 2nd (original two suspects identified in a residential burglary), various traffic infractions, warrants for Aggravated Unlicensed Operation 2nd, DWI (misdemeanor) and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 5th (license plate from another un-recovered stolen vehicle that the group is suspected of selling as abandoned). The suspects admitted to stealing several other motor vehicles in the same manner but no documentation could be located at the dismantler facility to aide in the identification of the vehicles for the appropriate charges.

The RPD was assisted during this investigation by members of the New York State Police (NYSP), Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), NYSDMV Field Investigations Unit and the New York State Insurance Department Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB). During the course of this investigation and throughout the year the RPD investigated more than a dozen other motor vehicle thefts of this nature. Some of these thefts involved unlicensed tow operators using NYSDMV forms to acquire vehicles on their own which they would then sell as scrap. Several arrests were made in these cases.

On September 5, 2007, the RPD assisted the NYSP, Erie and Niagara County Sheriff's Offices, Buffalo Police Department and several other agencies with the execution of a search warrant at a scrap processor/dismantler in Niagara Falls, New York. The search warrant was obtained as the result of an undercover investigation into illegal activities at the location similar to those found at Rochester's scrap businesses.

In October and November, members conducted another investigation involving a 16-year-old who had been selling vehicles to a local dismantler using NYSDMV form MV37, (Statement of Abandoned Vehicle). After investigation, the 16-year-old was charged with the theft of four motor vehicles in this manner. Business records from the dismantler indicated that the suspect had called to inquire about selling several other vehicles. The RPD was unable to obtain little more than a vague description of the vehicles and could not determine if the vehicles had ultimately been sold to this or another dismantler.

On November 17, 2007, in an effort to address another component of the theft for scrap problem the RPD conducted an enforcement detail targeting unlicensed scrap collectors and tow operators. Several unlicensed operators were ticketed for city code violations. Unfortunately, the RPD did not locate any vehicles being towed utilizing NYSDMV forms during the detail. The initiative has great potential to stop this illegal activity but needs to be conducted during weekday hours when the scrap yards and dismantlers are busiest.

On December 6, 2007, the RPD aided several other local law enforcement agencies with the arrest of a suspect who had been involved in motor vehicle thefts and use of stolen credit cards. A 2002 Civic stolen by the suspect was recovered during the investigation. The suspect was charged by the RPD with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree. He was also charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree for his involvement in the theft of a 2002 BMW M5. The suspect was well known to the RPD and has been arrested for numerous motor vehicle thefts in the past. He was also charged with multiple felonies by the Monroe and Ontario County Sheriff's Offices.

On December 20, 2007, a second suspect was arrested in the case and also charged with the theft of the 2002 BMW M5. The modus operandi (MO) of the suspects was to steal vehicle keys from lockers or key boxes at local fitness/sports facilities. They would then steal the vehicle while the owner was exercising. The suspects utilized credit cards found in the vehicles to purchase thousands of dollars in merchandise from area malls. The second suspect was charged with eight felonies by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Additional charges are forthcoming from both Monroe and Ontario County Sheriff's offices.

**Insurance Fraud Investigations**

The RPD initiated 42 new investigations into suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud cases that would otherwise have gone unexplored. These investigations resulted in 19 suspects arrested for felony insurance fraud crimes and two arrests for misdemeanor insurance fraud.

On March 8, 2007, the RPD worked with the NYSIFB to arrest a suspect for Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree and for Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. The suspect was involved in a motor vehicle accident and sustained a back injury in 2006. The suspect provided his insurance company with a letter from a restaurant owner stating that he had been hired prior to the accident by the restaurant and was supposed to start work shortly after the accident had occurred. Due to his injury he was unable to work and claimed lost wages on his motor vehicle no fault insurance. The suspect collected more than $19,000 in lost wages. The investigation revealed that the suspect was never going to be employed at the location and the business owner signed the letter as a favor to his acquaintance.

On March 13, 2007, the RPD executed search warrants at a residence and two business locations to obtain records related to a motor vehicle insurance fraud investigation. The insured motorist had suffered injuries in a motor vehicle accident and was directed to seek massage therapy for treatment. After receiving only three treatments she stopped going. The massage therapist billed the insurance company under the insured's no-fault for approximately 40 visits. The insured was unaware of the massage therapist's actions. The suspect was arrested for In-

surance Fraud in the Fourth Degree and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree.

In April 2007, the RPD initiated an investigation into a suspected U-Haul staged accident fraud. Background investigation showed that the suspect has had multiple accidents involving U-Haul vehicles and his personal vehicle. His personal vehicle has been totaled three times by different insurance companies and he is still driving it. The suspect also claims not to know the persons he has been involved in accidents with. The suspect made these same claims in his most recent U-Haul accident. Initially, this case was thought to be a staged accident. A witness was later located who confirmed that an accident did occur although the suspect knew the other driver, contrary to his claim. This information in and of itself was insufficient to charge a fraud. The focus of the investigation shifted and the RPD reviewed prior claims. In doing so, investigators learned that the damage being claimed in the most recent accident was prior un-repaired damage that the suspect had already been paid for. The collision that the witness had observed did not cause any new damage. The suspect was arrested on August 27, 2007, and charged with Insurance Fraud in the Fourth Degree.

On May 5, 2007, the RPD recovered a stolen 1997 BMW in a residential garage. Investigation revealed that the garage is owned by the aunt of the stolen vehicle victim. Upon interview with the aunt, she was not aware that the vehicle had been reported stolen. She provided a deposition stating that her nephew had requested to store the vehicle in her garage prior to surrendering himself for a federal prison sentence. She also implicated her nephew's girlfriend stating that she was aware that the vehicle was in the garage after it was reported stolen. Shortly after the recovery of the vehicle, the RPD along with a Senior Insurance Frauds Bureau investigator interviewed the girlfriend of the stolen vehicle victim. She is the titleholder, registered owner and co-insured for the vehicle. She denied any knowledge of the fraud, maintaining throughout the investigation that she thought the vehicle was stolen. Investigators then traveled to Allenwood Federal Correctional Facility in Pennsylvania to interview the alleged victim of the stolen vehicle who was now a suspect in the insurance fraud investigation. The suspect denied any knowledge of the vehicle being stored and maintained that it was stolen. Several subpoenas were requested for prison phone records and recordings as well as phone records for the co-insured residence. Some useful information was obtained from the recorded phone calls but no admissions were heard.

Investigators were eventually able to locate a second girlfriend of the suspect from whose house the vehicle was initially reported stolen. During the initial report of the theft, she supported the theft claim of the male suspect. She was interviewed in July and provided a statement about the fraud implicating the suspect. The insurance company had already paid more than $9,700 for the loss of the vehicle.

The male suspect was arrested on July 24, 2007, as he was being released from federal prison. He waived extradition and was transported by the RPD back to Rochester. The first girlfriend was arrested on July 31, 2007. Both were charged with Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree and Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. The female suspect immediately took a plea agreement to a misdemeanor fraud charge and within two weeks of his extradition the male suspect was indicted. Due to the key witness being his aunt, he was offered and accepted a plea to one felony count. He will serve two to four years in state prison.

In May 2007, the RPD completed another insurance fraud investigation involving a 2003 Ford F250 pickup truck that was reported stolen and later found burning. The insured filed a claim with his insurance company and the paperwork for the claim was sent out for him to complete. A coworker/employer of the insured intercepted the paperwork and attempted to portray himself as the insured and have the insurance payment sent to him. The fraud was discovered when the real insured eventually made contact with his claims adjuster inquiring about the paperwork he was supposed to have been sent. It was then learned that the paperwork had been completed by another party trying to claim the payment using a false identity. The suspect was arrested on May 30, 2007 and charged with Identity Theft in the First Degree, Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Forger in the Second Degree and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. The amount of the claim was just under $30,000. The case was investigated by the RPD and investigators from the NYSIFB. Immediately after his arrest the suspect bailed himself out of jail and fled the country, returning to his home in Iraq. Homeland Security and immigration were notified.

On June 28, 2007, the RPD arrested a suspect for motor vehicle insurance fraud involving a vehicle give up. The insured had reported his 1998 Ford Expedition worth $4,000 as stolen. He also filed a claim for the loss with his insurance company adding that the vehicle had more than $18,000 worth of custom rims, parts and stereo equipment bringing the total value of the claim to $22,919. Through investigation and a subsequent interview of the suspect, it was learned that the suspect had an outstanding gambling debt so he solicited the help of two other persons to dispose of his vehicle. The insured removed a transponder key from a remote starter and provided it to the persons who had agreed to dispose of the vehicle. The suspects removed the vehicle, stripping it and selling the parts and electronic equipment. They were allowed to keep a portion of the money for their role in the fraud. The insured kept the remainder of the money from the sale of the vehicle parts and also filed an insurance claim and stolen vehicle report.

The insured suspect also provided forged receipts for the items he alleged were in his vehicle as well as a forged receipt for a key he submitted to his insurance company. One of the receipts that the insured submitted had the original name of the person making the purchase covered over with White Out. Investigators learned that the insured suspect had stolen the identity of this person and he was also being sought by the United States Postal Service inspectors for federal charges of identity theft, mail fraud and bank fraud. Along with the federal charges, the suspect was charged with Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Perjury in the First Degree and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. Members conducted this investigation with the assistance of the NYSIFB and United States Postal Service inspectors.

In July, the RPD investigated the reported theft of a piece of heavy construction equipment known as a grapple. The grapple attaches to an excavator and is used in demolition. The insured reported the item stolen and filed a claim for $19,000. Although the theft of the item could not be confirmed or denied, the original sales person who sold the item to the insured many years ago was located. He was shown a copy of the receipt that the insured had submitted in support of his claim. The receipt was for the purchase of the excavator with the grapple as an additional item purchased. After reviewing the receipt, the salesman provided a deposition that the receipt had been altered and the grapple was included in the price of the excavator. Re-

placement price for the item was thousands less than what the altered receipt showed for a value. The suspect was arrested on July 17, 2007, for Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree.

On October 15, 2007, the RPD arrested a female suspect for Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree after she reported the theft of her 1995 BMW 740i. Through the investigation and the use of confidential informants, the RPD was able to locate the vehicle and determine that the insured had hired a tow truck to relocate and secrete the vehicle at a relative's garage. The insured reported the vehicle stolen because it had mechanical problems and she was attempting to collect $9,267 from her insurance company.

**Training, Meetings and Public Education Programs**

Members of the RPD have been able to attend motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related insurance fraud training. One member was able to attend a legal issues update and search and seizure class at the Genesee Community College on April 19 and 20, 2007. Two members attended the North East Chapter of the National Association of Auto Theft Investigators Conference held in New Hampshire from May 14, 2007 through May 17, 2007. On June 20, 2007, members attended a New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association (NYACT) training in Syracuse and on September 26, 2007, five members attended NYACT sponsored training at the University of Buffalo.

On March 8, 2007, training was presented during a Criminal Investigations Course at the RPD Training Center. In attendance were 19 members from various law enforcement agencies including the Rochester Police Department, Ogden Police Department, Gates Police Department, Rochester Fire Department, Cheektowaga Police Department, East Rochester Police Department, Brighton Police Department, Avon Police Department, Canandaigua Police Department, and the Niagara Falls Police Department. The training will now be a standard portion of the Criminal Investigations Course that is offered on a regular basis at the Training Center.

As more offices of the RPD continue to attend training, conduct investigations and increase their knowledge about motor vehicle related crimes, they share it with other law enforcement personnel. A Power Point training program was created which is now a standard portion of all local recruit class training. In April 2007, the motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud Power Point training program was provided to the Hempstead Police Department at their request so that it could be adapted for use by their department. Four hours of this same training was presented on September 5, 2007, by the RPD to the part time recruit class attending the Monroe Community College Public Safety Training Center. In attendance were 23 recruit deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, one recruit deputy from the Livingston County Sheriff's Office and one recruit officer from the Holley Police Department. The training was presented again on September 10, 2007, to the full-time recruit class attending the Monroe Community College Public Safety Training Center. The class consisted of 53 members from the RPD and Monroe County Sheriff's Office. On October 4, 2007, the RPD provided an abbreviated 1.5 hours of instruction on vehicle theft and identification to seven law enforcement members enrolled in the Keuka College Law Enforcement degree program.

During the inclement weather, RPD experiences increases in vehicles that are stolen while left running unattended to warm up. In February 2007 and again in December 2007, department members conducted unattended vehicle details issuing numerous citations to motorists who left their keys in unattended motor vehicles. This detail followed a press release that advised motorists against such practice and the department's intent to enforce the laws governing it. An informational brochure containing motor vehicle theft facts and prevention measures was provided to each motorist that was stopped as further education.

| City of Rochester Police Department:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 1577 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 42 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 61 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 19 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 99 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 2 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 85 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 20 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 26 | Value of Vehicles Recovered | $283,000 |

## Saratoga County Office of the District Attorney

The Saratoga County District Attorney's Office Auto Crimes Unit entered its eighth year of operation in 2007. In 2007, there were 76 cases opened. There were 71 arrests for motor vehicle theft and five arrests for motor vehicle related fraud crimes. There were 11 convictions for motor vehicle theft and one conviction for fraud crimes. An unusually large number of cases remain open due to changes in Town Court Judges and difficulty resolving matters at the County Court level. A large number of those cases still open have been scheduled for disposition or to be presented to the Grand Jury in early 2008. A total of six indictments and/or superior court informations were filed.

There continued to be a relatively high number of young defendants arrested for motor vehicle crimes, a trend that began in 2004 and has continued through 2007. In September and October 2007, a group of young men (ages 17-19) stole a Range Rover after a night of drinking at a trailer they had acquired in the Milton Mobile home park in Milton. Under the influence of alcohol, they went to the City of Saratoga Springs and vandalized many vehicles, stole items such as GPS' and CDs, and ultimately burned in total the car belonging to a high school rival of one of the defendants. At the end of their vandalism spree on the evening in question, two of the defendants drove the Range Rover into a reservoir "to see if it would float". During the course of their investigation into this incident (after discovering the Range Rover), police made a connection between the young men suspected of that crime with a series of commercial burglaries that were taking place around the county. All five of the defendants have pled and been sentenced to a 1- to 3- year term of incarceration in a State Correctional facility and are eligible for the Department of Corrections "Shock" program. They are making restitution for the dam-

age they did and the property they stole.

Also in the fall, investigators with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles initiated an investigation into an auto parts dealership. The proprietor was receiving stolen vehicles from tow truck operators and issuing false DMV documents for the transfer of title, that were then being filed with DMV. A lengthy investigation followed, and disclosed that the tow truck operators were locating abandoned vehicles or those that were parked in large parking lots overnight, and discreetly towing them to the auto parts dealership, where the bogus documents were being provided and cash exchanged for the vehicles. At the very end of the reporting year, investigators, in conjunction with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department, made arrests of two tow truck operators involved in the scheme. Arrests are expected in early 2008 of the proprietors of the auto parts dealership. The assigned prosecutor is continuing to work with the Sheriff's Office and representatives from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles in an effort to resolve this matter. It is hoped that a final resolution can be reached.

In September, a 28-year-old defendant stole an elderly woman's purse when she wasn't looking from her shopping cart, in the Price Chopper grocery store in the City of Mechanicville. He used the keys found within the purse to steal the victim's Toyota Camry from the lot, and went on a drug binge into Schenectady County. While in Schenectady County he stole multiple other vehicles, becoming more violent and daring in each of his attempts. He was eventually apprehended in the Town of Niskayuna, in Schenectady County. Statements from the defendant indicate that his conduct was fueled by a heroin addiction. The unit has worked closely with the Schenectady County District Attorney's office to coordinate plea offers and prosecution of the defendant. The matter is on a track for trial, first in Schenectady County, then, likely depending upon the outcome, in Saratoga County.

| Saratoga County Office of the District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 71 | MVIF Investigations | 5 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 38 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 3 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 2 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 0 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 38 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 2 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Convictions | 9 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 1 |

# Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney

The Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Crimes Unit of the Schenectady County District Attorney's Office continued to find success through strategic collaboration with other law enforcement agencies throughout the Capital District. The Capital District Auto Crime Task Force was established in June of 2003 and provides an effective forum for networking and information sharing among multi-jurisdictional contacts throughout the area. Task force members include insurance company representatives and law enforcement officers from various police agencies throughout the Capital District and Saratoga County. The task force began with 59 participants and has grown during the course of the past three years to include approximately 185 members.

In 2007, the Schenectady County District Attorney's strategy to decrease the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud continued to focus on the benefits of utilizing the most current technological equipment available to city, county and state law enforcement in the prevention and detection of motor vehicle theft related crimes.

In particular, the District Attorney's Office expects to continue utilizing License Plate Recognition Systems, commonly known as license plate readers, to improve the ability of law enforcement officials to detect and prosecute motor vehicle theft crimes. This technology will also allow law enforcement to target and address auto crime patterns within the county. In an attempt to demonstrate these potential benefits, the District Attorney's Office has requested that city, county and state law enforcement officials notify the District Attorney's Office whenever a prosecution is the result of an arrest made through the utilization of license plate readers.

| Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 88 | MVIF Investigations | 14 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 66 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 12 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 22 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 2 |

## Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney

Since 2002, when District Attorney Thomas Spota created a specialized bureau to address motor vehicle insurance related crime, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has actively worked with victim insurance companies to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud. As a result of this working relationship, numerous insurance companies have referred cases involving fraud to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

### Firefighter convicted of Insurance Fraud

A member of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) was indicted and convicted after trial of Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree and two counts of Falsifying a Business Record in the First Degree. This case was referred to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDA) in mid-2004 from the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB), which received the initial referral from State Farm Insurance. The defendant had reported to State Farm that after using his car, it was stolen from his house in Suffolk County. However, the investigation revealed that an independent witness had seen the defendant's vehicle parked in front of a house in Nassau County for two days before the defendant reported using and having the vehicle stolen. The investigation further revealed that the defendant had possession of all keys to the vehicle. During the trial, an expert witness testified that no other keys could have been made to drive the vehicle. The trial commenced in March 2007 and lasted for three weeks after which the defendant was convicted of all counts and sentenced by the trial judge, including $18,774 in restitution to be paid to the insurance company. The defendant subsequently lost his job with the FDNY.

### Defendant charged with Insurance Fraud and Perjury

An investigation was brought to the SCDA in conjunction with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the Bronx County District Attorney's Office. The defendant was charged in both counties with crimes related to the same transaction. The defendant placed a claim with Allstate Insurance for approximately $16,000 for his 2005 Toyota 4Runner. The defendant claimed that he had parked the car in Suffolk County and when he returned the same evening the vehicle was missing. However, the FDNY had discovered the defendant's vehicle on fire one night before the defendant reported last using his vehicle. A Bronx County grand jury did not indict the defendant. After Investigators from the SCDA and New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB) completed their investigation, the defendant was indicted on charges of Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, three counts of Falsifying a Business Record in the First Degree, Making an Apparently False Sworn Statement in the First Degree, and Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree.

During the grand jury presentation, the defendant testified on his own behalf. During the Suffolk County grand jury proceeding the defendant knowingly swore falsely with respect to material facts, namely, claiming he did not fill out the Allstate claim supporting paperwork as well as testifying that it was not his voice on an Allstate recorded statement. Consequently the office returned to the grand jury and indicted the defendant for one count of Perjury in

the First Degree with two specifications. The first specification was for the Allstate paperwork he claimed an agent filled out on his behalf, the second specification was for swearing falsely that it was not him on the Allstate recorded statement. This indictment is the first perjury indictment returned in Suffolk County in recent history. Several motions made by the People were granted, including consolidation of the two indictments and an order precluding mention of the Bronx County disposition. The defendant awaits trial in Suffolk County Court.

**Sting Operation Targets Long Island Car Thieves**

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota joined by the director of the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau (NYSIFB) Frank Orlando and Suffolk Police Commissioner (SCPD) Richard Dormer have announced the results of a sting operation targeting car thieves in Long Island and the New York metropolitan area.

Twenty-two arrests have been made thus far and 92 vehicles, with a bluebook value of approximately $1.1 million dollars, have been recovered. Undercover detectives at a garage operated by law enforcement purchased the stolen cars, trucks and motorcycles from thieves. All targets were captured on surveillance cameras and were subsequently charged with a range of crimes from insurance fraud and grand larceny to criminal possession of stolen property.

The targets of the sting operation came from all walks of life: drug dealers and addicts looking to make fast cash, a school teacher who wanted to avoid bank payments, a teenage car theft ring that would steal Hondas for parts and then sell the remainder of the vehicles to the undercover for quick money, and car salesmen stealing new cars directly from the dealership lot. "Theft rings peddling stolen cars are big business in Suffolk County and the metropolitan area," District Attorney Spota said, "and this operation found all manner of theft, from insurance give-ups to cars stolen by dishonest dealership employees to a thief auto mechanic who made copies of keys to steal cars from his shop's customers."



The majority of the defendants arrested by SCDA detectives, NYSIFB, SCPD motor vehicle theft section, and New York State Police (NYSP) are charged with felony Grand Larceny and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property. Fifteen more suspects are being sought. Among the vehicles recovered by investigators during the sting:

**FOUR VEHICLES STOLEN BY "CUSTOMER" -**The cars were delivered to undercover detectives by a thief who posed as a customer to case the dealer lots at PLANET PRE-OWN, 112 AUTO SALES, BROWNS DODGE, and ATLANTIC AUTO MALL on the weekend, and return Sunday night to steal the vehicle.

**THEFT BY AUTO MECHANIC  -** The defendant made copies of the customer's keys and stole their vehicle – a 2002 Lincoln delivered to the sting location was stolen in this manner. Before his arrest, the defendant promised to deliver more stolen cars from his employer's customers.

**GRANDSON WHO STOLE AND SOLD GRANDFATHER'S CAR (WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER'S WHEELCHAIR IN TRUNK) -** One defendant, staying with his grandfather on Long Island, stole his grandfather's 2003 Lexus and sold it to an undercover for $3,200, throwing in four of his grandfather's credit cards as a bonus.  Car, credit cards and wheelchair were returned to the family.

**INSURANCE "GIVE UP**" - One defendant falsely reported her leased 2005 Cadillac CTS stolen from the South Shore Mall to her insurance company.

**OUT-OF-STATE DEFENDANT DELIVERS TWO CARS TO STING -** An out-of-state defendant sold a stolen 2001 Saab and a stolen 2006 Dodge Charger to detectives at the sting garage.

One of the other most important aspects of the sting operation was that some targets led law enforcement to other criminal activity such as drug dealing and illegal possession of weapons.  As a result of the sting operation, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office was able to recover six guns, thus taking them off the street.

**21 Individuals Indicted on Charges of Insurance Fraud By Enhancing Damages – Ring Leaders Plead Guilty**

A long-term investigation involving a ring of auto body shops was concluded with the arrests and subsequent indictment of 21 individuals.  The scam resulted in three auto body shops gouging insurance companies for money by enhancing damages to vehicles brought to the three shops owned and operated by the ringleaders.  Cavalier Auto Body was the shop where most of the fraudulent activity took place.

In some cases, the defendants enhanced the damage by pounding new dents into fenders and scratching other parts of the car.  The three shops enhanced the damage to generate bigger claims and thus bigger payments for their criminal activity.  Law enforcement utilized undercover methods, including the use of a sting vehicle, and sent it to one of the auto body shops - Cavalier Auto Body - where in the defendants enhanced the damages by pounding new dents into the car.  In other cases, the shops made the damages appear worse.  One technique was to snap a tab that held the headlamp in place, bill for a new head lamp and then reattach the old light.

In connection with this case, the Suffolk County District Attorney moved to seize assets of the principals. Investigators recovered $117,000 in cash from a floor safe and the Suffolk County District Attorney attached the cash found in the safe with another $140,000 in various Cavalier bank accounts and more than $1million in commercial real estate. As part of the defendants' plea of guilty in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, the defendants forfeited the proceeds of their illegal activity.

| Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Indictments | 23 | MVIF Investigations | 3 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 120 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 12 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 37 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 12 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 47 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 1 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 47 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 5 |
| MVT Search Warrants Issued | 2 | MVIF Search Warrants Issued | 0 |
| MVT SAFETNet Referrals | 28 | MVIF SAFETNet Referrals | 21 |

## Suffolk County Police Department

The Motor Vehicle Theft Section of the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) is comprised of one detective lieutenant, two detective sergeants and eight detectives. The Motor Vehicle Theft Section is assisted in their investigations by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV), the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Auto Crime Unit, Yaphank Police Department Auto Squad, the Nassau County Police Department's (NCPD) Crime Against Property (CAP) Squad, the Eastern District US Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Insurance Frauds Bureau.

In 2007, there were 2,132 motor vehicles reported stolen in Suffolk County compared to 2,381 motor vehicles reported stolen in 2006. This represents an 11% decrease in one year. There was also a 4% increase in the rate of recovering stolen motor vehicles, from 79.1% in 2006 compared to 83.1% in 2007. In 2007, the Motor Vehicle Theft Section was responsible for recovering more than $800,000 in stolen vehicles and parts. There were 400 motor vehicle theft related and motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations opened, in 2007, culminating in 294 Felony and 33 Misdemeanor Arrests in Suffolk County.

**Current Trends**

The trend of older vehicles being stolen off the roads in Suffolk County and scrapped at local salvage yards continued throughout 2007. The salvage yards have taken steps towards

complying with state and local laws and ordinances in regard to the documentation of the motor vehicle being scrapped and the individuals who are selling them. As a rule, if an older motor vehicle is stolen out of a driveway, from a roadway, parking lot, or service station it can be concluded that the motor vehicle has been stolen for scrap. When this occurs, the Vehicle Theft Section notifies the salvage yards and requests an inventory search via VIN for that vehicle. In addition, the detectives do on-site inspections and physically check their business records in an attempt to keep the process and the salvage operators honest.

The second continuing trend involves the theft and stripping of Hondas and Acuras and sale of stolen engines, transmissions and component parts through various Internet web sites. In 2007, the detectives of the Vehicle Theft Section continued to work in collaboration with the local police precincts and with the specialized sections within the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD). Stepped up vehicle and traffic enforcement and street-level vehicle interdictions continue to target the groups and individuals involved in these thefts. In reaction, some of these groups and individuals have adapted to the pressure of the stepped up enforcement by limiting what is stripped off of the stolen vehicles to the removal of parts that have no identifiers in an attempt to make the possession of these stolen parts harder to ascertain.

**Motorcycles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's)**

The increased popularity of motorcycles and ATVs has also brought with it an increase in the theft of both of these vehicles. Some of the factors that have been identified that contribute to these thefts include the use of the Internet to sell the stolen vehicles or their parts. Detectives monitor the popular sites and continue to target sellers that list vehicles or parts that have indicators that these items might be stolen. Some of these indicators include the item themselves such as engines or vehicles that are pictured with their engine or VIN numbers visible and that when checked come back as active thefts. Another indicator is the wording used with the sale item. Examples of a suspicious listing include: listing a motorcycle for "track use only," "cannot be registered, " and listings for motorcycle parts without frames/titles or asking prices that are well below book value.

Recently, detectives came across a listing on Craig's List for parts of a 2007 R6 sports motorcycle that included everything but the frame. The seller was asking $2,500 and when contacted stated he didn't have the title. Prior to meeting the seller, detectives were able to determine that the same color 2007 R6 had been reported stolen three months prior and just blocks away from the seller's address. When meeting the undercover detective, the seller readily told him that the engine numbers were ground down. An inspection of the parts determined that the parts belonged to the R6 that had been previously reported stolen. The continuing investigation tied the seller as well as a second suspect into the original theft.

**Insurance Fraud**

The Suffolk County Motor Vehicle Theft Section continues to work closely with the Special Investigations Units from the insurance industry; to proactively investigate cases of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud that appear to be owner involved; and to work closely with the SCPD Arson Section with theft/burn/strips; and with the NICB and the

Suffolk Count District Attorney's Office Insurance Crimes Bureau. Thefts are monitored on a daily basis and any theft that appears to have indications of a possible insurance fraud is followed up and investigated.

In 2007, as part of a coordinated sting with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the NICB an undercover storefront was again used as a locale to target stolen cars and insurance give-ups. This investigation started in December 2007, when undercover detectives were able to purchase an insurance give-up. This investigation is ongoing and additional insurance give-ups are scheduled into 2008.

| Suffolk County Police Department: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 2,123 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 63 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 1,765 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 39 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 337 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 4 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 255 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 102 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 29 | Value of Stolen Vehicles Recovered | $1.7 million |

## City of Syracuse Police Department

The Syracuse Police Department (SPD) has been actively involved in a program to reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud since receiving a grant from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in 1997. During the past 10 years the SPD has sent many officers to training provided by the New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association Inc., (NYACT) and the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Auto Crime School. Many officers are active in the Northeast Association of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (NE-IAATI) conferences held throughout the Northeast. Those officers have become leaders in motor vehicle theft and recovery and continue to pass their knowledge on to new officers with the SPD.

During the past 10 years, the SPD has been effectively combating two main problems involved with motor vehicle theft. The first being that an alleged victim would report their vehicle stolen and declare that prosecution was requested. In many cases the SPD would investigate the motor vehicle theft, make an arrest and recover the vehicle only to discover that the vehicle had been traded for drugs, commonly referred to as a "crack rental," and the vehicle owner was involved in this practice. The SPD has seen a decline in the number of this type of motor vehicle theft due to the fact that the SPD is listing these vehicles as "crack rentals" and attempt to locate the vehicle for recovery.

The SPD has worked with community groups to increase awareness of the motor vehicle

theft issue in the City of Syracuse. Two dedicated officers are assigned as a double unit to handle any calls involving reported stolen motor vehicles and to patrol those areas of the city that have a high incidence of motor vehicle theft and/or recovery rates. Officers assigned to the dedicated details are sent out in four-hour blocks at any time of the day or night. By sending out dedicated detail units the SPD gains an advantage over the motor vehicle thief and recoveries can be made sooner, many times within hours of the reported theft.

There is an ongoing effort to educate the judiciary about the problem of motor vehicle theft in the City and, even though a majority of the reported stolen vehicles are recovered, the SPD, working with the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office (OCDA), created a fill in the blank affidavit that the victim was required to complete out when filing the stolen motor vehicle report. The affidavit has a location where the victim must state that they do not know who has the vehicle and that they have not traded the vehicle or otherwise "sold" the vehicle. In the body of the affidavit, the victim is told that he will be charged with a crime if he makes any false statements. This change alone reduced the number of falsely reporting complaints and reduced the number of complaints from drug users who traded their vehicles.

Again working with the OCDA, the affidavit was changed to put a value to the vehicle stolen. The defense attorneys were claiming that the Kelly Blue Book value was not an accurate value of a vehicle so the judges were throwing out charges. The revised affidavit now has space for the victim to give their value to the vehicle including recent purchase price, outstanding loan balance, recent repairs to name a few. This closed the loophole and allowed the DA's office to prosecute Felony charges from the start as opposed to Misdemeanors.

In 2007, there was a spike in the number of reported stolen motor vehicles that were 10 years old or older. These vehicles were not being recovered and the SPD developed evidence that the vehicles were being sold to unscrupulous scrap metal dealers for their salvage value. The investigation revealed that one dealer was not following the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) when receiving a vehicle. The SPD, in cooperation with the NYSDMV, intervened and the scrap dealer admitted to NYSDMV violations and has since changed their way of doing business. Intelligence developed by the SPD indicates that after this investigation no scrap dealer in the area will take vehicles without proper paperwork.

For the year 2007, the SPD achieved a 98% recovery rate of all reported stolen motor vehicles. In 2007, 585 vehicles were reported stolen, 17 motor vehicles thefts were discovered to be unfounded and four individuals were charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident. Five hundred sixty-four actual vehicles were stolen compared with 736 in 2006, a 23% decrease. Of these vehicles, 536 were recovered and when compared to 2006, when 603 reported stolen vehicles were recovered, this represents a 16% increase in the recovery of reported stolen vehicles. 115 vehicle stolen motor vehicle cases were solved with an arrest. In those cases, 185 individuals had 356 charges filed against them, 149 felonies and 207 misdemeanors. The estimated value of all motor vehicles reported stolen in the City of Syracuse exceeds $3 million dollars. In addition, the SPD also recovered 87 vehicles that were reported stolen in surrounding jurisdictions, resulting in 37 individuals being charged with 21 Felonies and 36 Misdemeanors. The estimated value of the vehicles recovered from outside agencies exceeds $700,000.

In 2007, there continued to be a problem with what is referred to as "joyriding. As the stats show, most reported stolen vehicles in the City of Syracuse are recovered within the city limits and apparently not utilized in other crimes. Late model (1990-1995) Dodge and Plymouth mini-vans (Chrysler products) continue to be the vehicle of choice for opportunistic thieves. This year, 1995 Caravans and Voyagers are a hot item with 18 Dodge Caravans and eight Plymouth Voyagers reported stolen. Next would be the 1994 model year with nine Caravans and one Voyager reported stolen. Ninety-seven vehicles of this type were stolen by using a method that bypasses the ignition system to start the vehicle without a key. An investigation revealed that numerous older models vehicles were stolen/towed away and scraped at the local salvage yards. Two suspects were arrested in connection with one of these incidents. One suspect admitted that he had stolen at least nine vehicles in the City of Syracuse and a still undetermined number from other jurisdictions in Onondaga County. All but one of the vehicles has been scraped and were not recovered. As a result of this investigation, the New York State Police (NYSP) and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) each arrested these suspects for unrelated motor vehicle thefts in the county.

| City of Syracuse Police Department:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 453 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 2 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 145 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 0 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 460 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 2 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 125 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 0 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 171 | Value of Stolen Vehicles Recovered | $2,836,119 |

## Westchester County Office of the District Attorney

The Westchester County District Attorney's Auto Crimes Unit was created in 1998 in response to a need in the County for a centralized unit dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud on a countywide level. Previously, law enforcement efforts to resolve the problems of motor vehicle theft and related crimes including insurance fraud in Westchester County were uncoordinated and piecemeal at best. Arrests were usually limited to those made as a result of the initiative of individual police officers on patrol and in follow-up investigations. With the creation and subsequent expansion of the District Attorney's Auto Crimes Unit, a full-time investigative and prosecutorial unit consisting of two assistant district attorneys and two police investigators filled the void that previously existed.

The statistics regarding motor vehicle crime in Westchester County reveals that through aggressive investigation and prosecution the Westchester County Auto Crimes Unit has truly made a difference. Since its creation in 1998, motor vehicle theft has been reduced in Westchester County by 69.5 %  between 1997 (4,130 steals) and 2005 (1,260 steals). The latest offi-

cial statistics (2005) ranks Westchester County 9th in the State with 1,260 vehicles reported stolen (a further decrease of almost 18% from 2004). In fact, the number of thefts has dropped every year since the inception of the Unit.

In 2007, the Auto Crimes Unit continued to focus on the southern portions of Westchester County, which still accounts for the majority of the County's automobile theft. The Auto Crimes Unit has initiated several joint operations with the New York State Police (NYSP), New York City Police Department Auto Crimes Unit and NICB targeting this area and progress in these operations shall be reported in the coming year.

In support of local law enforcement agencies efforts to combat motor vehicle theft, the Auto Crimes Unit with the assistance of the NYSP has coordinated the use of license plate readers in enhanced patrols. This effort concentrates on those neighborhoods with the greatest incidence of motor vehicle theft and was done periodically throughout the year.

An additional important function served by the Auto Crimes Unit is the training it has provided to police officers from throughout the County and the State. Once per year, the Unit has conducted a daylong training conference at the Westchester County Police Academy. Experts from a number of agencies have been brought in to lecture and offer hands-on demonstrations relating to issues in motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prosecutions. Throughout the years, Unit personnel have trained more than 500 officers from over 25 police departments. Additionally, Unit personnel have been frequent lecturers at NYPTI and IAATI training seminars.

Finally, the Auto Crimes Unit has since its inception serviced the local community by conducting the program titled, "Watch your Car." Every year members of the Unit conduct free VIN-etching for citizens of the County on their motor vehicles. This program is coordinated with local police agencies. Since the implementation of the program, the Unit has VIN-etched more than 1,000 vehicles.

| Westchester County Office of the District Attorney: MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| MVT Investigations | 14 | MVIF Investigations | 5 |
| MVT Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 175 | MVIF Felony Arrests Prosecuted | 9 |
| MVT Felony Convictions | 33 | MVIF Felony Convictions | 2 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests Prosecuted | 31 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrest Prosecuted | 0 |
| MVT Misdemeanor  Convictions | 89 | MVIF Misdemeanor Convictions | 0 |
| MVT Search Warrants Issued | 2 | MVIF Search Warrants Issued | 0 |
| MVT SAFETNet Referrals | 5 | MVIF SAFETNet Referrals | 13 |
| Officers Trained | 37 | Restitution for Fraudulent Insurance Claims $104,296 | |

# City of Yonkers Police Department

Due, in part, to the efforts of the Yonkers Police Department (YPD) Auto Crime Unit, the number of motor vehicle thefts in the City of Yonkers continued to decline. The number of reported stolen motor vehicles went from 451 in 2006 to 376 in 2007, a decrease of more than 16%. Of these reported stolen vehicles, 222 nearly 60% of them, were recovered. This is a continuation of downward trend since 1992, when there were a reported 2,502 stolen autos in the City of Yonkers (a decrease of almost 85% during a 16 year period). During 2007, the YPD Auto Crime Unit began approximately 70 motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related fraud investigations and continued several others from the previous year. In the course of these investigations, officers from the Auto Crime Unit worked closely with members of the following law enforcement and other agencies, as well as various insurance companies: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); United States Customs Service (USCS); United States Postal Service (USPS); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Canadian Customs; Office of the New York State Inspector General (NYSIG); New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV); New York State Police (NYSP); Westchester County Department of Public Safety (WCDPS); Bronxville Police Department; Eastchester Police Department; Greenburgh Police Department Mt. Pleasant Police Department; Sleepy Hollow Police Department; Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD); New York City Police Department, its Auto Theft Unit and Intelligence Unit (NYPD); Chandler Arizona Police Department; Georgia State Police; New Haven Connecticut Police Department; and, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

The following are a sample of the more than 70 investigations that the YPD Auto Crime Unit began during 2007:

- A motor vehicle insurance fraud investigation was initiated and the investigation discovered that a shipping container bound for Jordan was full of stolen items that were recovered. The investigation also resulted in recovery of approximately $210,000 worth of stolen motor vehicles and their parts. One arrest has been made and charges are pending.

- Several successful investigations with the NICB were conducted involving a bait vehicle.

- Another motor vehicle theft investigation culminated in the arrest of a suspect charged with 158 felony counts of Identify Theft. A continuing long-term investigation into counterfeit Pennsylvania registrations and inspection stickers continues with the assistance of the SCPD and the NYPD and NYSP. In addition, an investigation with the NYPD and the NICB resulted in a chop shop being closed. Four suspects were arrested and charges are pending. Four arrests were made.

- Several motor vehicle insurance fraud cases have resulted in prosecutions. In an effort to detect motor vehicle insurance fraud, the detectives assigned to the YPD Auto Theft Unit regularly check every reported stolen motor vehicle case in the City of Yonkers. Several other investigations involve arresting suspects profiting from counterfeit motor vehicle insurance cards and investigating reports of stolen construction equipment.

There have been several motor vehicle arsons committed in the City of Yonkers. Many times a vehicle owner will hire a person to steal their motor vehicle and commit the Arson so the vehicle owner can make a false insurance claim.         .

The YPD Auto Theft Unit has trained several police officers from the YPD and other agencies to identify stolen and re-tagged motor vehicles and to recognize counterfeit motor vehicle and driver's license documents. The Watch Your Car and VIN etching program are offered to the citizens of Yonkers on a daily basis. Appointments can be made at one of the precincts to have their vehicles etched. The program is advertised through the Precinct Community Councils and the local media.

| City of Yonkers Police Department:  MVTIF Crime Statistics 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Performance Measure* | *Total* | *Performance Measure* | *Total* |
| Stolen Vehicles Reported | 376 | MV Insurance Fraud Investigations | 71 |
| Stolen Vehicle Recovered | 48 | MVIF Felony Arrests | 28 |
| MVT Investigations Initiated | 71 | MVIF Misdemeanor Arrests | 4 |
| MVT Felony Arrests | 35 | SAFETNet Targets Entered | 1 |
| MVT Misdemeanor Arrests | 5 | Value of Stolen Vehicles Recovered | $4,480,000 |

# 1997 to 2007 Summary of Grant Funding

During the 1980s, New York State experienced a dramatic increase in motor vehicle theft and fraud related crimes. From 1986 through 1990, the number of motor vehicles reported stolen increased by 65%. In response to the prevalence and economic costs of the crimes of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud, New York State enacted Executive Law, Article 36-A (L.1994, c.170) creating the *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* to help reduce the overall cost of motor vehicle insurance in the State. A 12-member *Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* was authorized under this statute to oversee the program. The Board became operational in September of 1997 with the appointment of its members.

The Board was able to make its first grant awards (from SFY97 monies) late in 1997 by using a competitive request for proposal process and identifying the needs of jurisdictions through Uniform Crime Reports on motor vehicle theft and Insurance Fraud Bureau Reports on motor vehicle insurance fraud. The 2001 Statewide Plan for the interdiction and prevention of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud was adopted and utilized in the awards process as well. Funding available in 1997 was $1.2 million which supported eight grants. By 2006, the funding available was increased to $5.3 million and supported 32 grants.
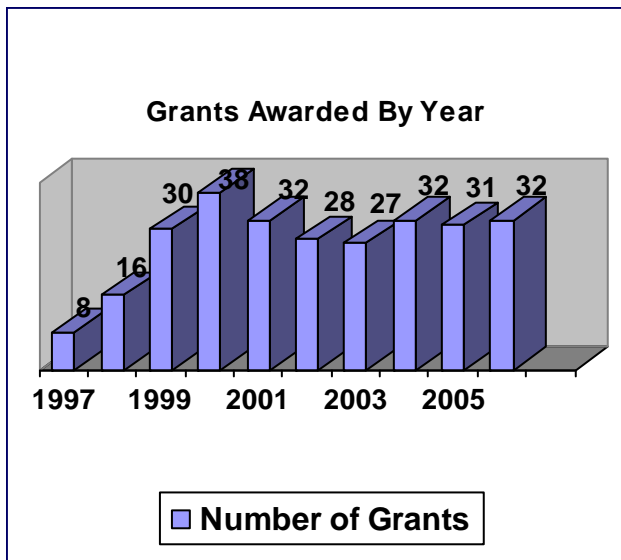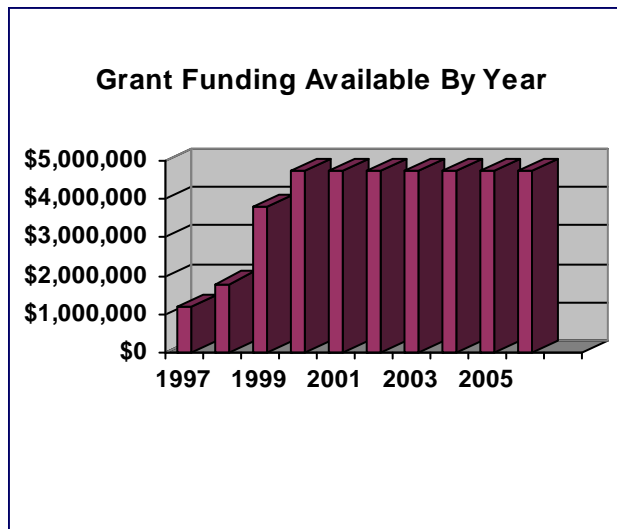
**Grant Funding Available By Year**



The goals of the program are to provide an integrated means to prevent, deter, and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. The funds have allowed agencies to target law enforcement efforts, enhance investigations and prosecutions and utilize a statewide prevention program. This has resulted in a **statewide reduction of 59.7% in motor vehicle theft**. Success has also occurred in combating the incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud, in 2003 suspected incidence of **motor vehicle insurance fraud** reached a high of 22,708, by 2006 this number **decreased** by **36.8%** to 14,344.

**Grants Awarded By Year**



■ **Number of Grants**

# New York State
## Ten Year Trends of Motor Vehicle Theft & Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Crimes

- Motor vehicle theft **decreased by 59.8%** from **79,740** in 1997 to **32,040** in 2006 .

- In 2006, the New York State rate of motor vehicle thefts was 58.1% **below** the national average of 398.4 per 100,000 population.

- New York's motor vehicle theft **rate of 166.6 per 100,000** is at its **lowest rate** in decades.

- The **Northeast States** reported a continued decrease of motor vehicle theft in 2006 with a **decline** of **6.4%** from 2005.  Since **1997**, motor vehicle theft has declined **44%** in the Northeast States.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud **had increased by 39.4%** from 13,939 in 1997 to a high of **23,023** in 2003.

- Since 2003,  suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud **has decreased by 36.8%** to 14,654.

- Motor vehicle related no-fault insurance fraud is **44.2%** of all types of suspected  insurance fraud reported by the industry to New York State Insurance Department.

- No-fault insurance fraud is **70%** of all types of suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud in New York State which is a decrease from a high of **75%** in  2003.

### Motor Vehicle Theft in New York State

Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |

### Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud in New York

Reports of Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
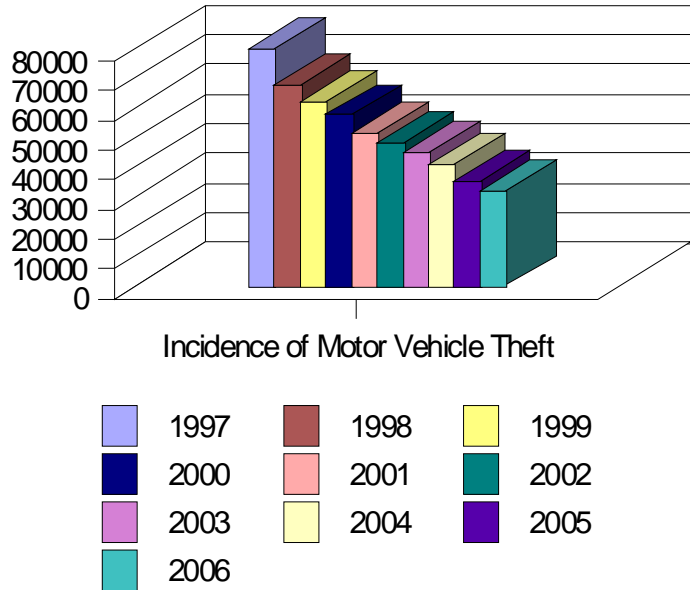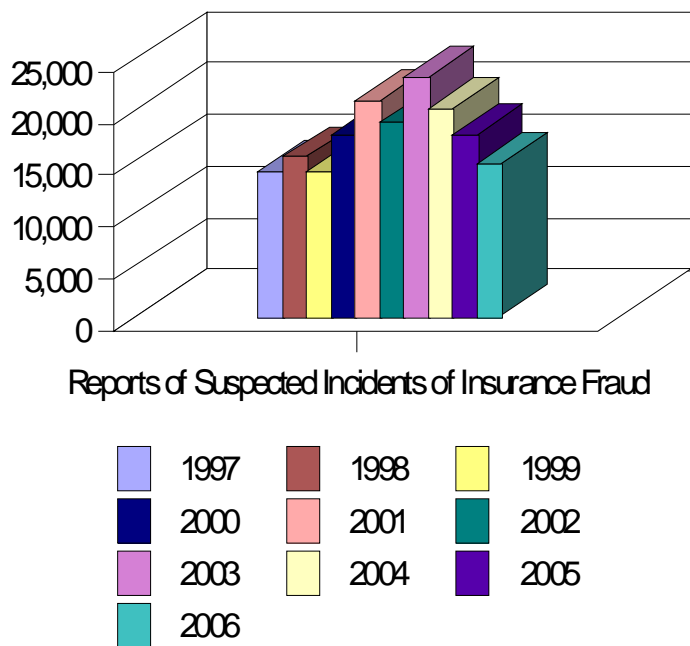
# Regional Analysis
## Ten Year Trends of Motor Vehicle Theft & Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Crimes

The following information presents a ten year overview of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud for all regions of New York State. However, only those counties that have agencies which have received grant funding from the NYS Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board are highlighted.

**New York State Regional Map
for Incidents of
Motor Vehicle Theft and
Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud**

North Country Region

Mohawk Valley Region

Capital District Region

Finger Lakes Region

Central Region

Western Region

Southern Tier Region

Mid-Hudson Region

NYC Suburban Region

Greater NYC Region
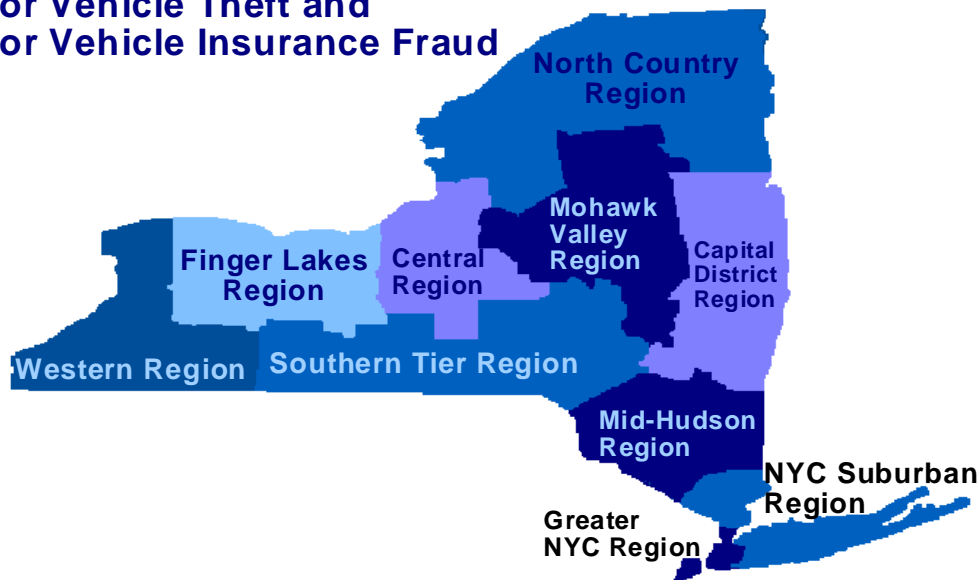
- A total of **520,326** incidents of motor vehicle theft occurred in New York State from 1997 to 2006.

- **58.5%** (307,639) occurred in the **New York City Region**.

- **16.2%** (85,534) occurred in the **New York City Suburban Region**.

- **7.7%** (40,549) occurred in the **Western Region**.

- **.3%** (1,971) occurred in the **Northern Region.**

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By Region**
Ten Year Totals

Legend:
- New York City Region
- Western Region
- Capital District Region
- Mid-Hudson Region
- Southern Tier Region
- NYC Surburban Region
- Finger Lakes Region
- Central Region
- Mohawk Valley Region
- North Country Region
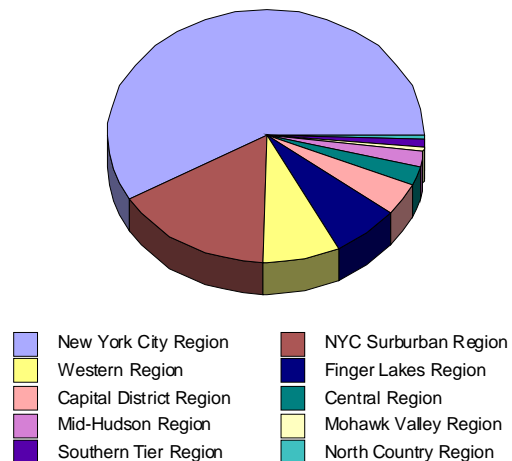
**Incidence of Suspected Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud**
Ten Year Totals



- New York City Region
- Western Region
- Capital District Region
- Mid-Hudson Region
- Southern Tier Region
- NYC Surburban Region
- Finger Lakes Region
- Central Region
- Mohawk Valley Region
- North Country Region
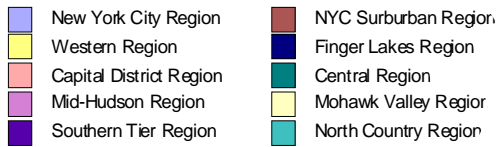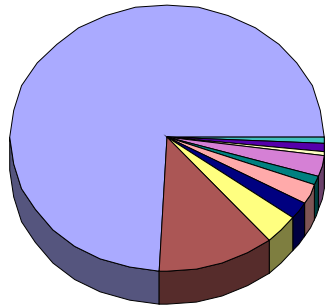
- A total of **169,195** incidents of suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud occurred in New York State from 1997 to 2006.

- **67.4%** (114,050) occurred in the **New York City Region**.

- **20.2%** (34,221) occurred in the **New York City Suburban Region**.

- **3.2%** (5,528) occurred in the **Western Region**.

- **.37%** (638) occurred in the **Northern Region.**

**Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Grants By Region**
Ten Year Totals



- New York City Region
- Western Region
- Capital District Region
- Mid-Hudson Region
- Southern Tier Region
- Statewide Training
- NYC Surburban Region
- Finger Lakes Region
- Central Region
- Mohawk Valley Region
- North Country Region
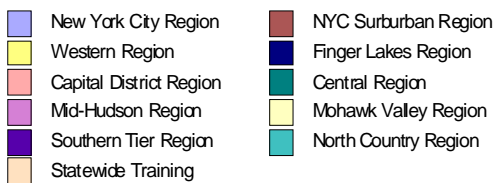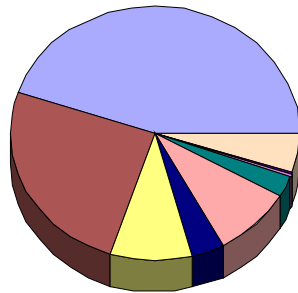
- A total of **$39,085,000** in motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention grant funds were awarded in New York State from 1997 to 2006.

- **45%** ($17,604,505) of the total grant funds for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention were awarded to the **New York City Region**.

- **25.6%** ($10,007,551) of the total grant funds for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention were awarded to the **New York City Suburban Region**.

- **8.7%** ($3,424,748) of the total grant funds for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prevention were awarded to the **Western Region**.

# New York City Region
## 1997 to 2006

- Funding for this region from 1997-2006 included the Office of the District Attorney for all five counties, City of New York Police Department and City of New York Office of the Sheriff.

**Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Total

Bronx
New York
Richmond
Kings
Queens

**Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft In New York City**

1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
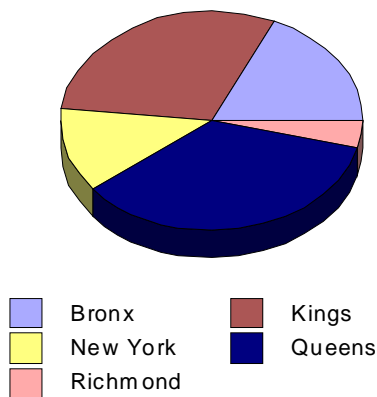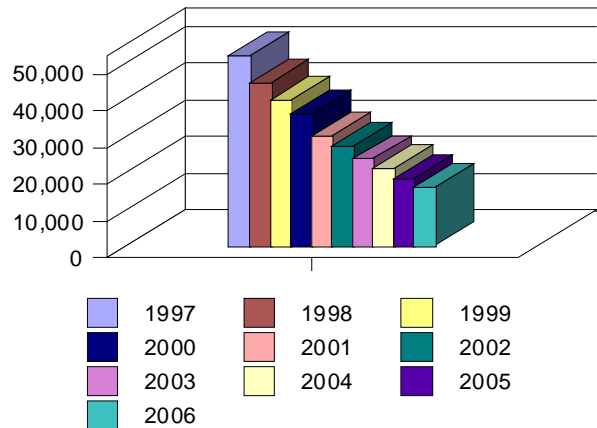
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 69.3% since 1997, from 51,912 to 15,936 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 72.3% from 668.4 to 184.8.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 55.3% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 7,265 to 16,277. The numbers have since declined by 35% to 10,571 in 2006.
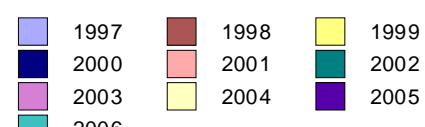
**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Total
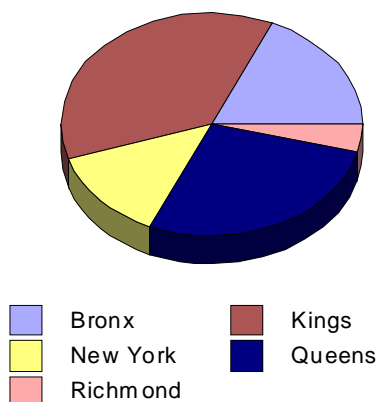
Bronx
New York
Richmond
Kings
Queens

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud In New York City**

1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006

# Bronx County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Reports of Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
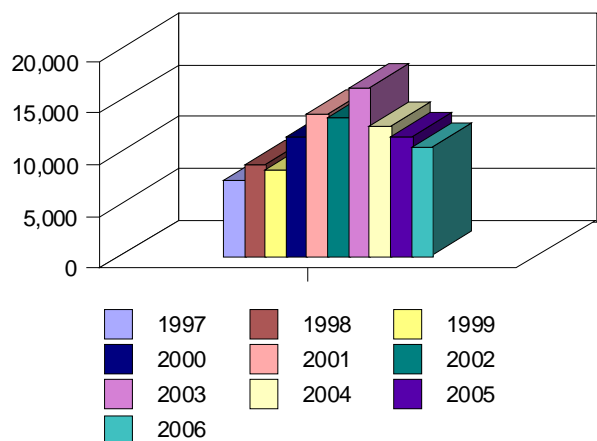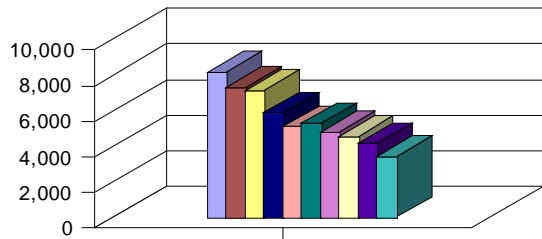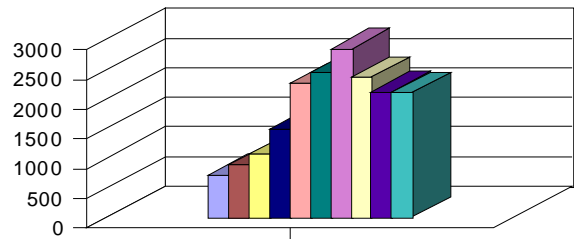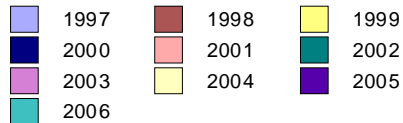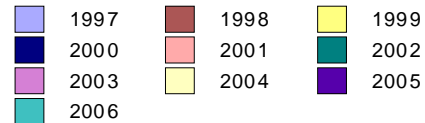
- Grant funding for Bronx County was awarded from 1998 - 2006 to the Bronx County Office of the District Attorney and New York City Police Department.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 57.9% since 1997, from 8,167 to 3,431 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 63% from 681.7 to 251.6.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 294.9% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 718 to 2,836.  The numbers have since declined by 26% to 2,097 in 2006.

# Kings County
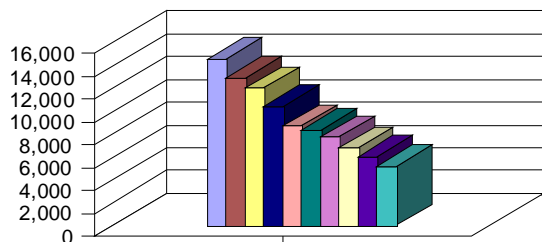


Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft

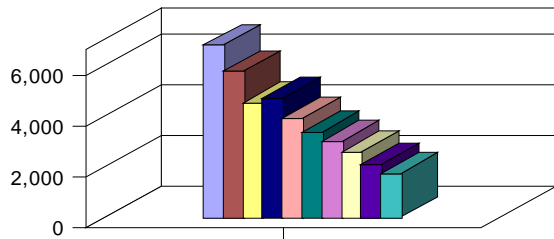| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Reported Incidents of Suspected Insurance Fraud

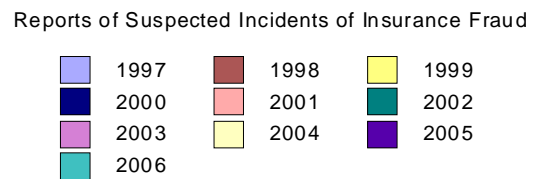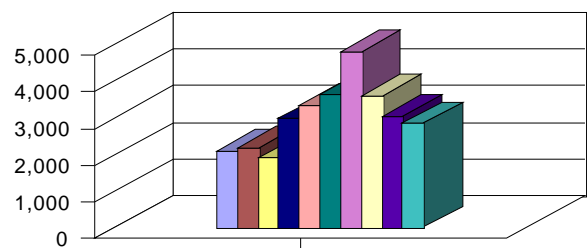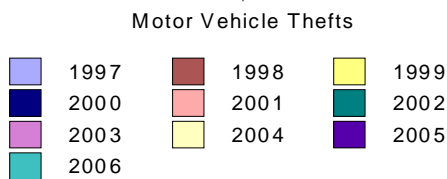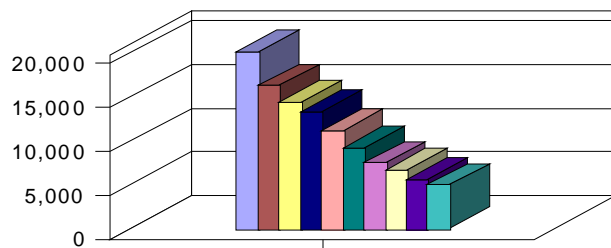| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
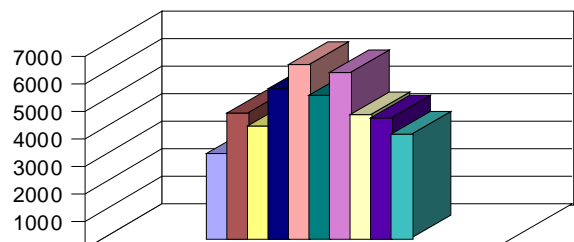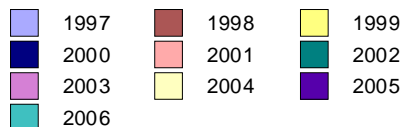
- Grant funding in Kings County occurred from 1999 - 2006 to the Kings County Office of the District Attorney and New York City Police Department.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of  64.6% since 1997, from 14,624 to 5,176 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 67.8%  from 646.35  to 207.84.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of  48.6% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 3,078 to 5,997.  The numbers have since declined by 37.4% to 3,750 in 2006.
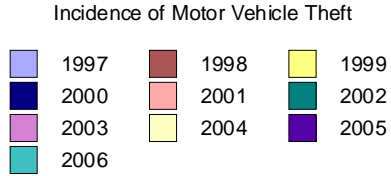
# New York County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Reports of Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
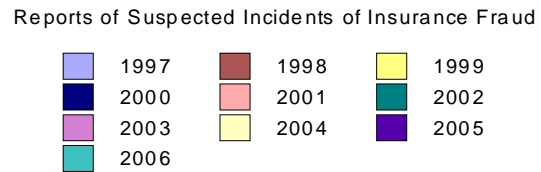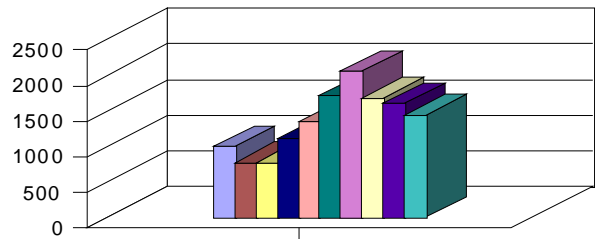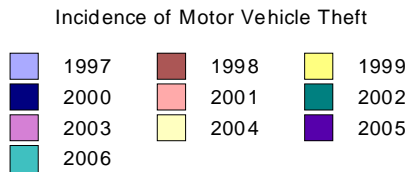
- Grant funding for New York County was awarded from 1998 - 2006 to the New York County Office of the District Attorney; New York City Sheriff Office and New York City PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of  74.3% since 1997, from 6,778 to 1,737 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 75.4% from 441.7 to 108.5.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 51.7 % occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 992 to 2,054.  The numbers have since **declined by 30.1% to 1,434  in 2006**.

# Queens County



Motor Vehicle Thefts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Reports of Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |

- Grant funding for Queens County was awarded from 1997 - 2006 to the Queens County Office of the District Attorney and New York City PD.

- **Decrease in motor vehicle theft of  75.2%** since 1997, from 20,069 to 4,964 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 78.1%  from 1,012.5 to 221.0.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of  56.7% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 2,084 to 4,813.  The numbers have since **declined by 40.7% to 2,850 in 2006**.

# Richmond County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
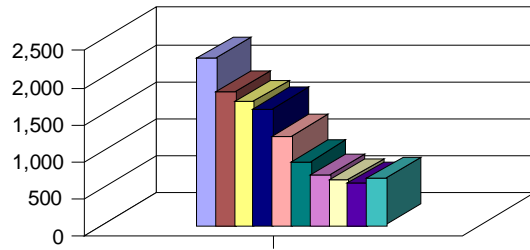
Superin-tendent Eric R. Dinallo, an-nounced today that the owner of a Queens-based livery cab



Reported Incidents of Suspected Insurance Fraud

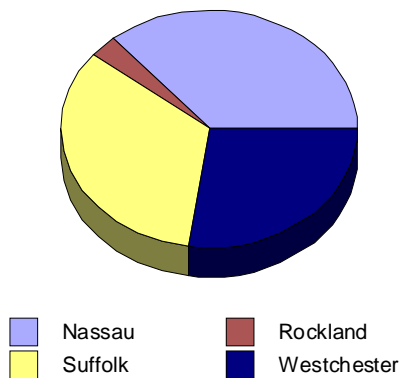1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
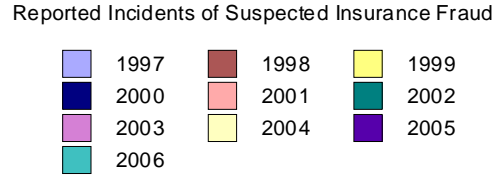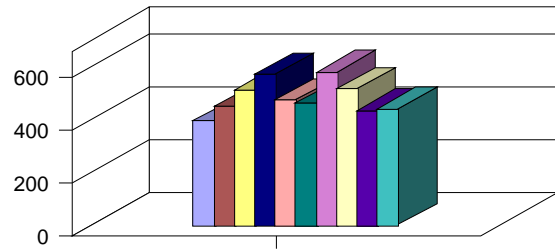
- Grant funding for Richmond County was awarded from 1998 - 2006 to the Richmond County Office of the District Attorney and New York City PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 72.1% since 1997, from 2,254 to 628 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 75.9% from 559.92 to 134.94.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 31.8% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 393 to 577. The numbers have since **declined by 23.7% to 440 in 2006**.
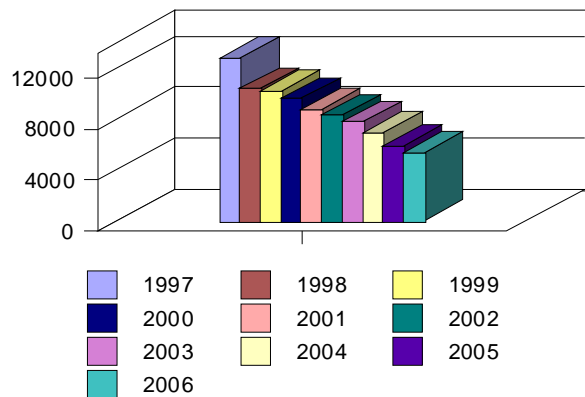
# New York City Suburban Region
## 1997-2006

- Funding for this region from 1997– 2006 includes the Office of the District Attorney for all four counties, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Police Departments, Rockland County Sheriff, Village of Spring Valley, Town of Hempstead, Cities of New Rochelle, Rye and Yonkers Police Departments.

**NYC Suburban Region**

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

Legend: Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester

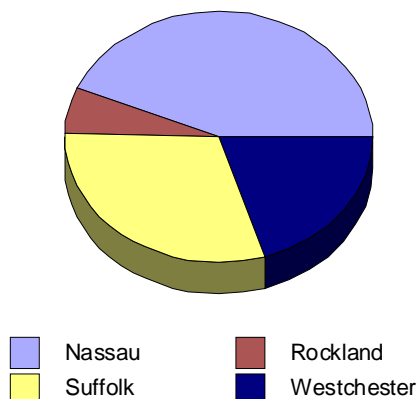**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

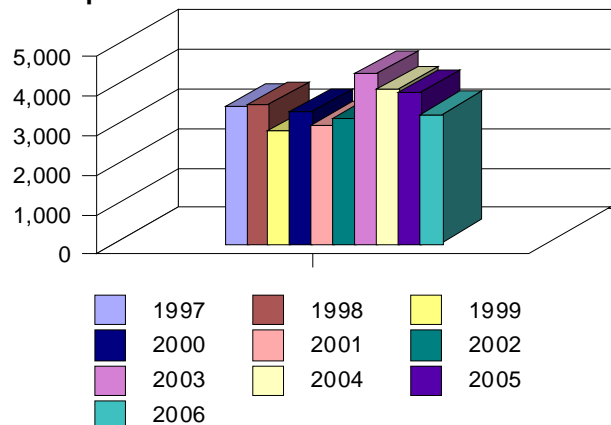Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 58% since 1997, from 12,732 to 5,335 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 61.4% from 301.2 to 116.0 per 100,000 population.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 23.9% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 3,426 to 4,246. The numbers have since **declined by 24%**
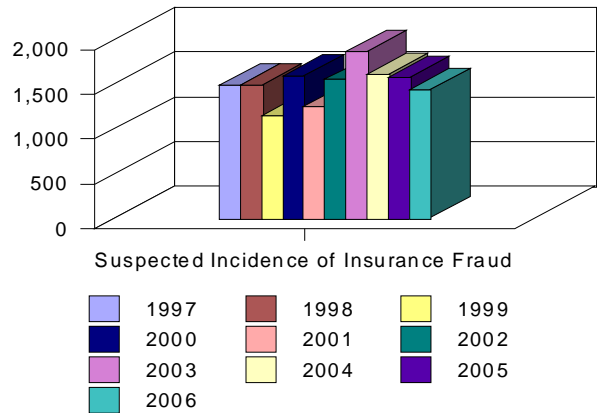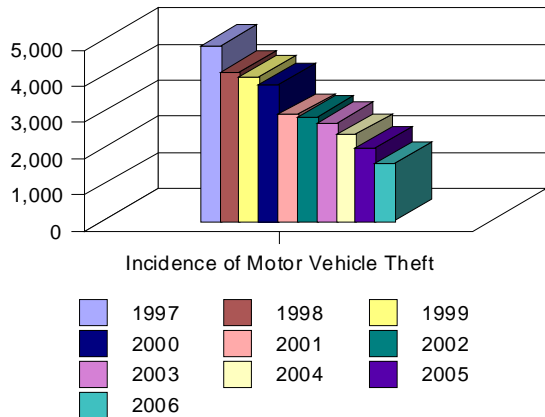
**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Total

Legend: Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

## Nassau County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

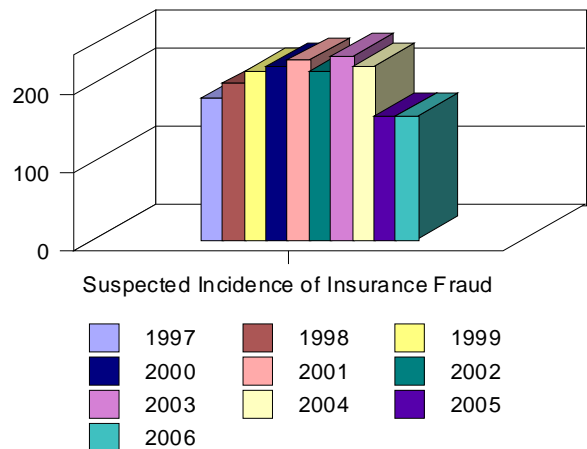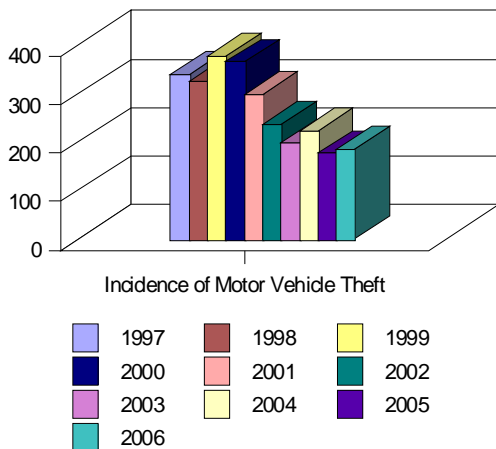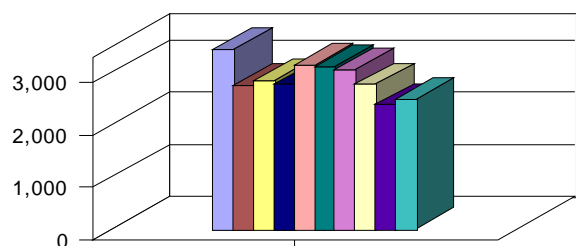| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |

- Grant funding for Nassau County was awarded from 1998 - 2006 to the Nassau County Office of the District Attorney, Nassau County PD and Village of Hempstead PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 67% since 1997, from 4,826 to 1,585 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 68% from 370.7 to 118.5.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 25.2% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 1,488 to 1,864. The numbers have since declined by 23% to 1,434 in 2006.

## Rockland County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

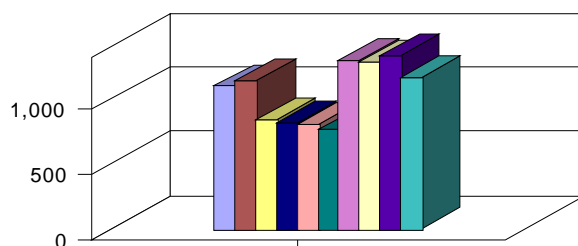| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |

- Grant funding for Rockland County was awarded from 1999 - 2002 to the Rockland County Office of the District Attorney, Rockland County Sheriff and Village of Spring Valley PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 45% since 1997, from 338 to 184 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 48.1% from 120.8 to 62.6.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 8.1% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 215 to 234. The numbers have since declined by 32.9% to 157 in 2006.

# Suffolk County

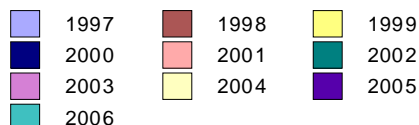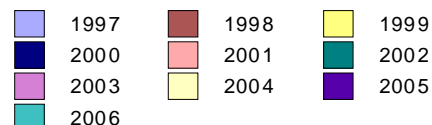**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

**1st Qtr**

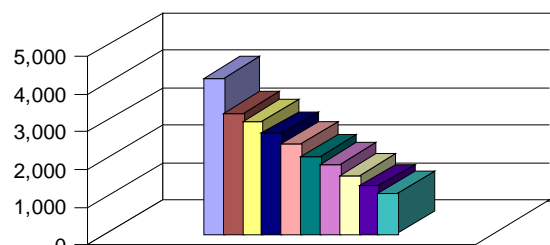Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
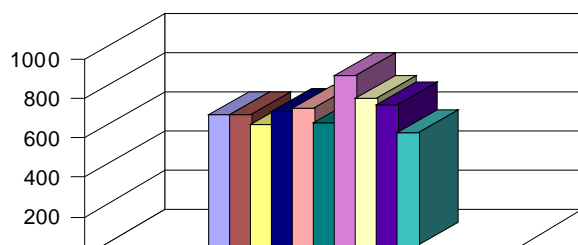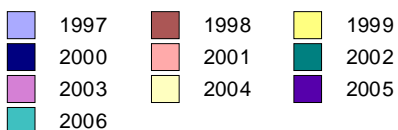
- Grant funding for Suffolk County was awarded from 1997 - 2006 to the Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney and Suffolk County PD

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 27.6% since 1997, from 3,428 to 2,481 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 33.3% from 252.04 to 168.0.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 17.7% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 1,093 to 1,328. The numbers have since declined by 9.4% to 1,156 in 2006.

# Westchester County

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

**Reported Incidents of Suspected Insurance Fraud**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

- Grant funding for Westchester County was awarded from 1997 - 2006 to the Westchester County Office of the District Attorney, Westchester County DPS, New Rochelle City PD, Rye City PD and City of Yonkers PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 73.7 % since 1997, from 4,130 to 1,085 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 75% from 461.34 to 115.0.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 22.9% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 663 to 861. The numbers have since declined by 33.9% to 569 in 2006.

## Western Region

### 1997 to 2006


**Western Region**

- Funding in this region from 1997 to 2006 included the Office of the District Attorney for Erie and Niagara

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals



Legend:
- Allegany
- Chautauqua
- Niagara
- Cattargus
- Erie

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**



| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
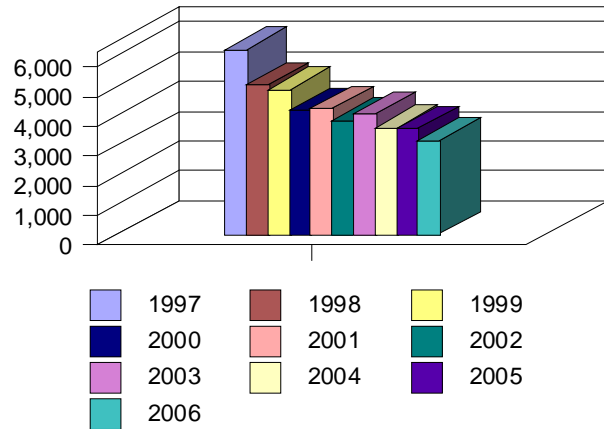
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 49.3 % since 1997, from 6,208 to 3,145 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 44.3% from 217.8 to 121.3 per 100,000 population.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 11.5% occurred from 1997 to 2004, from 618 to 699.  The numbers have since declined by 2.2% to 683 in 2006.
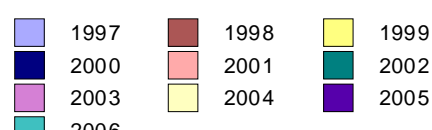
**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**



| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |

**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Total



Legend:
- Allegany
- Chautauqua
- Niagara
- Cattaraugus
- Erie

# Erie County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
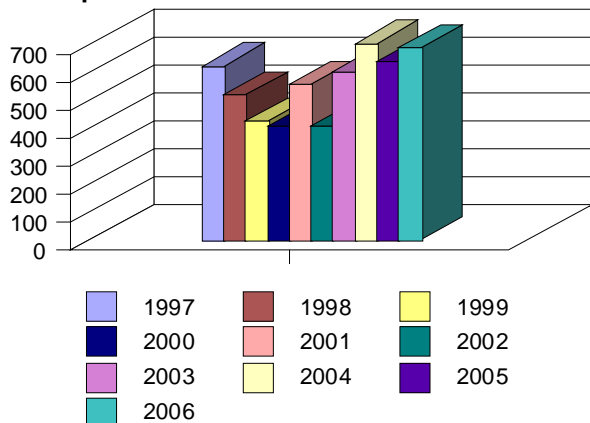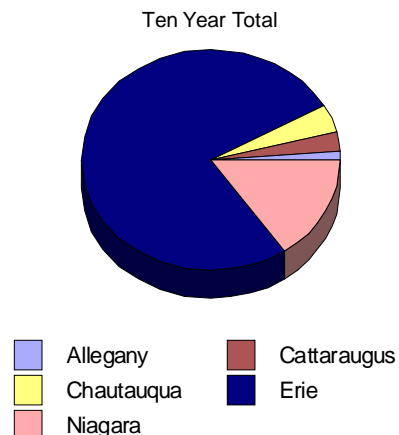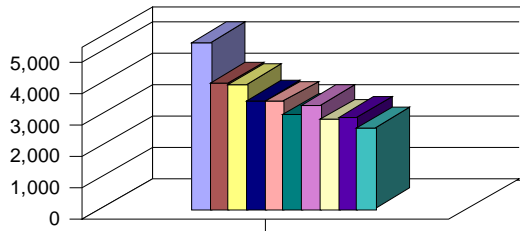
- Grant funding for Erie County was awarded from 1997 - 2006 to Erie County Office of the District Attorney, Amherst City PD, Buffalo City PD, and Cheektowaga Town PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 51.2% since 1997, from 5,315 to 2,592 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 50% from 555.8 to 277.7.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 17.1% occurred from 1997 to 2004, from 483 to 583. The numbers have since declined by 23.1% to 448 in 2006.
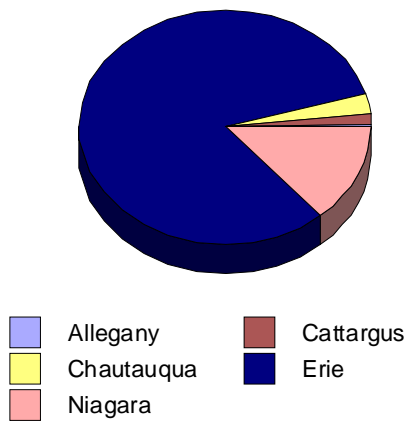
# Niagara County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
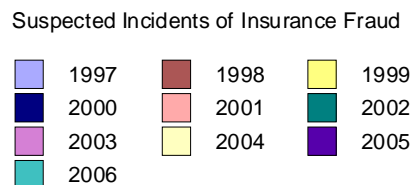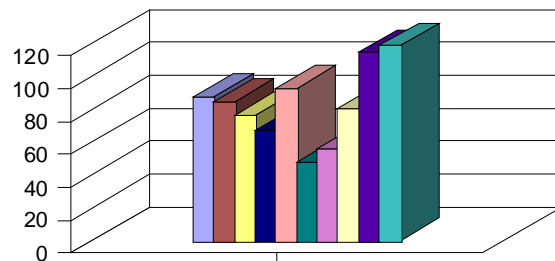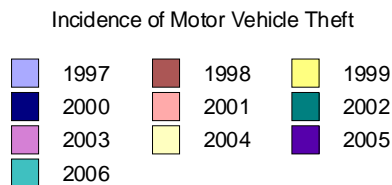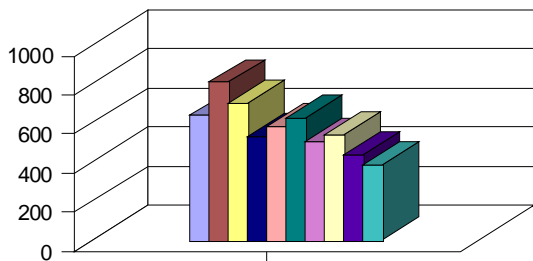
- Grant funding for Niagara County was awarded from 1999 - 2006 to the Niagara County Office of the District Attorney, Niagara Falls City PD and Niagara County Sheriff Office.
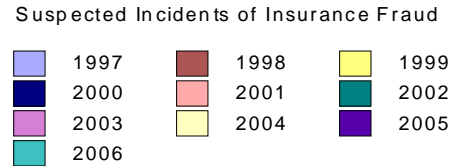
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 39.6% since 1997, from 635 to 383 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 38.5% from 286.3 to 176.0.

- An initial decrease in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 36.3% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 88 to 56. The numbers have since increased by 52.9% to 119 in 2006.
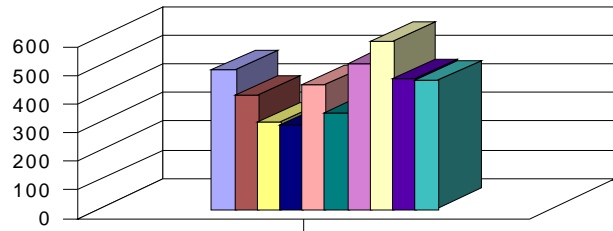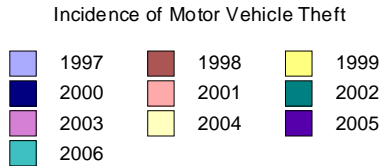
# Capital District Region

## 1997 to 2006

Capital District Region

- Funding in this region from 2000-2006 included the Office of the District Attorney for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, Albany PD and Schenectady PD.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

Legend:
- Albany
- Greene
- Saratoga
- Warren
- Columbia
- Rensselaer
- Schenectady
- Washington

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend:
- 1997
- 2000
- 2003
- 2006
- 1998
- 2001
- 2004
- 1999
- 2002
- 2005
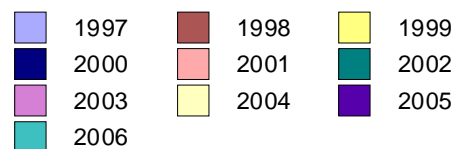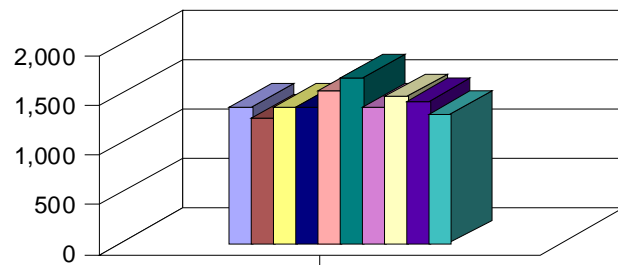
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 22.3 % since 1997, from 1,670 to 1,296 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts remained statistically stable at 163.5 per 100,000 population.

- An initial decrease in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 48.9% occurred from 1997 to 2001, from 437 to 223. The numbers increased by 32.8% to 332 in 2004 but have since decreased to by 17.5 to 274 in 2006.

**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Total

Legend:
- Albany
- Greene
- Saratoga
- Warren
- Columbia
- Rensselaer
- Schenectady
- Washington

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

Legend:
- 1997
- 2000
- 2003
- 2006
- 1998
- 2001
- 2004
- 1999
- 2002
- 2005

# Albany County

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
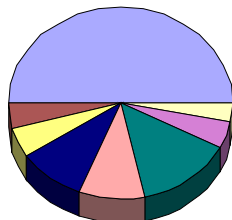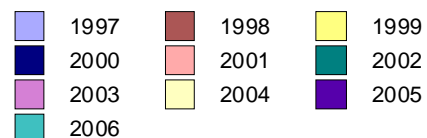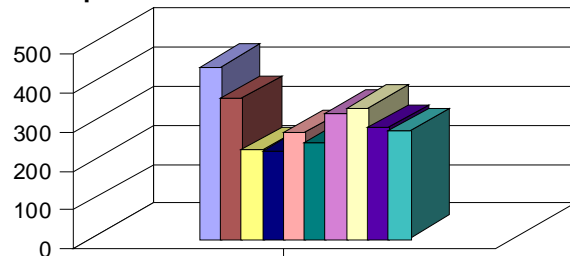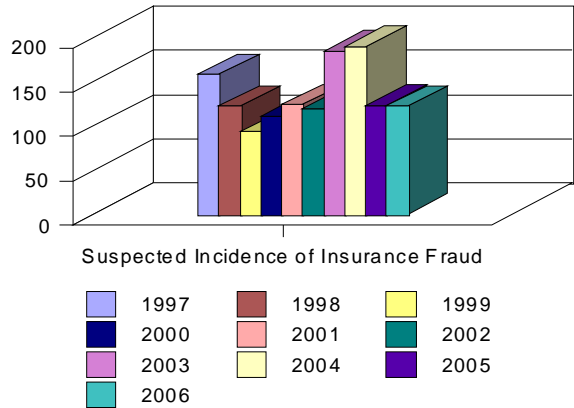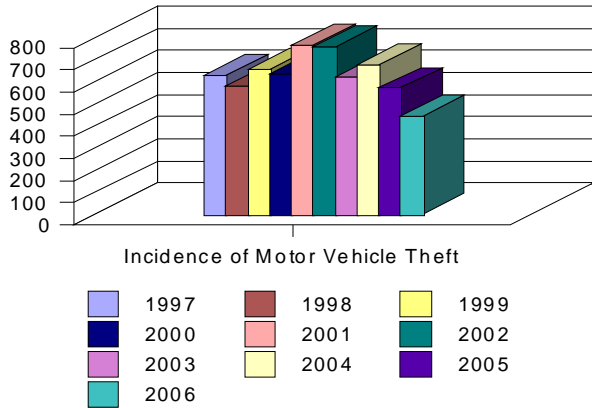
- Grant funding for Albany County was awarded from 2000 - 2006 to the Albany County Office of the District Attorney and Albany City PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 29.5% since 1997, from 629 to 442 in 2006
.
- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 29.6% from 211.1 to 148.5.

- An initial increase in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 16.8% occurred from 1997 to 2004, from 158 to 190 . The numbers have since declined by 35.7% to 122 in 2006.
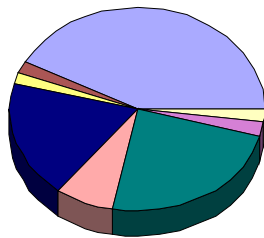
# Rensselaer County

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
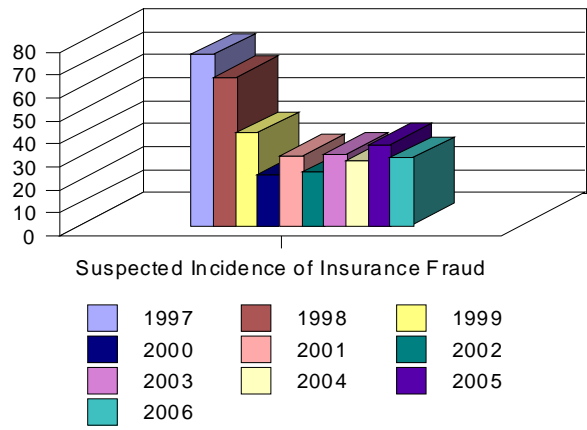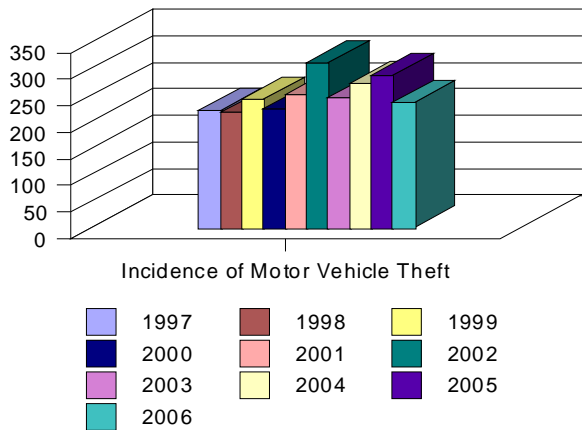
- Grant funding for Rensselaer County was awarded from 1998 - 2006 to the Rensselaer County Office of the District Attorney.

- An increase in motor vehicle theft of 29% occurred from 220 in 1997 to 310 in 2002. This number has since decreased by 23.8% to 236 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population increased by 6.9% from 141.0 to 151.6.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud has decreased by 60.8% from 74 in 1997 to 29 in 2006.

# Saratoga County
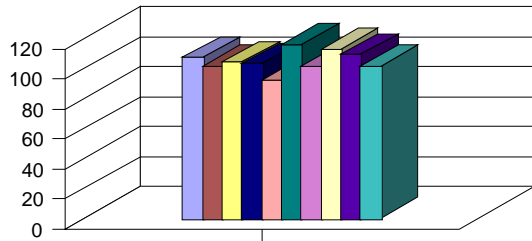


Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
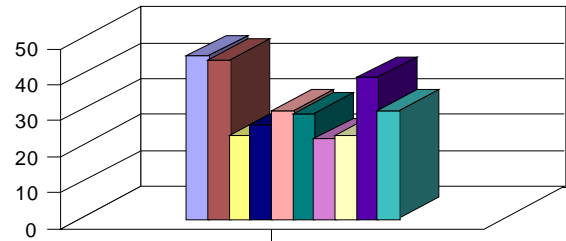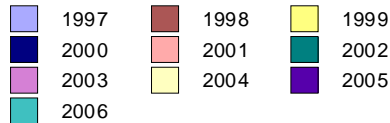
- Grant funding for Saratoga County was awarded from 1999 - 2006 to the Saratoga County Office of the District Attorney.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 6.5% since 1997, from 107 to 100 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 12.2% from 53.45 to 46.88.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud has decreased by 33.3% from 45 in 1997 to 30 in 2006.

# Schenectady County
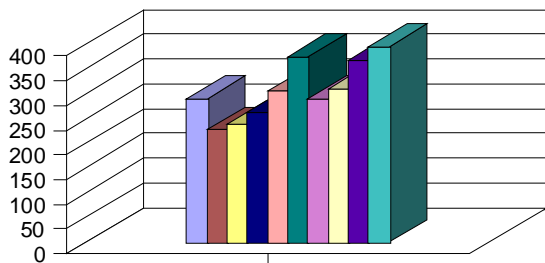


Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |
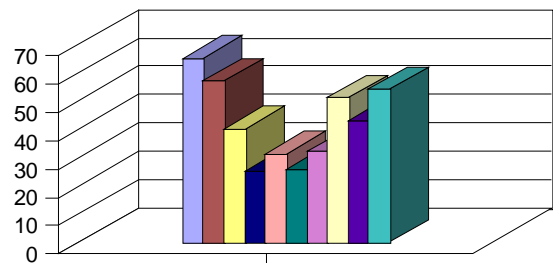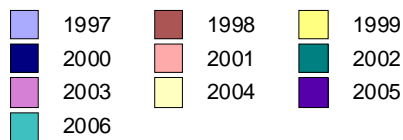
- Grant funding for Schenectady County was awarded from 2000 - 2006 to the Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney and Schenectady City PD.

- Increase in motor vehicle theft of 42.3% since 1997, from 227 to 394 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population increased by 25.5% from 196.3 to 263.5.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud has decreased by 16.9% from 65 in 1997 to 54 in 2006.

## Central Region

### 1997 to 2006

- Funding for this region from 1997-2006 included the Onondaga County District Attorney, Onondaga Sheriff Office and Syracuse City PD.
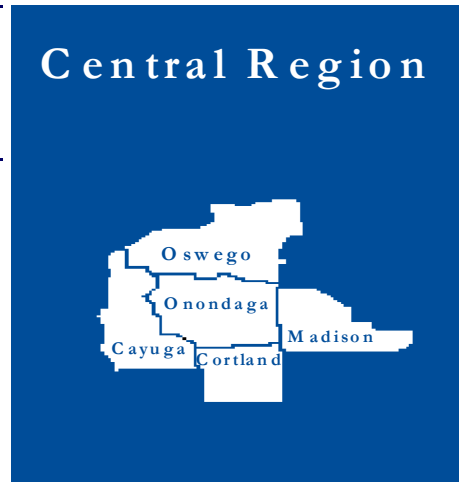


**C e n t r a l   R e g i o n**

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals



Cayuga
Madison
Oswego
Cortland
Onondaga

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**



1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
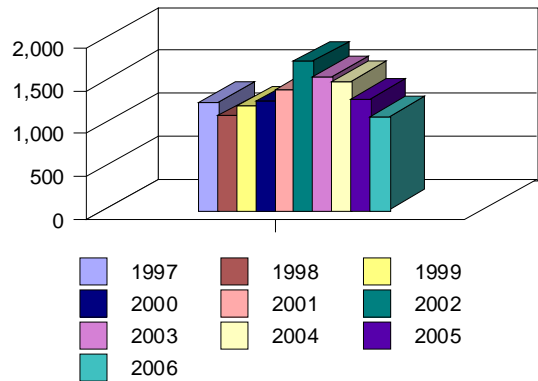
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 13.6 % since 1997, from 1,249 to 1,079 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 25.4% from 104.5 to 77.9 per 100,000 population.

- An initial decrease in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 41.5% occurred from 1997 to 2002, from 267 to 156.  The numbers increased by 35.2% to 241 in 2006.

**Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Total



Cayaga
Madison
Oswego
Cortland
Onondaga

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**



1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
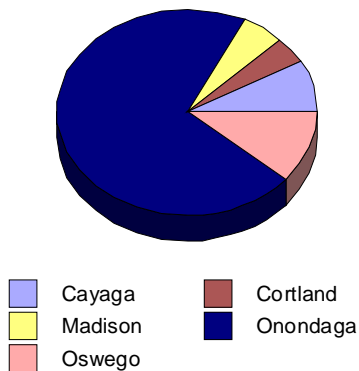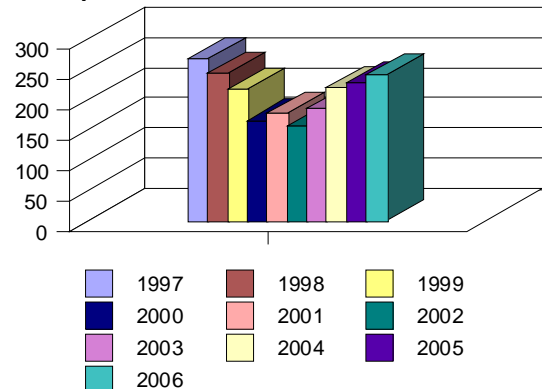
# Onondaga County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

1997　1998　1999　2000　2001　2002　2003　2004　2005　2006



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

1997　1998　1999　2000　2001　2002　2003　2004　2005　2006
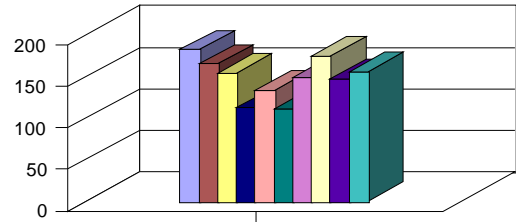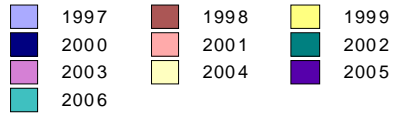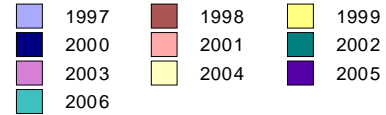
- Grant funding for Onondaga County was awarded from 1999 - 2006 to the Onondaga County Office of the District Attorney, Syracuse City PD and Onondaga Office of the Sheriff.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 7.2% since 1997, from 1,004 to 931 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 5.2% from 214.0 to 202.7.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud has decreased by 14.2% from 182 in 1997 to 156 in 2006.

## Finger Lakes Region

### 1997 to 2006

- Funding in this region from 1998-2006 included Monroe County Office the District Attorney, Monroe County Office of the Sheriff and Rochester City Police Department.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals



Genesee | Livingston
Monroe | Ontario
Orleans | Seneca
Wayne | Wyoming
Yates

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**



1997 | 1998 | 1999
2000 | 2001 | 2002
2003 | 2004 | 2005
2006
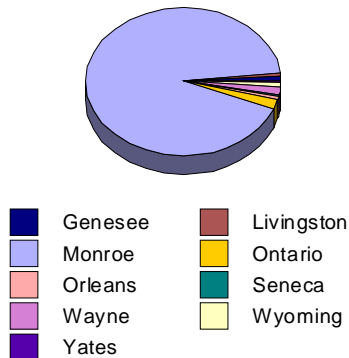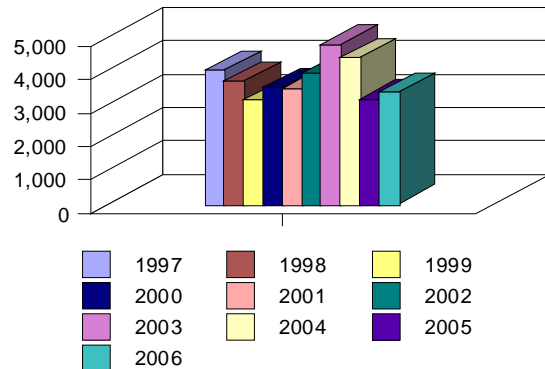
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 15.7 % since 1997, from 3,955 to 3,334 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased by 19% from 121.4 to 98.28 per 100,000 population.

- An initial decrease in suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud of 41.5% occurred from 1997 to 2002, from 267 to 156. The numbers increased by 35.2% to 241 in 2006.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Totals



Genesee | Livingston
Monroe | Ontario
Orleans | Seneca
Wayne | Wyoming
Yates

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**



1997 | 1998 | 1999
2000 | 2001 | 2002
2003 | 2004 | 2005
2006

# Monroe County



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 |



Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud

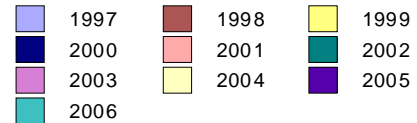| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 |
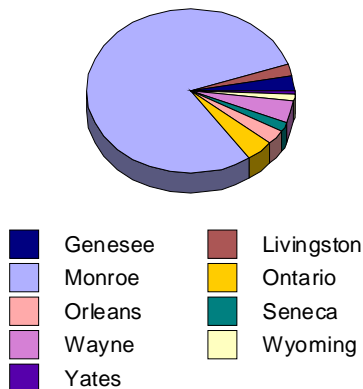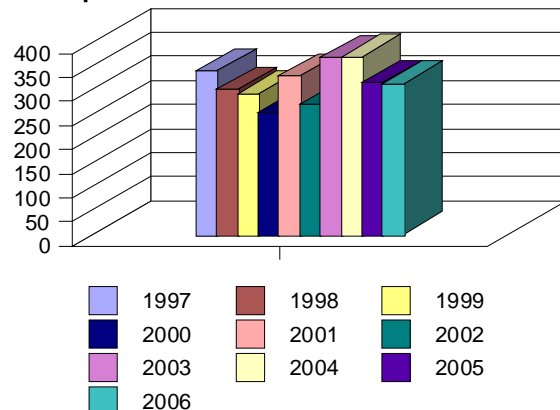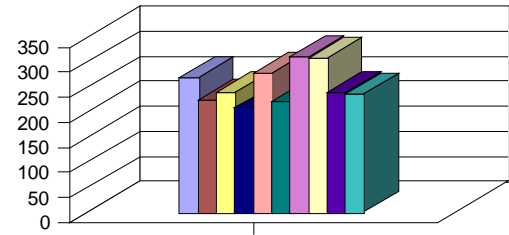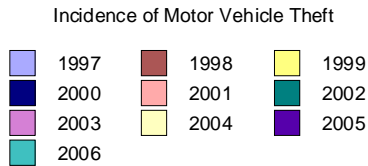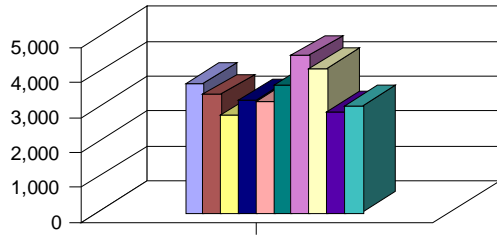
- Grant funding for Monroe County was awarded from 1999 - 2006 to the Monroe County Office of the District Attorney, Monroe County Office of the Sheriff and Rochester City PD.

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 17.7% since 1997, from 3,687 to 3,031 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased 19% from 508.2 to 411.5

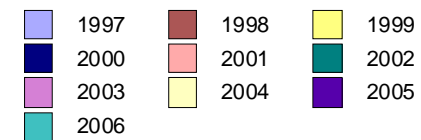- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud has decreased by 12.5% from 270 in 1997 to 236 in 2006.

## Southern Tier Region
### 1997 to 2006

Southern Tier Region

- Funding in this region included Broome County Office of the Sheriff.

- Grant funding from the MVTIFP Board in the Southern Tier Region has occurred from 1999 - 2001 and there has not been any MVTIFP funding in this region since.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

Broome
Chenango
Otsego
Steuben
Tompkins
Chemung
Delaware
Schuyler
Tioga

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

500
400
300
200
100
0

1997  1998  1999
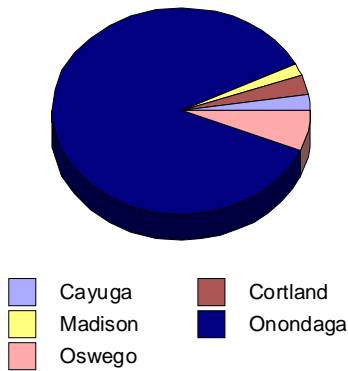2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
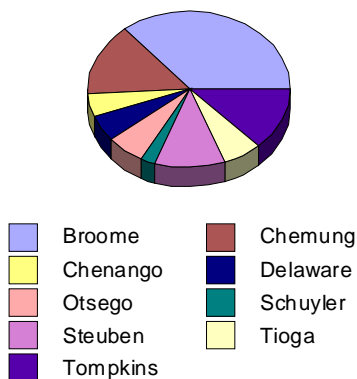
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 21.9 % since 1997, from 484 to 382 in 2006.

- The average rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 21.7% from 61.36 to 48.0.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased 43.3% occurred from 1997 to 2004, from 189 to 107. The numbers increased by 59.6% to 265 in 2006.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Totals

Broome
Chenango
Otsego
Steuben
Tompkins
Chemung
Delaware
Schuyler
Tioga

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

300
250
200
150
100
50
0

1997  1998  1999
2000  2001  2002
2003  2004  2005
2006
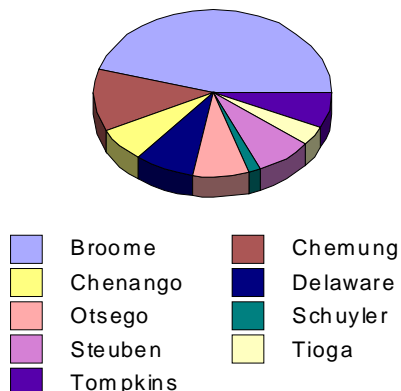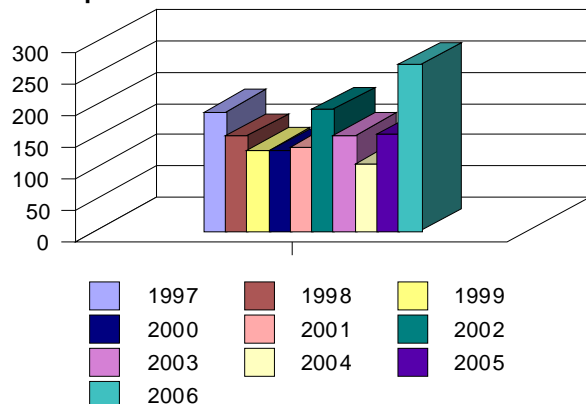
## Mohawk Valley Region

### 1997 to 2006
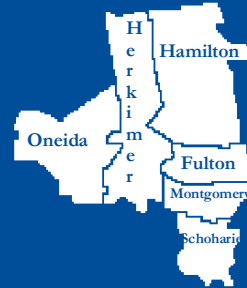
- Grant funding from the MVTIFP Board in the Mohawk Valley Region has occurred from 1999 - 2000 which was awarded to Rome City PD. There has not been MVTIFP funding in this region since.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

Legend: Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Schoharie

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
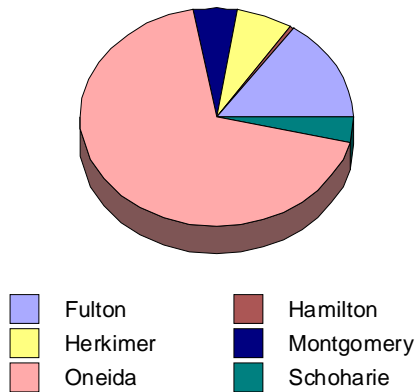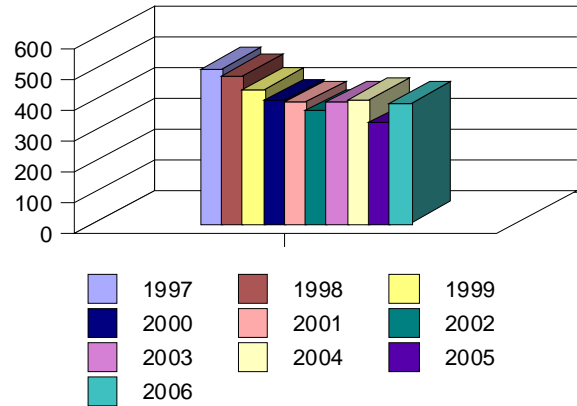
- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 23.1 % since 1997, from 501 to 385 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts per 100K population decreased by 25.2% from 81.86 to 61.23.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased 59.1% occurred from 1997 to 2003, from 186 to 76. The numbers increased by 37.1% to 121 in 2006.

**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County**
Ten Year Totals

Legend: Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Schoharie

**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**

Legend: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
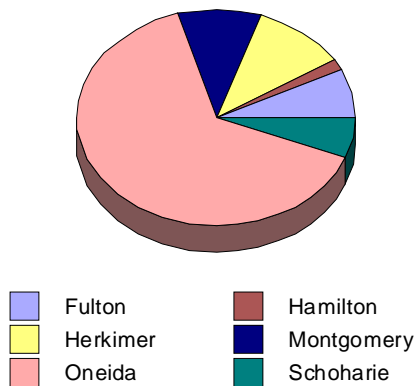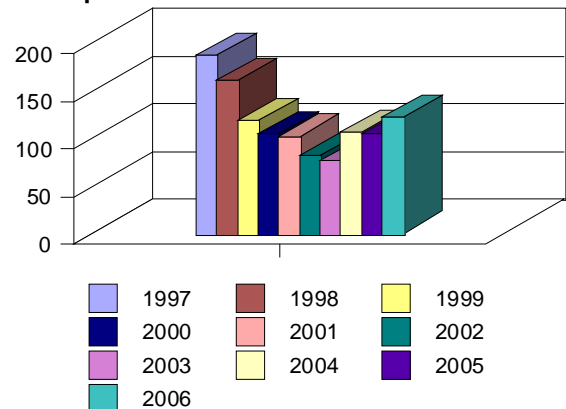
## Mid-Hudson Region

### 1997 to 2006

**Mid-Hudson Region**

- Grant funding from the MVTIFP Board in the Mid-Hudson Region was awarded from 1999 - 2001 to Sullivan County Office of the District Attorney. There has not been MVTIFP funding in this region since.
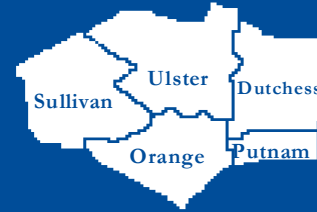
### Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft
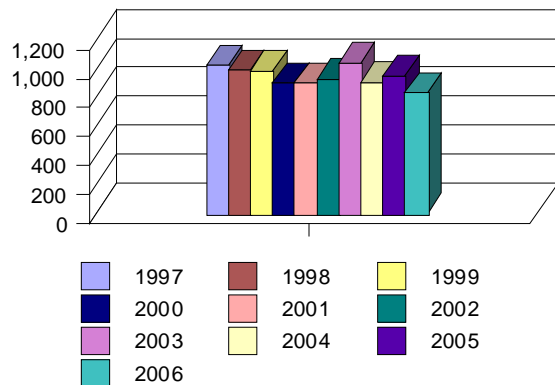


### Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County
Ten Year Totals
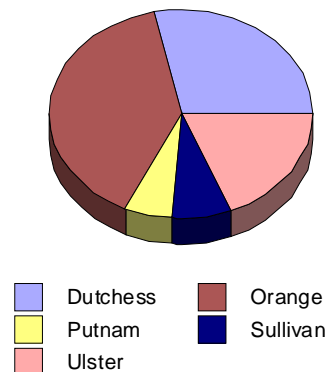


- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 18.8% since 1997, from 1,024 to 831 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts decreased from 107.33 to 80.0 per 100K population.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased 48.4% occurred from 1997 to 2000, from 500 to 258. The numbers increased by 21.1% to 327 in 2006.
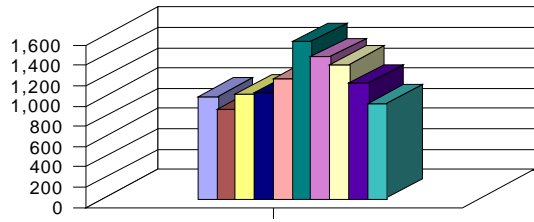
### Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud
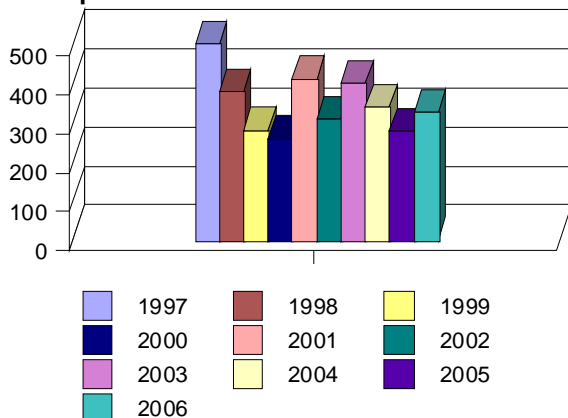


### Incidence of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud By County
Ten Year Totals
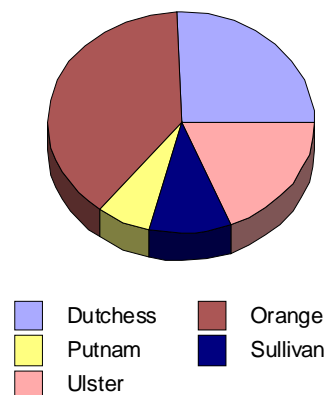
## North Country Region

### 1997 to 2006



North Country Region

- Grant funding from the MVTIFP Board in the Northern Region has not occurred due to the low incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud.



Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

- Clinton
- Essex
- Franklin
- Jefferson
- Lewis
- St. Lawrence

- Decrease in motor vehicle theft of 14.4% since 1997, from 236 to 316 in 2006.

- The rate of motor vehicle thefts increased by 2.7% from 46.5 to 47.8 per 100K population.

- Suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud decreased 48.1% occurred from 1997 to 2002, from 81 to 42. The numbers increased by 58% to 100 in 2006.



**Suspected Incidence of Insurance Fraud**
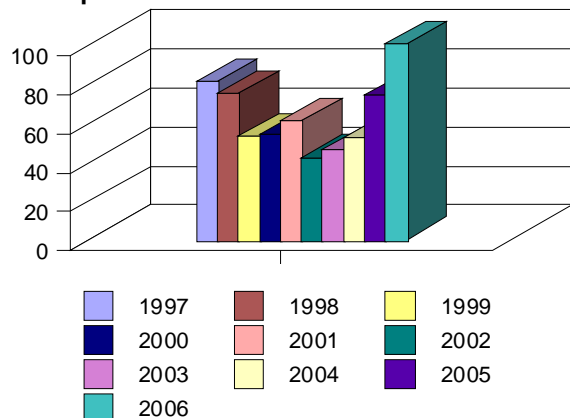
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2006 | | |



**Incidence of Motor Vehicle Theft By County**
Ten Year Totals

- Clinton
- Essex
- Franklin
- Jefferson
- Lewis
- St. Lawrence
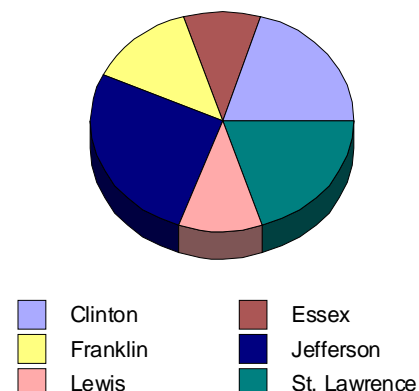
Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft

New York State

2006

## Motor Vehicle Theft Ratings for 2006   Source:  DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting

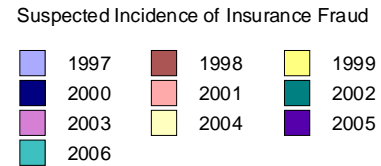| County | Number | Rank | County | Number | Rank |
|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|
| Kings | 5,176 | 1 | Oswego | 55 | 32 |
| Queens | 4,964 | 2 | Cattaraugus | 49 | 33 |
| Bronx | 3,431 | 3 | Cayuga | 44 | 34 |
| Monroe | 3,031 | 4 | Washington | 38 | 35 |
| Erie | 2,592 | 5 | Genesee | 37 | 36 |
| Suffolk | 2,481 | 6 | Warren | 35 | 37 |
| New York | 1,737 | 7 | Clinton | 34 | 38 |
| Nassau | 1,585 | 8 | Steuben | 31 | 39 |
| Westchester | 1,085 | 9 | Greene | 31 | 40 |
| Onondaga | 931 | 10 | Putnam | 30 | 41 |
| Richmond | 628 | 11 | Franklin | 30 | 42 |
| Albany | 442 | 12 | Wyoming | 28 | 43 |
| Schenectady | 394 | 13 | Livingston | 27 | 44 |
| Niagara | 383 | 14 | Herkimer | 27 | 45 |
| Orange | 320 | 15 | Cortland | 26 | 46 |
| Rensselaer | 236 | 16 | Orleans | 25 | 47 |
| Dutchess | 234 | 17 | Madison | 23 | 48 |
| Oneida | 248 | 18 | Tioga | 22 | 49 |
| Rockland | 184 | 19 | Otsego | 21 | 50 |
| Ulster | 154 | 20 | Delaware | 21 | 51 |
| Jefferson | 150 | 21 | Columbia | 20 | 52 |
| Broome | 127 | 22 | Chenango | 16 | 53 |
| Chautauqua | 105 | 23 | Allegany | 16 | 54 |
| Saratoga | 100 | 24 | Montgomery | 16 | 55 |
| Sullivan | 93 | 25 | Seneca | 16 | 56 |
| Wayne | 86 | 26 | Essex | 14 | 57 |
| Fulton | 81 | 27 | Lewis | 14 | 58 |
| Ontario | 76 | 28 | Schoharie | 13 | 59 |
| St. Lawrence | 74 | 29 | Yates | 9 | 60 |
| Tompkins | 73 | 30 | Schuyler | 8 | 61 |
| Chemung | 63 | 31 | Hamilton | 0 | 62 |

**New York State Total:     32,040**
**Non-New York City:        16,104**
**New York City:            15,936**

# Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft

# New York State

# 2002– 2006

| County | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 5 Yr. Average | Ranking on 5 Yr. Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany | 758 | 623 | 676 | 570 | 443 | 614 | 12 |
| Allegany | 3 | 19 | 31 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 54 |
| Bronx | 5,281 | 4,812 | 4,530 | 4,130 | 3,431 | 4,437 | 3 |
| Broome | 181 | 144 | 146 | 104 | 128 | 141 | 21 |
| Cattaraugus | 51 | 39 | 49 | 64 | 49 | 50 | 32 |
| Cayuga | 25 | 26 | 30 | 22 | 44 | 29 | 40 |
| Chautauqua | 130 | 150 | 107 | 107 | 105 | 120 | 22 |
| Chemung | 60 | 81 | 72 | 65 | 63 | 68 | 29 |
| Chenango | 26 | 18 | 20 | 21 | 16 | 20 | 52 |
| Clinton | 27 | 42 | 36 | 26 | 34 | 33 | 37 |
| Columbia | 20 | 39 | 38 | 15 | 24 | 26 | 44 |
| Cortland | 38 | 33 | 41 | 44 | 26 | 36 | 36 |
| Delaware | 27 | 11 | 19 | 13 | 21 | 18 | 53 |
| Dutchess | 268 | 282 | 282 | 259 | 234 | 265 | 17 |
| Erie | 3,024 | 3,312 | 2,850 | 2,932 | 2,592 | 2,942 | 5 |
| Essex | 26 | 17 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 57 |
| Franklin | 17 | 32 | 27 | 25 | 30 | 26 | 45 |
| Fulton | 56 | 49 | 61 | 66 | 81 | 63 | 30 |
| Genesee | 45 | 49 | 31 | 27 | 37 | 38 | 35 |
| Greene | 29 | 25 | 15 | 23 | 31 | 25 | 50 |
| Hamilton | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 62 |
| Herkimer | 18 | 35 | 22 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 46 |
| Jefferson | 28 | 39 | 43 | 105 | 152 | 73 | 39 |
| Kings | 8,374 | 7,725 | 6,775 | 6,016 | 5,176 | 6,813 | 1 |
| Lewis | 12 | 14 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 59 |
| Livingston | 32 | 35 | 23 | 30 | 27 | 29 | 41 |
| Madison | 29 | 30 | 24 | 19 | 25 | 25 | 48 |
| Monroe | 3,630 | 4,461 | 4,102 | 2,855 | 3,030 | 3,316 | 4 |
| Montgomery | 20 | 15 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 56 |
| Nassau | 2,848 | 2,676 | 2,371 | 2,008 | 1,585 | 2,298 | 8 |
| New York | 3,369 | 2,981 | 2,557 | 2,087 | 1,737 | 2,546 | 7 |
| Niagara | 623 | 506 | 541 | 433 | 383 | 497 | 13 |
| Oneida | 248 | 270 | 277 | 202 | 257 | 251 | 18 |

| County | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 5 Yr. Average | Ranking on 5 Yr. Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Onondaga | 1,540 | 1,391 | 1,315 | 1,130 | 931 | 1,261 | 10 |
| Ontario | 71 | 78 | 72 | 62 | 80 | 73 | 26 |
| Orange | 367 | 413 | 389 | 389 | 321 | 376 | 14 |
| Orleans | 20 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 24 | 25 | 49 |
| Oswego | 94 | 68 | 70 | 74 | 55 | 72 | 27 |
| Otsego | 32 | 20 | 28 | 32 | 21 | 27 | 43 |
| Putnam | 74 | 49 | 37 | 59 | 30 | 50 | 33 |
| Queens | 9,153 | 7,439 | 6,607 | 5,592 | 4,964 | 6,751 | 2 |
| Rensselaer | 310 | 244 | 271 | 286 | 236 | 269 | 16 |
| Richmond | 857 | 671 | 603 | 556 | 628 | 663 | 11 |
| Rockland | 237 | 199 | 221 | 176 | 184 | 203 | 19 |
| Saratoga | 116 | 98 | 108 | 108 | 100 | 84 | 23 |
| Schenectady | 375 | 290 | 309 | 367 | 394 | 347 | 15 |
| Schoharie | 17 | 24 | 18 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 55 |
| Schuyler | 8 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 60 |
| Seneca | 17 | 9 | | 15 | 16 | 15 | 58 |
| St. Lawrence | 71 | 68 | 87 | 68 | 74 | 74 | 25 |
| Steuben | 32 | 48 | 47 | 53 | 31 | 42 | 34 |
| Suffolk | 3,114 | 3,052 | 2,765 | 2,378 | 2,484 | 2,759 | 6 |
| Sullivan | 60 | 86 | 75 | 79 | 93 | 79 | 24 |
| Tioga | 23 | 27 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 51 |
| Tompkins | 47 | 35 | 44 | 79 | 73 | 56 | 31 |
| Ulster | 161 | 213 | 126 | 166 | 154 | 164 | 20 |
| Warren | 37 | 34 | 29 | 25 | 35 | 32 | 38 |
| Washington | 25 | 19 | 18 | 37 | 38 | 27 | 42 |
| Wayne | 47 | 63 | 66 | 83 | 86 | 69 | 28 |
| Westchester | 2,043 | 1,838 | 1,536 | 1,266 | 1,087 | 1,554 | 9 |
| Wyoming | 26 | 26 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 26 | 47 |
| Yates | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 61 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Non-NY City | 21,281 | 21,506 | 19,698 | 17,151 | 16,104 | 19,109 |
| NY City | 27,034 | 23,628 | 21,072 | 18,381 | 15,936 | 21,210 |
| NY State | 48,315 | 45,134 | 40,770 | 35,532 | 32,040 | 40,319 |

# Motor Vehicle Theft Compared by

# County and Regions

# 2005—2006

| Region | Counties | 2005 | 2006 | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS, 2005 and 2006 compared Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | | | |
| New York City Region | | 18,381 | **15,936** | -2,445 | -13.3% |
| | Bronx | 4,130 | 3,431 | -699 | -16.9% |
| | Kings | 6,016 | 5,176 | -840 | -14.0% |
| | New York | 2,087 | 1,737 | -350 | -16.8% |
| | Queens | 5,592 | 4,964 | -628 | -11.2% |
| | Richmond | 556 | 628 | 72 | 12.9% |
| Long Island Region | | 4,385 | 4,066 | -316 | 7.2% |
| | Nassau | 2,008 | 1,585 | -423 | -21.1% |
| | Suffolk | 2,377 | 2,481 | 104 | 4.4% |
| Mid-Hudson Region | | 2,394 | 2,100 | -294 | 12.2% |
| | Dutchess | 259 | 234 | -25 | -9.7% |
| | Orange | 389 | 320 | -69 | -17.7% |
| | Putnam | 59 | 30 | -29 | -49.2% |
| | Rockland | 176 | 184 | 8 | 4.5% |
| | Sullivan | 79 | 93 | 14 | 17.7% |
| | Ulster | 166 | 154 | -12 | -7.2% |
| | Westchester | 1,266 | 1,085 | -181 | -14.3% |
| Southern Tier Region | | 396 | 382 | -13 | 3.28% |
| | Broome | 104 | 127 | 23 | 22.1% |
| | Chemung | 65 | 63 | -2 | -3.1% |
| | Chenango | 21 | 16 | -5 | -23.8% |
| | Delaware | 13 | 21 | 8 | 61.5% |
| | Otsego | 32 | 21 | -11 | -34.4% |
| | Schuyler | 6 | 8 | 2 | 33.3% |
| | Steuben | 53 | 31 | -22 | -41.5% |
| | Tioga | 23 | 22 | -1 | -4.3% |
| | Tompkins | 79 | 73 | -6 | -7.6% |

| REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS, 2005 and 2006 compared<br>Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Region | Counties | 2005 | 2006 | Change | % Change |
| Capital District Region | | 1,434 | 1,302 | -132 | 9.28% |
| | Albany | 570 | 442 | -127 | -22.5% |
| | Columbia | 14 | 20 | 6 | 42.9% |
| | Greene | 27 | 37 | 10 | 37% |
| | Rensselaer | 286 | 236 | -50 | -17.5% |
| | Saratoga | 108 | 100 | -8 | -7.4% |
| | Schenectady | 367 | 394 | 27 | 7.4% |
| | Warren | 25 | 35 | 10 | 40.0% |
| | Washington | 37 | 38 | 1 | 2.7% |
| Mohawk Valley Region | | 326 | 385 | 59 | 18.0% |
| | Fulton | 66 | 81 | 15 | 22.7% |
| | Hamilton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| | Herkimer | 29 | 27 | -2 | -6.9% |
| | Montgomery | 18 | 16 | -2 | -11.1% |
| | Oneida | 202 | 248 | 46 | 22.8% |
| | Schoharie | 11 | 13 | 2 | 18.2% |
| North Country Region | | 248 | 316 | 68 | 27.4% |
| | Clinton | 26 | 34 | 8 | 30.8% |
| | Essex | 10 | 14 | 4 | 40.0% |
| | Franklin | 25 | 30 | 5 | 20.0% |
| | Jefferson | 105 | 150 | 45 | -42.9% |
| | Lewis | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0.0% |
| | St. Lawrence | 68 | 74 | 6 | 8.8% |
| Western Region | | 3,557 | 3,145 | -412 | 11.5% |
| | Allegany | 21 | 16 | -5 | -23.8% |
| | Cattaraugus | 64 | 49 | -15 | -23.4% |
| | Chautauqua | 107 | 105 | -2 | -1.9% |
| | Erie | 2,932 | 2,592 | -340 | -11.6% |
| | Niagara | 433 | 383 | -50 | -11.5% |

| Region | Counties | 2005 | 2006 | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS, 2005 and 2006 compared<br>Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | | | |
| Finger Lakes Region | | 3,126 | 3,333 | 207 | 6.62% |
| | Genesee | 27 | 37 | 10 | 37.0% |
| | Livingston | 30 | 27 | -3 | -10.0% |
| | Monroe | 2,855 | 3,031 | 176 | 6.2% |
| | Ontario | 62 | 76 | 14 | 22.6% |
| | Orleans | 26 | 24 | -2 | -7.7% |
| | Seneca | 15 | 16 | 1 | 6.7% |
| | Wayne | 83 | 86 | 3 | 3.6% |
| | Wyoming | 26 | 28 | 2 | 7.7% |
| | Yates | 2 | 9 | 7 | 350.0% |
| Central Region | | 1,289 | 1,079 | -210 | -16.29% |
| | Cayuga | 22 | 44 | 22 | 100.0% |
| | Cortland | 44 | 26 | -18 | -40.9% |
| | Madison | 19 | 23 | 4 | 21.1 |
| | Onondaga | 1,130 | 931 | -199 | -17.6% |
| | Oswego | 74 | 55 | -19 | -25.7% |
| Suburban | | 5,827 | 5,335 | -492 | 8.4% |
| | Nassau | 2,008 | 1,585 | -423 | -21.1% |
| | Rockland | 176 | 184 | 8 | 4.5% |
| | Suffolk | 2,377 | 2,481 | 104 | 4.4% |
| | Westchester | 1,266 | 1,085 | -181 | -14.3% |
| Non-New York City | | 17,151 | 16,104 | -1,047 | -6.1% |
| New York City | | 18,831 | 15,936 | -2.445 | -13.3% |
| New York State | | 35,532 | 32,040 | -3,492 | -9.8% |

# Motor Vehicle Theft Compared by County

# 2005—2006

# (Ranked by Percentage Change)

| | Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2005 and 2006 compared Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2005 | 2006 | # Change | % Change |
| 1 | Yates | 2 | 9 | 7 | 350.0% |
| 2 | Cayuga | 22 | 44 | 22 | 100.0% |
| 3 | Delaware | 13 | 21 | 8 | 61.5% |
| 4 | Columbia | 15 | 24 | 6 | 40.0% |
| 5 | Essex | 10 | 14 | 4 | 40.0% |
| 6 | Warren | 25 | 35 | 10 | 40.0% |
| 7 | Genesee | 27 | 37 | 10 | 37.0% |
| 8 | Greene | 23 | 31 | 8 | 34.8% |
| 9 | Schuyler | 6 | 8 | 2 | 33.3% |
| 10 | Madison | 19 | 25 | 6 | 31.6% |
| 11 | Clinton | 26 | 34 | 8 | 30.8% |
| 12 | Ontario | 62 | 80 | 18 | 29.0% |
| 13 | Oneida | 202 | 257 | 55 | 27.0% |
| 14 | Broome | 104 | 128 | 24 | 23.1% |
| 15 | Fulton | 66 | 81 | 15 | 22.7% |
| 16 | Franklin | 25 | 30 | 5 | 20.0% |
| 17 | Schoharie | 11 | 13 | 2 | 18.2% |
| 18 | Sullivan | 79 | 93 | 14 | 17.7% |
| 19 | Richmond | 556 | 628 | 72 | 12.9% |
| 20 | St. Lawrence | 68 | 74 | 6 | 8.8% |
| 21 | Wyoming | 26 | 28 | 2 | 7.7% |
| 22 | Schenectady | 367 | 394 | 27 | 7.4% |
| 23 | Seneca | 15 | 16 | 1 | 6.7% |
| 24 | Monroe | 2,855 | 3,030 | 175 | 6.1% |
| 25 | Jefferson | 105 | 152 | 47 | 44.8% |
| 26 | Rockland | 176 | 184 | 8 | 4.5% |
| 27 | Suffolk | 2,378 | 2,484 | 106 | 4.5% |
| 28 | Wayne | 83 | 86 | 3 | 3.6% |
| 29 | Washington | 37 | 38 | 1 | 2.7% |
| 30 | Hamilton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 31 | Lewis | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0.0% |

| Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2005 and 2006 compared Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2005 | 2006 | # Change | % Change |
| 32 | Chautauqua | 107 | 105 | -2 | -1.9% |
| 33 | Chemung | 65 | 63 | -2 | -3.1% |
| 34 | Tioga | 23 | 22 | -1 | -4.3% |
| 35 | Herkimer | 29 | 27 | -2 | -6.9% |
| 36 | Ulster | 166 | 154 | -12 | -7.2 |
| 37 | Saratoga | 108 | 100 | -8 | -7.4% |
| 38 | Tompkins | 79 | 73 | -6 | -7.6% |
| 39 | Orleans | 26 | 24 | -2 | -7.7% |
| 40 | Dutchess | 259 | 234 | -25 | -9.7% |
| 41 | Livingston | 30 | 27 | -3 | -10.0% |
| 42 | Mongomery | 18 | 16 | -2 | -11.1% |
| 43 | Queens | 5,592 | 4,964 | -628 | -11.2% |
| 44 | Niagara | 433 | 383 | -50 | -11.5% |
| 45 | Erie | 2,932 | 2,592 | -340 | -11.6% |
| 46 | Kings | 6,016 | 5,176 | -840 | -14.0% |
| 47 | Westchester | 1,266 | 1,087 | -179 | -14.1% |
| 48 | New York | 2,087 | 1,737 | -350 | -16.8% |
| 49 | Bronx | 4,130 | 3,431 | -699 | -16.9% |
| 50 | Orange | 389 | 321 | -68 | -17.5% |
| 51 | Rensselaer | 286 | 236 | -50 | -17.5% |
| 52 | Onondaga | 1,130 | 931 | -199 | -17.6% |
| 53 | Nassau | 2,008 | 1,585 | -423 | -21.1% |
| 54 | Albany | 570 | 443 | -127 | -22.3% |
| 55 | Cattaraugus | 64 | 49 | -15 | -23.4% |
| 56 | Allegany | 21 | 16 | -5 | -23.8% |
| 57 | Chenango | 21 | 16 | -5 | -23.8% |
| 58 | Oswego | 74 | 55 | -19 | -25.7% |
| 59 | Otsego | 32 | 21 | -11 | -34.4% |
| 60 | Cortland | 44 | 26 | -18 | -40.9% |
| 61 | Steuben | 53 | 31 | -22 | -41.5% |
| 62 | Putnam | 59 | 30 | -29 | -49.2% |
| | New York State | 35,532 | 32,040 | -3,492 | -9.8% |
| | New York City | 18,381 | 15,936 | -2,445 | -13.3% |
| | Non-New York City | 17,151 | 16,104 | -1,047 | -6.1% |

# Motor Vehicle Theft Compared by County

# 2006

# (Rate per 100,000 Registrations)

| | Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2006 (Rate per 100,000 Registrations) Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2006 MV Theft | Registrations | Rate/100,000 |
| 1 | Bronx | 3,431 | 227,612 | 1,507.4 |
| 2 | Kings | 5,176 | 391,741 | 1,321.3 |
| 3 | New York | 1,737 | 232,454 | 747.2 |
| 4 | Queens | 4,964 | 677,104 | 733.1 |
| 5 | Monroe | 3,031 | 504,481 | 600.6 |
| 6 | Erie | 2,592 | 601,959 | 430.6 |
| 7 | Schenectady | 394 | 114,736 | 343.4 |
| 8 | Onondaga | 931 | 315,256 | 295.3 |
| 9 | Richmond | 628 | 246,622 | 254.6 |
| 10 | Niagara | 383 | 151,636 | 252.6 |
| 11 | Albany | 442 | 200,412 | 221.0 |
| 12 | Suffolk | 2,481 | 1,124,864 | 220.9 |
| 13 | Rensselaer | 236 | 111,991 | 210.7 |
| 14 | Fulton | 81 | 40,558 | 199.7 |
| 15 | Westchester | 1,085 | 620,536 | 174.8 |
| 16 | Nassau | 1,585 | 925,848 | 171.2 |
| 17 | Oneida | 248 | 156,358 | 160.5 |
| 18 | Sullivan | 93 | 60,861 | 152.8 |
| 19 | Tompkins | 73 | 58,573 | 124.6 |
| 20 | Orange | 320 | 262,268 | 122.4 |
| 21 | Wayne | 86 | 72,873 | 118.0 |
| 22 | Chautauqua | 105 | 91,662 | 114.6 |
| 23 | Ulster | 154 | 143,793 | 107.1 |
| 24 | Dutchess | 234 | 224,628 | 104.2 |
| 25 | Chemung | 63 | 61,949 | 101.7 |
| 26 | St. Lawrence | 74 | 74,180 | 99.8 |
| 27 | Ontario | 76 | 79,542 | 98.1 |
| 28 | Rockland | 184 | 199,876 | 92.1 |
| 29 | Wyoming | 28 | 30,521 | 91.7 |
| 30 | Broome | 127 | 143,072 | 89.5 |
| 31 | Cattaraugus | 49 | 56,424 | 86.8 |
| 32 | Franklin | 30 | 34,770 | 86.3 |

| | Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2006 (Rate per 100,000 Registrations)<br>Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2006 MV Theft | Registrations | Rate/100,000 |
| 33 | Genesee | 37 | 45,234 | 81.8 |
| 34 | Cortland | 26 | 32,284 | 80.5 |
| 35 | Washington | 38 | 47,257 | 80.4 |
| 36 | Orleans | 24 | 29,945 | 80.1 |
| 37 | Cayuga | 44 | 55,433 | 79.4 |
| 38 | Greene | 31 | 42,322 | 73.2 |
| 39 | Lewis | 14 | 20,444 | 68.5 |
| 40 | Seneca | 16 | 24,439 | 65.5 |
| 41 | Warren | 35 | 53,860 | 65.0 |
| 42 | Oswego | 55 | 85,799 | 64.1 |
| 43 | Herkimer | 27 | 44,217 | 61.1 |
| 44 | Saratoga | 100 | 168,109 | 60.1 |
| 45 | Clinton | 34 | 58,885 | 57.7 |
| 46 | Livingston | 27 | 47,153 | 57.3 |
| 47 | Tioga | 22 | 39,709 | 55.4 |
| 48 | Schuyler | 8 | 14,724 | 54.3 |
| 49 | Delaware | 21 | 40,981 | 51.2 |
| 50 | Yates | 9 | 17,604 | 51.1 |
| 51 | Madison | 23 | 49,749 | 50.3 |
| 52 | Allegany | 16 | 32,376 | 49.4 |
| 53 | Schoharie | 13 | 26,875 | 48.4 |
| 54 | Essex | 14 | 29,847 | 46.9 |
| 55 | Otsego | 21 | 45,790 | 45.9 |
| 56 | Montgomery | 16 | 37,443 | 42.7 |
| 57 | Steuben | 31 | 73,001 | 42.5 |
| 58 | Chenango | 16 | 39,272 | 40.7 |
| 59 | Columbia | 20 | 52,557 | 38.1 |
| 60 | Putnam | 30 | 84,100 | 35.7 |
| 61 | Hamilton | 0 | 5,142 | 0.0 |
| 62 | Jefferson | 150 | 73,479 | 20.4 |
| | | | | |
| | New York State | 9,738,445 | 31,939 | 328.0 |
| | New York City | 1,775,533 | 15,936 | 897.5 |
| | Non-NY City | 7,962,912 | 16,003 | 201.0 |

# Motor Vehicle Theft Compared by County

# 2006

# (Rate per 100,000 Population)

| | Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2006 (Rate per 100,000 Population) Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2006 MV Theft | Population | Rate/100,000 |
| 1 | Monroe | 3,031 | 735,330 | 412.06 |
| 2 | Erie | 2,592 | 933,195 | 277.76 |
| 3 | Schenectady | 394 | 149,477 | 263.59 |
| 4 | Bronx | 3,431 | 1,363,555 | 251.62 |
| 5 | Queens | 4,964 | 2,245,375 | 221.08 |
| 6 | Kings | 5,176 | 2,490,325 | 207.84 |
| 7 | Onondaga | 931 | 459,279 | 202.71 |
| 8 | Niagara | 383 | 217,589 | 176.02 |
| 9 | Suffolk | 2,481 | 1,478,876 | 168.03 |
| 10 | Rensselaer | 236 | 155,667 | 151.61 |
| 11 | Albany | 442 | 298,210 | 148.55 |
| 12 | Fulton | 81 | 55,675 | 145.49 |
| 13 | Richmond | 628 | 465,405 | 134.94 |
| 14 | Sullivan | 93 | 76,744 | 121.18 |
| 15 | Nassau | 1,585 | 1,336,706 | 118.58 |
| 16 | Westchester | 1,085 | 943,326 | 115.02 |
| 17 | New York | 1,737 | 1,600,341 | 108.54 |
| 18 | Oneida | 248 | 234,732 | 106.93 |
| 19 | Wayne | 86 | 93,860 | 91.63 |
| 20 | Orange | 320 | 373,891 | 85.85 |
| 21 | Ulster | 154 | 183,182 | 84.07 |
| 22 | Dutchess | 234 | 295,638 | 79.15 |
| 23 | Chautauqua | 105 | 136,774 | 76.77 |
| 24 | Ontario | 76 | 104,741 | 74.47 |
| 25 | Tompkins | 73 | 100,286 | 72.79 |
| 26 | Chemung | 63 | 89,752 | 70.19 |
| 27 | St. Lawrence | 74 | 111,678 | 66.26 |
| 28 | Wyoming | 28 | 42,807 | 65.41 |
| 29 | Broome | 127 | 197,474 | 64.82 |
| 30 | Rockland | 184 | 293,700 | 62.65 |
| 31 | Genesee | 37 | 59,301 | 62.39 |
| 32 | Greene | 31 | 49,815 | 62.63 |

| | Motor Vehicle Thefts, 2006 (Rate per 100,000 Population) Source: NYS DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | County | 2006 MV Theft | Population | Rate/100,000 |
| 33 | Cattaraugus | 49 | 80,814 | 60.63 |
| 34 | Washington | 38 | 63,193 | 60.13 |
| 35 | Franklin | 30 | 51,170 | 58.63 |
| 36 | Orleans | 24 | 45,503 | 55.17 |
| 37 | Cayuga | 44 | 81,672 | 53.87 |
| 38 | Cortland | 26 | 48,752 | 53.33 |
| 39 | Warren | 35 | 65,724 | 53.25 |
| 40 | Lewis | 14 | 26,642 | 52.55 |
| 41 | Saratoga | 100 | 215,434 | 46.88 |
| 42 | Seneca | 16 | 34,948 | 45.78 |
| 43 | Delaware | 21 | 46,826 | 44.85 |
| 44 | Oswego | 55 | 123,703 | 44.46 |
| 45 | Tioga | 22 | 51,613 | 42.62 |
| 46 | Herkimer | 27 | 63,951 | 42.22 |
| 47 | Livingston | 27 | 64,377 | 41.94 |
| 48 | Clinton | 34 | 82,267 | 41.33 |
| 49 | Schuyler | 8 | 19,394 | 41.25 |
| 50 | Schoharie | 13 | 32,363 | 40.17 |
| 51 | Essex | 14 | 37,515 | 37.32 |
| 52 | Yates | 9 | 24,822 | 36.26 |
| 53 | Madison | 23 | 70,525 | 35.45 |
| 54 | Otsego | 21 | 62,914 | 33.38 |
| 55 | Montgomery | 16 | 49,099 | 32.59 |
| 56 | Allegany | 16 | 50,737 | 31.54 |
| 57 | Columbia | 20 | 63,792 | 31.35 |
| 58 | Steuben | 31 | 98,896 | 31.35 |
| 59 | Chenango | 16 | 51,894 | 30.83 |
| 60 | Putnam | 30 | 100,776 | 29.77 |
| 61 | Hamilton | 0 | 5,242 | 0.00 |
| 62 | Jefferson | 150 | 116,696 | 12.9 |
| | New York State | 31,939 | 19,301,960 | 165.47 |
| | New York City | 15,936 | 8,165,001 | 195.17 |
| | Non-NY City | 16,003 | 11,136,959 | 143.69 |

# Reports of Suspeced Incidents of

# Insurance Fraud

# 2006

## Note:

The actual incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud is difficult to accurately measure. The New York State Insurance Department received reports from insurers of suspected fraud, but this number cannot be considered to be an accurate representation of the problem since the term is an administrative term used by insurance companies, not an official measure of crime.  The New York State Penal Law does not distinguish between vehicle related fraud charges and all other insurance fraud and would only represent arrests for fraud not all instance of the offense.  Consequently DCJS uses the insurance industry number as it works to develop a more accurate measure of the crime.

| County | Rank | Auto Theft | Auto Fire | Larceny From an Auto | Auto Vandalism | Auto Collision Damage | Auto Fraud Bills | Auto Insurance Cars | Auto Misc | No Fault | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kings | 1 | 202 | 42 | 9 | 45 | 159 | 13 | 30 | 251 | 2,999 | 3,750 |
| Queens | 2 | 232 | 32 | 2 | 58 | 180 | 3 | 9 | 168 | 2,166 | 2,850 |
| Bronx | 3 | 164 | 42 | 3 | 28 | 99 | 8 | 9 | 107 | 1,637 | 2,097 |
| New York | 4 | 94 | 16 | 4 | 19 | 98 | 3 | 15 | 73 | 1,112 | 1,434 |
| Nassau | 5 | 108 | 21 | 2 | 70 | 143 | 6 | 1 | 70 | 921 | 1,342 |
| Suffolk | 6 | 126 | 42 | 12 | 46 | 202 | 3 | 5 | 117 | 603 | 1,156 |
| Westchester | 7 | 105 | 11 | 3 | 13 | 80 | 0 | 2 | 62 | 293 | 569 |
| Erie | 8 | 105 | 26 | 10 | 6 | 66 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 200 | 448 |
| Richmond | 9 | 70 | 19 | 0 | 8 | 47 | 2 | 5 | 41 | 248 | 440 |
| Monroe | 10 | 108 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 61 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 93 | 326 |
| Rockland | 11 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 98 | 157 |
| Onondaga | 12 | 38 | 4 | 12 | 8 | 31 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 46 | 156 |
| Orange | 13 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 59 | 134 |
| Albany | 14 | 29 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 41 | 122 |
| Niagara | 15 | 24 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 18 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 48 | 119 |
| Broome | 16 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 63 | 96 |
| Dutchess | 17 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 34 | 67 |
| Oneida | 18 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 21 | 60 |
| Chautauqua | 19 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 54 |
| Schenectady | | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 54 |
| Chemung | 21 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 53 |
| Ulster | 22 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 25 | 51 |
| Sullivan | 23 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 16 | 42 |
| Cattaraugus | 24 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 39 |
| Cayuga | 25 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 23 | 38 |
| Putnam | 26 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 33 |
| Saratoga | 27 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 30 |
| Chenango | 28 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 29 |
| Rensselaer | | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 29 |
| Jefferson | 30 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 27 |
| Clinton | 31 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 26 |
| Madison | 32 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 24 |

| County | Rank | Auto Theft | Auto Fire | Larceny From an Auto | Auto Vandalism | Auto Collision Damage | Auto Fraud Bills | Auto Insurance Cars | Auto Misc | No Fault | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allegany | 33 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 23 |
| Herkimer | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 19 |
| Livingston | | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 19 |
| St. Lawrence | 36 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 18 |
| Montgomery | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 17 |
| Delaware | 38 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 16 |
| Warren | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 16 |
| Columbia | 40 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 15 |
| Genesee | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 15 |
| Otsego | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 15 |
| Steuben | | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 15 |
| Franklin | 44 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 14 |
| Oswego | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 13 |
| Wayne | 46 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| Greene | 47 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 11 |
| Ontario | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| Schoharie | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11 |
| Cortland | 50 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| Tioga | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| Fulton | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Orleans | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| Lewis | 54 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Schuyler | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Tompkins | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Washington | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| Essex | 58 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Hamilton | 59 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Seneca | 60 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Wyoming | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Yates | 62 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Out of State | | 55 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 2 | 5 | 39 | 214 | 370 |
| Unspecified | | 26 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 24 | 2 | 3 | 108 | 167 | 342 |
| Total | | 1,635 | 350 | 107 | 356 | 1,497 | 51 | 107 | 1,342 | 11,472 | 16.917 |

Suspected Incidents of Insurance Fraud

By  County

2002-2006

| County | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Ranking 5 Year Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany | 119 | 184 | 190 | 123 | 122 | 12 |
| Allegany | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 44 |
| Bronx | 2,440 | 2,836 | 2,362 | 2,111 | 2,097 | 3 |
| Broome | 116 | 83 | 45 | 63 | 96 | 16 |
| Cattaraugus | 6 | 13 | 11 | 30 | 39 | 27 |
| Cayuga | 13 | 11 | 7 | 31 | 38 | 28 |
| Chautauqua | 10 | 17 | 20 | 24 | 54 | 24 |
| Chemung | 12 | 11 | 13 | 21 | 53 | 26 |
| Chenango | 15 | 5 | 4 | 17 | 29 | 33 |
| Clinton | 10 | 15 | 10 | 19 | 26 | 31 |
| Columbia | 14 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 15 | 37 |
| Cortland | 2 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 50 |
| Delaware | 19 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 16 | 34 |
| Dutchess | 60 | 122 | 79 | 52 | 67 | 17 |
| Erie | 336 | 507 | 583 | 453 | 448 | 9 |
| Essex | 5 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 55 |
| Franklin | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 53 |
| Fulton | 6 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 51 |
| Genesee | 9 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 42 |
| Greene | 16 | 15 | 13 | 18 | 11 | 32 |
| Hamilton | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 60 |
| Herkimer | 8 | 7 | 13 | 22 | 19 | 35 |
| Jefferson | 7 | 13 | 13 | 25 | 27 | 30 |
| Kings | 5,188 | 5,997 | 4,483 | 4,357 | 3,750 | 1 |
| Lewis | 4 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 57 |
| Livingston | 4 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 19 | 57 |
| Madison | 9 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 24 | 40 |
| Monroe | 222 | 312 | 309 | 239 | 326 | 10 |
| Montgomery | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 45 |
| Nassau | 1,547 | 1,864 | 1,613 | 1,575 | 1,342 | 5 |
| New York | 1,705 | 2,054 | 1,679 | 1,603 | 1,434 | 4 |

Suspected  Incidence of Motor Vehicle I Insurance  Fraud
January, 2002—December 2006          Source:  NYS Department of Insurance

| County | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Ranking 5 Year Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Niagara | 48 | 56 | 81 | 115 | 119 | 15 |
| Oneida | 55 | 47 | 67 | 53 | 60 | 19 |
| Onondaga | 111 | 149 | 174 | 147 | 156 | 13 |
| Ontario | 13 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 38 |
| Orange | 125 | 147 | 154 | 129 | 134 | 14 |
| Orleans | 6 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 55 |
| Oswego | 15 | 16 | 20 | 25 | 13 | 29 |
| Otsego | 8 | 15 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 41 |
| Putnam | 23 | 25 | 15 | 22 | 33 | 25 |
| Queens | 3,642 | 4,813 | 3,589 | 3,041 | 2,850 | 2 |
| Rensselaer | 23 | 31 | 28 | 35 | 29 | 22 |
| Richmond | 460 | 577 | 514 | 433 | 440 | 8 |
| Rockland | 216 | 234 | 222 | 157 | 157 | 11 |
| St. Lawrence | 12 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 18 | 43 |
| Saratoga | 29 | 22 | 23 | 39 | 30 | 23 |
| Schenectady | 26 | 32 | 51 | 43 | 54 | 20 |
| Schoharie | 4 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 54 |
| Schuyler | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 59 |
| Seneca | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 58 |
| Steuben | 8 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 46 |
| Suffolk | 759 | 1,287 | 1,279 | 1,328 | 1,156 | 6 |
| Sullivan | 36 | 35 | 32 | 35 | 42 | 21 |
| Tioga | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 56 |
| Tompkins | 11 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 48 |
| Ulster | 65 | 72 | 60 | 39 | 51 | 18 |
| Warren | 16 | 15 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 39 |
| Washington | 2 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 52 |
| Wayne | 11 | 8 | 18 | 19 | 12 | 36 |
| Westchester | 619 | 861 | 742 | 706 | 569 | 7 |
| Wyoming | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 61 |
| Yates | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 62 |

Suspected  Incidence of Motor Vehicle I Insurance  Fraud
January, 2002—December 2006          Source:  NYS Department of Insurance