

WATPA 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

WATPA BACKGROUND

The Elizabeth Nowak-Washington Auto Theft Prevention Act (Engrossed 3rd Substitute House Bill 1001) was enacted during the 2007 Regular Legislative Session. The bill was signed into law by Governor Gregoire and became effective July 1, 2007.

The Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority account was created in the Washington State Treasury and is subject to appropriation. The account is funded through a \$10 surcharge on traffic infractions. Expenditures from the account are designated for activities related to motor vehicle theft and other associated crimes. These include: Education, Prevention, Law Enforcement, Investigation, Prosecution and Confinement.

This document has been prepared in compliance with the Legislative reporting requirements. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, this will not be an exhaustive report.

For more detailed information on the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to include WATPA background, finances and board member bios, please view http://watpa.waspc.org/documents/publications/2008WATPA_AnnualReport.pdf.

FINANCES

During the 09-11 biennium, the Legislature has appropriated \$5.8 million in funds for WATPA. The WATPA Account also provides funding to the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA).

How The Money Is Spent: Based on OFM projections through the end of the biennium, WATPA is able to fund eight Task Forces, multiple community outreach programs and administrative costs.

Task Forces: Since July 1, 2007 the WATPA has distributed \$9.4 million – funding 10 task forces and 33 agencies in an effort to reduce auto theft and other associated crimes. During the second half of biennium funding, the Authority authorized grant awards in the amount of \$2.507 million for FY 10-11.

2010-11 Multi-Jurisdiction Awards

- South King County (PATROL Task Force) \$800,000
- Snohomish County (Snohomish County Auto Theft Task Force) \$600,000
- Pierce County (Pierce County ATTACK Unit) \$500,000
- Spokane County (Auto Theft Prevention Task Force) \$160,000
- Clark County (Southwest Washington Auto Theft Taskforce) \$160,000
- East King County (East King County Cooperative Auto Theft Initiative) \$148,036

Other Awards

- Yakima County Sheriff - \$97,000
- Sunnyside Police Department - \$42,000

WATPA Fully-Funded, Two-Day Training Conferences

- 2009 WATPA Auto Theft Conference, attended by 180 Washington State law enforcement officers
- 2010 WATPA Auto Theft Conference, attended by 180 Washington State law enforcement officers

STATUS

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report found 23,680 motor vehicles were stolen in Washington in 2009. This is a 16% decrease from 2008 and a 45% decrease from 2004. The number of vehicles stolen peaked in 2005 and has steadily decreased since. The decrease has slowed from 2009 to 2010.

Washington is the most populous state in National Insurance Crime Bureau Area 2 (Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) and has the highest motor vehicle theft rate per 100,000 inhabitants as well as the most total vehicles stolen overall. As a result, motor vehicle theft has a larger financial impact on Washington than any other state in NICB Area 2.

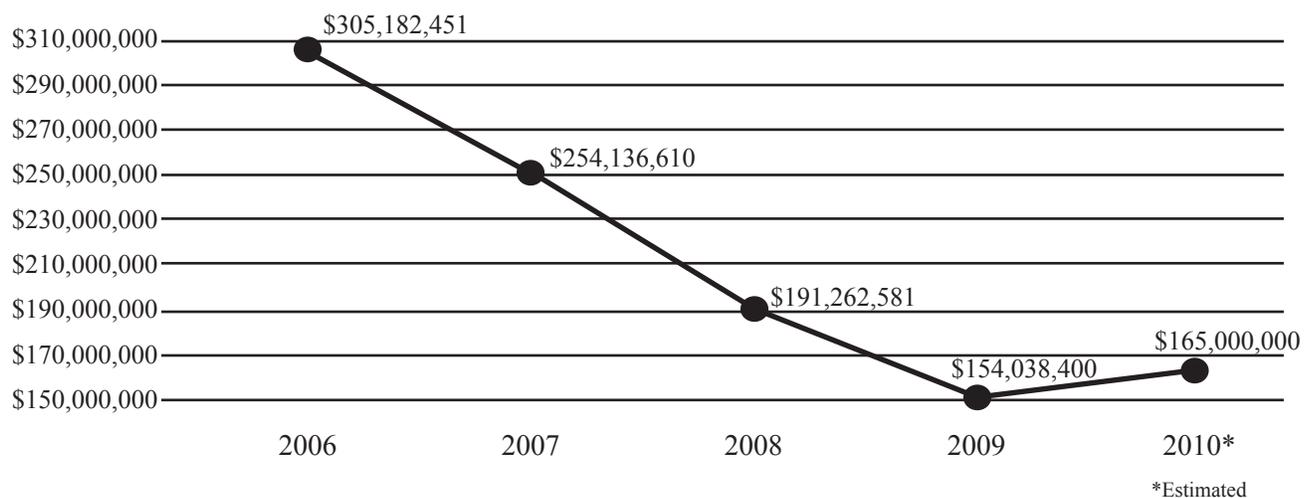
In 2009, 696.9 motor vehicles were stolen for every 100,000 inhabitants in Washington. Motor vehicle thefts per 100,000 inhabitants decreased 18% from 2008 to 2009 and decreased 49% from 2004 to 2009.

In 2009, the estimated cost of motor vehicle theft for Washington residents was \$154,038,400; which is a 49% decrease from the 2006 high of \$305,182,451. The 2010 estimated cost of motor vehicle theft in Washington will be \$165,000,000. The cost of motor vehicle theft in Washington decreased 19% from 2008 to 2009 and 42% from 2004 to 2009. Figures provided in the FBI UCR were used to determine the cost of motor vehicle theft for the state. The national average dollar loss per motor vehicle for each given year was multiplied by the number of motor vehicle thefts in the state for that year.

Since the formation of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority in July, 2007 Washington ranks among the nation's leaders in overall decline in motor vehicle thefts. UCR statistics show a drop from 49,151 (fifth nationally) stolen motor vehicles thefts in 2005 to 36,932 in 2007. The total number of stolen vehicles in Washington continued to drop in 2008 with 28,331 – marking the first time in more than a decade the total number of stolen vehicles in Washington dropped below 30,000 for a year. The number continued to decrease in 2009 - falling to 23,680.

The total number of stolen vehicles in 2010 is projected to be approximately 25,500. This marks a 9-percent increase from 2009, but a 48.1-percent reduction over the past four years. This represents one of the highest reductions of any state with more than 10,000 auto thefts stolen over the past six years.

COST OF MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN WASHINGTON STATE (2006-10)



If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this publication please contact Tom Corzine, WATPA Executive Director, at (360) 486-2394, tcorzine@waspc.org or Grant Clark, WATPA Public Awareness Coordinator, at (360) 292-7962, gclark@waspc.org