



A LEAD TO FOLLOW

The public is vulnerable. Auto thieves are becoming smarter, more organized and more aggressive. They steal cars for transportation, to sell or exchange for drugs, to strip and sell in-demand parts and to commit other serious and violent crimes. Thefts of motorcycles and ATVs are on the rise. If it has a motor, they try to steal it. Late-model Hondas and Toyotas have long been the target of thieves, but an alarming number of new and high-end vehicles are being stolen.

The Authority, together with our growing network of partners, is working harder than ever to combat thieves and prevent thefts. We know that when cars are stolen, we all pay the price. The Authority is funded through an assessment of nearly 400 insurance companies doing business in Pennsylvania and uses no tax dollars. It's a mutually beneficial relationship. For every dollar spent on law enforcement grants in 2008, the Authority realized a return on investment of \$7.15 in vehicles and parts recovered.

The Authority was created under Act 171 of 1994. We have supplied law enforcement/ investigative units with grant funding since 1996. To date, these agencies have been awarded more than \$70.7 million to help local and state auto theft units investigate and prosecute auto theft through additional personnel, modernized equipment, automobiles, special training seminars and prevention-based public outreach measures.

The efforts are working. The Uniform Crime Report (UCR), compiled each year by the Pennsylvania State Police, is the most complete and reliable indicator of criminal activity available. The 2008 UCR data shows that motor vehicle theft declined again in 2008 and, since the ATPA's inception in 1995, annual auto theft rates have declined by 57 percent.*

In 2008, law enforcement officials recovered stolen vehicles worth \$33.5 million and parts estimated at \$1.0 million. Since the Authority's inception (1995), ATPA grantees have recovered stolen vehicles and parts worth more than \$376 million. Clearly, the grantees and prevention programs are having an impact on auto theft and vehicle recovery in Pennsylvania.

* UCR numbers are subject to continual edit and are not complete until the UCR Annual Report is compiled. The 2008 Annual Report is expected October 2009.

3,703
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STOLEN VEHICLES
RECOVERED BY GRANTEES IN 2008.