

DATE: March 19, 2019

REGARDING: 2016-2018 Theft with Keys Analysis (Public Dissemination)

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Section 1: Introduction

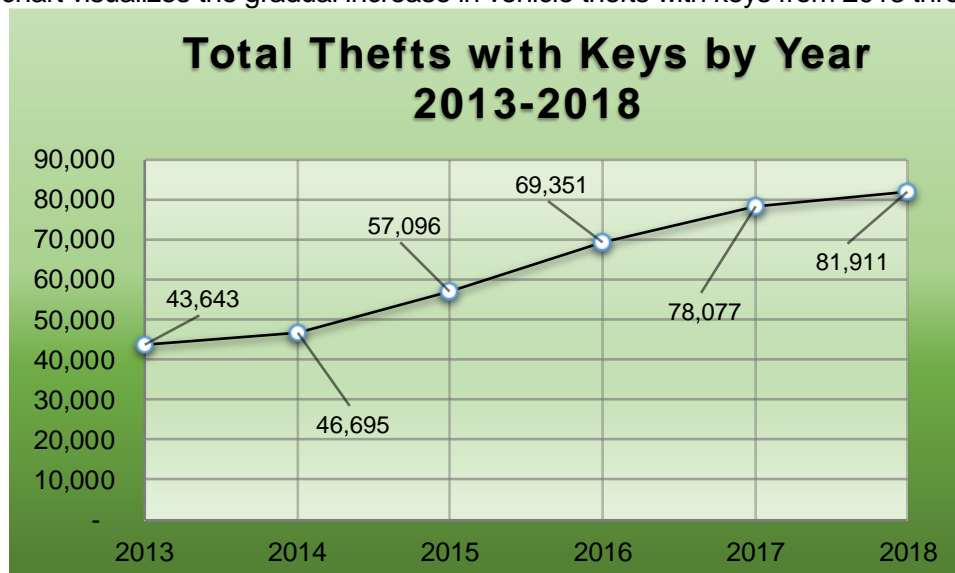
This **ForeCAST**SM Report analyzes the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) vehicle theft data to identify trends and patterns regarding vehicle thefts in the United States where it was reported that the vehicle was possibly stolen using the vehicle's key. Vehicle thefts included in this analysis are those where it is believed that the vehicle's key was used to steal the vehicle. Theft scenarios include opportunistic thefts while a vehicle is being warmed up in the winter with keys in the ignition, instances where thieves simply drove off because owners left keys in the vehicle console, and other thefts where the vehicle was stolen through use of the keys. The vehicles included in this study are passenger vehicles of all model years. Vehicle thefts with keys were identified by using the NCIC text fields available to NICB. Terms indicating the vehicle was stolen with the keys were used as search criteria.

This report includes an overall look at vehicle thefts with keys, regardless of model year, and details the top 10 theft states and theft core-based statistical areas (CBSAs), as well as the top 10 states and CBSAs where thefts remain unrecovered. This report also studies the trend in model years stolen, as well as an analysis of thefts with keys in relation to dates of theft.

Section 2: Executive Summary

There were 229,339 vehicle thefts with keys reported stolen in the United States between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018¹. This marks a 56% increase in vehicle thefts with keys reported since the last iteration of this **ForeCAST**SM that analyzed the 147,434 vehicles stolen with keys reported to law enforcement between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2015.

The following chart visualizes the gradual increase in vehicle thefts with keys from 2013 through 2018:

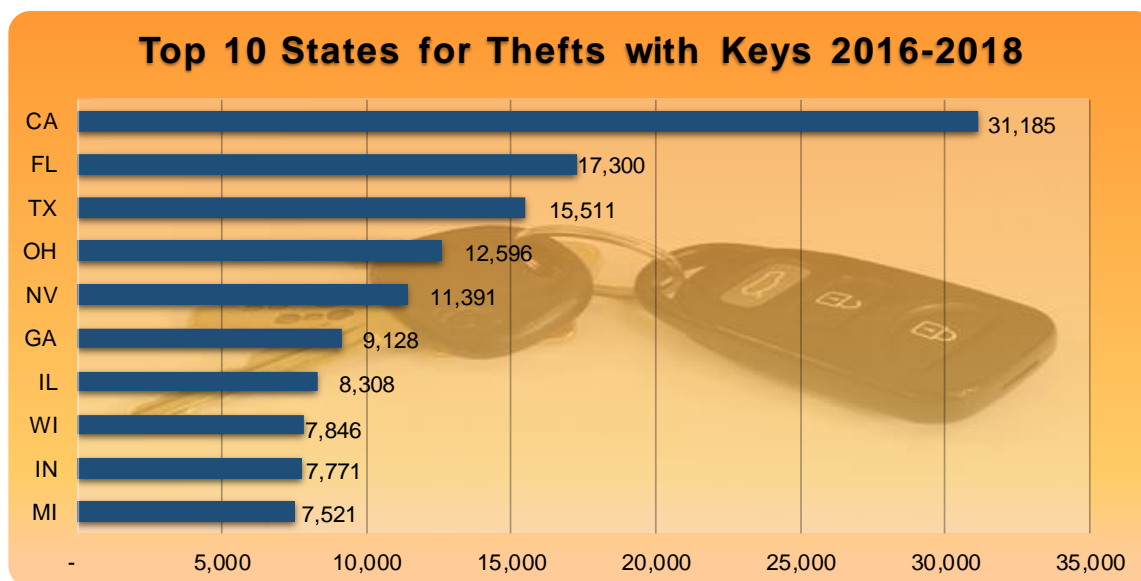


¹ Only NCIC entries with 17 character vehicle identification numbers (VINs) were included in this report.

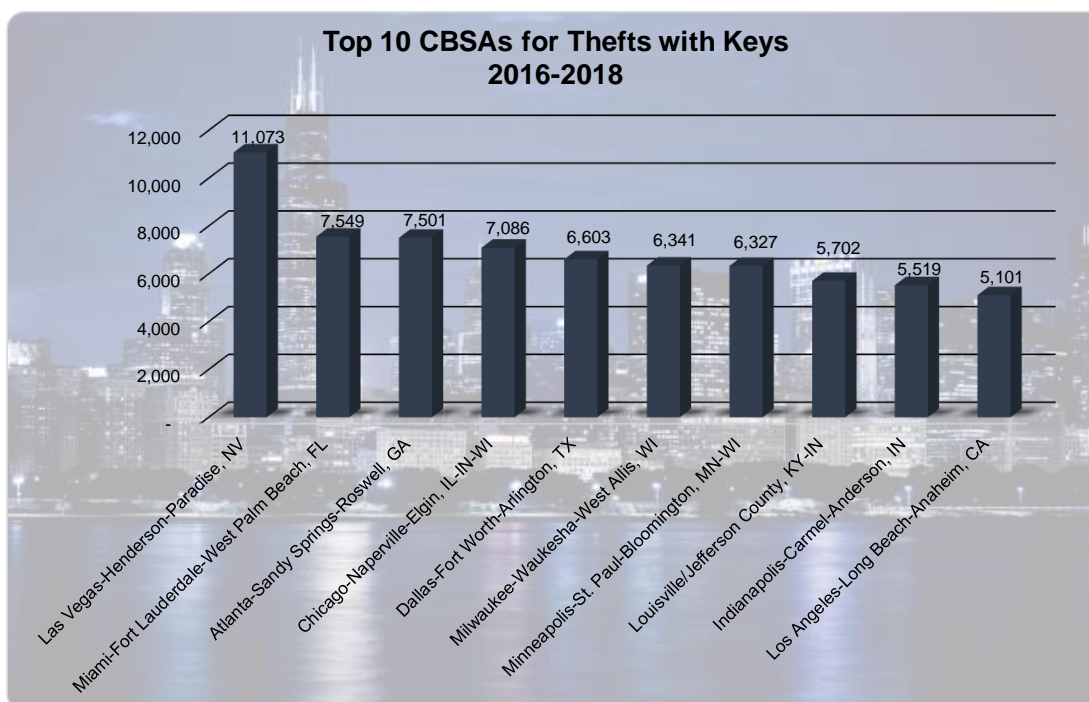
The largest rise in total vehicle thefts with keys reported by year was between 46,695 in 2014 and 57,096 in 2015, an increase of 22% (10,401 thefts). The 21% increase (12,255 thefts) between 2015 and 2016 and the 13% increase (8,726 thefts) between 2016 and 2017 is also notable. Though there were double digit increases in the total vehicle thefts with keys reported each year between 2014 and 2017, the increase in thefts reported between 2017 and 2018 was only 5% (3,834 thefts).

Section 3: Top Theft States and CBSAs

California had the most vehicle thefts with keys at 31,185 thefts, followed by Florida with 17,300 thefts, and Texas with 15,511 thefts. The graph below shows the top 10 theft states for vehicle thefts with keys. As a whole, the top 10 theft states represent 56% of the vehicle thefts with keys.

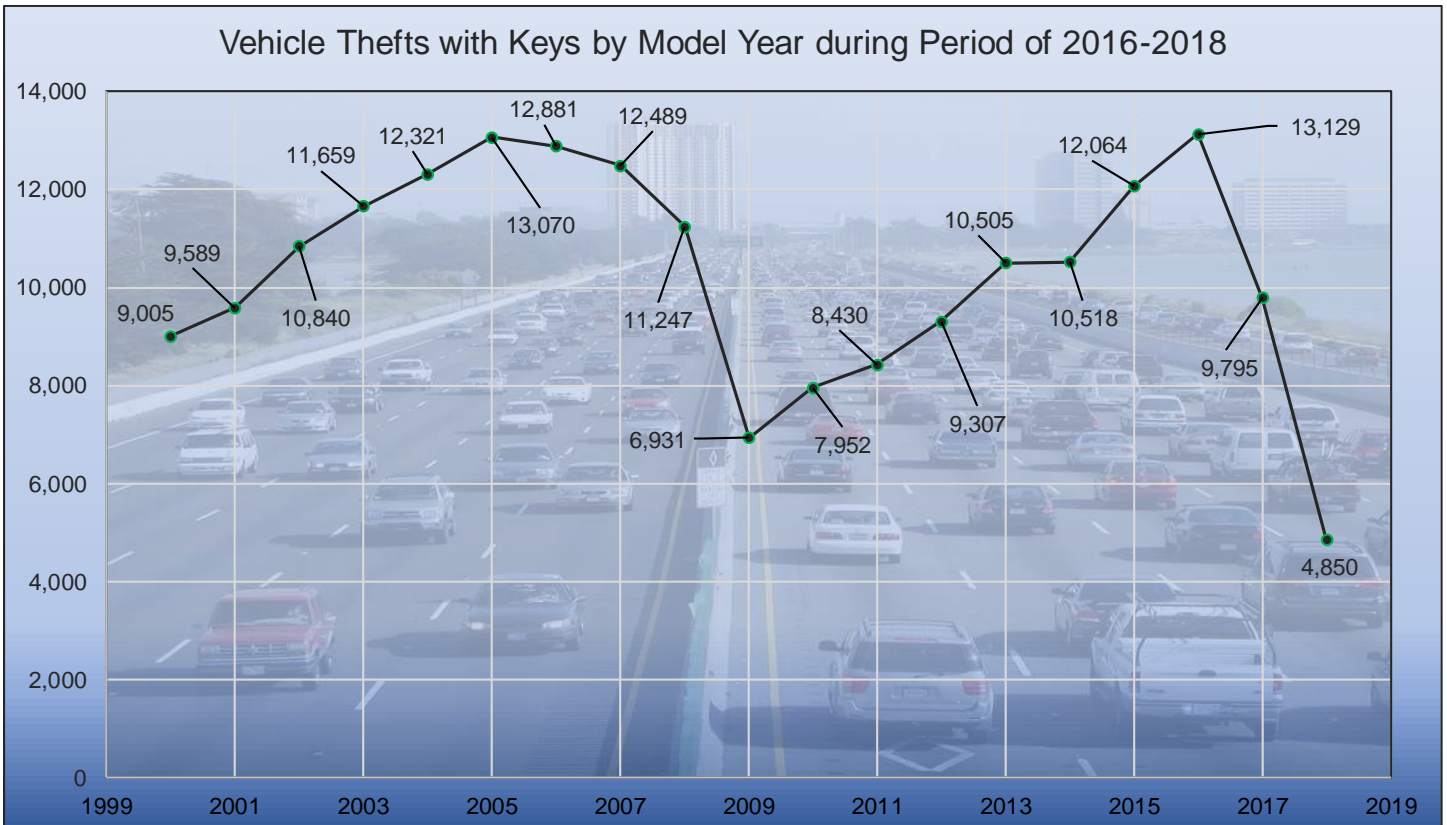


Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV was the CBSA with highest number of thefts at 11,073. The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL CBSA had 7,549 vehicle thefts with keys, followed by Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA CBSA with 7,501 thefts.



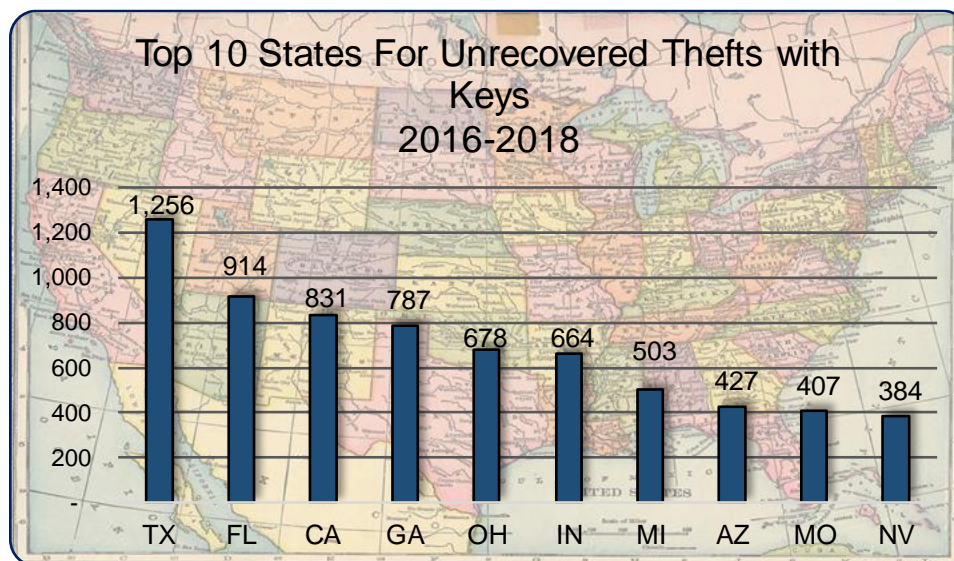
Section 4: Vehicle Year Model Patterns

The chart below illustrates the vehicle thefts with keys by model year. From the 2007 model year to 2009, there is a significant drop, suggesting that older models are more likely to be stolen with keys but from the 2009 to 2017 model year, there is also a steady increase in thefts. Both significantly older and much newer model vehicles are likely to be subject to thefts with keys, while later 2000s model are not. The chart below illustrates the vehicle theft pattern in 2000-2018 models only. The sharp decrease in the most recent models may be attributable to these vehicles not being sold for the entire period analyzed.

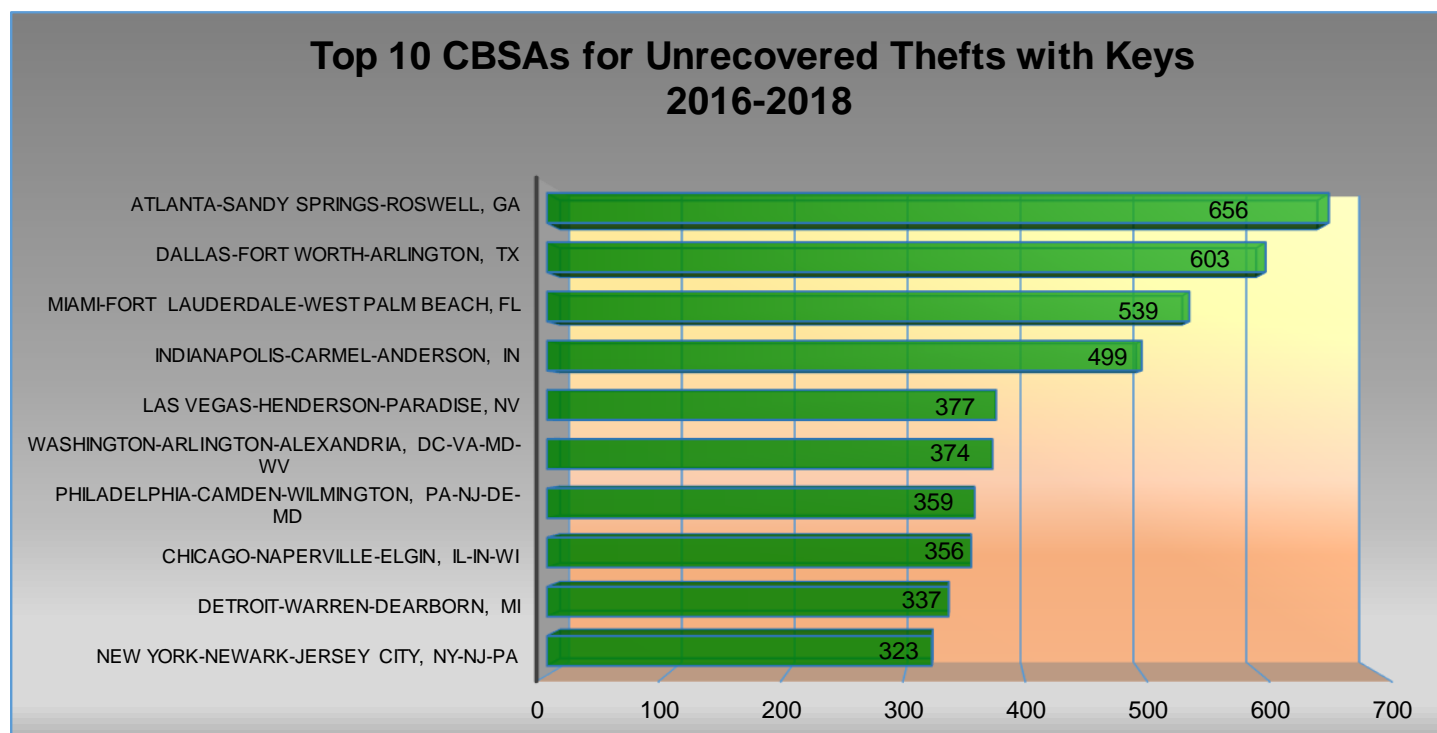


Section 5: Unrecovered Thefts

Of the 229,339 vehicle thefts with keys in this analysis, 11,801 (or 5%) were still unrecovered at the time the data in this report was pulled. The chart below details the top 10 theft states for unrecovered vehicle thefts with keys. By state, Texas had the highest number of unrecovered thefts with 1,256, followed by Florida with 914, and California with 831.

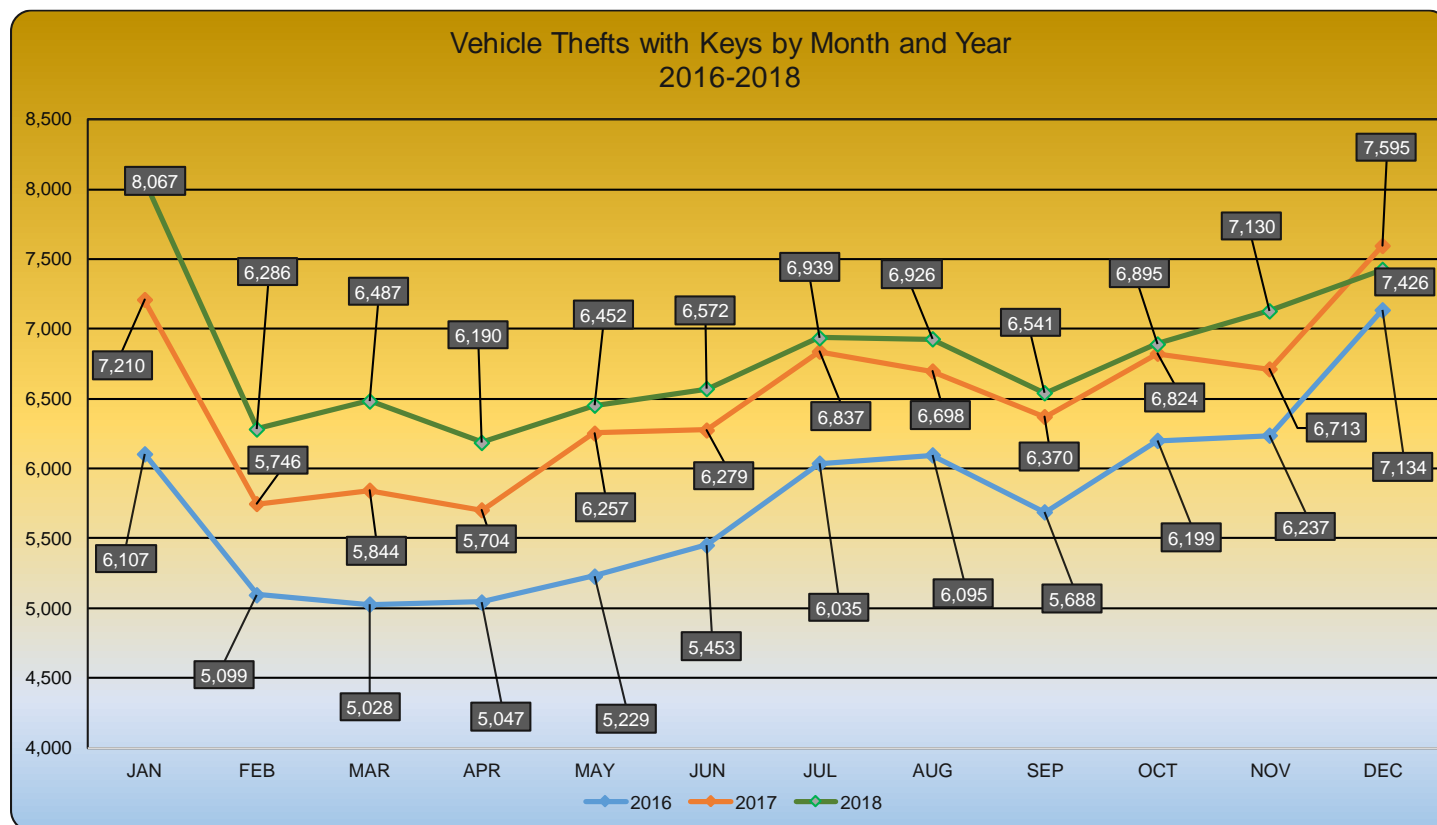


The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA CBSA had the most unrecovered thefts with 656. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX has the next highest with 603 and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL comes after that with 539.



Section 6: Thefts and Date Relations

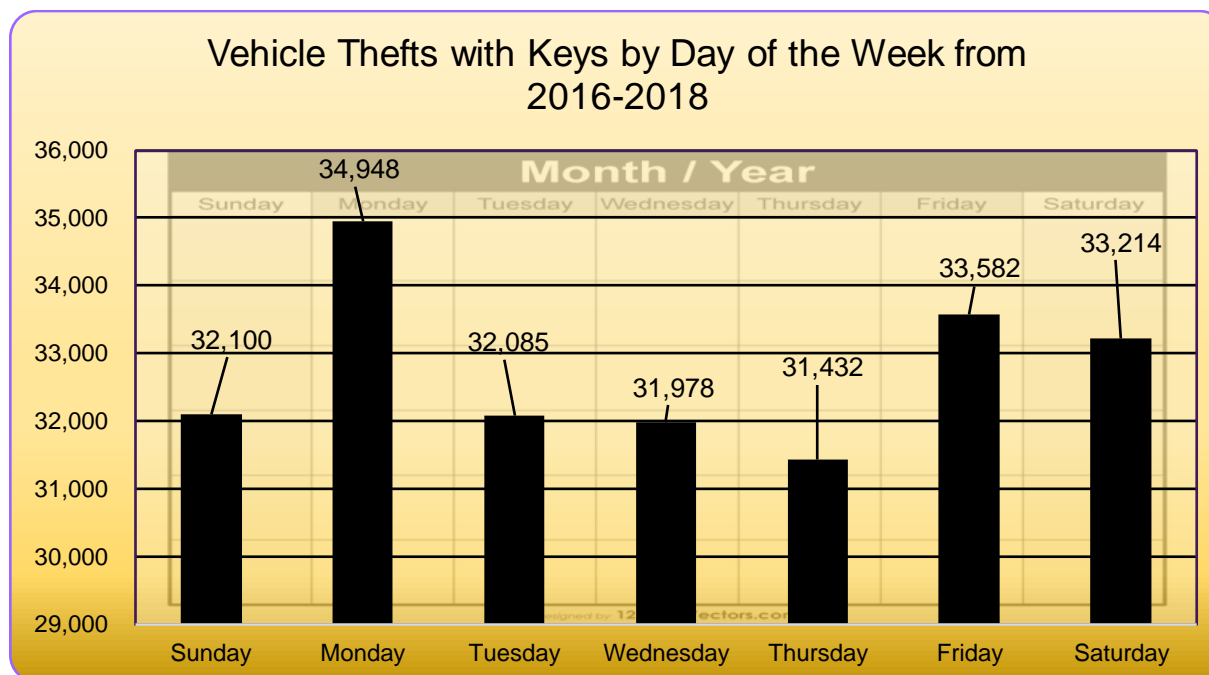
The table below shows a breakdown of vehicle thefts with keys by month and year. Overall, the total of vehicles stolen with their keys each month rises during the start of cooler temperatures. This could be due to vehicle owners' leaving their keys in the ignition in order to warm it up, leaving the vehicle more susceptible to theft. There also is a smaller rise in the warmer months of the summer.



The daily average number of vehicle thefts with keys from 2016-2018 is 209 thefts per day. The table below illustrates the top 10 dates where the most thefts occurred. It is interesting to note that all the top dates occur when the weather is traditionally colder, with New Year's Day in the top spot. Additionally, the top three dates of thefts with keys during the time period analyzed occurred in 2018.

Top 10 Theft Dates during 2016-2018 with the Highest Number of Vehicle Theft with Keys Reported	
Date	Number of Thefts
January 1, 2018	321
January 3, 2018	309
January 5, 2018	307
December 27, 2017	299
January 2, 2018	296
November 26, 2018	295
January 16, 2017	293
January 15, 2018	287
January 8, 2018	287
December 23, 2017	287
December 7, 2018	287
December 16, 2016	284
December 18, 2017	284
January 22, 2018	284
January 18, 2018	283

Monday stands out as the day of the week when the most vehicle thefts with keys are reported with 34,948. The difference in theft totals between days of the week isn't staggering, but there is a slight uptick in thefts being reported on weekends, with Friday and Saturday totaling 33,582 and 33,214 thefts respectively.



Section 6: Conclusion

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018, 229,339 vehicle thefts with keys were reported, with an average of 209 being reported a day. Since the first *ForeCAST*SM published by NICB on Thefts with Keys in 2013, there has been a gradual increase in thefts of this nature each year. From 2013 to 2018, thefts with keys increased an average of 14% each year. The largest increases was between 2015 and 2016 where thefts increased by 12,225 (22%) in total. Overall, from 2013 to 2018, thefts with keys have increased 88% based on NICB analysis.

When looking at theft totals for the days of the week, Mondays topped the list during the period of analysis with 34,948 in all. Also of note is the spike in vehicle thefts with keys during the fall/winter months each year. This could be attributed to opportunistic thieves seizing moments when owners leave their vehicles unattended with keys in the ignition in order to warm it up.

California had the most vehicle thefts with keys by state with 31,185 thefts reported, followed by Florida with 17,300, and Texas with 15,511. In addition, Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV CBSA had the most vehicle thefts with keys with 11,073. The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL CBSA had 7,549 vehicle thefts with keys, with Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA CBSA coming in third with 7,501 thefts.

Out of the 229,339 vehicle thefts with keys, 5% (11,801) were unrecovered. By state, Texas had the most unrecovered vehicle thefts with keys with 1,256. Florida came in second with 914 unrecovered thefts and California was third with 831 unrecovered thefts with keys. By CBSA, the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA CBSA has the most unrecovered thefts at 656, followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX CBSA with 603.