



Office of the **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

ORANGE COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

February 27, 2018

Agenda Item Number S32B

ORANGE COUNTY AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE

Established 1993



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Chief Charles Celano (TPD)
- Chief Jack Conklin (BPD)
- Chief Laura Farinella (LBPD)
- Assistant Chief Don Goodbrand (CHP)
- Chief David Hendricks (FPD)
- Sheriff Sandra Hutchens (OCSD)
- Chief Darin Lenyi (PPD)
- Chief Corey Sianez (BPPD)
- Chief Paul Walters (OCDA)



OCATT MISSION



To reduce the incidence of vehicle theft and increase the apprehension of **professional** vehicle thieves

Objectives

- Increase the arrests of vehicle theft suspects, particularly professional thieves participating in stripping, renumbering for resale, exportation, fraud and car-jacking.
- Identify businesses supporting vehicle theft offenses and take the enforcement action.
- Identify trends and patterns of vehicle theft and increase recovery rate of stolen vehicles.

A MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



Current Staffing

- Lieutenant (CHP)
- 2 Sergeants (CHP, OCSD)
- 9 Detectives/Investigators
CHP (2), OCSD, OCDA, Brea PD, Buena Park PD, Fullerton PD, Tustin PD, DMV
- OCDA Deputy District Attorney
- OCDA Attorney Clerk
- OCDA Accountant
- National Insurance Crime Bureau Special Agent

OCATT BY THE NUMBERS



1993 – 2017

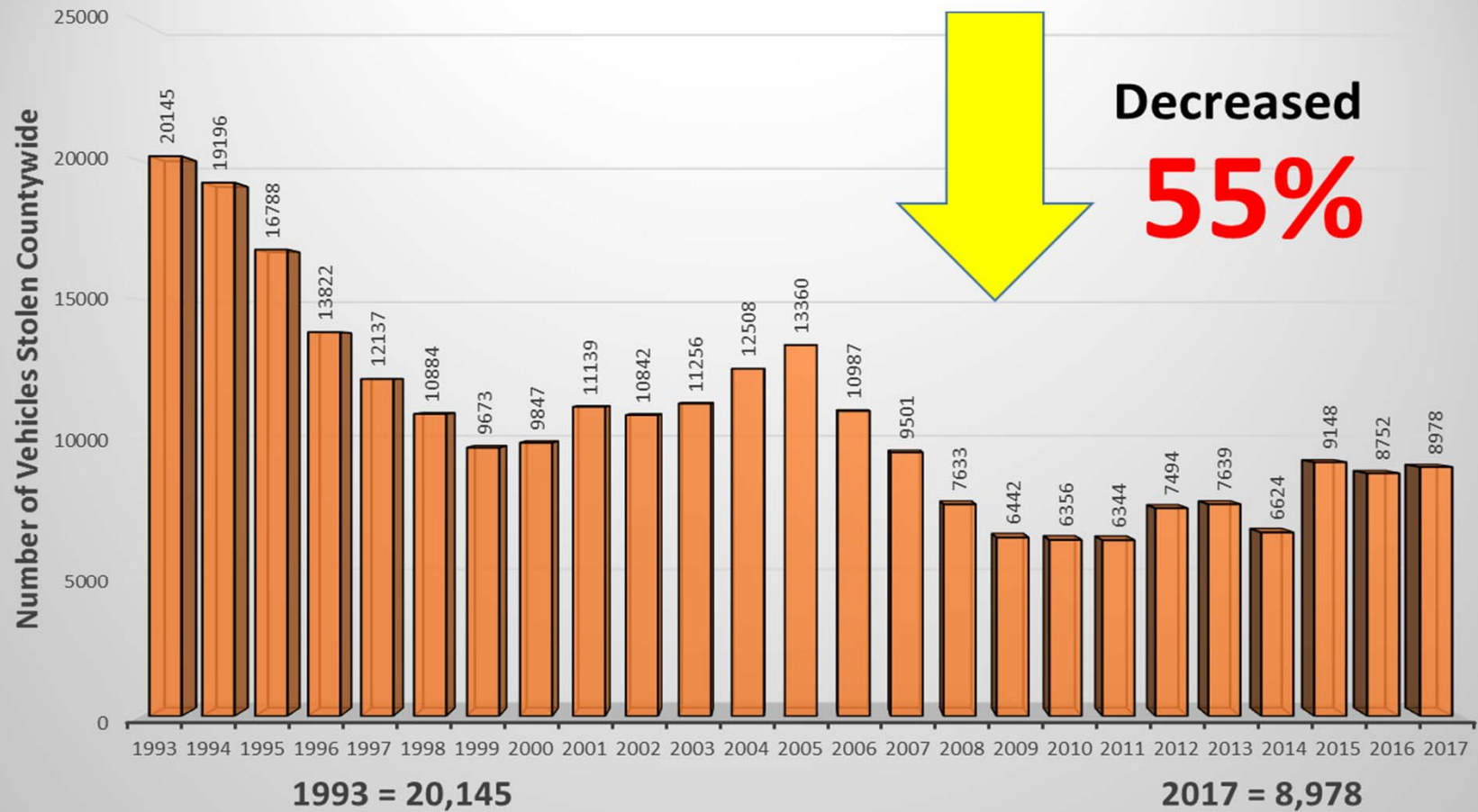
- Recovered **6,202** stolen vehicles valued at approximately **\$97 million**
- Arrested **1412** suspects

2017

- Initiated **290** investigations
- Assisted Orange County law enforcement agencies in **220** investigations
- Recovered **224** stolen vehicles valued at **\$4,488,658**
- Arrested **60** suspects
- Inspected **724** vehicles
- Inspected **16** businesses

ORANGE COUNTY AUTO THEFT

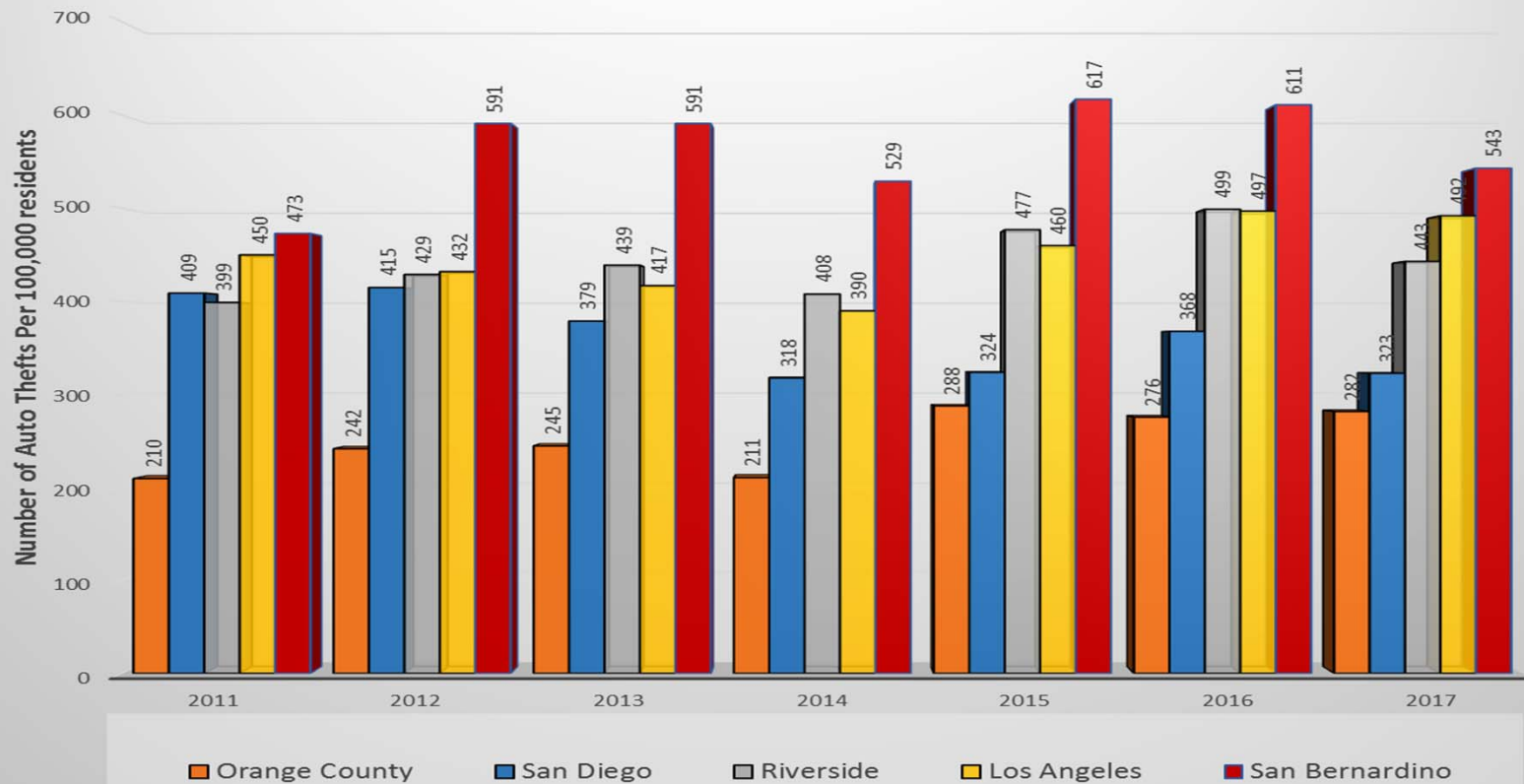
1993 - 2017



Auto theft statistics are based on CHP data. Population numbers are based on U.S. Census annual estimates of the resident population

AUTO THEFT RATES

Comparison of counties



TRENDS SEEN BY OCATT



Fraud Rentals

- Stolen identities and stolen credit cards used to rent vehicle(s).

VIN Switches

- Stolen vehicles re-registered with VIN number of salvaged and/or cloned vehicles.

Title Wash

- Fraudulent removal of legal owners (financial institutions) from Certificate of Titles.
Mostly High End Vehicles



OPERATION CUBAN CONNECTION



Rental Car Fraud

Multiple States / Fraudulent ID's / Las Vegas

- 6 vehicles recovered
- 5 suspects arrested
- OCATT undercover operation
- Exportation links / Narcotics Trafficking
- Car Carrier / Multi-Agency Takedown



AVIS[®]
Rent A Car



OPERATION FRINGE BENEFITS



Fraudulent rentals from Advantage Rental Car at John Wayne Airport.

- Investigation involves a total of 32 vehicles
- Total estimated loss value exceeding \$700,000.
- Fraud committed with the assistance of a former Advantage employee
- Vehicles were recovered in several counties throughout Southern California



OPERATION HOGG LIFE



Fraud purchase / Title Wash / Title Loans

- 149 Stolen Vehicles Identified
- 125+ Vehicles recovered to date
- 52 Suspects Identified
- 50+ Victims Identified (dealerships and financial institutions)
- \$4.5 Million in total loss
- Multi-Location Search and Arrest Warrants

