

Car Theft Statistics in Australia



Not so long ago our readers played a big part in preventing car theft by fitting alarms and immobilisers. Today's vehicles are more secure but the problem continues.

A new report released by Savvy finds that every 11 minutes, a passenger or light commercial vehicle is stolen, resulting in a staggering 38,187 thefts in 2021 alone.

Queensland takes the unfortunate lead with over 11,000 incidents reported.

In Australia, car theft is a significant issue, with a passenger/light commercial vehicle being stolen approximately every 11 minutes. Car theft prevention is crucial in combating this problem. Advances in security technology have made it nearly impossible to hotwire modern cars, debunking the popular belief that hot-wiring is still a common method used by thieves.

When it comes to car theft demographics, Queensland had the highest number of individual car thefts in 2021, with over 11,000 cases. In contrast, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest totals of car theft, likely due to their smaller populations.

Interestingly, the impact of COVID-19 on car theft rates has been significant. In 2021, the theft of passenger cars and

light commercial vehicles decreased significantly, likely due to COVID-19 lockdowns. The restrictions imposed during the pandemic may have limited opportunities for thieves to steal cars, resulting in a decrease in car theft incidents.

The VE Commodore is the car model that's stolen the most in Australia for three consecutive years.

When it comes to car theft, there are common methods that thieves use to target vehicles.

The impact of COVID-19 on car theft rates has been significant, with the number of stolen cars decreasing due to lockdowns and restrictions. However, regional variations in car theft still exist, with Queensland having the highest number of individual car thefts in 2021.

To prevent car theft, it's important to take measures such as adequately protecting keys and storing them out of sight. It's also crucial to avoid putting personal details on your keys, as this can provide thieves with access to your address and belongings.

Factors Contributing to Car Theft

To protect your vehicle from being stolen, it's important to understand the factors that contribute to car theft.

1. Common car theft prevention measures: Taking simple steps like locking your doors, parking in well-lit areas, and keeping your car keys in an unexpected or out of the way place within your home.
2. Impact of COVID-19 on car theft rates: The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have actually led to a decrease in car theft rates. With people staying at home more often, there are fewer opportunities for thieves to target vehicles.

3. Role of technology in reducing car theft: Advanced security systems and immobilisers have made it much harder for thieves to steal cars. Features like GPS tracking and remote locking systems provide an added layer of protection.

4. Regional variations in car theft rates: Car theft rates can vary significantly depending on the region. Factors

such as population density, socioeconomic conditions, and law enforcement efforts can all influence the likelihood of car theft.

Did you know that nearly 70% of Australians have never had their car or any belongings from their car stolen?

According to Budget Direct's 2021 Car Theft Survey of 878 Australians, only 7.4% of Australians have had their car stolen, while 18.2% have had their belongings stolen from their car.

The survey also revealed interesting demographic trends, with respondents aged 18-24 years having the least experience with car theft. Men were more likely than women to have their belongings stolen, possibly due to women storing their car keys out of sight.

Regional differences in car theft rates were also evident, with Queensland having the highest number of individual car theft cases, while Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest totals due to their smaller populations.

Interestingly, the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns resulted in a significant decrease in car thefts in 2021.

Despite these statistics, public perception of car theft risks remains a concern, with many Australians still believing that hot-wiring is a common method of car theft, despite advances in security technology making it nearly impossible.

Here are four key points to consider when it comes to car theft recovery and insurance claims:

- 1) Stolen vehicle tracking: Utilising advanced technology, stolen vehicle tracking systems can help authorities locate and recover your stolen car more quickly.
- 2) Insurance claims: It's crucial to have comprehensive car insurance that covers theft. This will provide financial protection and ease the burden of replacing your stolen vehicle or belongings.
- 3) Car theft prevention: Taking proactive measures to secure your vehicle, such as installing after-market immobilisers on older vehicles, and parking in well-lit areas. Always secure your keys, as these are needed to start and drive modern vehicles.
- 4) Stolen vehicle investigation: Report the theft to the police immediately. They'll conduct an investigation and gather evidence to increase the chances of recovering your stolen vehicle.

Source: www.savvy.com.au

Motor vehicle theft summary - Australia (Passenger / light commercials)

State / Territory	Thefts 2019/2020	% of Thefts	Thefts 2020/2021	% of Thefts	% change
NSW	9,308	20.7%	8,525	22.3%	-8.4%
Vic	13,998	31.2%	10,163	26.6%	-27.4%
Qld	11,829	26.3%	11,059	29.0%	-6.5%
WA	4,721	10.5%	3,924	10.3%	-16.9%
SA	2,630	5.9%	2,111	5.5%	-19.7%
Tas	868	1.9%	780	2.0%	-10.1%
NT	545	1.2%	595	1.6%	9.2%
ACT	1,001	2.2%	1,030	2.7%	2.9%
AUS	44,900	100.0%	38,187	100.0%	-15.0%

Source: Carsale.com.au Dashboard, 1.1 Aus Motor vehicle theft summary, 2019/20 to 2020/21