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NICB's *Hot Wheels*: Popular 10 Most Stolen Vehicles List Gets a Makeover
More Detailed Data and a New List of 2012's Most Stolen 2012 Models

DES PLAINES, Ill. – The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) today released an expanded, data-rich version of its popular *Hot Wheels* report – its list of the 10 most stolen vehicles in the United States. The report examines vehicle theft data submitted by law enforcement to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and determines the vehicle make, model and model year most reported stolen in 2012.

A first-edition feature is also contained in today's report: a look at the top 25 2012 vehicle makes and models that were reported stolen in calendar year 2012.

In previous *Hot Wheels* reports, rankings were determined based on the most stolen model year vehicle within each vehicle make and model. Only one make/model/year would appear on the top 10 list, even though other model years of the same vehicle would have earned a position on the list. This was done to offer a more varied list with significant theft numbers than to focus on just one or two makes year after year.

Beginning with today's report, the top 10 most stolen will appear by make and model only with its corresponding theft total. Beneath the make and model will appear its various model years with their corresponding theft totals for 2012. This is more easily understood by viewing the accompanying [spreadsheet](#) or [PDF](#). See the full report at www.nicb.org.

For 2012, the most stolen vehicles* in the nation were (total thefts in parentheses):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Honda Accord | (58,596) |
| 2. Honda Civic | (47,037) |
| 3. Ford Pickup (Full Size) | (26,770) |
| 4. Chevrolet Pickup (Full Size) | (23,745) |
| 5. Toyota Camry | (16,251) |
| 6. Dodge Caravan | (11,799) |
| 7. Dodge Pickup (Full Size) | (11,755) |
| 8. Acura Integra | (9,555) |
| 9. Nissan Altima | (9,169) |
| 10. Nissan Maxima | (6,947) |

Older Honda Accords and Civics were by far the most stolen models in 2012. The 1996 Accord led the list with 8,637 thefts. In fact, Accords and Civics account for the first 16 spots on the most stolen list and all are 1990-2000 models. By comparison, newer Hondas are rarely stolen, thanks to improved anti-theft technology. For a report, watch this [video](#).

The new feature in *Hot Wheels* this year is the addition of a list of the top 25 *model year 2012 vehicles* that were most stolen in calendar year 2012. The top 10 on this list are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Nissan Altima | (921) |
| 2. Chevrolet Impala | (778) |
| 3. Chevrolet Malibu | (727) |
| 4. Toyota Camry | (665) |
| 5. Ford Fusion | (655) |
| 6. Ford Pickup Full Size | (595) |
| 7. Ford Focus | (523) |
| 8. Chrysler 200 | (449) |

- 9. Dodge Charger (416)
- 10. Dodge Avenger (412)

Download 2012's complete top 25 most stolen list in this [spreadsheet](#) or [PDF](#).

Each year, NICB reviews all NCIC vehicle theft records to produce its national and state lists of the 10 most stolen vehicles. *Hot Wheels* is the only report that examines *all* theft data without regard to a vehicle's insured status – if a vehicle was reported stolen to law enforcement, it is captured in this report.

A recent insurance theft claims report from our friends at the Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI) was widely misreported as a vehicle theft analysis. The HLDI report examined data on vehicles *associated with a theft claim*, not thefts of entire vehicles—semantically similar, but empirically opposite.

Although the FBI is predicting a 1.3 percent increase in 2012 vehicle thefts over 2011's number—reversing an eight-year trend—the overall vehicle theft picture is still positive. The peak year for vehicle thefts was 1991 with 1,661,738. If the FBI's preliminary 2012 vehicle theft estimate holds, there will have been roughly 724,672 thefts. That's a national decrease of over 50 percent since 1991 with many states seeing even better numbers.

NICB's four layers of protection are:

Common Sense: Lock your car and take your keys. It's simple enough, but many thefts occur because owners make it easy for thieves to steal their cars.

Warning Device: Having and using a visible or audible warning device is another item that can ensure that your car remains where you left it.

Immobilizing Device: Generally speaking, if your vehicle can't be started, it can't be stolen. "Kill" switches, fuel cut-offs and smart keys are among the devices that are extremely effective.

Tracking Device: A tracking device emits a signal to the police or to a monitoring station when the vehicle is stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles. Some systems employ "telematics," which combine GPS and wireless technologies to allow remote monitoring of a vehicle. If the vehicle is moved, the system will alert the owner and the vehicle can be tracked via computer.

Considering a used vehicle purchase? Check out VINCheckSM, a free vehicle history service for consumers. Since 2005, NICB has offered this limited service made possible by its participating member companies. Check it out at: www.nicb.org/vincheck.

Anyone with information concerning insurance fraud or vehicle theft can report it anonymously by calling toll-free 800-TEL-NICB (800-835-6422), texting keyword "fraud" to TIP411 (847411) or submitting a [form](#) on our website. Or, download the [NICB Fraud Tips app](#) on your iPhone or Android device.

About the National Insurance Crime Bureau: headquartered in Des Plaines, Ill., the NICB is the nation's leading not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to preventing, detecting and defeating insurance fraud and vehicle theft through data analytics, investigations, training, legislative advocacy and public awareness. The NICB is supported by more than 1,100 property and casualty insurance companies and self-insured organizations. NICB member companies wrote \$350 billion in insurance premiums in 2012, or more than 78 percent of the nation's property/casualty insurance. That includes more than 93 percent (\$160 billion) of the nation's personal auto insurance. To learn more visit www.nicb.org.

* This report reflects stolen vehicle data reported to NCIC in 2012. Full size pickups include half ton and larger capacity models for all makes.

