

A Profile of the Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse



Prepared for
the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council

George Ryan, Governor
Sam Nolen, Chairman

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**ILLINOIS MOTOR VEHICLE
THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL**

Introduction

Since 1992, the Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse has provided information about motor vehicle theft to Council-funded task forces and other criminal justice organizations. Located in Springfield within the Illinois State Police Strategic Information and Analysis Group, the unit consists of three criminal intelligence analysts and two support personnel, and is directed by a sergeant assigned by the Illinois State Police.

Program Summary

The Clearinghouse responds to requests ranging from simple name checks and title histories to detailed statistical and geographic analyses of vehicle theft patterns. The unit has access to a wide range of information about vehicles, vehicle thefts, and vehicle theft offenders through statewide and national databases. These databases include:

- **Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS) Motor Vehicle File** - Theft and recovery data from 1989 to present.
- **STAGIS (Illinois State Police Gang File)** – Known gang members; search by name, alias, nickname; track movement by add-on records.
- **Offender Tracking System (Illinois Department of Corrections)** – Search by name or alias; release dates, visitors, parolee information, identifiers, etc.
- **TRW and TransUnion** – Person locator; use Social Security Number to track addresses used when applying for credit.
- **VITAL (Violent Offender Information Tracking and Linking)** – Links like information on suspects, vehicles, weapons, and businesses; includes photos of persons, vehicles, tattoos, and gang signs and symbols.
- **FinCEN (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network)/Gateway/Currency Transaction Report (CTR)** – Financial information for large cash transactions.
- **Secretary of State Records** – Vehicle titles and registrations, title histories, corporation information, and salvage information.
- **PhoneDisc** – Person locator; nationwide search by name, phone, or business.
- **LEXIS/NEXIS** – Person and business finder, professional licenses, military data, death claims by Social Security Number, real estate ownership, civil suits, etc.
- **National Insurance Crime Bureau VIN Assist** – Vehicle claim information, export records, salvage records, manufacturer information, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) verification and rebuilding.

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- **Vehicle ID** – Color photos of vehicles; three views based on VIN or make, model, and year; can be customized with specific color and options.

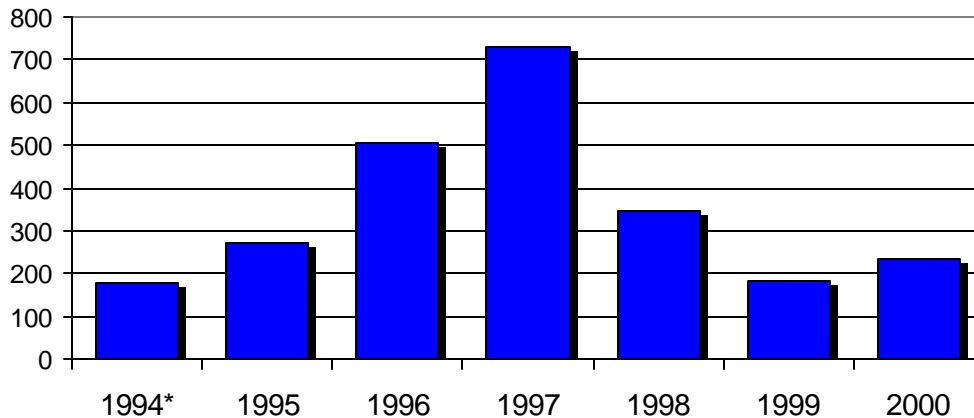
Using these information sources, the Clearinghouse can produce a variety of reports upon request, including statistical analyses of vehicle theft trends in a jurisdiction, locations of vehicle theft ‘hot spots’ and other geographic patterns, title histories, modus operandi charts, time series analyses, and profiles of vehicle theft offenders.

The Clearinghouse is currently working with Council staff to develop the Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force Activity Summary, which will provide information on the performance of Council-funded task forces on a quarterly basis.

Program Activity

Since the program began in July 1992, through December 2000, the Clearinghouse has responded to 2,441 information requests. Figure 1 shows the number of requests handled by the unit for each program year.

Figure 1
Requests Filled by Motor Vehicle
Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse

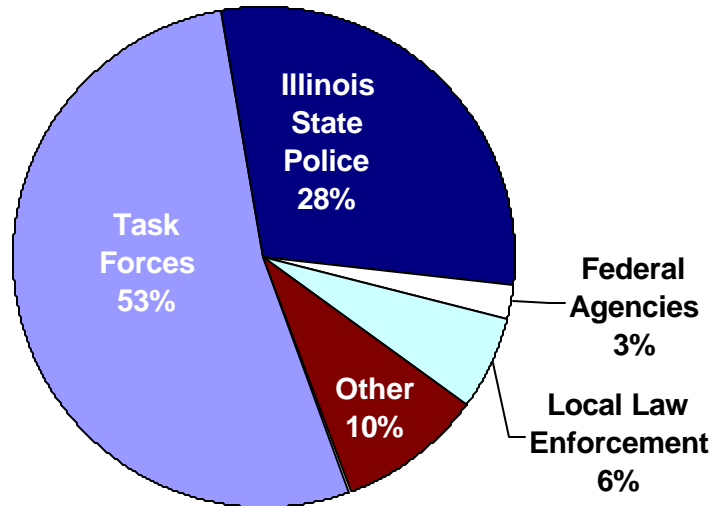


*July 1992 through December 1994.

Source: MV Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse Performance Reports.

Information requests come to the Clearinghouse from a variety of sources, including Council-funded auto theft task forces, Illinois State Police, federal agencies, local law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice organizations. Figure 2 shows the percentage of requests handled for each type of requester.

Figure 2
Sources of Requests
to Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse



Source: MV Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse Performance Reports.

Funding Summary

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, which took effect on January 1, 1991, created the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council. The Council has the statutory responsibility to prevent, combat, and reduce motor vehicle theft in Illinois.¹

The Act established the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund, a special trust fund in the State Treasury, from which the Council makes grants to eligible applicants for programs that address the problem of motor vehicle theft in Illinois. The Act requires all insurance companies licensed to write private passenger motor vehicle physical damage coverage in Illinois to pay annually into this trust fund an amount equal to \$1 for each earned car year of exposure for physical damage insurance coverage during the previous calendar year. About \$5.8 million is collected each year.

The Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse is funded by the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund. Figure 3 lists the amount granted to and expended by the task force for each program year. Amounts are for calendar years (i.e., January through December) except where indicated.

¹ Chapter 20 Illinois Compiled Statutes 4005/2.

Figure 3
Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse
Funding by Program Year

Year	Grant Amount	Expenditures
1993*	\$191,714	\$188,315
1994**	\$228,676	\$226,463
1995	\$170,199	\$150,402
1996	\$226,720	\$137,742
1997	\$235,440	\$185,427
1998	\$240,983	\$223,928
1999	\$256,592	\$234,674
2000	\$257,162	\$235,379
TOTAL	\$1,807,486	\$1,582,330

*July 1992 to September 1993.

**August 1993 to December 1994.

Unexpended grant funds are returned to the Council.

Figure 4 summarizes the Clearinghouse's expenditures from 1992 through October 2000. Expenditures are divided into six categories:

Personnel—includes salaries, social security, and fringe benefits for program staff.

Equipment—includes computers, communication devices, and other equipment with a cost greater than \$50.

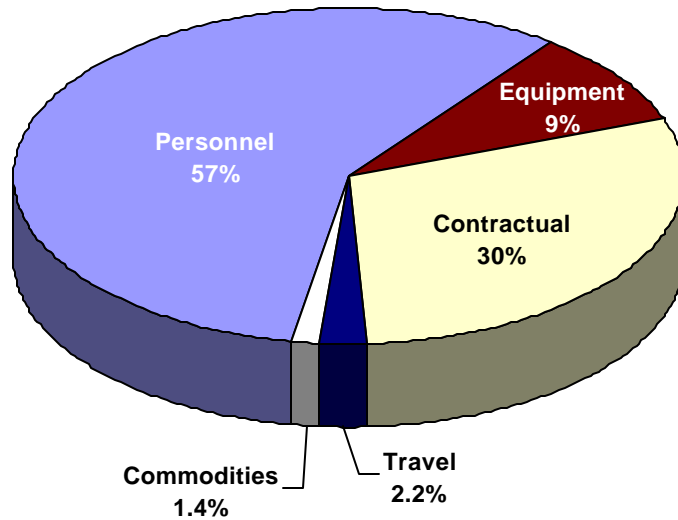
Commodities—includes consumable supplies (such as office supplies) and equipment costing less than \$50.

Travel—includes lodging, food, and transportation expenses incurred by program staff while conducting official program-related business.

Contractual—includes facility costs, utilities, telephone service, equipment rentals, and wages for hourly personnel.

Other—includes any costs not covered by the above categories.

Figure 4
Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse
Percentage of Expenditures by Category*
1992-2000



*Due to rounding, the category percentages may not total 100 percent.

Conclusion

The Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse provides intelligence information and statistical analyses to Council-funded task forces and the Illinois law enforcement community. Since the program began in July 1992, the unit has responded to 2,441 information requests, an average of more than 300 requests per year.