



**Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority  
Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (RATT) Program**

**PRESS RELEASE**



February 5, 2008

For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:** Michelle Lanham, Program Manager  
Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority RATT Program  
Phone: 800-227-9282 or 817-695-9166

## 2007 TOP TEN TEXAS STOLEN VEHICLES

**(Arlington, TX)** Pickups are not only popular among Texas drivers, they are also top targets for Texas vehicle thieves! The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has released its final MVT19 report on the top vehicles reported stolen in Texas during 2007. The MVT19 report is compiled monthly by DPS and represents vehicle theft data entered into the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) by all Texas law enforcement agencies. An error margin of + or – 5% is assumed for incorrect entries by agencies. Based on the reports, as has been the case for many years, pickup trucks top the list of thieves' most common targets for the year. Coming in at No. 1 was the Ford Pickup followed closely by the Chevrolet Pickup at No. 2. In the No. 3 position, the Dodge Pickup also remains a popular target for Texas thieves. The Honda Accord and the Honda Civic round out the top five stolen vehicles. Please note that if motorcycle theft totals were included, the Honda and Yamaha motorcycles would rank No. 9 and No. 10 respectively in the overall list.

The complete top ten list of most stolen passenger vehicles includes:

### 2007 TEXAS TOP 10 STOLEN VEHICLES

1. Ford Pickup
2. Chevrolet Pickup
3. Dodge Pickup
4. Honda Accord
5. Honda Civic
6. Chevrolet Tahoe
7. GMC Pickup
8. Ford Taurus
9. Toyota Camry
10. Ford Mustang

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, and contrary to popular belief, the most stolen vehicles are several years old. Some are stolen and stripped for parts. Others are stolen and resold by thieves to unsuspecting buyers. Many vehicles are stolen for joyriding, for use in committing other crimes, to perpetrate insurance fraud, or for other illegitimate purposes. And vehicle theft costs Texans more money than any other crime – over \$900 million in 2006.

Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) personnel strongly encourage Texas drivers to practice vehicle crimes prevention. According to ABTPA Director Susan Sampson, "Auto thieves are looking for 'the easy take.' So it is more important than ever that drivers practice common sense and utilize practical prevention methods such as locking doors, taking keys, and hiding all items that may be desirable to a thief."

The Texas ABTPA, an office of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT), has funded law enforcement programs specializing in vehicle crimes investigation, recovery, prevention and prosecution since 1991. Since then, Texas has realized a 42% reduction in the vehicle theft total and a 59% reduction in the vehicle theft rate based on the number of registered vehicles in the state. Throughout the years, ABTPA has worked closely with local, state, and national agencies to reduce auto theft and burglary. Currently, ABTPA funds 30 grant programs, allowing over 150 law enforcement officers throughout Texas to focus exclusively on the resolution of vehicle crimes cases.

To locate and contact the ABTPA task force in your area regarding vehicle crimes, to arrange an interview, to acquire "Lock, Take, Hide" PSAs, or for more information on statistics and prevention, contact Michelle Lanham with ABTPA's RATT program at 800-CAR-WATCH.

###