

State of Connecticut Motor Vehicle Theft Trends

Including Preliminary 2021 Data

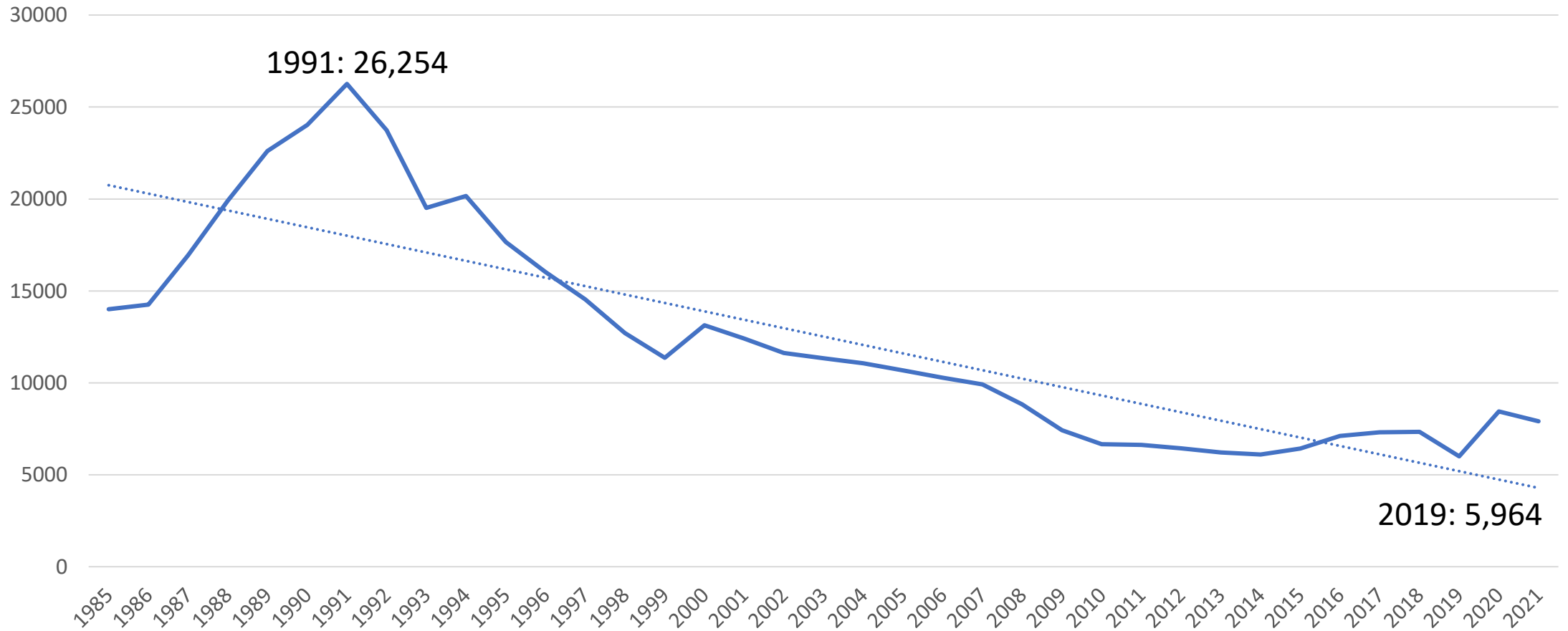
Presentation to the JJPOC

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2021 Preliminary MVT Data indicates a decrease in 2021

- Preliminary data from the state and publicly reported comp stat data for some departments indicates a decrease in 2021.
 - Crime statistics for 2021 will not be finalized for several months, however, preliminary data and projections of outstanding data indicate a decrease between 4% and 10%.
 - Projections indicate that approximately 57 of the 94 municipalities with a municipal police departments will experience a decrease in auto thefts.

Motor Vehicle Thefts: 1985-2021*



*2021 Motor Vehicle Theft Data is a projection based on preliminary data provided by DESPP and publicly available comp stat reports.

Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford had different MVT trends over the last two years

- According to departmental comp stat reports for 2021:
 - Hartford and New Haven saw an 11% and 15% decrease in auto thefts compared to 2020.
 - New Haven has been an outlier amongst the largest cities in CT over the last two years. They experienced a 6% increase in thefts in 2020 (far below the state average) and a 15% decrease in 2021.
 - Bridgeport saw an 11% increase in auto theft in 2021.
 - It is worth noting that Bridgeport only experienced a 4% increase between 2019 and 2020, while Hartford experienced a 22% increase.
 - The auto theft increase experienced in the central part of the state appears to have lagged in Fairfield County.

Preliminary data indicates a decrease in MVT in Central CT

- The Central Connecticut region was particularly impacted by an increase in auto thefts between 2019 and 2020. Hartford County experienced a 53% increase between 2019 and 2020 (significantly higher than the state average).
- Preliminary data indicates a 14% decrease in auto thefts in Hartford County in 2021 (18 of 25 towns are projected to have a decrease in thefts).
 - Glastonbury saw one of the largest one-year increases in auto thefts between 2019 (22 thefts) and 2020 (80 thefts)- 263% increase. According to department crime stats publicly reported for 2021, there were 39 auto thefts. This would also be one of the largest one-year decreases- 51% decrease.

MVTs have some of the lowest clearance rates of all property crime.

- Motor vehicle thefts are reported at a higher rate than most other crimes but has one of the lowest clearance rates.
 - In 2020 the state clearance rate was 7.3%.
 - According to a 2018 NICB report, the recovery rate for a stolen motor vehicle is approximately 59.3%. However, it is hard to nail down a specific number since vehicles are recovered daily.
- The historically low clearance rate is an indication that increased penalties for these offenses will likely have little or no impact on the overall offense rate.

Conclusions

- As the 2020 data indicated, the increase in MVT was directly related to the impacts of the pandemic.
 - The increase began in April and May 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Motor Vehicle Thefts were up across the country in 2020.
- Preliminary data indicates that MVT began to decrease in the second half of 2021.
- If the COVID-19 pandemic continues to remain under control, it is likely that MVTs will continue to decline through 2022.