



# Motor Vehicle Theft, 2019 to 2023

## Executive Summary

The number of reported incidents of motor vehicle theft and the incident rate per 100,000 people have steadily increased from 2019 to 2023. These incidents were reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System, called NIBRS.

- The region with the most reported incidents of motor vehicle theft from 2019 to 2023 was the South with 40.8 percent of total incidents.
- The region with the highest rate of incidents of motor vehicle theft was the West with 390.2 in 2023.
- The time of day with the most reported motor vehicle thefts was from 8 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., with the second most reported time from 4 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.
- The location where most motor vehicle theft incidents occurred was residence/home for each year from 2019 to 2023. For 2019 and 2020, the second most-reported location type was parking/drop lot/garage. For 2021 through 2023, highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk was the second most-reported location type.
- Demographic data for reported motor vehicle theft offenders show that 77.7 percent were male, 60.4 percent were White, and 85.6 percent were adults.
- Both the total number of carjacking incidents and the rate of incidents per 100,000 people increased from 2019 to 2022 and decreased between 2022 and 2023.

## Introduction

For more than nine decades, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has collected and published voluntary data submissions from non-federal law enforcement agencies to increase awareness about the types and frequencies of crime occurring in the nation each year. Incidents of motor vehicle theft included in this report are from NIBRS. Participation in NIBRS is voluntary for non-federal law enforcement agencies but mandatory for federal law enforcement agencies. As of 2023, there were 14,039 agencies submitting their crime data to NIBRS. Reporting agencies cover a population of 278,449,430 people.

Motor vehicle theft is categorized as a property crime offense and defined in the *NIBRS User Manual* as *the theft of a motor vehicle*. The following automobiles were included in this analysis:



automobiles,<sup>1</sup> buses,<sup>2</sup> recreational vehicles,<sup>3</sup> trucks,<sup>4</sup> and other motor vehicles.<sup>5</sup> The report provides information concerning motor vehicle theft and trends on carjacking.

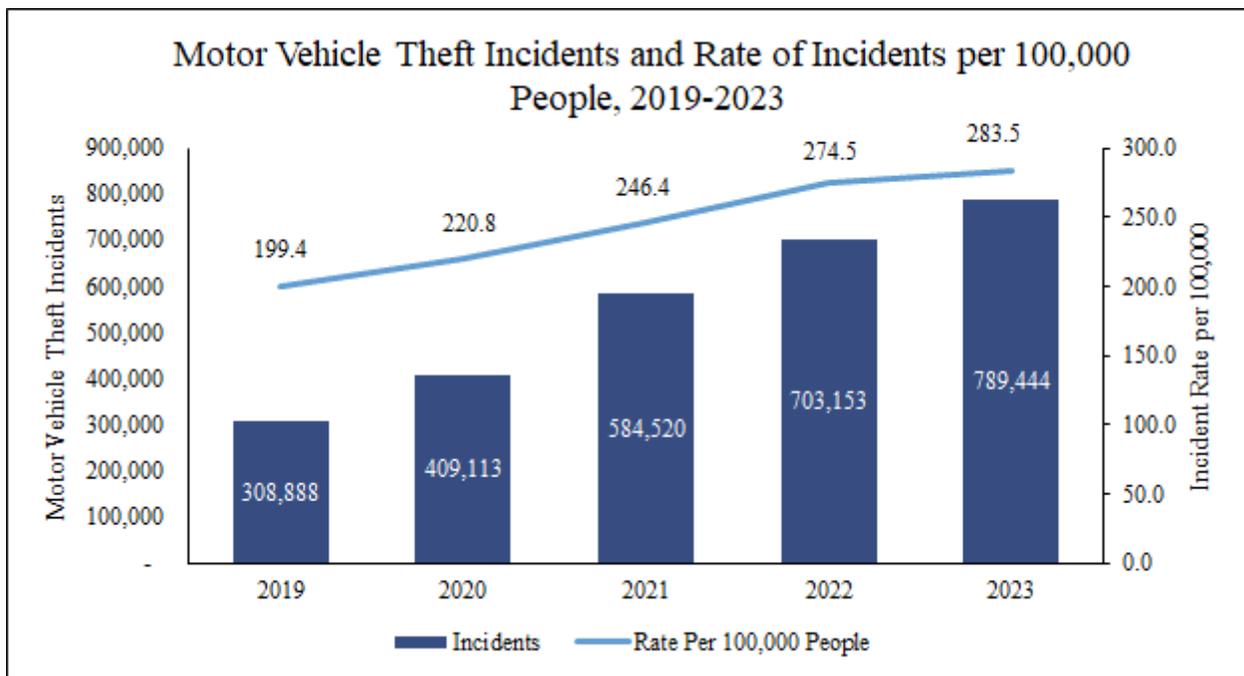
## Overall Numbers and Trends of Incidents

From 2019 to 2023, as more agencies began participating in NIBRS, the population covered by NIBRS reporting agencies increased by 79.7 percent. The total number of incidents are reported alongside rates per 100,000 people to allow for comparison between years.

### Nationwide Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents

Both the total number of reported incidents per year and the rate of incidents per 100,000 people have steadily increased from 2019 to 2023. The top three types of motor vehicles stolen from 2019 to 2023 were automobiles at 78.1 percent, trucks at 12.2 percent, and other motor vehicles at 8.0 percent.

Figure 1. Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents, by Year, by Rate per 100,000 People, 2019-2023



<sup>1</sup> Sedans, coupes, station wagons, convertibles, taxicabs, or other similar motor vehicles serving the primary purpose of transporting people.

<sup>2</sup> Motor vehicles designed to transport groups of people on a commercial basis.

<sup>3</sup> Motor vehicles designed to transport people and provide temporary lodging for recreational purposes.

<sup>4</sup> Motor vehicles designed to transport cargo on a commercial basis or transporting loads.

<sup>5</sup> Motorized vehicles such as motorcycles, motor scooters, trail bikes, mopeds, snowmobiles, motorized golf carts, motorized wheelchairs, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, Segways®, etc.

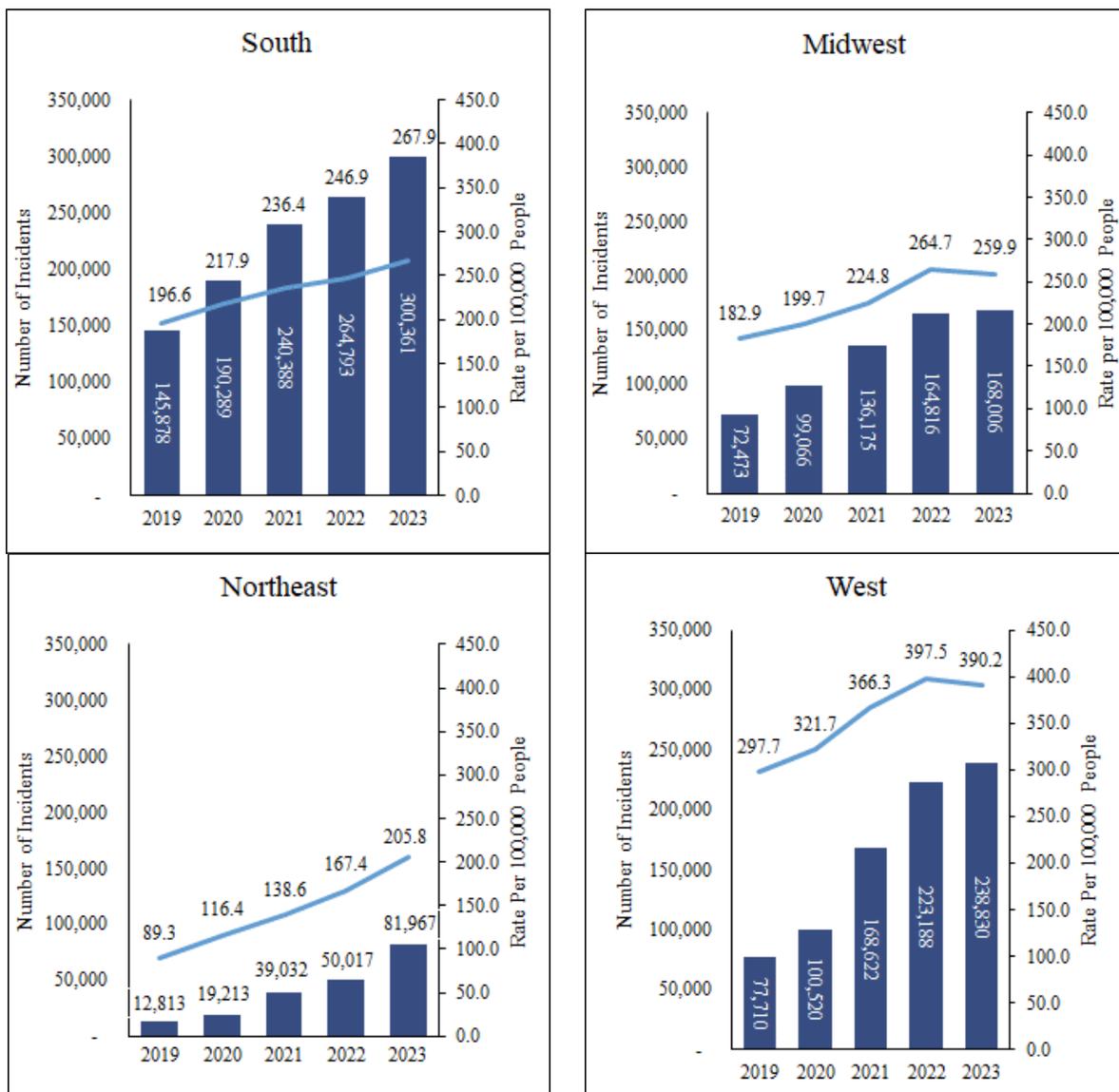


### Regional Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents

From 2019 to 2023, the South reported the most incidents of motor vehicle theft (1,141,709), and the Northeast reported the fewest incidents (203,042). The rate of motor vehicle theft was highest in the West (397.5), while the Northeast had the lowest (89.3). All regions reported an increase in the rate of motor vehicle thefts from 2019 to 2022, but between 2022 and 2023, the West and Midwest had small decreases in their rates, (7.3) and (4.8), respectively.

Figure 2. Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents, by Year, by Rate, by Region, 2019-2023.

### Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents, by Year, by Rate, by Region, 2019-2023





### Monthly Number of Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents

In 2019, the month with the highest reported number of motor vehicle theft incidents (28,882) was July. In both 2020 and 2021, the month with the highest reported number of motor vehicle theft incidents was December (41,163 and 55,492, respectively); the second and third highest reported months were October (39,622 and 55,320, respectively) and November (39,599 and 54,045, respectively). In 2022, October had the highest number of motor vehicle theft incidents with 63,964 reported incidents. In 2023, July had the highest reported number of motor vehicle theft incidents with 74,163 incidents; August was the second highest month at 72,159 reported incidents.

*Figure 3. Motor Vehicle Thefts by Month, 2019–2023.*

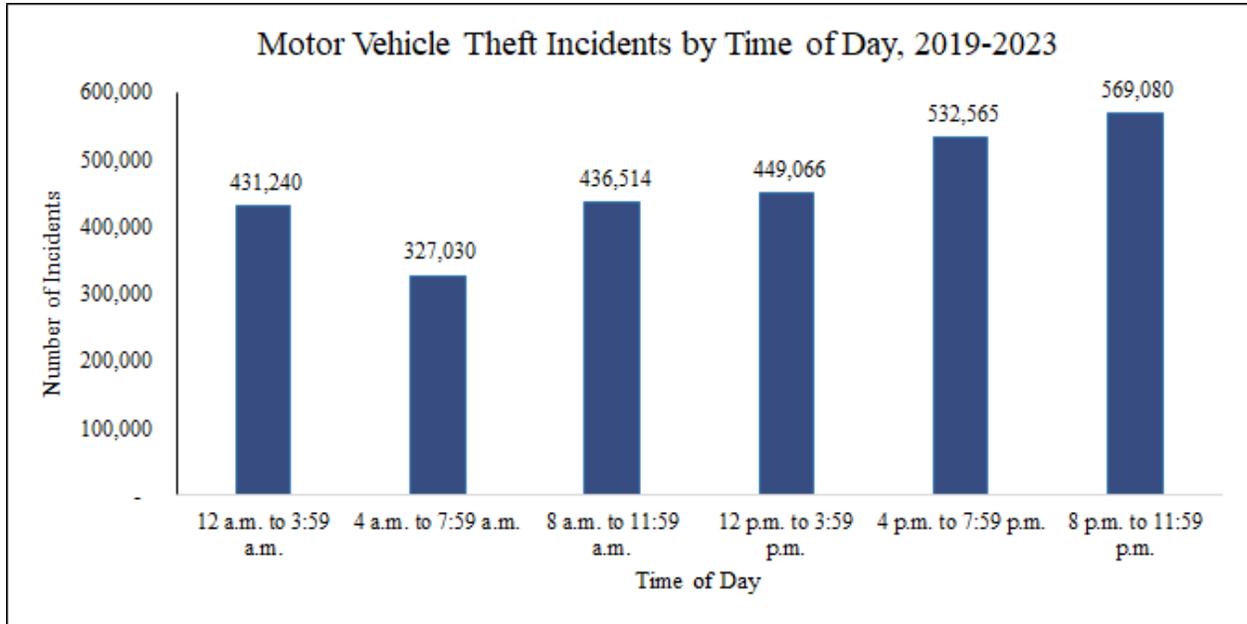
Motor Vehicle Thefts by Month, 2019–2023			
Year	Highest Reported Month	Second Highest Reported Month	Third Highest Reported Month
2019	July	August	December
2020	December	October	November
2021	December	October	November
2022	October	July	August
2023	July	August	June



### Number of Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents by Time of Day

From 2019 to 2023, the time of day with the most reported motor vehicle thefts was from 8 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.; the second most reported timeframe motor vehicle thefts occurred was from 4 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.

Figure 4. Motor Vehicle Thefts, by Time of Day, 2019–2023.

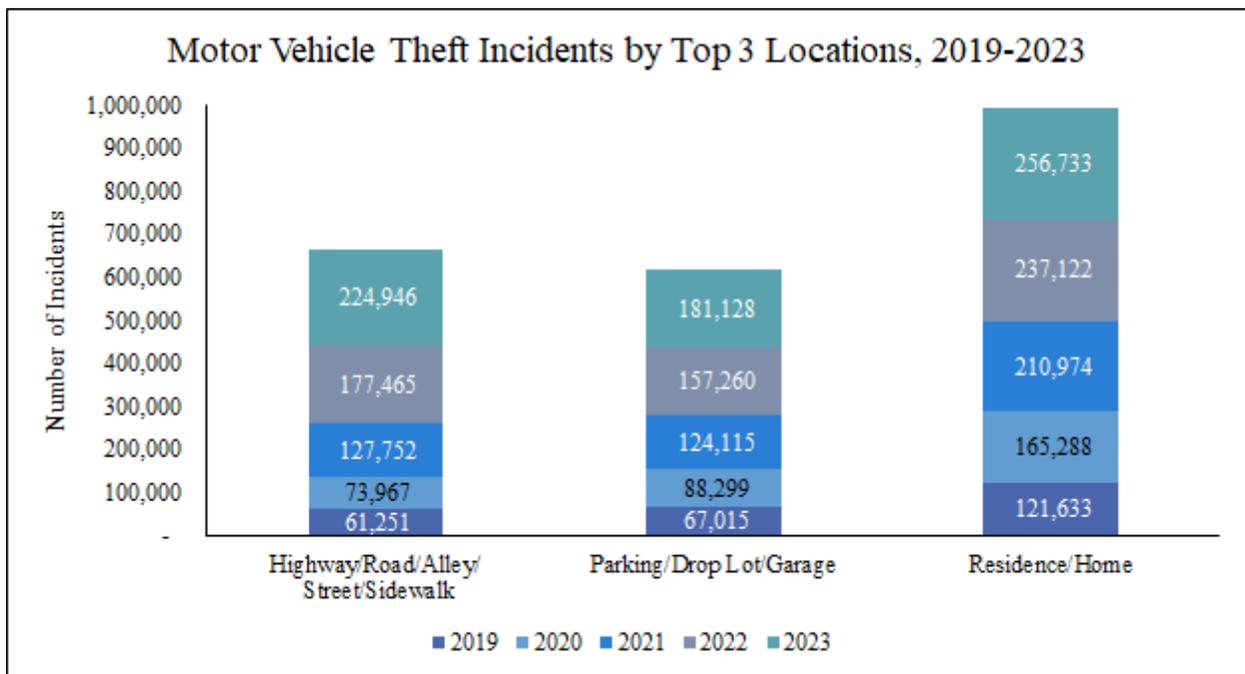




### Location of Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents

The location types where motor vehicle thefts occurred were separated into 44 categories. For all five years, more motor vehicle thefts occurred at residence/home than any other location. In 2019 and 2020, parking/drop lot/garage was the second most reported location where these thefts occurred; highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk was the third most reported location. Beginning in 2021 through 2023, the location with the second most motor vehicle theft incidents shifted to highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk, while parking/drop lot/garage became the third most reported location of incidents.

Figure 5. Motor Vehicle Thefts, Incidents by Top 3 Locations, 2019–2023.



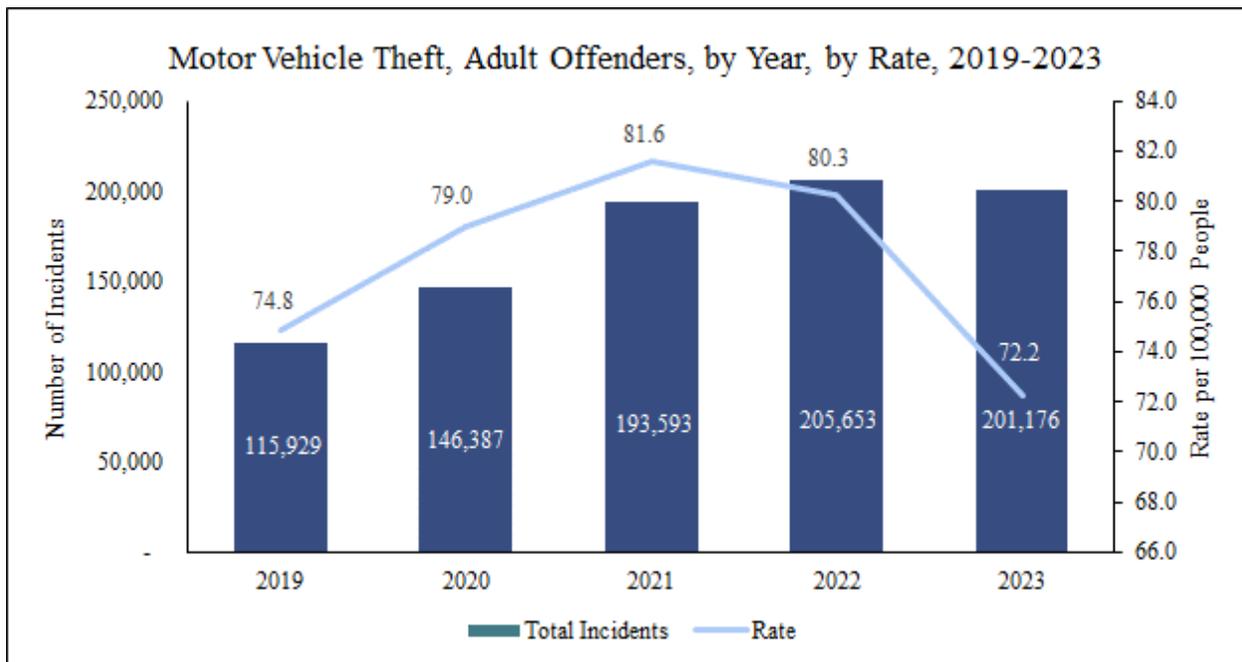


## Offender Information

Demographic information (age, sex, and race<sup>6</sup>) about the known offenders<sup>7</sup> of reported motor vehicle thefts was collected from 2019 to 2023.

The ages of the offenders were categorized as juvenile (17 years and younger) and adult (18 years and older). From 2019 to 2021, the rate of adult offenders rose, and the rate of juvenile offenders fell. From 2021 to 2023, this trend reversed as the rate of juvenile offenders rose, and the rate of adult offenders fell.

Figure 6. Motor Vehicle Theft, Adult Offenders, by Year, by Rate, 2019-2023.

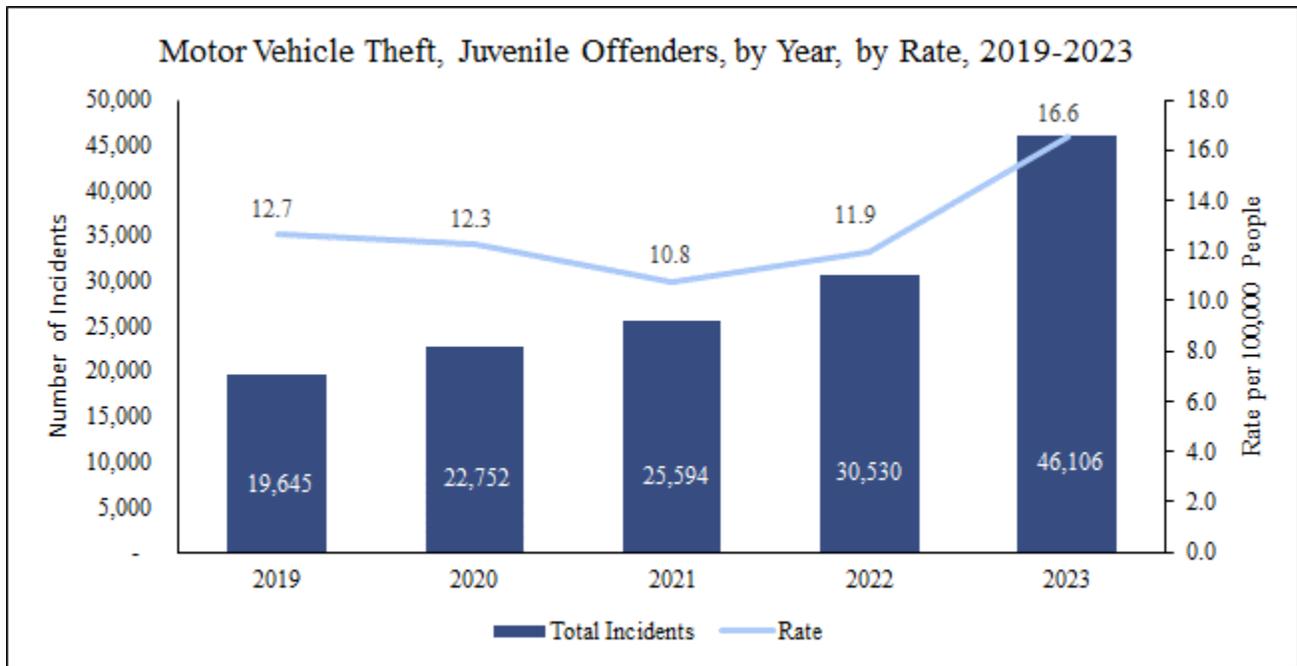


<sup>6</sup> The sex of the offender was unknown or not reported for 67.0 percent of the offenders. The race of the offender was unknown or not specified for 69.5 percent of the offenders. The age of the offender was unknown or not specified for 17.4 percent of the offenders.

<sup>7</sup> The term “known offender” does not imply the identity of the suspect is known, but only that an attribute of the suspect has been identified which distinguishes him/her from an unknown offender.



Figure 7. Motor Vehicle Theft, Juvenile Offenders, by Year, by Rate, 2019-2023.



During the five-year span from 2019 to 2023, 77.7 percent of the known offenders were male, and 22.3 percent were female.

Figure 8. Motor Vehicle Theft, Offenders by Sex, 2019-2023.

Motor Vehicle Theft, Offenders by Sex, 2019-2023					
Sex	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	33,677	42,373	53,572	56,177	54,320
Male	107,758	139,918	184,622	195,174	210,664



Figure 9. Motor Vehicle Theft Offenders by Race, 2019 to 2023.

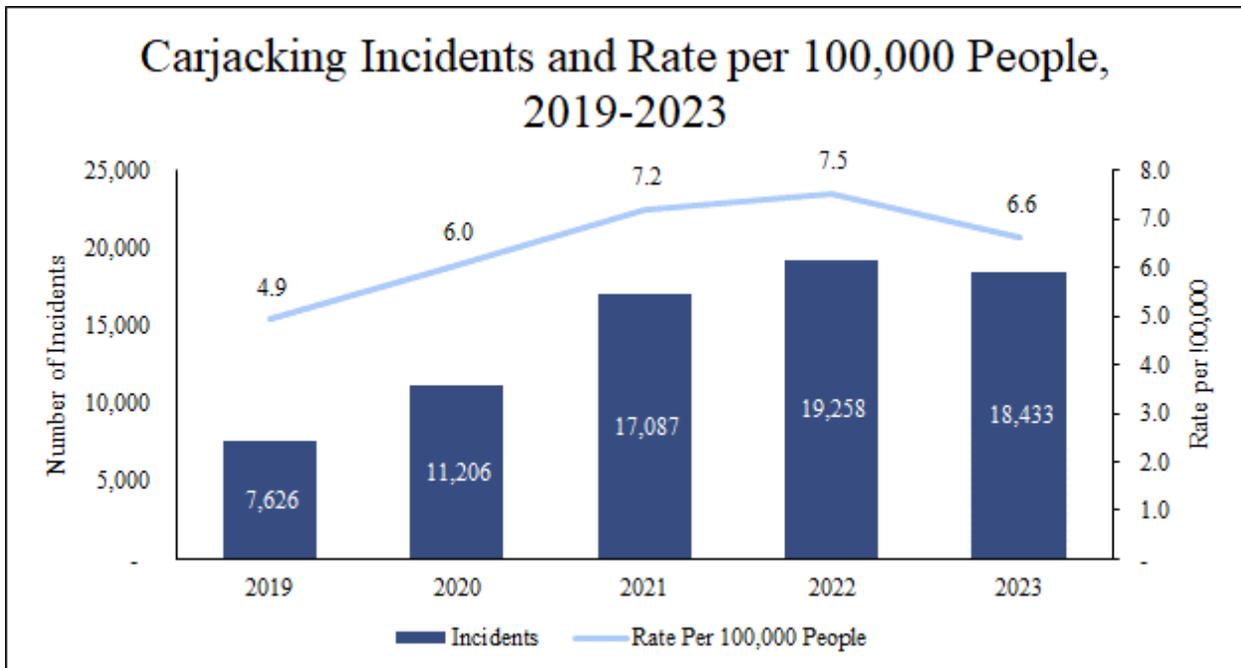
Motor Vehicle Theft, Offenders by Race, 2019-2023	
Race	Offenders
American Indian or Alaskan Native	17,935
Asian	9,436
Black	362,336
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5,376
White	601,642

### Carjacking, 2019-2023

The UCR Program defines carjacking as a robbery offense where the property stolen is identified as a vehicle. The top three types of motor vehicles carjacked from 2019 to 2023 were automobiles (89 percent), trucks (6.9 percent), and other motor vehicles (3.2 percent).

Both the total number of carjacking incidents and the rate of incidents per 100,000 people increased from 2019 to 2022 and decreased between 2022 and 2023.

Figure 10: Carjacking Incidents and Rate per 100,000 People, 2019-2023.





## Conclusion

From 2019 to 2023, the nationwide rate of motor vehicle theft incidents rose from 199.4 incidents per 100,000 people to 283.5 incidents per 100,000 people. From 2022 to 2023, incident rates declined in the Midwest by 4.8 and the West by 7.3, respectively. The rate of juvenile offenses increased in 2022 and 2023, while the rate of adult offenses decreased during that time. Additionally, between 2022 and 2023, the rate of reported carjacking incidents declined from 7.5 to 6.6 per 100,000 people.

Reporting data on motor vehicle thefts and carjackings allows the public to gain insight and may aid law enforcement agencies in creating strategies to reduce and impede similar offenses in the future.