

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

This document presents information concerning motor vehicle theft court filings in Colorado between January 2018 and June 2022. Data concerning these filings, including associated additional charges, conviction charges, and sentences are presented in the following tables. Data were extracted from Judicial Branch's ICON data system and analyzed by the Division of Criminal Justice Office of Research and Statistics . Both district and county court filings are included. Additional data were provided by Denver county court.

Table 1, below, displays the most serious felony or misdemeanor class for motor vehicle theft charges filed by calendar year. Table 2, following, displays all crimes associated with filings that involved motor vehicle theft. Note the percentages total over 100%, as many cases have multiple charges involved. Table 3 shows the most serious single offense associated with these cases, while Table 4 displays the law class of these crimes.

**Table 1. Motor vehicle theft charges law class: Filings 2018-June 2022**

Law class	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Total	
Felony 3	2.6%	3.2%	3.9%	4.2%	5.0%	3.8%	989
Felony 4	10.3%	10.3%	10.8%	11.0%	10.8%	10.7%	2803
Felony 5	51.8%	51.0%	47.9%	46.6%	45.3%	48.5%	12753
Felony 6	32.1%	32.2%	34.5%	35.5%	35.4%	34.0%	8944
Felony	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1
Unclassified	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	24
Misd 1	2.7%	3.0%	2.6%	2.4%	3.1%	2.7%	718
Misd 2	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	59
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	26309
Total cases	4991	4946	5864	6708	3800	26309	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

- As seen, over 80% of all motor vehicle theft filings were felony 5 and felony 6 offenses.
- While few rise to the level of a felony 3 offense, the proportion made up of felony 3's has doubled between 2018 and 2022.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

**Table 2. All charges associated with motor vehicle theft filings**

Offense category	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Motor Vehicle Theft	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	26309
Felony Assault	5.4%	5.7%	5.2%	5.5%	4.2%	5.3%	1386
Homicide	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	187
Robbery	4.2%	5.0%	4.8%	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	1189
Other Violent	8.1%	7.8%	7.4%	8.1%	6.4%	7.7%	2013
Other Property	43.3%	43.0%	42.2%	39.3%	31.1%	40.2%	10576
Drugs	18.6%	19.8%	17.4%	19.0%	20.6%	18.9%	4985
Other Non-Violent	35.4%	35.3%	35.3%	33.6%	24.9%	33.4%	8786
Traffic	13.0%	13.5%	12.3%	10.8%	12.5%	12.3%	3242
Total cases	4991	4946	5864	6708	3800	26309	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

Note: Totals may exceed 100%, as each case may have multiple charges

- Filings involving motor vehicle theft often include 'other property' crimes. These crimes include burglary, other thefts, fraud, and criminal trespassing.
- Other non-violent crimes accompanied a third of all filings. These crimes include custody violations, weapons, traffic misdemeanors and felonies, vehicular eluding, bribery, and tampering with evidence.
- Violent crimes accompanied almost 20% of these cases, including homicide, robbery, assault, and kidnapping.
- Overall, drug crimes comprised 19.9% of associated crimes.
- Traffic infractions accompanied 12.3% of all motor vehicle theft filings.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

**Table 3. Most serious offense category**

Offense category	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Motor Vehicle Theft	70.1%	70.0%	70.3%	72.0%	78.4%	71.8%	18894
Felony Assault	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%	2.6%	1.6%	2.0%	530
Homicide	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	163
Robbery	3.0%	3.3%	3.5%	3.0%	2.8%	3.1%	828
Other Violent	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	202
Other Property	16.1%	16.0%	15.6%	13.8%	9.4%	14.4%	3786
Drug	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%	3.2%	2.7%	717
Other Non-Violent	5.0%	4.5%	4.8%	4.6%	3.3%	4.5%	1189
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	26309
Total cases	4991	4946	5864	6708	3800	26309	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

- The most serious offenses were identified by law class. If the law class of 2 crimes was equal, violent offenses were considered more serious.
- When motor vehicle theft is included in a court filing, it was most often the most serious crime.
- If not motor vehicle theft, other property crimes were the most serious crimes associated with these cases.

**Table 4. Most serious offense law class**

Law class	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Felony 1	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	61
Felony 2	1.1%	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	301
Felony 3	9.5%	10.2%	9.7%	9.1%	9.4%	9.6%	2514
Felony 4	16.1%	16.6%	17.2%	16.9%	14.7%	16.4%	4326
Felony 5	47.3%	45.3%	44.3%	43.7%	41.2%	44.5%	11697
Felony 6	21.5%	22.0%	23.3%	24.8%	27.7%	23.7%	6244
Drug Felony	2.52%	2.67%	2.63%	2.73%	3.11%	2.71%	713
Misdemeanor	1.72%	1.46%	1.38%	1.34%	2.63%	1.63%	429
Unclassified	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	24
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	26309
Total cases	4991	4946	5864	6708	3800	26309	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

- The most serious offense associated with these cases were usually felony 5's, followed by felony 3 and felony 4 crimes.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

## Case outcomes

As shown in Table 5, the majority of these cases resulted in a conviction. Table 6 displays all the conviction crimes in cases which included a charge for motor vehicle theft. year. Note the percentages total over 100%, as many cases may have multiple charges involved. Table 7 shows the most serious single conviction offense associated with these cases, while Table 8 displays the law class of the most serious conviction crime.

Table 9 depicts whether individuals were convicted as charged in cases in which motor vehicle theft was the most serious crime charged. The figures display the proportion of cases resulting in a motor vehicle theft conviction, and whether that conviction was for a lower-level motor vehicle theft crime than was originally charged. Also shown is the proportion of cases in which the conviction was for another crime, and whether that crime was a drug, violent, or other non-violent crime.

The primary sentences given in cases in which motor vehicle theft was the most serious conviction crime are outlined in Table 10.

**Table 5. Case dispositions**

Disposition	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Dismissed/ Not Guilty	16.1%	17.3%	18.2%	17.8%	16.8%	17.3%	3584
Convicted	83.9%	82.7%	81.8%	82.2%	83.2%	82.7%	17132
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	20716
Total cases	4602	4463	4867	4987	1797	20716	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

- Note approximately 42.5% of cases in the January-June 2022 timeframe had no finding due to the recency of these filings. The average time between filing and disposition for these cases is 7.5 months: as such, inadequate time has passed for many of these cases to be resolved.
- Another 6.7% were consolidated or closed with no prosecution.
- Of those reaching a finding, over 80% resulted in a conviction.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

**Table 6. All conviction charges\***

Offense category	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Motor Vehicle Theft	71.0%	69.1%	73.1%	74.4%	81.4%	72.8%	12478
Felony Assault	2.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.8%	1.2%	2.7%	463
Homicide	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	45
Robbery	2.8%	3.5%	3.6%	2.4%	1.9%	3.0%	508
Other Violent	3.1%	3.0%	3.3%	2.7%	2.4%	3.0%	510
Other Property	22.8%	22.0%	19.3%	17.8%	13.4%	19.8%	3387
Drugs	9.0%	8.4%	6.5%	6.8%	8.4%	7.7%	1321
Other Non-Violent	17.0%	17.1%	16.8%	16.2%	12.4%	16.4%	2805
Traffic	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%	1.5%	2.3%	2.1%	352
Total cases	3861	3691	3983	4101	1496	17132	17132

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

Note: Totals may exceed 100%, as each case may have multiple conviction charges

- As shown, the majority of convictions in cases involving a motor vehicle theft included a conviction of a motor vehicle theft crime.
- Of the 26,309 cases filed which involved a motor vehicle theft, just under half (47.4%) resulted in a motor vehicle theft conviction.
- Over a third of the convictions involved other property and other non-violent crimes.
- Few cases (approximately 5% ) included a conviction of a violent offense.

**Table 7: Most serious conviction offense category**

Offense category	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Motor Vehicle Theft	62.8%	61.1%	65.1%	67.1%	75.3%	65.1%	11149
Felony Assault	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.3%	1.1%	2.0%	344
Homicide	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	44
Robbery	2.5%	3.1%	3.3%	2.2%	1.8%	2.7%	459
Other Violent	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	1.2%	207
Other Property	17.6%	17.8%	15.3%	14.8%	10.2%	15.8%	2705
Drugs	4.5%	4.5%	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%	4.0%	683
Other Non-Violent	8.6%	9.4%	8.7%	8.6%	6.8%	8.6%	1481
Traffic	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	60
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	17132
Total cases	3861	3691	3983	4101	1496	17132	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

- Among conviction crimes, motor vehicle theft was the most serious in approximately two-thirds of cases.
- If not motor vehicle theft, another property crime was the most serious conviction crime.

**Table 8. Most serious conviction law class**

Law class	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Total	
Felony 1	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7
Felony 2	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%	98
Felony 3	3.7%	4.0%	3.2%	2.4%	2.1%	3.2%	549
Felony 4	9.4%	10.2%	10.2%	8.7%	6.3%	9.3%	1594
Felony 5	25.4%	26.2%	25.2%	23.3%	21.1%	24.6%	4221
Felony 6	26.1%	24.7%	24.7%	28.7%	31.6%	26.6%	4551
Drug Felony	3.9%	3.8%	2.6%	2.3%	2.1%	3.1%	524
Misd 1	25.9%	26.1%	28.5%	29.4%	32.0%	27.9%	4784
Other misd. /PO	4.3%	3.9%	4.6%	4.5%	4.3%	4.3%	739
Traffic	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	61
Unclassified	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	17132
Total cases	3861	3691	3983	4101	1496	17132	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

- In terms of the law class of the most serious conviction crimes, the largest proportions were among class 1 misdemeanors, closely followed by class 5 and 6 felonies.

**Table 9: Conviction outcomes**

Conviction outcomes	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Total	
MVT same law class	31.8%	31.5%	29.2%	27.6%	30.7%	30.0%	3492
MVT, lower law class	45.5%	45.2%	52.1%	53.9%	56.3%	50.1%	5824
Violent, lower law class	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%	101
Drugs, lower law class	3.4%	3.3%	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%	2.5%	295
Other non-violent, same law class	4.0%	4.7%	2.9%	3.0%	1.0%	3.4%	391
Other non-violent, lower law class	13.5%	14.0%	12.5%	12.5%	9.1%	12.7%	1477
Traffic only	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	53
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	11633
Total cases	2580	2438	2608	2836	1171	11633	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

# Motor vehicle theft filings: 2018 - 2022 (thru June)

- Note the number of convictions depicted in Table 9 is fewer than the number of convictions presented in the prior tables, as this table includes only those cases in which the motor vehicle theft was the most serious filing offense.
- In half of these convictions, a case resulted in a motor vehicle theft conviction of a lower law class, whether that charge was a separate motor vehicle theft charge or an amended charge.
- Less than a third of cases resulted in conviction of the original motor vehicle filing charge.
- Small percentages resulted in drug or violent crime convictions.
- Sixteen percent resulted in a non-violent crime conviction.

**Table 10: Most serious initial sentence**

Sentencing Penalties	% within Case year						Total Cases
	Case year					Total	
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*		
Community Corrections	8.5%	8.7%	10.2%	10.2%	8.3%	9.3%	1017
Community Service	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3
Credit for Time Served	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	22
Division of Youth Services	2.2%	2.2%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%	1.6%	179
DOC	18.6%	19.8%	21.2%	19.2%	20.7%	19.8%	2156
Else	0.5%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%	0.6%	60
Fines/fees	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.0%	1.4%	1.3%	139
Jail	21.9%	23.3%	23.6%	24.6%	23.5%	23.4%	2545
Juvenile Detention	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	43
Probation/Deferral	45.8%	42.9%	41.2%	43.3%	43.6%	43.3%	4711
YOS	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	13
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	10888
Total cases	2400	2223	2556	2668	1041	10888	-

\* Only filings which occurred between January and June of 2022 are included.

Note: Sentencing data are not available for cases filed in Denver county court. Additionally, 6.7% of cases filed and disposed in 2022 were awaiting sentencing at the time of this report.

- Suspended, set aside, and vacated sentences are excluded.
- The largest percentage of sentences were to probation.
- A quarter received a jail sentence, which is often accompanied by a sentence to probation.
- Approximately 20% were sentenced to the Department of Corrections, and another 10% to community corrections.
- Very few, less than 2%, received only fines or community service.