Motor Vehicle Theft in San Diego County

Presentation to the Public Safety Committee
September 10, 2004
Presentation Outline

• Scope of the Problem
• Current Strategies
• Potential Regional Strategies
One in Four Property Crimes Were Motor Vehicle Thefts in 2003

Total = 96,622 Property Crimes

- Larceny Theft: 24%
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 56%
- Burglary: 20%
Motor Vehicle Theft Increased 18% Over One Year

1999: 17,113
2000: 17,038
2001: 19,421
2002: 19,884
2003: 23,466
This One Year Increase Was the Highest for Property Crimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Many Motor Vehicle Thieves Share a Similar Profile

- Nine out of ten had prior convictions
- Two-thirds steal vehicles with others
- Primary motivations: transportation, sell, commit a crime
- Three-quarters under the influence (most often meth)
Motor Vehicle Thieves More Likely to Test Positive for Meth in Jail

- Motor Vehicle Theft Charge: 60%
- Other Charge: 34%
The Motor Vehicle Theft Clearance Rate Is Significantly Lower Than the Vehicle Recover Rate

- 96% Cleared
- 4% Not Cleared
- 72% Recovered
- 28% Not Recovered
$41 Million Worth of Stolen Vehicles Were Not Recovered in 2003

**Dollar Value of Property Stolen**

- 1999: $74
- 2000: $106
- 2001: $106
- 2002: $144
- 2003: $144

**Dollar Value of Property Recovered**

- 1999: $74
- 2000: $103
- 2001: $103
- 2002: $103
- 2003: $103
Motor Vehicle Theft Rates Increase Closer to Mexico Border
Recovery Rates for Cars Also Decline Closer to the Border
Recovery Rates for Trucks and SUVs Lower Than Cars
Thefts Close to Border More Likely to be Transported to Mexico
Current Strategies

• Targeted Hot Spot Enforcement
  - Meth users (patrol)
  - Organized crime rings (RATT)

• Increase Perception of Risk

• Harden Attractive Targets (CPTED)
Potential Regional Strategies

• Implement crime-reduction strategies in local and regional plans

• Develop new solutions that reduce the use of methamphetamine

• Consider new methods that encourage greater access control of parking lots
Potential Strategies Continued

• Increase coordination with state and federal agencies, as well as other potential partners

• Improve system for reporting stolen vehicles and analyzing this information

• Coordinate a regional educational campaign