



# State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice

Kevin T. Kane, Chief State's Attorney

## **Juvenile Auto Theft**

Prepared by: Francis J. Carino,  
Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney

***Connecticut has a juvenile auto theft problem putting the public, the police and the young offenders in danger.***

# 17-Year-Old Arrested in Connection with Fatal Meriden Crash

By Alfred Branch, Patch Staff | Sep 15, 2016 3:22 pm ET



MERIDEN, CT — Rashid Abdul Bashir, a 17-year-old Meriden boy, was arrested on a warrant Wednesday in connection with the fatal Aug. 19 stolen car crash that killed the passenger Deshawn Jones.

The Meriden Record-Journal reports that Bashir was charged with reckless driving, evading responsibility, driving without a license, and traveling unreasonably fast. The crash occurred during the overnight hours on Maple Avenue.

The vehicle smashed into a tree. Jones was found at the scene and Bashir fled on foot, but was identified by police within days.

## 13-year-old killed in stolen car crash in Hartford



Posted: Aug 25, 2016 6:12 AM EDT

HARTFORD, CT (WFSB) -

A street in Hartford was closed Thursday morning following a deadly crash that involved teens and stolen vehicles.

A 13-year-old, believed to have been the driver, was killed according to police.

"This is the unfortunate thing," said Deputy Chief Brian Foley, Hartford police. 'A 13-year-old driving at 3:30 in the morning in the City of Hartford and out stealing cars.

These are the inherent dangers that come with that type of behavior. [It's] just a sad situation for the family."

He said the driver was pronounced dead at the scene. A 15-year-old passenger was said to be badly burned.

The crash involved two cars that were stolen from apartments in Middletown, police said.

Officials said the cars were driven through four towns before the crash.

It's unclear what led to the crash. A 2006 Subaru knocked down a utility pole and caught fire.

The 15-year-old victim was brought by the driver of the second stolen car, to St. Francis Hospital. The second driver fled.

# Community rallies for peace after police-involved shooting



## BRIDGEPORT -

Community leaders stood side by side with the Bridgeport police chief and Mayor Joseph Ganim Wednesday as they promised full transparency following a fatal officer-involved shooting in the Park City.

The shooting took place around 5 p.m. Tuesday on Fairfield Avenue.

As News 12 reported, the driver of a reportedly stolen vehicle refused to stop when officers attempted to pull it over. A brief chase then ensued until police boxed in the car on Fairfield Avenue.

Police say that as two officers approached the car, the driver put the vehicle in reverse, hitting one officer and forcing action from the other. The driver of the car, 16-year-old Jayson Negrón, died at the scene.

# Search on for 6 Teens After Crash Took Woman's Leg, Injured Man



Police are searching for six teens after a man and woman were struck Tuesday and badly injured while walking on the sidewalk on Ashley Street at Sigourney Street in Hartford.

Police said the teens were in a Toyota Highlander that was **stolen from West Hartford** when they hit the victims. A video shows the car jump the curb around 1 p.m. Tuesday, drive toward a crowd standing near a bus stop and hit the victims. After the crash, the teens fled from the car and ran off, according to police.

The woman, who is in her late 50s, lost one of her legs after it was severed from the impact of the SUV and the man is in critical condition but is expected to survive, police said.

# Teen Charged in Crash That Killed Connecticut Woman

Published at 11:01 AM EDT on Jul 30, 2017

Police believe six teens were in the Toyota, which was stolen out of West Hartford, but they all fled the scene of the crash. Through surveillance video police identified the person behind the wheel as 18-year-old Deykevious Russaw.

Russaw was already behind bars on an unrelated case. Because he was juvenile at the time, police will not release the circumstances surrounding that arrest.

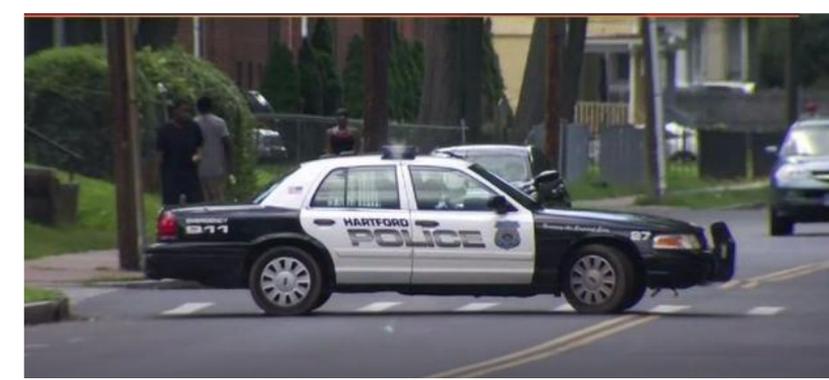
But a source close to the investigation said he was one of two teens arrested for the shooting death of 63-year-old Jeffrey Worrel of Hartford on July 16 in the Westland Street area. He faces a murder charge in that case.

Russaw was originally charged with first-degree assault, second-degree larceny, evading responsibility, reckless driving and operating without a license for the crash. Police said a new arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for charges of second-degree manslaughter, second-degree larceny, evading the scene of an accident, reckless driving, and operating a motor vehicle without a license. He was assigned a \$1.5 million bond.



# 2 Teens Charged With Murder of Bystander in Hartford Park

Published at 9:38 PM EDT on Jul 19, 2017 |



A 16-year old Middletown boy and an 18-year-old Hartford man were arrested Wednesday and charged in the shooting death of a 63-year-old man in Hartford on Sunday afternoon.

Police said Thursday morning that the suspects were randomly shooting at a group of teens when the victim, Jeffrey Worrell, was struck.

Both teens have been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder and are being held on million dollar bonds and are expected in court today. Police said one of the teens was the shooter and the other was the driver.

Both teens have juvenile arrest histories, which include charges for stolen cars.

During the search for a person wanted for questioning in the homicide Tuesday, two Hartford police cruisers were damaged and several police officers were nearly struck, according to police.

The driver was able to get away, but police were able to locate the stolen car in New Britain, where three youths ran into a house, police said. Police located three juveniles hiding in a bathroom, Foley said. Police said the car had been stolen from Southington.

***Isolated incidents?***



# Police Search for Juvenile in Stolen Car Who Hit Officer in Hebron

Published at 11:15 PM EDT on Jun 6, 2017

State police said a Hebron resident trooper was helping Manchester officers take a juvenile into custody in the area of East Street in Hebron when the juvenile appeared on East Street, driving a 2001 Mercedes E320 that had been reported stolen in Manchester.

A Manchester officer tried to box the car in a private driveway, but the juvenile backed the vehicle up, then drove forward and hit the officer's door, causing minor injury to the officer, state troopers said.

The officer, who was in uniform, was standing between the open car door and the driver's compartment of the unmarked police vehicle when it happened, police said.

The juvenile then sped off and onto Interstate 384 West, police said.

## **Police believe girl shot Monday morning was part of teenage gang**

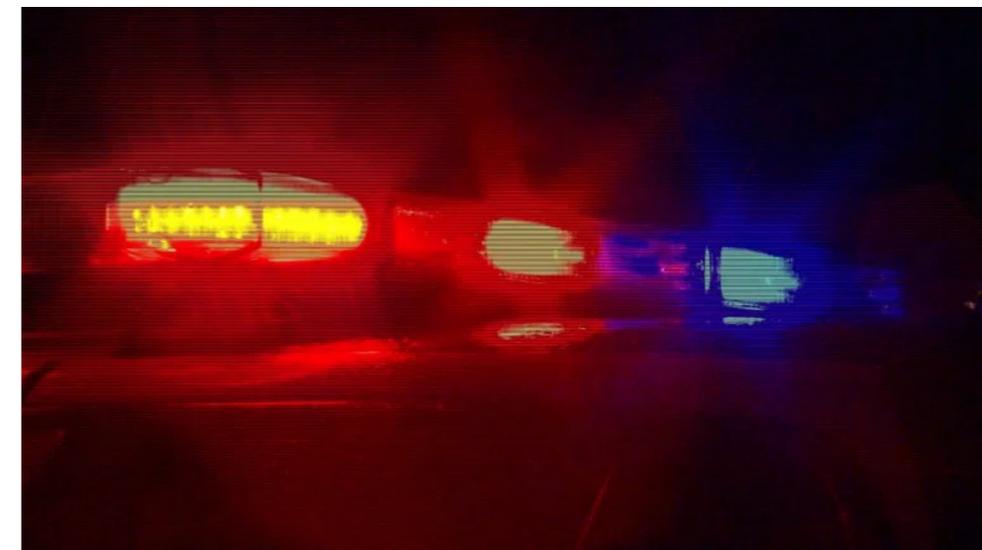
The 15-year-old Waterbury girl who was shot in the back during an attempted car theft early Monday morning on Hulda Lane is believed to be part of a group of criminals responsible for several stolen cars in the area, police said.

“The girl who received the gunshot wound was part of a group of individuals that we believe were involved in criminal activity,” Ridgefield Police Capt. Jeff Kreitz said Wednesday, June 7.



# Five teens arrested after high-speed chase through Trumbull and Bridgeport

POSTED 10:29 PM, AUGUST 13, 2017, BY DOUG STEWART,



TRUMBULL — Five teens were arrested after a high-speed chase through Trumbull and Bridgeport.

Police say it started in the parking lot of the Westfield Trumbull Mall, when a teen grabbed a woman's purse through her open car window as she sat inside.

He took off in a waiting BMW reportedly stolen from New Canaan, speeding through the parking lot, touching off a high speed chase for miles, until police stopped them on Route 25.

The teens, all from Waterbury and Hartford, are charged with larceny and interfering with an officer. Police believe both the stolen car and the suspects have been involved in similar crimes. and are investigating.

# Operation Nets 9 Stolen Cars In Hartford; Two Juveniles Arrested

Nicholas Rondinone August 22, 2017

An all-day auto-theft operation netted nine stolen cars in the city on Monday, and two juveniles were arrested, police said.

Members of the Major Crimes Division's Auto Theft Unit, working with the Traffic Division and community service officers from both the North and South ends, conducted the "saturation" detail, police said.

The two juveniles arrested were operating stolen vehicles at the time they were stopped, police said.

Investigators developed information about additional stolen vehicles and expect to make more arrests.

The operation comes at a time when stolen cars driven by juveniles have been associated with other dangerous crimes.

Last month, a 56-year-old city woman waiting for a bus on Ashley Street was hit by a stolen SUV. She later died from her injuries.

# Juveniles stole car in New Canaan, took it to Southbury

Posted: Oct 23, 2017 10:29 AM EDT

NEW CANAAN -

Three juveniles have been arrested and are accused of stealing a car in New Canaan and taking it to Southbury.

New Canaan police contacted state police to help locate a 2017 BMW stolen on Oct. 19.

Troopers found the stolen car on Beacon Hill Road in Southbury.

Two of the juveniles were immediately taken into custody.

Two others took off, but one was arrested a short time later, while the other is still on the loose.

The juveniles range in age from 15 to 17 and are facing several charges.

They are due in Waterbury juvenile court on Nov. 2.



# PD: Hartford man shoots alleged car thief after tracking down stolen vehicle

By Matt Dillane, WTNH.com Staff Published: November 13, 2017, 4:30 pm

HARTFORD, Conn. (WTNH) — Police say a resident contacted them around 7:45 a.m. on Monday morning to report that his vehicle was stolen while it was warming up in the driveway.

According to officials, the same resident called just before 9:30 a.m. to report that he found his vehicle on Maple Avenue and had fired a gunshot.

Authorities say the resident confronted the alleged thief who was still in the vehicle. The accused allegedly pointed a firearm at the resident, at which point the car owner, had a legal gun of his own, pulled it out, and shot the driver in the head.

Officials say the suspect is a 17-year-old from New Britain with an already active arrest warrant for auto theft charges.

“I just saw our auto theft detective upstairs,” explained Hartford Police Deputy Chief Brian Foley. “I said, ‘Brandon, do you know this kid?’ He is like, ‘Yeah, we just chased him two weeks ago he fled from police and ditch the car in Government Park and got away.’”

Officials say the juvenile admitted to pointing a gun at the vehicle’s owner.

# Juveniles Arrested In Newtown Stolen Car Case After Search



NEWTOWN, Conn. -- Two juveniles were arrested in Newtown early Monday after police said they crashed a stolen car in Danbury, stole another car, and attempted to escape police by fleeing into the woods.

At around 2:30 a.m. Newtown Emergency Communications received a call from the Danbury Police Department that they had recovered a Audi that appeared to have been stolen from Baldwin Road in Newtown. The Audi was involved in a crash in Danbury, after which the occupants abandoned it and stole a Honda Civic that was parked nearby, police said.

At around 4:30 a.m., a resident in Newtown reported a suspicious car stuck in his driveway. Police arrived to see it was the stolen Honda Civic, and saw the occupants jump out and flee on foot.

Brookfield, Monroe and state police K-9s were called to the scene to search for the suspects. A perimeter was set up in the neighborhood, and Sgt. Douglas Wisentaner arrived on scene to see a Cadillac Escalade leaving a driveway. Wisentaner stopped at the end of the driveway to question to driver, at which point the Escalade spun on the front lawn and the suspects jumped out and ran into the adjacent woods.



# Juveniles arrested in Wethersfield after string of car break-ins

By Kels Dayton, WTNH.com Staff  
Published: November 24, 2017, 3:43 pm



WETHERSFIELD, Conn. (WTNH)—Two juveniles from Hartford were arrested in Wethersfield on Friday after a string of car break-ins. Police said the two were also found in a stolen car from Guilford.

The car the juveniles were driving was reported stolen about three weeks ago by someone who lives in Guilford. The juveniles were arrested by Wethersfield police, and taken into custody.

A resident told police that they saw two people breaking into cars along Coppermill Road in Wethersfield on Friday afternoon. When police responded, the two had reached Maple Street near Middletown Avenue.

# Juveniles in stolen car fled from Wethersfield crash

Posted: Dec 04, 2017 3:18 PM EST By Kaitlyn Naples



WETHERSFIELD, CT (WFSB) -

Police in Wethersfield have released video of a crash that happened around 5 p.m. on Sunday.

It happened at an intersection on the Silas Deane Highway.

Police said the "at fault" car was stolen, and was allegedly being driven by a juvenile who, with his friends, ran from the scene. Police said they were apparently not injured.

The other car was occupied by a family of three, police said, who were all taken to the hospital with injuries.

Connecticut has a juvenile auto theft problem.

Accurate statistics are hard to come by because the Judicial Branch does not identify juvenile cases as specifically “auto theft” cases.

- not all larcenies involve cars;
- larceny and other charges (i.e.: interfering with police or criminal mischief) could involve other theft offenses;
- a 16 or 17 year old juvenile involved in auto theft and charged with larceny and a title 14 motor vehicle offense (i.e.: reckless driving, engaging police in pursuit) would not be charged in the juvenile court with the title 14 motor vehicle offenses making identification difficult;

***Some statistics are available***



# CRIME

in

# Connecticut



2016

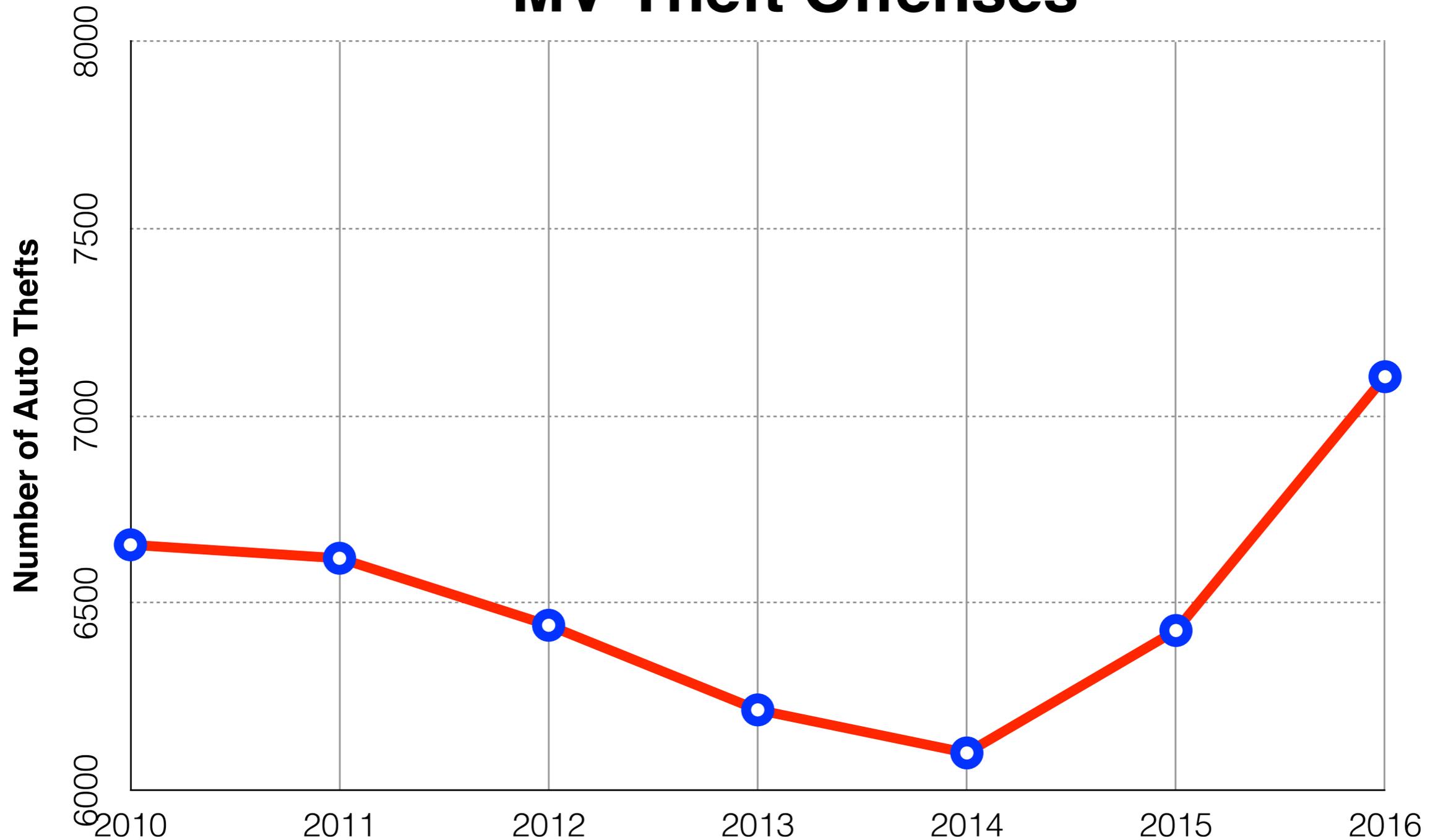
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*Annual Report of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program  
State of Connecticut  
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
Crimes Analysis Unit*

This slide shows the number of reported auto thefts in Connecticut.

- Following a decline from 2010 to 2014, the number of auto thefts increased every year since 2014 to a point considerably higher than in 2010 .

## MV Theft Offenses

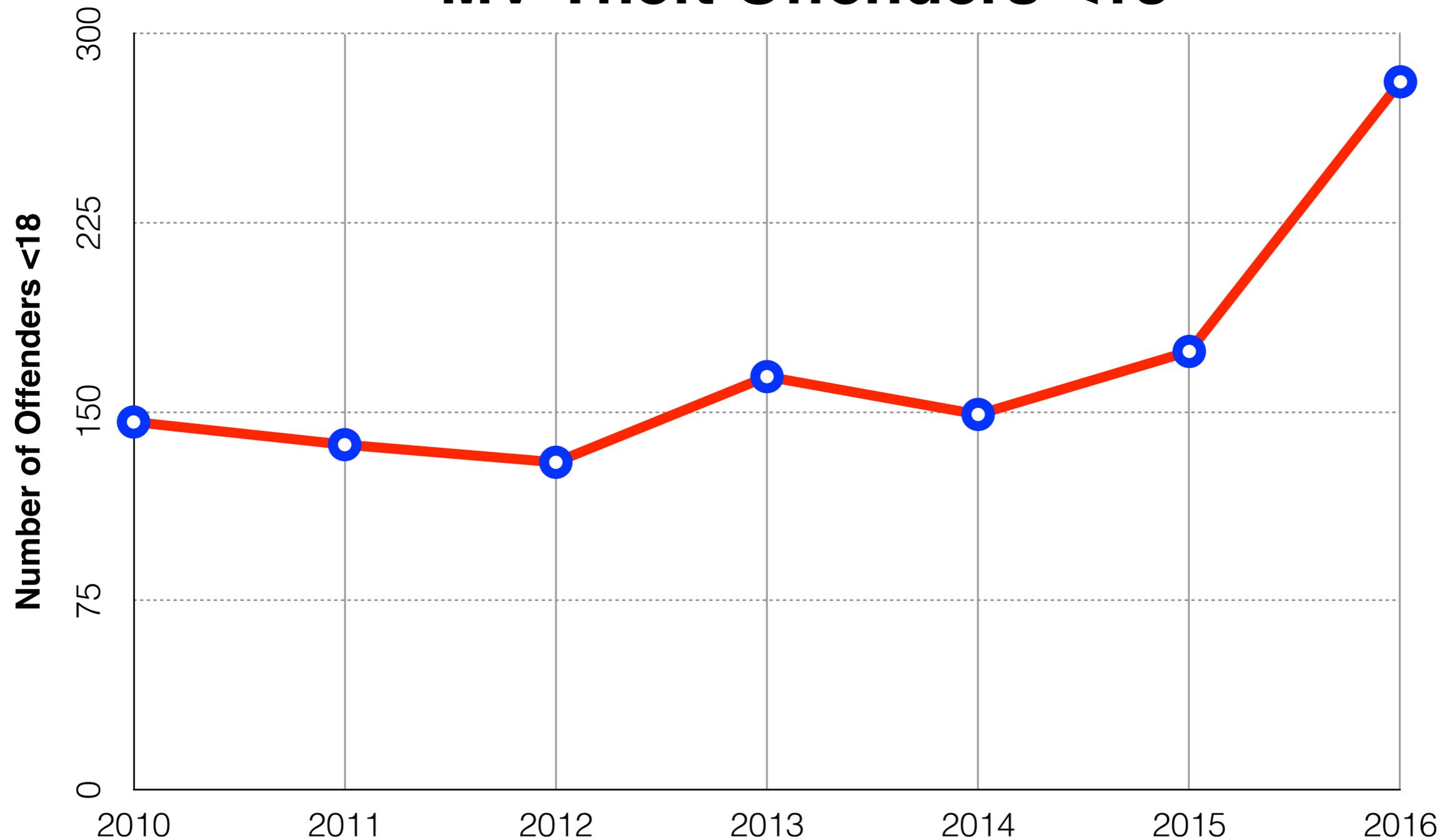


*Source: DESPP Crime In Connecticut Report – 2016 (page 14)*

This slide shows the number of auto theft offenders in Connecticut under the age of 18.

- Along with the rise in auto theft since 2014, there has been an increase in the number of auto theft offenders under the age of 18 every year since 2014 as well.

## MV Theft Offenders <18

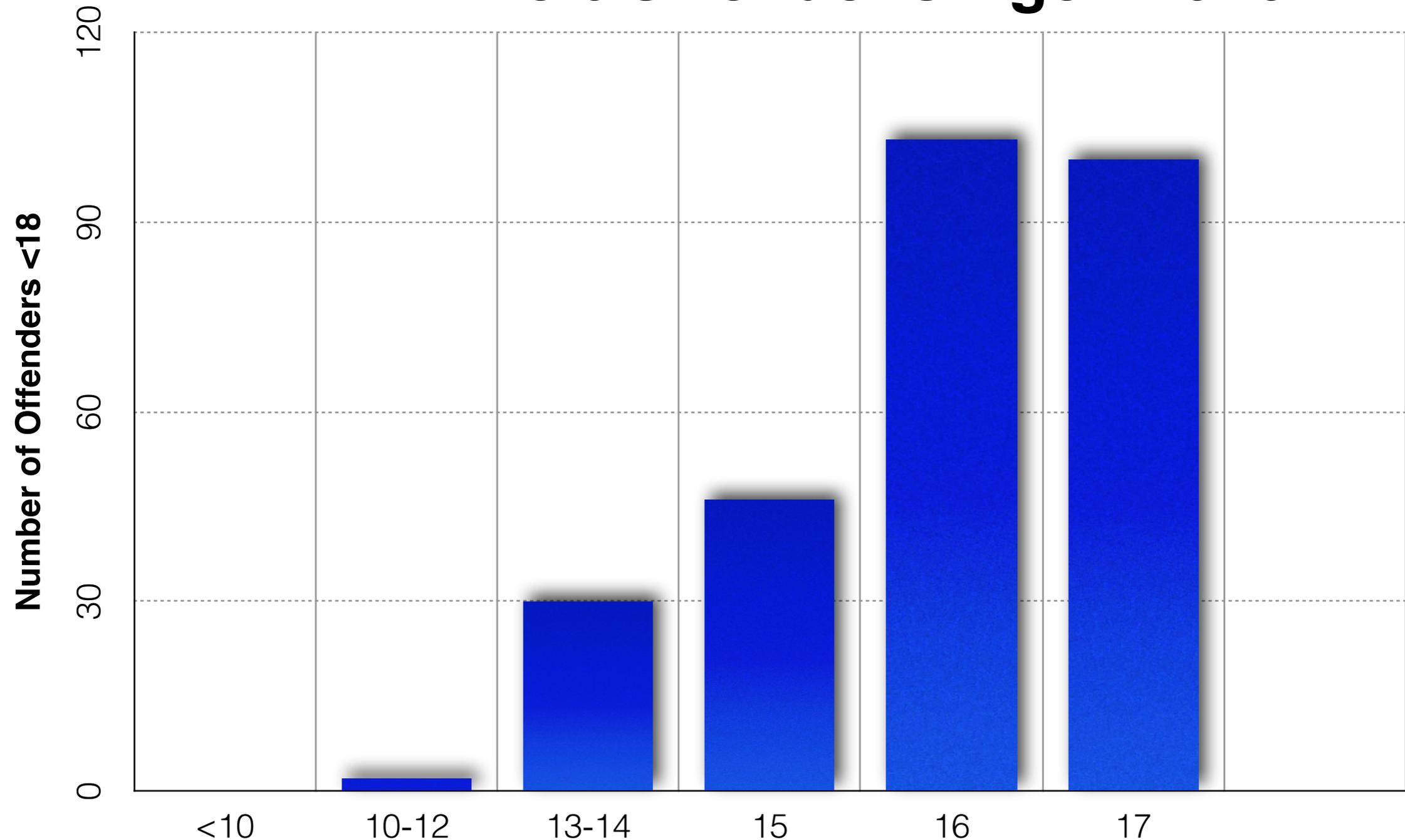


*Source: DESPP Crime In Connecticut Report – 2016 (page 26)*

This slide shows a breakdown by age of auto theft offenders in Connecticut under the age of 18 for 2016.

- The vast majority are 16 and 17 year olds, those that were recently added to the juvenile justice system.

## MV Theft Offender's Age - 2016



Source: DESPP Crime In Connecticut Report – 2016 (page 26)

***Other States***



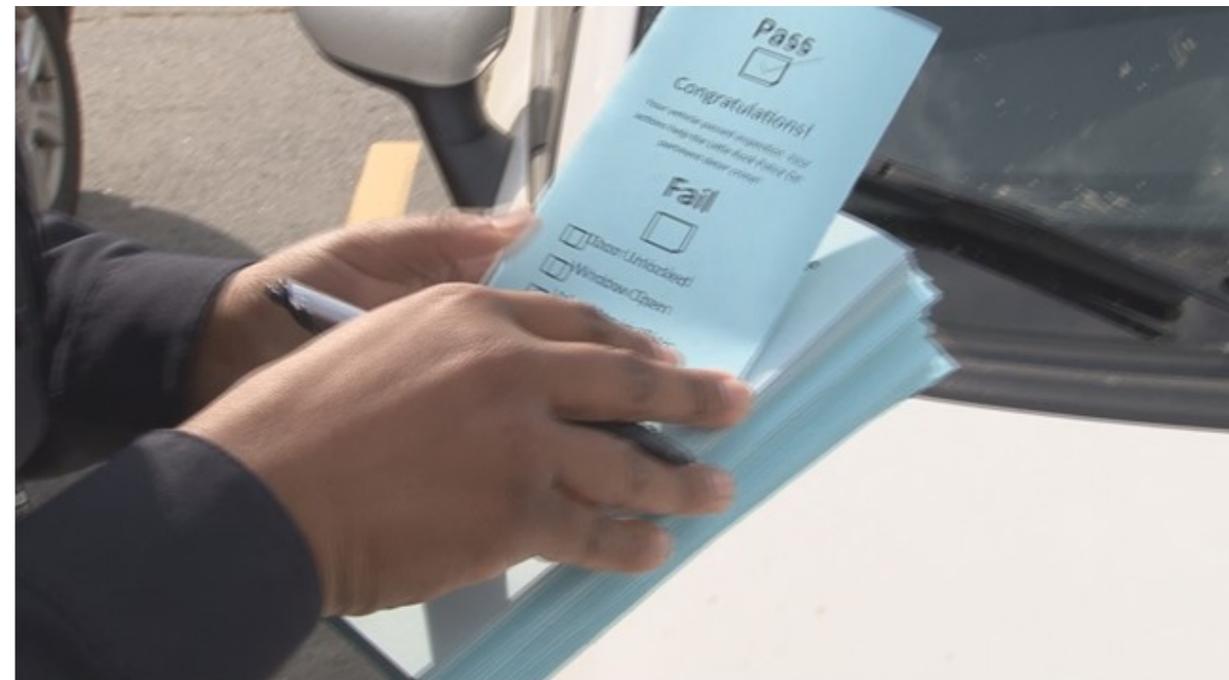
# Arkansas

## Theft Prevention Report Cards tell drivers whether or not their car is at risk for a break-in

David Lippman , KTHV 11:53 PM. CDT March 24, 2017

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (KTHV)

The Little Rock Police Department has a new way to keep you safe, one that might bring you back to your childhood.

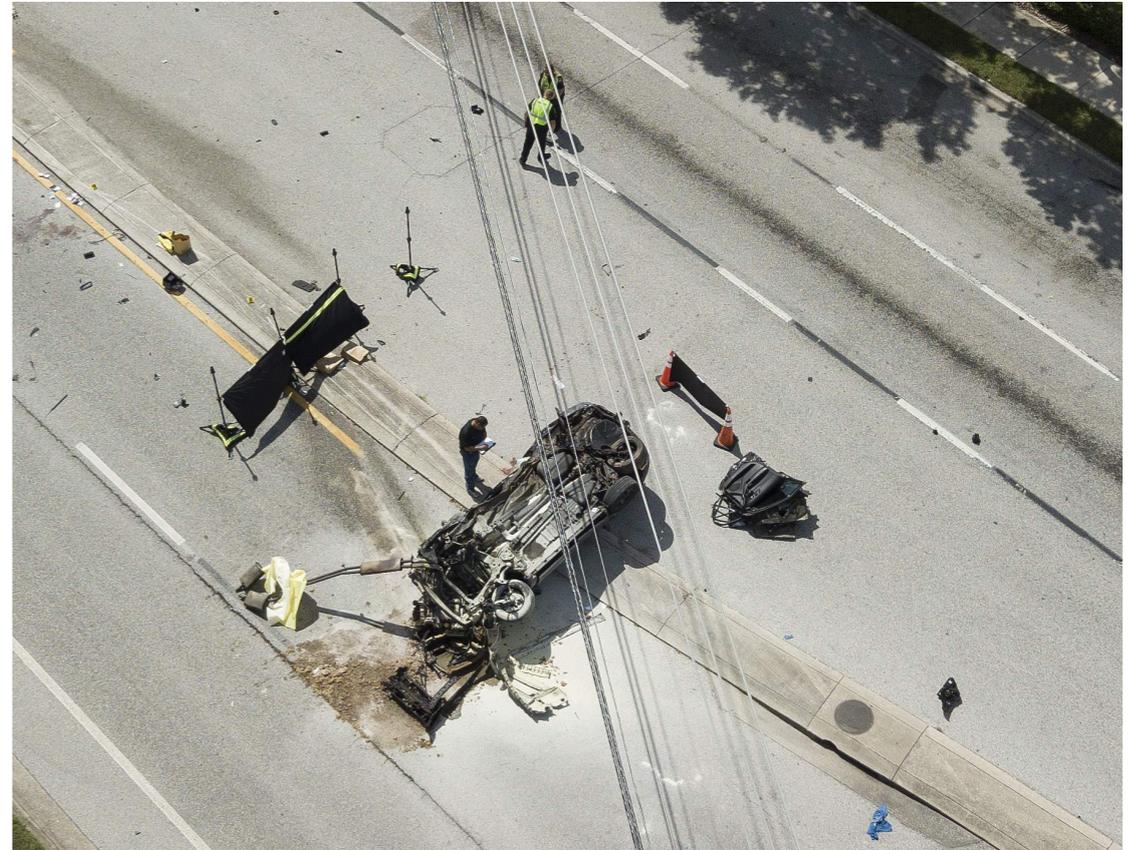


A report card. But instead of saying you did well in class, it shows if your car is a target for thieves.

**“We’ve had a big upswing in car break-ins recently,”** said Officer Steve Moore, a spokesman for the police department. “And a lot of those are, like, somebody walks by and sees your purse or your phone sitting there on the seat, or in the console, pulls the handle, door’s unlocked, and they’re in and out in seconds.”

# Florida

Three teens died in a fiery stolen SUV crash on Tampa Road in Palm Harbor in August. Pinellas County is in the midst of a juvenile auto theft epidemic. [LUIS SANTANA | Times]



Following that incident, the Tampa Bay Times published a series about the danger and scope of the juvenile auto theft problem. That series can be found at <http://www.tampabay.com/projects/2017/investigations/florida-pinellas-auto-theft-kids-hot-wheels/>.

# ***Florida***

A national think-tank has begun a sprawling study into Pinellas County's juvenile auto theft epidemic, hoping to stop the problem before more teens die in stolen cars.

The \$85,000 research project, expected to culminate in policy recommendations for the Florida Legislature in January, appears to be the first probe of its kind into this dangerous youth crime.

"We're not just doing a study for the sake of doing a study," said Dewey Caruthers, president and CEO of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Caruthers Institute. "This is about data-driven social change — policy change, culture change, systems change."



Saturday, December 23, 2017

## Bill would punish car theft victims



Rep. Wengay Newton (left), D-St. Petersburg, filed House Bill 927 this week, which would make it a second-degree misdemeanor to leave your car unattended without first stopping the engine, removing the key from the ignition, and locking the door.

Pinellas County arrested juveniles 499 times for stealing cars in 2015. Reporters' analysis showed that juveniles crashed stolen cars every four days in Pinellas. Eight teen thieves have died in the last two years.

The problem exists and people are getting killed or seriously injured along with a considerable amount of damage to municipal and private property.

The juvenile justice system's inability to effectively deal with auto theft is only one illustration of a system that is not able to deal effectively with serious juvenile offenders.

Perhaps 90% of juvenile offenders can be "redirected" within the current juvenile justice system but recent changes have shown that the system is ineffective with the remaining offenders. While this group is small in number, it is responsible for the most deaths, serious injuries and property damage.

Here are two examples of such an offender.

# *Juvenile Offense History - Redacted*

<b>DATE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>DISPO</b>
08/23/13	FWSN	06/02/14	Dismissed
07/28/14	Use MV w/o perm	08/08/14	Nolled
08/19/14	Larc 4th, Interfer	05/19/15	Probation
11/19/14	Poss of marijuana		
11/25/14	Larc 3rd, Burg 3rd		
12/11/14	Larc 3rd, Interfer, Op w/o lic, Evad w/injuries		
06/29/15	VOP	11/09/15	Commit-DCF
10/06/15	Use MV w/o perm, Reck End 2nd, Reck driving, Assault 3rd		
10/06/15	Interfer, Larc 3rd		
10/07/15	Interfer, Larc 3rd		
12/10/15	Rob 3rd, Larc 2nd	3/10/16	Commit-DCF
12/15/15	Use MV w/o perm		
12/15/15	Burg 3rd, Cr Tres 3rd, Interfer, Cr Misc 2nd, Larc 3rd, Cr Trov 2nd, Assault on PO (3 cts), Reck End 1st, Engaging pursuit, Oper w/o lic, Cr Misc 2nd		
12/17/15	Assault on PO, Reck End 1st		
12/18/15	Burg 3rd (44 cts), Burg 2nd (2 cts), Larc 4th (2 cts)		
01/05/16	Escape from custody		
07/26/16	Reck Driving, Larc 1st, Reck End 2nd (4 cts), Risk of injury	02/07/17	Nolled
08/30/16	Crim Trov 1st, Use MV w/o perm, Assault on PO, Crim misc 1st, Interfering, Larc 3rd	12/28/16	Transferred
11/29/16	Burg 1st (2 cts), Larc 6th (2 cts), Crim Misc 3rd	12/05/16	Transferred
04/28/17	Reck Driving (2 cts), Evad, Reck End 1st, Assault on PO, Interfer, Larc 2nd, Crim Trov 1st		

## ***Juvenile Offense History - Redacted***

<b>DATE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>DISPO</b>
11/08/11	Breach of Peace 2nd	02/21/12	Conv-Probation
06/16/14	Larceny 6th	10/08/14	Conv-Probation
07/23/14	Burglary 2nd	10/08/14	Conv-Probation
11/20/14	Illegal Use of Facsimile Firearm	02/18/15	Conv-Probation
02/25/15	Breach of Peace 2nd	05/06/15	Conv-Probation
07/08/16	Robbery 2nd	10/19/16	Conv-Commit
07/13/16	Assault 1st-Serious Physical Injury	10/19/16	Conv-Commit
08/17/16	Burglary 1st, Strangulation 1st	10/19/16	Conv-Commit
09/16/16	Reckless Endangerment 1st	10/19/16	Conv-Commit
12/02/16	Assault on Pub Safety Officer,	01/04/17	Conv-discharge
	Disorderly Conduct	01/04/17	Nolle
12/19/17	Home Invasion, Robbery 1st, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, Larceny 6th	12/19/17	Transferred-Auto

*Juvenile's date of birth: July 16, 2001*

## ***Juvenile Offense History - Redacted***

<b>DATE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>DISPO</b>
05/16/16	Disorderly Conduct	10/28/16	Conv-Probation
02/28/17	Oper w/o lic	03/29/17	Conv-discharged
03/06/17	Assault 3rd, Disorderly Conduct		Nolle
08/28/17	Larceny 3rd		Pending
08/31/17	Att Larc 6th, Simple Trespass		
08/31/17	Larceny 6th		
09/06/17	Larc 6th, Consp, Burg 3rd, Consp		
09/18/17	Interfer, Assault on PO (3 cts), Crim Misc 1st, Threatening 2nd		
09/20/17	Larc 2nd, Disobey Off Signal, Interfer, Engaging police in pursuit		
12/06/17	Larc 3rd (2 cts), Engaging police in pursuit, Oper w/o lic		
12/19/17	Interfering with a search warrant		

*Juvenile's date of birth: April 11, 2002*

- Finally placed in detention on 9/18;
- At a hearing on 10/10, the juvenile invited the judge to perform a sex act on him and threatened to “kick his ass” if the judge “had the balls to come off the bench and fight;”
- On 11/20, placed at the Children’s Center in Hamden;
- On 11/22, he stole a car from the facility and was missing until arrested again;
- On 11/26, he was arrested in a stolen car following a chase by police;
- On 12/5, he appeared for the 11/26 incident and was remanded to detention;
- On 12/14 he was arrested for interfering with a search warrant for refusing to submit a DNA sample;
- On 12/21 DCF and probation advocated for the juvenile to return to the Children’s Center and the state opposed the plan citing public safety concerns; DCF and probation agreed there was no other place to put him since CJTS is no longer accepting residents.
- All agree the juvenile needs a secure placement but such placement does not exist in the state.

The changes that need to be made include:

1. the grounds to detain a juvenile upon arrest;
2. the court's discretion to transfer a juvenile charged with a serious felony from the juvenile court to the adult criminal court;
3. the closing of CJTS without a plan in place that will permit a secure setting providing services and deterrence for young offenders;

## Current law:

1. Detention of a child following an arrest - eliminated many of the grounds for detention:
  - The court is no longer able to detain a child to protect them from themselves. Holding a child in a state operated detention facility when the judge finds such detention would be in the child's best interests is no longer possible.
  - No longer able to detain when child is in violation of court ordered conditions of release.

PA 16-147 eliminated as a reason for detention after an arrest:

- (A) a strong probability that the child will run away prior to the court hearing or disposition;
- (B) a strong probability that the child will commit or attempt to commit other offenses injurious to the child prior to the court disposition;
- (C) probable cause to believe that the child's continued residence in the child's home pending disposition poses a risk to the child because of the serious and dangerous nature of the act or acts the child is alleged to have committed;
- (D) a finding by the court that the child has violated one or more of the conditions of a suspended detention order;

*The notion that detention must be avoided at all costs must be rejected. The court must have the ability to put an at-risk child in a secure setting while the proper treatment is being determined and put in place.*

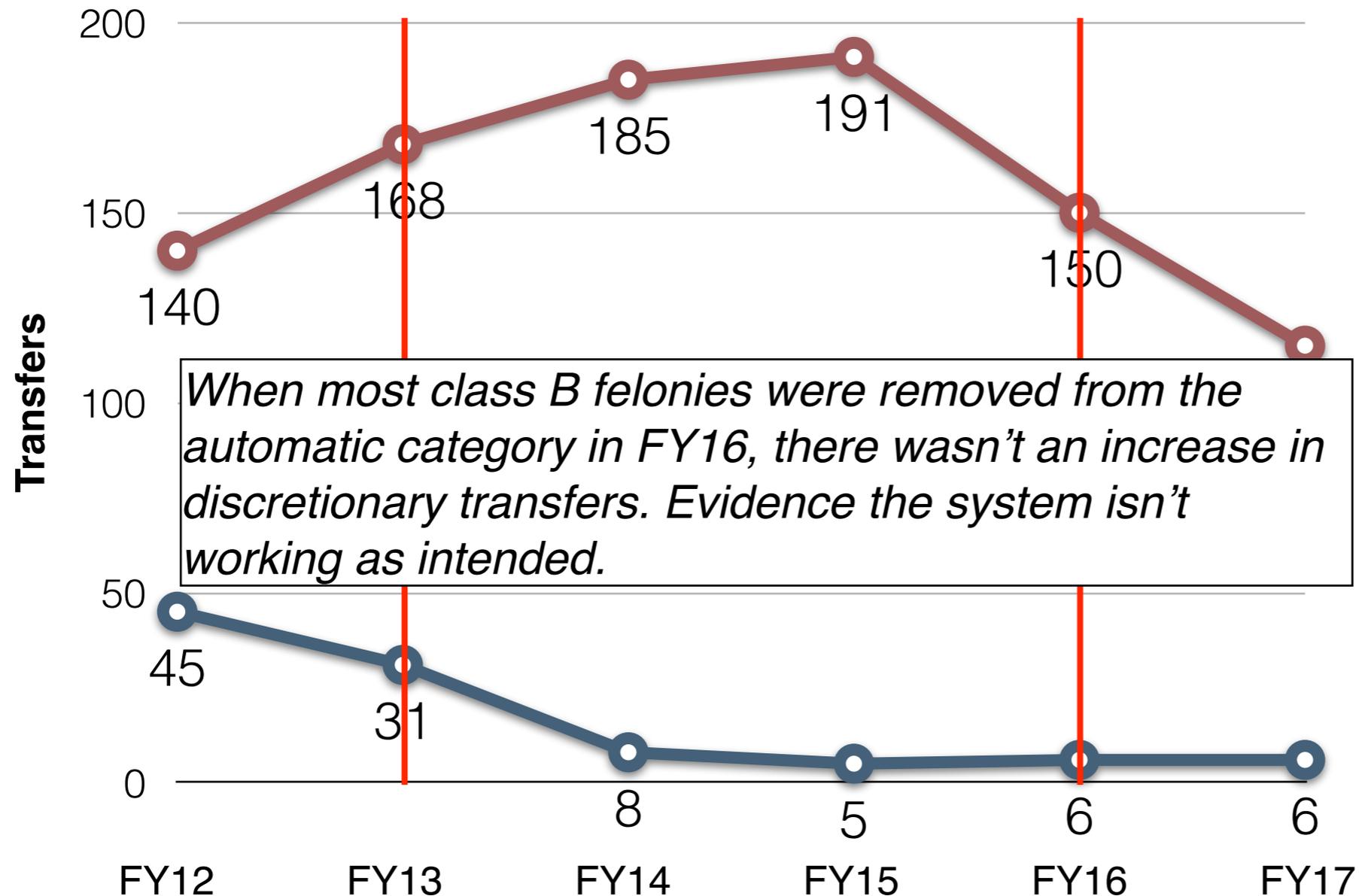
# Current law:

## 2. Transfer to the adult criminal court

- PA 12-1 June Spec Sess. required the state to establish that transfer is in the best interests of the child as well as the community thereby removing the ability of the court to balance the best interests of the child and the community, rendering such cases virtually not transferrable;
- PA 15-183 made the transfer of several of the most common class B felonies, such as manslaughter 1st degree, robbery 1st degree with serious physical injury or the use or threatened use of a firearm or dangerous instrument, and burglary 1st with injuries, discretionary rather than automatic and
- raised minimum age for discretionary or automatic transfer from 14 to 15;

# Impact of Changes

## Transfers to the Adult Criminal Court



NOTE: FY12 is 7/1/11 - 6/30/12

- “Best interests of the child” added to discretionary procedure in FY13
- Class B felonies became discretionary in FY16
- Minimum age increased in FY16

Source: Court Operations, Judicial Branch

# NEW BRITAIN HERALD

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## Three teens accused of brutally beating New Britain food delivery woman

Published on Tuesday, 4 April 2017 22:38  
Written by [LISA BACKUS](#)  
STAFF WRITER



**NEW BRITAIN -** Three teens have been arrested and charged in the brutal beating and robbery of a pizza delivery woman that blinded and maimed the victim.

The two males teens, ages 13 and 14, and a 16-year-old female, are accused of luring the victim into the area where the attack occurred. The victim is a well-known 45-year-old who for years has been delivering food part time for Royal Pizza in the Long Swamp Road area. She asked to be called "Dee" in published reports to conceal her identity, although she didn't object to her photo being used.

## Current law:

3. The closing of the Connecticut Juvenile Training School on July 1, 2018 has caused confusion among system participants, service providers, children currently committed to DCF, children likely to require out-of-home placement as well as the law enforcement community and the public in general.

PA 17-2 June Spec. Sess. will eliminate the court's ability to commit a convicted juvenile to any agency and will only permit such juvenile to be placed on probation that "may include a period of placement in a secure, limited secure or nonsecure residential facility." Some constitutional issues have been raised with respect to such orders.

In preparation for the closing of CJTS, DCF will terminate new admissions to CJTS on January 1, 2018. It is not clear what options will exist for the court when it finds that a convicted delinquent cannot safely exist in the community after that date.

For juveniles currently in the community on parole, it is not clear what will happen if they violate the conditions of their parole after July 1, 2018 without committing a new crime. It would appear that there are no consequences.

# ***Conclusions***

## Conclusions:

- The option for treatment in a secure, locked facility, in those cases where the court finds it is appropriate and necessary, must be available for the protection of the public safety and the juvenile offender.
- The police, prosecutors, probation officers, judges and DCF must have the options necessary to do what has to be done to protect the best interests of the child and the safety of the community.

# *Prepared by:*

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