



**Business Against Crime**  
South Africa

# ***Transnational Vehicle Crime***

**14 June 2007**



# ***Content***

---

- ❑ Background
- ❑ Vehicle Crime in South Africa
- ❑ Solutions
- ❑ International links

# *Vehicle Crime Links*

---



**Business Against Crime**  
South Africa

# Stock Theft

---



Business Against Crime  
South Africa

# ***Cruelty to Animals***

---



**Business Against Crime**  
South Africa

# ***Wreck Management***

---



# Background

---

- ❑ The National Vehicle Crime Project has been operational since 1997
  - Initiated under the auspices of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.
- ❑ The project has been guided by a holistic strategic framework, governance structure and implementation plan, requiring and receiving the commitment of both the public and private sectors.
- ❑ The approach focussed on removing the market for stolen and hijacked vehicles, supported by a number of interventions aimed at reducing vulnerabilities in both the public and private sectors.
- ❑ Despite these achievements, vehicle thefts and hijackings remain unacceptably high

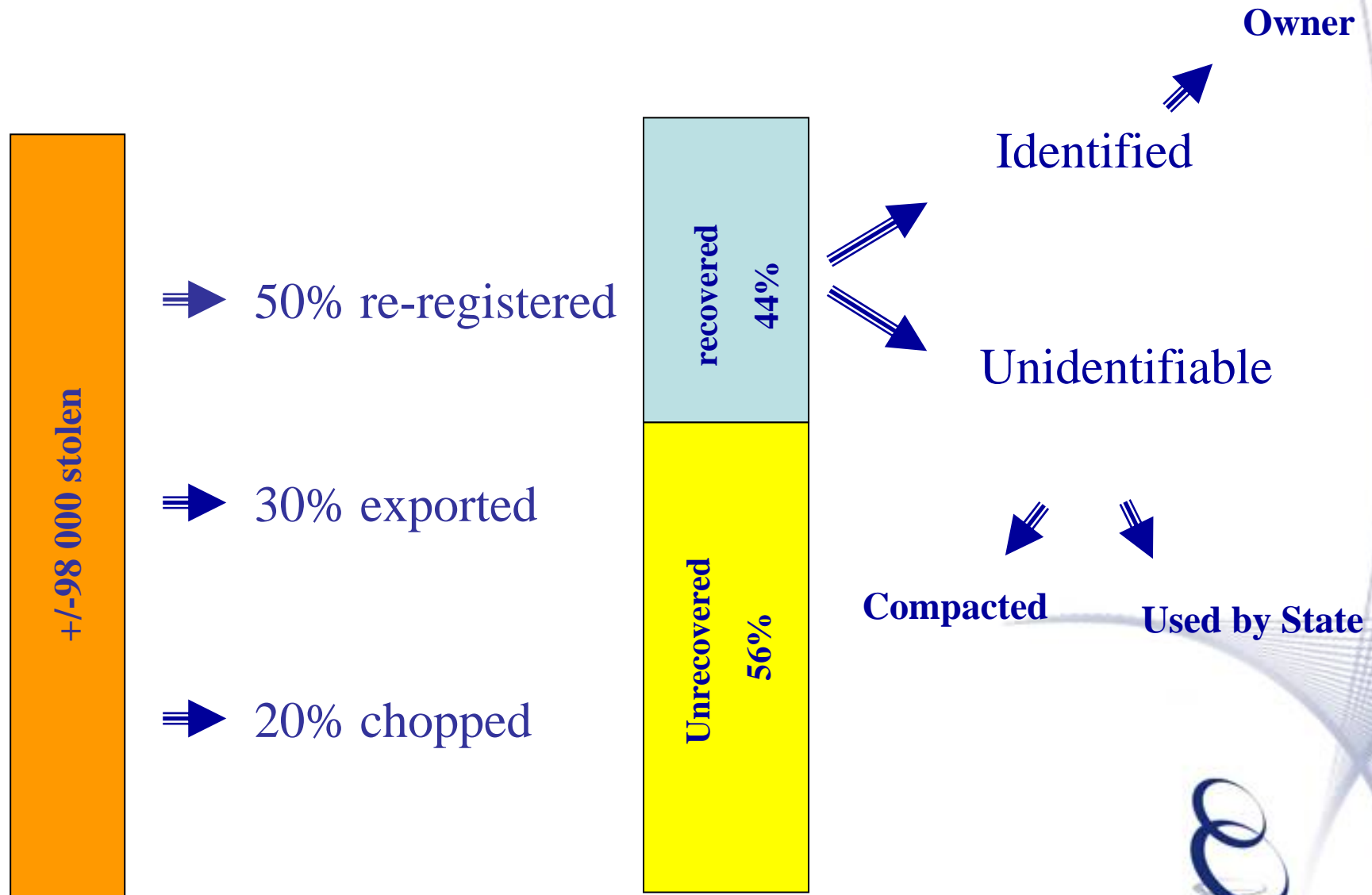
# Vehicle Crime in South Africa

---

- South Africa's vehicle crime problem comprises the statutory crimes of Theft of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, and Robbery (Hijacking).
  - Both these crimes are fuelled by a well organized and resourced criminal element, costing the country billions of rand annually.
- Vehicle theft and vehicle hijackings typically comprises 87% and 13% respectively of the total vehicle losses in any year
  - In 2006 – 79 000 stolen and 15 000 hijacked
- These crimes occur in all provinces, although certain of these (Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal) are at highest risk.
- Despite its relatively small contribution to the total vehicle crime scenario, vehicle hijackings are responsible for the greatest degree of trauma, and in some cases death, to victims, thus impacting perceptions of the country negatively both locally and internationally.
  - Both crime types are typically fuelled and enabled by the same market forces and criminal processes and networks.

# Vehicle Crime Strategic Foundations

---



# *Vehicle Population*

---

- ❑ There are currently 8.5 million registered vehicles
- ❑ Approximately 800 000 new vehicles were registered in 2006

# Vehicle Recovery

---

- The recovery rate of stolen and hijacked vehicles is approximately 44%
  - Hijacked vehicles recovered – 77%
  - Stolen vehicles recovered – 23%
- The low recovery rate indicates the existence of a sophisticated network of organized crime which has still to be disrupted significantly.
- Unrecovered vehicles, totalling of the order of 300 000 in the six year period since 1998/9, are typically integrated illegally into the formal market through various illegal processes such as illegal registration and export, and breaking into parts for re-sale through illegal chop shops or through the formal sector.
- In terms of vehicle types and makes being stolen and robbed, these have remained essentially unchanged.

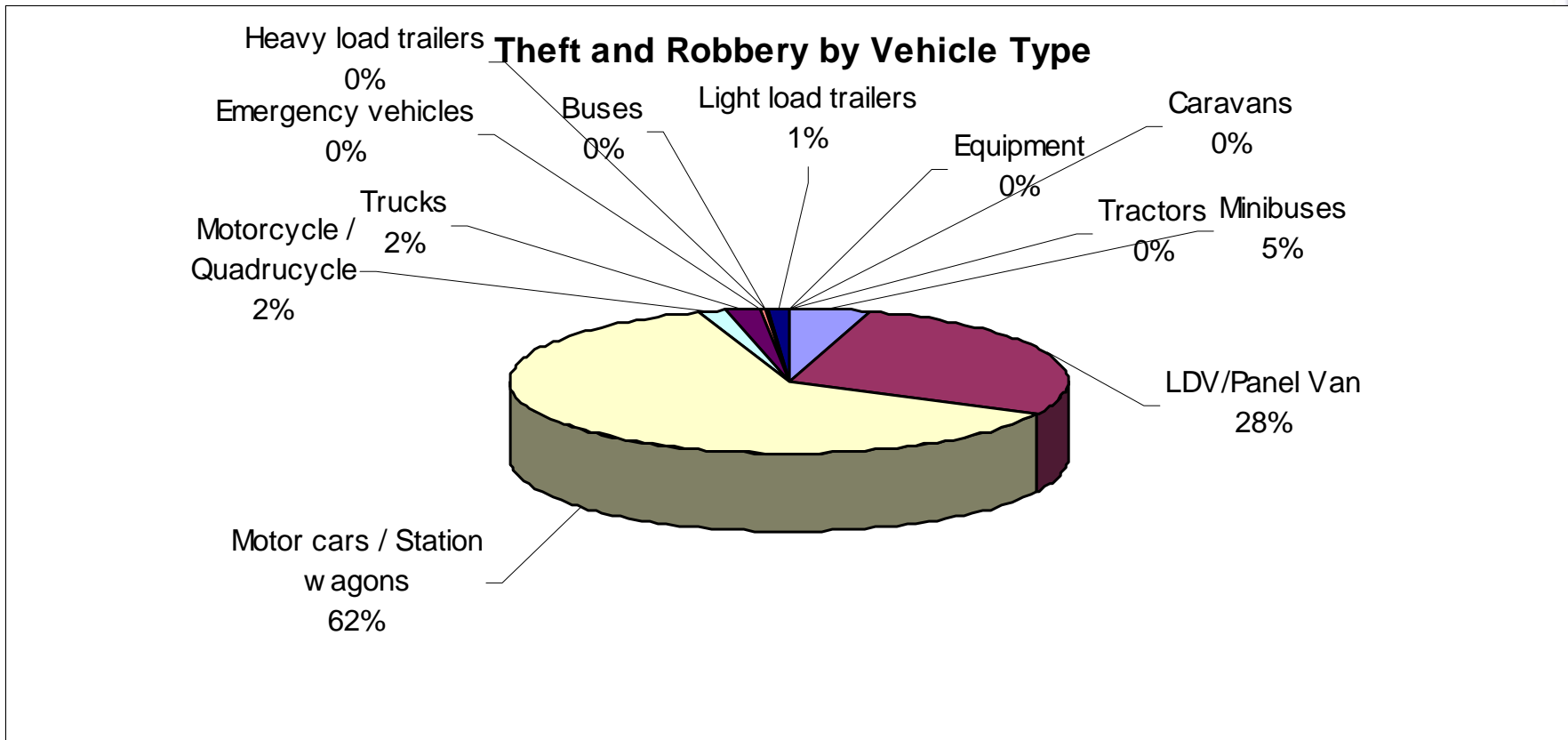
# ***Breakdown of Vehicle Class***

---

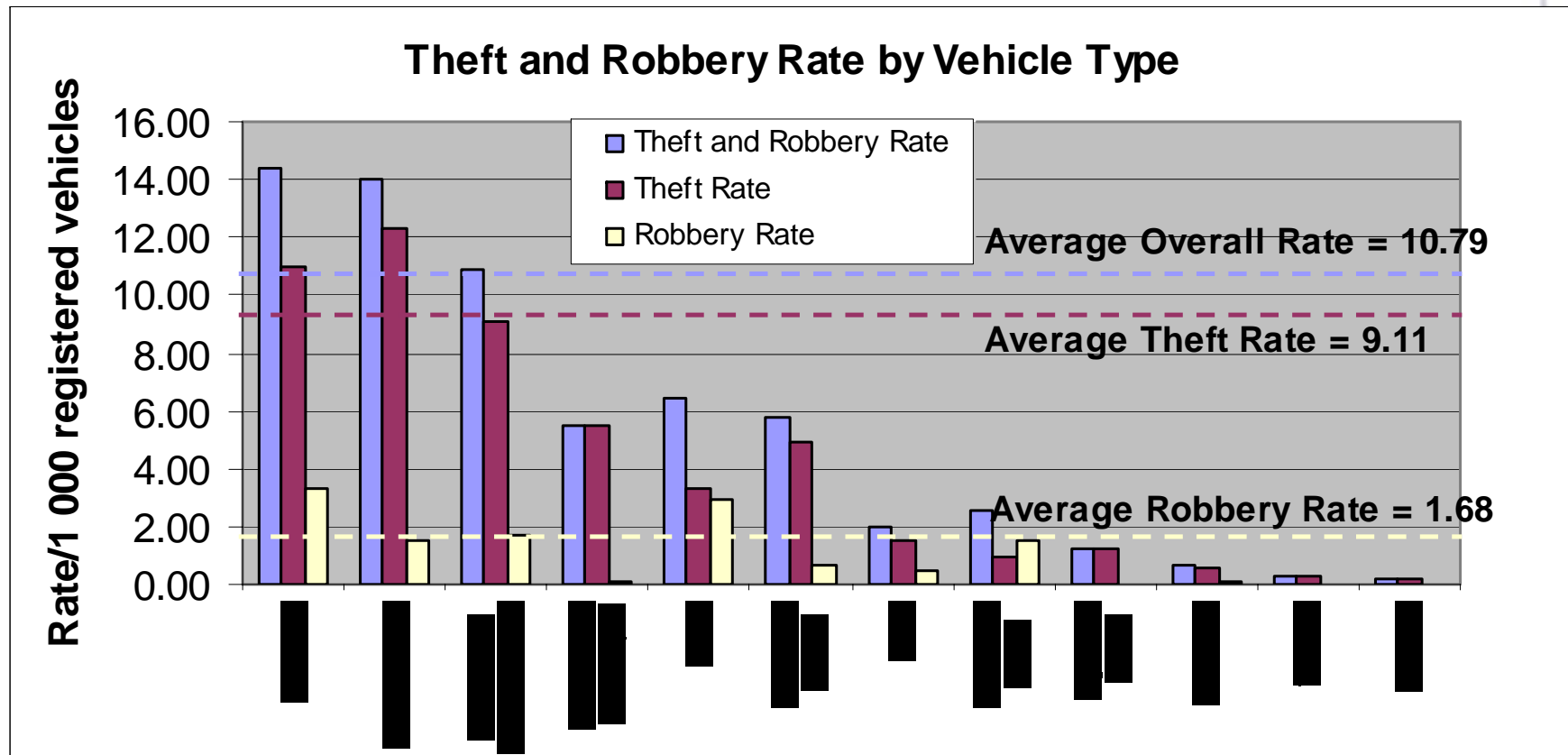
- ❑ Sedans/station wagons - 62%
- ❑ Pickups/panel vans - 28%
  - Account for 90% of thefts and robberies
- ❑ These vehicles account for 77% of the national vehicle population
- ❑ Vehicles 7 to 21 years are the highest risk for theft
- ❑ Vehicles 1 – 4 year old are highest risk to robbery
- ❑ The average age of a stolen sedan in 2006 was 13 years
  - The average age of a robbed vehicle was 8 years.

# Vehicle Crime by Vehicle Type

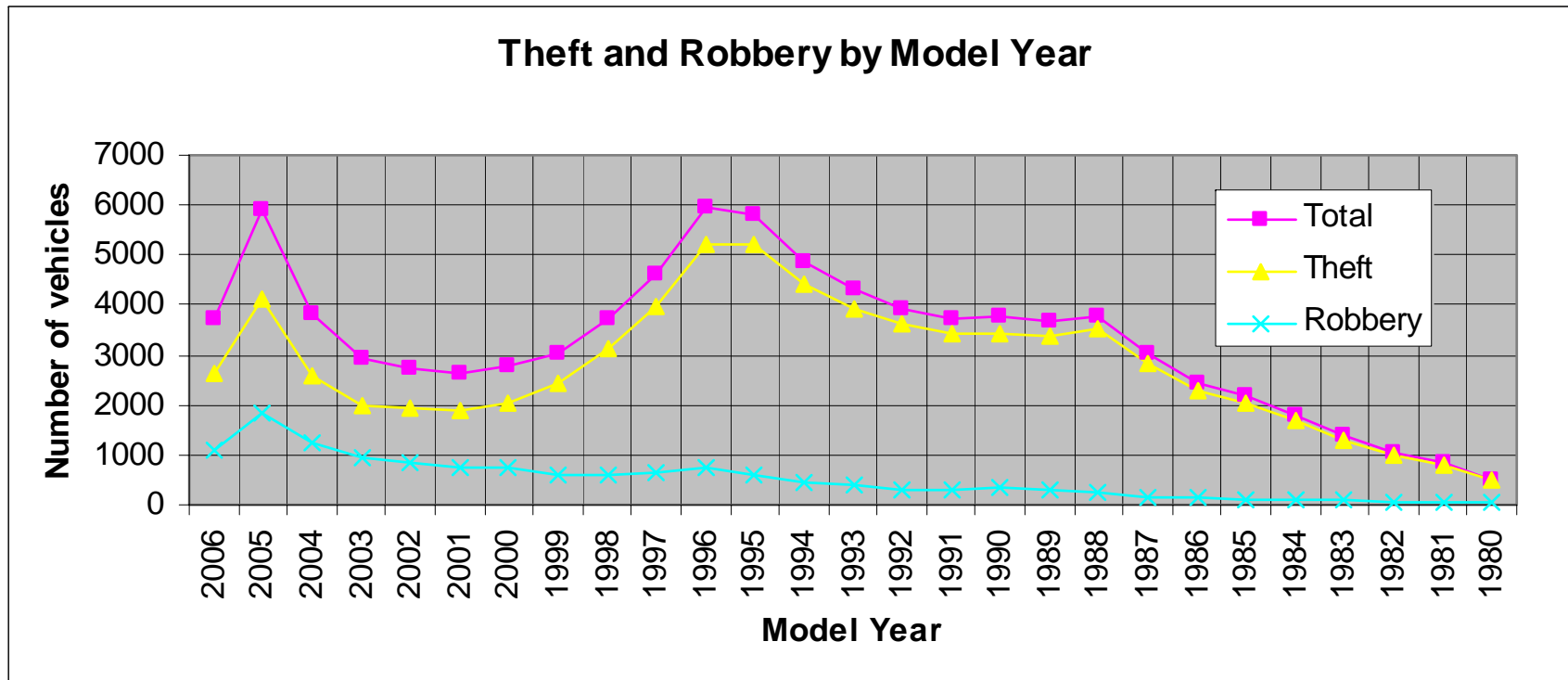
---



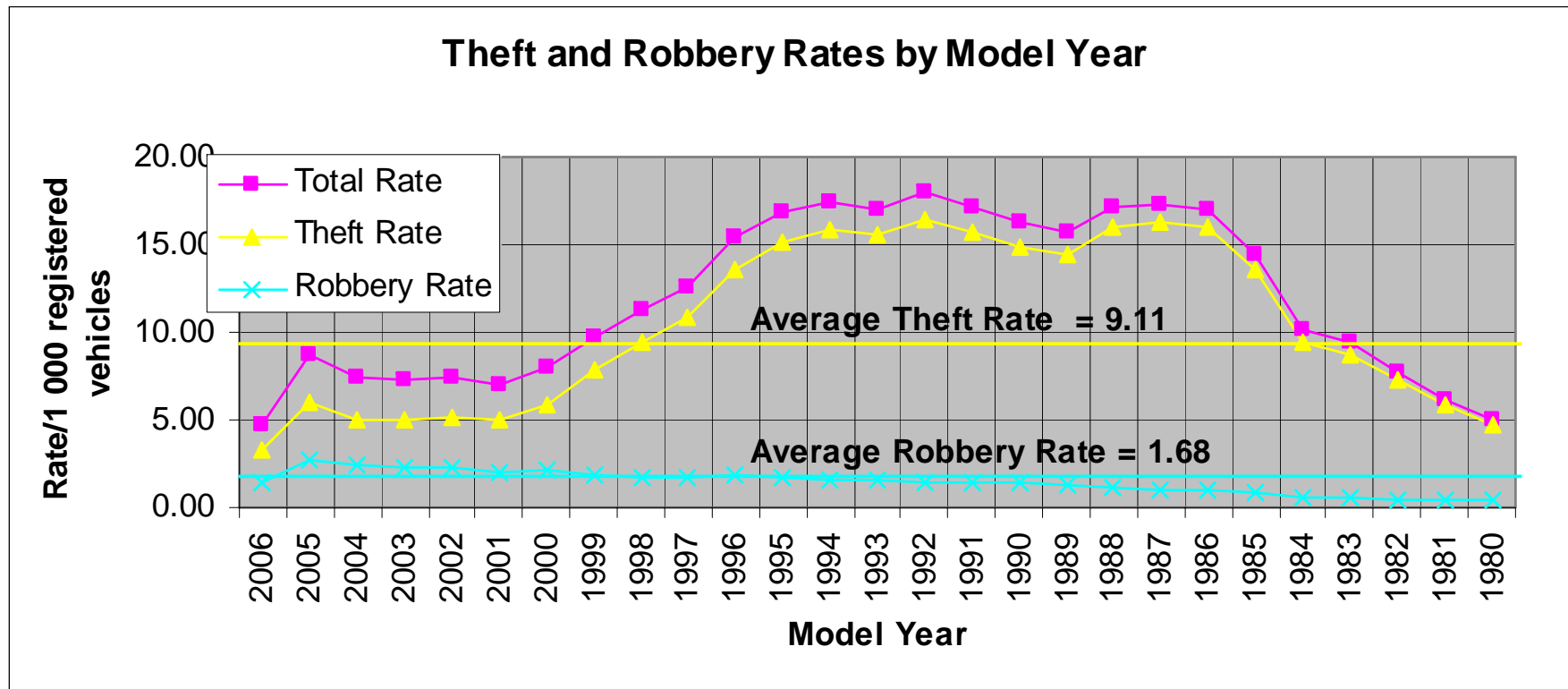
# Vehicle Crime by Vehicle Type



# Theft and Robbery by Model Year



# Theft and Robbery Rates by Model Year



# ***Status in Africa***

---

- ❑ South Africa is the only country in Africa that manufactures vehicles
  - Market for stolen and hijacked vehicles into the SADC countries
  - International currency for drug and firearm smuggling

# ***SADC Countries***

---

- ❑ South Africa
- ❑ Lesotho
- ❑ Swaziland
- ❑ Mozambique
- ❑ Mauritius
- ❑ Botswana
- ❑ Namibia
- ❑ Angola
- ❑ Zimbabwe
- ❑ Zambia
- ❑ Tanzania
- ❑ Malawi

# Africa



# ***Vehicles in Transit***

---

- ❑ During the year 2004, more than 72 000 used motor vehicles destined for neighbouring countries were imported through the Durban car terminal. This was a drastic increase in comparison with the year 2000 when only 9 200 vehicle were imported.
- ❑ Many of these vehicles are imported without a predetermined destination and are stored in the so-called bonded warehouses in South Africa, until they are sold to buyers outside South Africa. It is these vehicles that are targeted by criminals and then registered in South Africa.
- ❑ Illegal vehicles mostly imported from Europe





# ***Vehicles in Transit - Solution***

---

- ❑ The importation of used vehicles into South Africa is prohibited under the International Trade Administration Act (Act 71 of 2002). The importation of used vehicles is only allowed in exceptional cases
- ❑ The Department of Transport (DoT) issued an instruction on 2nd June 2005 to all provinces and registering authorities instructing that the Temporary Permits (21 day permits) may not be issued for In-transit vehicles. Vehicles imported via SA harbours destined for other African countries cannot be driven on South African Roads

# *Other solutions*

---

- ❑ Microdotting technology
- ❑ EVI
- ❑ Legislation
  - Second-hand Goods Act
- ❑ Training

# *International Links*

---

- ❑ Vehicle with visible VIN in Paris – France
  - Criminals record VIN number
- ❑ Paper vehicle registered in Botswana
- ❑ “Owner” visits South Africa
- ❑ “Owner” requests duplicate key to be made at agents and presents registration document
- ❑ Duplicate key couriered to Paris
- ❑ Vehicle stolen in Paris
- ❑ Vehicle shipped to Durban harbour and exported to Botswana

# *International Links*

---

- ❑ Vehicles stolen in Japan and Europe
  - Shipped to Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) or
  - Shipped to South Africa
- ❑ Driven to South Africa
- ❑ Registered and sold

# *International Links*

---

- 12 motorcycles stolen in South Africa confiscated in Portugal
  - Portuguese visitors in Mozambique
  - Purchase top end motorcycles from dealership in Mozambique
  - Exported to Portugal
  - When attempt to register i24/7 systems alerts stolen status

# *International Links*

---

- Quad bikes found in Angola
  - Quads dismantled and packed in crates
  - Exported as parts and components