As a city official supporting the Mayor and executive policy team of Cleveland, Ohio, I present an analysis of recent troubling trends in Kia and Hyundai vehicle thefts that have rapidly escalated across the United States. This analysis is based on combined datasets from police departments and investigative journalism sources, including the Motherboard VICE News Kia Hyundai Theft Data. The findings reveal a clear timeline and geographic progression of the theft epidemic and provide a foundation for coordinated action to protect citizens and reduce crime.

Our data shows that Atlanta, Georgia, experienced significant spikes in Kia and Hyundai thefts and break-ins as early as late 2020—nearly two years before Cleveland and many other cities began to see similar surges in late 2022. Currently, this crisis has reached every city represented in our dataset, with Illinois registering the highest volume of such crimes. However, Ohio emerges as the state most disproportionately affected when considering the percentage of total vehicle thefts attributed to Kia and Hyundai models. This is clearly visualized in the donut chart and tree map included in the presentation, where Ohio’s vulnerability stands out alongside the geographic spread of the problem.

The purpose of this presentation is threefold: to raise awareness among city leadership and stakeholders about the severity and trajectory of these thefts, to protect Cleveland’s citizens from growing criminal activity, and to drive collaborative efforts to mitigate the issue. Given Atlanta’s early encounter with this crime wave, a critical call to action is to reach out to Atlanta and other Georgia police departments. These agencies have accumulated valuable experience in responding to and deterring these thefts and can share effective strategies and lessons learned.

Furthermore, we recommend forging a coalition with major metropolitan areas nationwide to engage directly with Kia and Hyundai manufacturers. It is imperative to urge these companies to address the underlying vehicle security vulnerabilities that have facilitated this crime surge. Our citizens’ safety depends not only on law enforcement efforts but also on proactive manufacturer intervention.

The medium chosen for this communication is a PowerPoint presentation combining clear, accessible visuals with succinct text. In design, color palettes were selected to be distinct and colorblind-friendly, ensuring accessibility and ease of interpretation. Area charts use contrasting colors to highlight trends over time, while donut charts and tree maps employ non-red-green palettes to enhance clarity for all viewers.

Ethically, the data employed is publicly sourced from police departments and reputable journalism. During analysis, datasets were carefully unioned and cleansed, with a new total crimes field created to facilitate comparative insights. While smaller cities and some states were not represented, the trends observed are believed to reflect a broader national phenomenon. No assumptions were made beyond standard data cleaning, and all limitations are transparently acknowledged.

In conclusion, by leveraging data-driven insights and intercity cooperation, Cleveland can play a pivotal role in combating this epidemic of Kia and Hyundai thefts. This collaborative, multi-pronged approach will better safeguard our community and restore public confidence.