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CBI report shows crime in Colorado is on the rise amid the pandemic





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By: [Robert Garrison](#)

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DENVER — The number of crimes reported in Colorado continued to climb in 2020 as COVID-19 ravaged the state.

The [Colorado Bureau of Investigation](#) released the 2020 Crime in Colorado report Tuesday. It shows 353,528 total crimes were reported in Colorado in 2020, a 3.9% increase from last year.

Much of that increase is due to a surge in property crime, according to the CBI report. There were a total of 258,132 crimes against property reports in 2020, showing a 10.4% increase over 2019.

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Last year also saw a dramatic increase in the number of vehicle thefts. Colorado reported 30,942 incidents of motor vehicle theft in 2020, a 38.6% increase compared to 2019 numbers.

Colorado has seen a steep increase in stolen vehicles in the past couple of years. And Denver International Airport is not immune to the surge.





Last week, the [Denver Police Department reported](#) a 63% increase in cars reported stolen from the airport since the beginning of the year. From Jan. 1 to March 3, there's been 26 cars reported stolen from DIA, compared to 16 in the same time frame from 2020.

The report states that a statewide task force is in the works to better understand the underlying causes of increases in vehicle thefts and to develop a statewide strategy to reduce the number of stolen cars.

Other highlights in the report show an increase in violent crime incidents.

Reports of violent crime increased by 6.5% compared to 2019 reports.

Homicide rates in Denver appear to reflect the state's upward trend.

There were 95 people killed in homicides in Denver last year, the [Denver Post reported](#) in January. That number is a 51% increase from 2019 and the highest the city has seen since 1981.

Homicide rates have increased in other major cities across the country. Officials attribute a rise in gun violence in U.S. cities to the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, economic anxiety and stress on mental health.

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