

CRIME

Here's what 2020 crime data looked like in Colorado

The total number of crimes reported statewide in 2020, was up over the previous year, with most of that increase coming from property crimes.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation said there was a nea

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Author: Jennifer Campbell-Hicks
Published: 3:43 PM MST March 9, 2021
Updated: 5:30 PM MST March 9, 2021



DENVER — Overall crime in Colorado was up 3.9% in 2020 compared with the year before, and motor vehicle theft skyrocketed by 38.6%, according to statistics released Tuesday by the [Colorado Bureau of Investigation \(CBI\)](#).

Last year, 353,528 crimes were reported statewide, up almost 4% from 2019, and much of that increase was due to property crimes, which were up 10.4%, CBI said in a press release.

Colorado reported 30,942 incidents of motor vehicle theft, up from 22,321 in 2019. The increase was so dramatic that Gov. Jared Polis has directed the [Colorado Department of Public Safety](#) to create a statewide task force to work with the [Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority](#) and develop a statewide plan to reduce those thefts, according to CBI.

RELATED: [55% rise in Denver metro car thefts in 2020](#)

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Some other statistics from the CBI report:

- Reports of murder and manslaughter increased 28.63% between 2019 (227) and 2020 (292).
- **Violent crimes increased 6.52% percent**, from 24,829 in 2019 to 26,447 in 2020. That includes murder and manslaughter, aggravated assault (up 17.44%), robbery (up 6.49%) and sexual offenses. The only one of the areas to see a decrease was sexual offenses, which was down 16.92%.
- Overall, crimes against persons (such as murder, kidnapping, sexual assault, assault and human trafficking) were almost flat between 2019 (64,106) and 2020 (64,121).
- Crimes against society (such as drug offenses, gambling, pornography, prostitution and animal cruelty) were down 26.1%. There were 31,275 reported crimes in 2020, compared with 42,318 in 2019.

CBI said the data were current as of March 8; however, not all law-enforcement agencies may have submitted their crime statistics for last year.

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CRIME

Man found guilty of 2013 murder, disappearance of Kelsie Schelling

The jury deliberated for just a few hours before returning a verdict in the trial of the man accused of killing Kelsie Schelling.

Donthe Lucas found guilty of killing pregnant girlfriend, defe

Author: Allison Sylte

Published: 3:58 PM MST March 8, 2021

Updated: 10:25 PM MST March 9, 2021



PUEBLO, Colo. — The man accused in the 2013 disappearance murder of his pregnant girlfriend has been found guilty of first-degree murder.

Donthe Lucas was charged with killing his 21-year-old girlfriend, Kelsie Schelling, who was pregnant at the time.

Schelling's body has never been found, but she is presumed dead.



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A jury returned a verdict against Lucas on Monday after a 14-day trial.

Prosecutors said Schelling disappeared the day after she sent Lucas an ultrasound of their unborn child.

She went missing on Feb. 4, 2013. After sending Lucas the ultrasound, police said she drove from Denver, where she lived, to Pueblo to meet Lucas at a Walmart.

Cell phone records showed her arrive, and Schelling's vehicle was parked at the store until the morning of Feb. 6, 2013, when an unidentified man picked up the vehicle and drove away.

Schelling was never seen or heard from again.

The trial against Lucas began in early February. His defense team did not call any witnesses.

Lucas pleaded not guilty to Schelling's murder in August 2018. His trial date was previously scheduled several times and then postponed.

At a hearing on Jan. 21, the trial was almost postponed again when Lucas' attorneys said they had information on the case; however, the defense team made it clear they were moving forward with the trial.

> **Watch the video above for the 9NEWS story recapping opening statements.**

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