



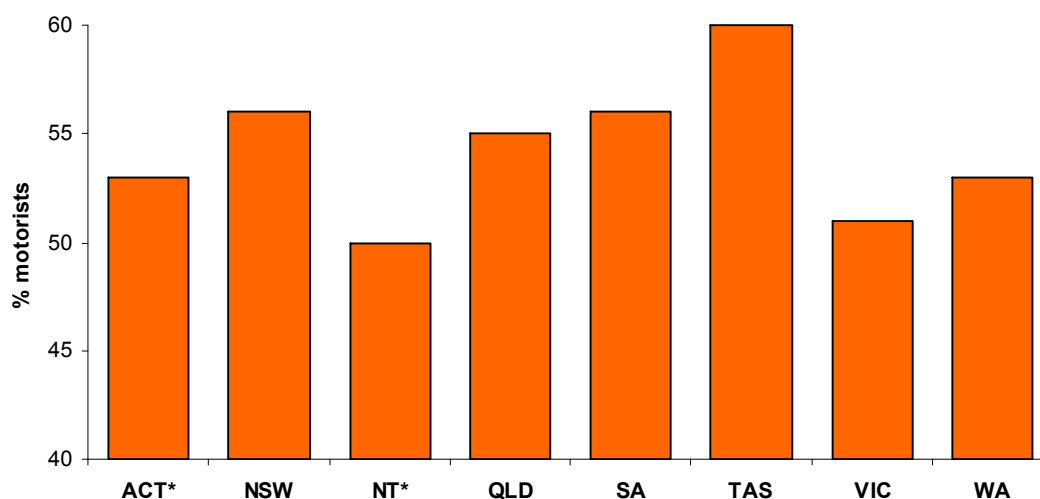
Drivers' Perceptions of Motor Vehicle Theft and Security June 2005 Snapshot

The snapshot of drivers' perceptions draws on the findings of a market research report prepared for the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) by Nexus Research. The report was based on a survey of 1,400 Australian motorists conducted by Nexus in April 2005. The NMVTRC's motorists' survey is conducted every six months.

Concern About Car Theft

Drivers were asked to rate their level of concern on a five point scale from 'not concerned at all' to 'very concerned'. One in every two drivers indicated that they were 'very concerned' or 'moderately concerned' about having their car stolen.

Figure 1: Motorists concerned about having their car stolen



*Note: small sample sizes

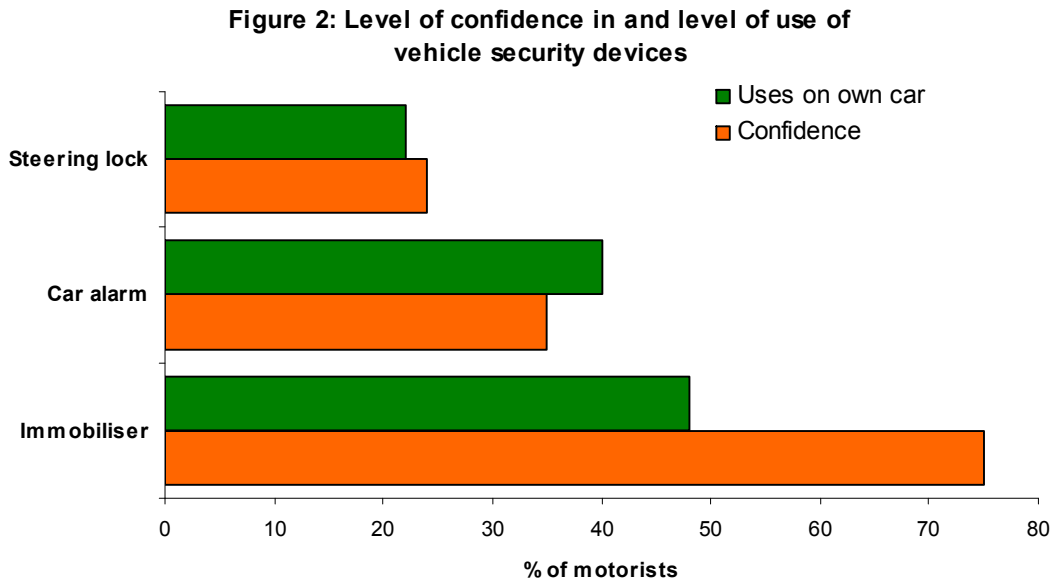
Drivers in Northern Territory were least concerned about having their car stolen while those in Tasmania were most concerned.

NNMVTRC vehicle theft data shows however that theft rates in Tasmania were amongst Australia's lowest with 3.5 thefts per 1,000 population and 4.5 thefts per 1,000 registrations¹. Using these measures as an indication of risk, South Australian drivers had the greatest reasons for concern with 8.5 thefts per 1,000 registrations and 6.3 per 1,000 population.

¹ Data for 12 months to March 2005

Security Devices

Motorists were asked to rate their confidence in the ability of various security devices to prevent theft (the findings in Figure 2 show those ranking the devices at the highest level of confidence: 'very effective'.) Later in the survey motorists were also asked to indicate which devices they used on their own vehicle.



Similar levels of confidence in and use of both steering locks and car alarms were reported by motorists.

Three quarters of motorists expressed the highest level of confidence in engine immobilisers. This suggests that motorists may be taking note of the NMVTRC's key public education message that an Australian Standards approved engine immobiliser offers the best protection available against opportunistic theft.

Despite expressing high levels of confidence in immobilisers less than half of motorists reported having one fitted to their car. This highlights the reluctance of motorists to voluntarily invest in vehicle security.

Tracking systems also rated highly as an anti-theft device with 71 per cent of motorists expressing the highest level of confidence in them. One-third of motorists considered door locks 'very effective' as an anti-theft device. This was the same proportion of motorists who rated car alarms as 'very effective'.

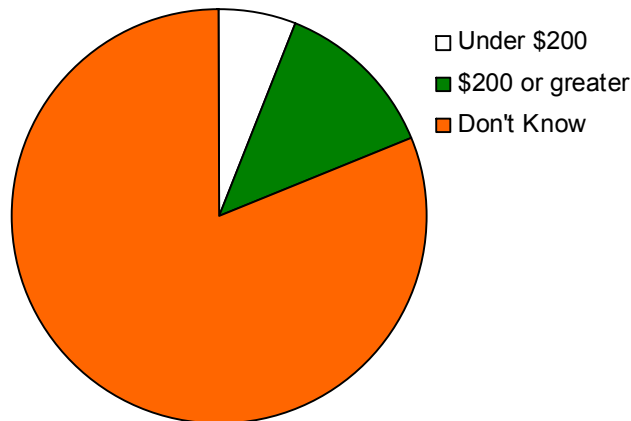
It is unclear from the survey findings whether those reporting confidence in any of the devices actually used them on their own vehicle.

Immobilisers

As shown in Figure 2, above, immobilisers were clearly considered to be very effective as an anti-theft device.

The overwhelming majority (81%) of motorists however had no understanding of the price of a fully-installed engine immobiliser. Only a very small proportion of motorists, 6 per cent, were aware that such a device costs under \$200.

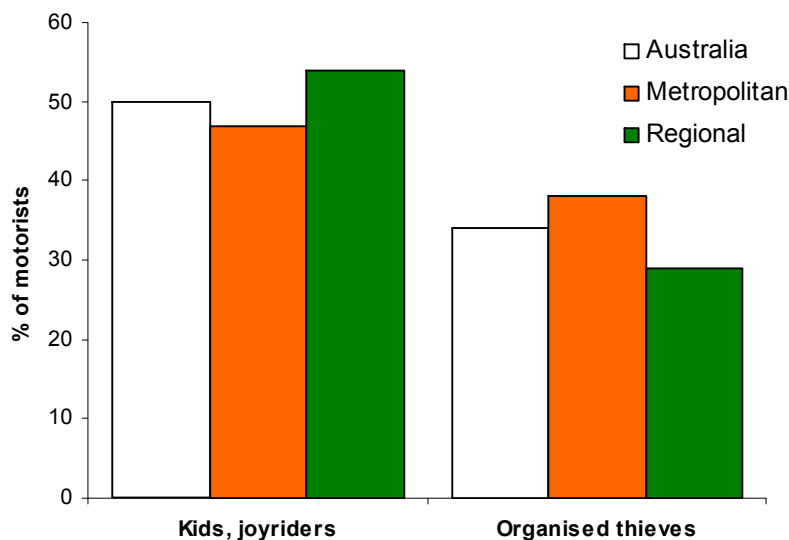
Figure 3: How much does a fully installed immobiliser cost?



Who commits car theft?

Overall, half of surveyed drivers believed that young people / joyriders were responsible for most theft and around one third thought that organised thieves were responsible. Young people / joy riders actually account for around three-quarters of all vehicle theft in Australia.

Figure 4: Motorists' perceptions of who commits car theft



Minor variations in perceptions of who commits motor vehicle theft were reported according to whether the respondent was from metropolitan or regional Australia. In regional areas 54 per cent considered young people / joy riders responsible while only 47 per cent of metropolitan drivers considered this to be the case.

Interestingly, in most regional areas it is likely that around 90 per cent of thefts are actually committed by young people / joy riders.

Which cars are most stolen?

Only ten per cent of motorists thought that luxury cars were the most targeted by thieves while half believed that recent, mainstream models were the favourite targets.

Cars more than ten years old and particularly those manufactured in the 1980s actually account for the highest proportion of total thefts. The perception of recent mainstream models as the most targeted vehicles is likely to be influenced by media attention on the theft of later (manufactured within the last six years) model Holden Commodores, Ford Falcons, Toyota Landcruisers and Hilux, and Mitsubishi Lancers.



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