

A typology of car thieves

A preliminary investigation based on the WODC Criminal Justice Monitor and the Police Offenders Identification System

Summary

A preliminary investigation based on the WODC Criminal Justice Monitor and the Police Offenders Identification System. Car theft is a persistent problem in the Netherlands. In order to improve prevention and the tracking down of car thieves more knowledge is needed about types of car thieves. Basically there are three types of car theft. The first type of car theft is carried out as a result of a need for transportation. The car is used for a short, and only sometimes longer, period of time to get from one point to another. The second type of car theft is carried out in relation to one or more other offences. In many cases the car is stolen for transportation of stolen goods after a burglary. Less frequently, the car is stolen following a break-in during which the car keys were discovered more or less by chance. The third type of car theft is carried out for selling. There are thieves operating individually, but there are also criminals who participate in a network or criminal organisation. These 'professionals' export and sell the cars on a large scale.

Nearly all car thieves are men, about half of them are of Dutch origin. One third of those who steal a car for transportation are hard drug users. They mostly operate accompanied and steal the car by forcing open the locks and connecting the wiring. Of those who steal a car in relation to some other crime two thirds are hard drug users. They usually have many crimes in their file and are mostly unemployed. They relatively often use original keys for their theft. Non-professional thieves stealing for selling the car are relatively young. They seldom use hard drugs, act seldomly on their own, and steal the car by forcing the locks. They sometimes have many crimes in their files and most of them are unemployed.

Daderprofielen van autodiefstal; een vooronderzoek met behulp van de WODC-Strafrechtmonitor en het Herkenningsdienstsysteem

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