



MCDA Organized Retail Theft Task Force (RTTF) Outcomes Report

In 2021 and 2022, retailers in Portland and Multnomah County reported a dramatic increase in retail theft. In response, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office worked with local and state law enforcement agencies to create the Organized Retail Theft Task Force (RTTF), a dedicated team consisting of police agency resources, partnership with local retailers and national box chains, and funding within the District Attorney's Office for a Deputy District Attorney, Legal Assistant, and DA Investigator focused exclusively on the prosecution of retail theft. This collaboration has led to increased prosecutions and greater accountability for the most prolific and highest-harm people committing organized retail theft

116

RTTF cases

123

Distinct defendants

1,674

Theft incidents

\$6.9

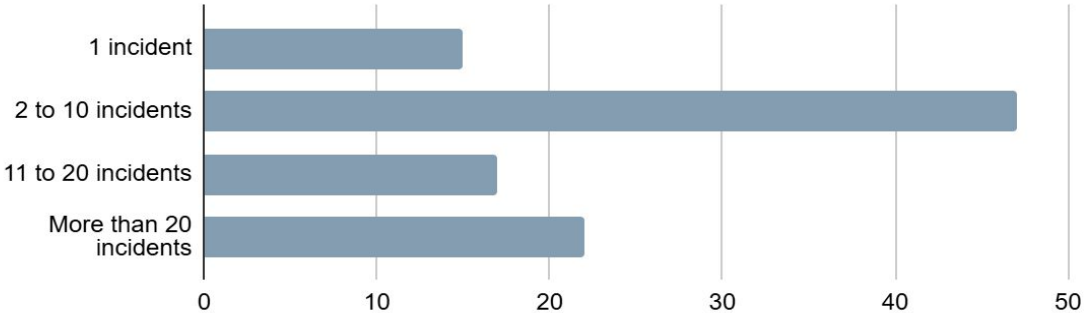
million

Reported losses

Data updated to 5/7/2025

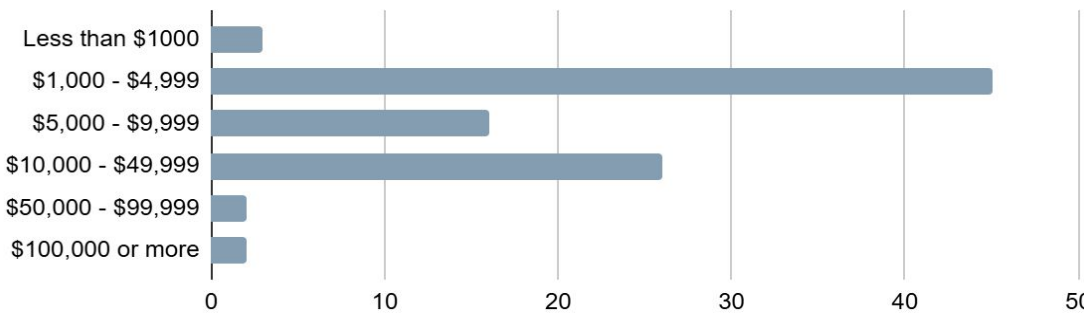
Number of RTTF defendants by number of involved theft incidents

Data updated to 5/7/2025



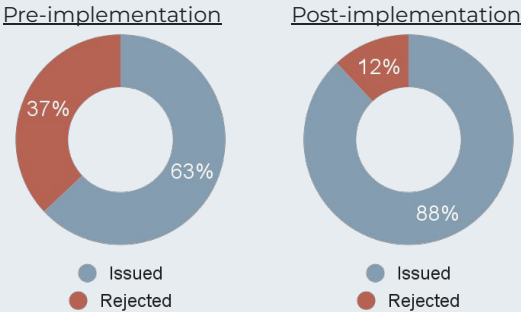
Number of RTTF defendants by amount of loss from theft incidents

Data updated to 5/7/2025

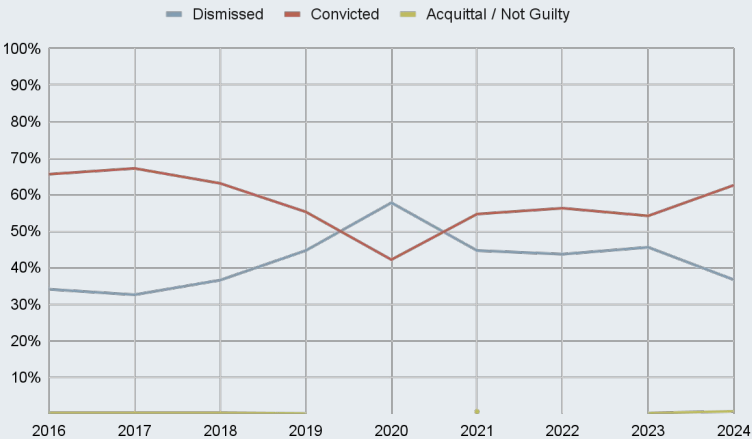


ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

Case issuance rates are significantly higher since the implementation of the RTTF.



Theft case dismissals grew during the pandemic. Since RTTF implementation **dismissals have decreased** to pre-pandemic levels.





Monthly Neighborhood Offense Statistics

Strategic Services Division, Portland Police Bureau

Last Updated: 4/30/2025

Questions about PPB Open Data? [Click here.](#)



This interactive report collects all NIBRS Group A offenses that are reported to the Portland Police Bureau. Offenses that occur outside the boundaries of a neighborhood or in areas without a defined address are included in citywide totals when specific neighborhoods are not selected.



Hover here for more information on using this dashboard.

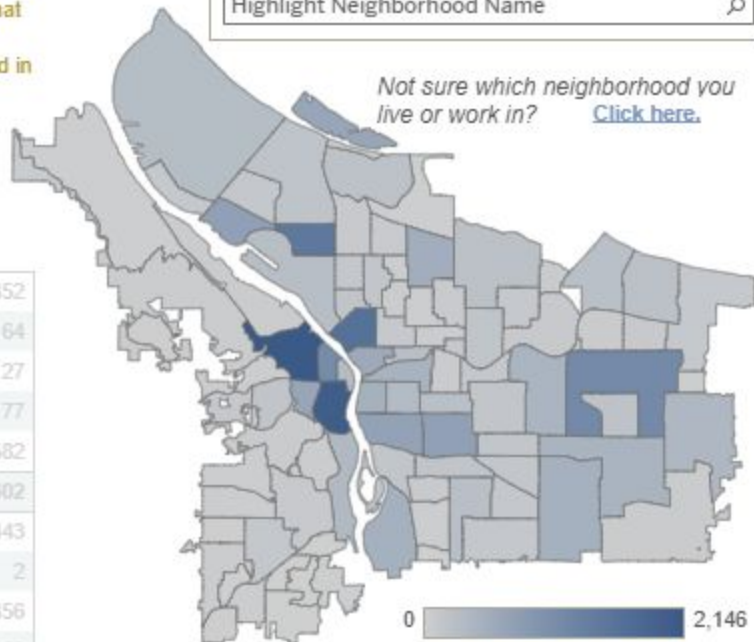
Homicide Offense statistics were updated in August 2019 to align with revised FBI definitions. Traffic fatalities that result in an arrest for driving under the influence, distracted driving, or reckless driving are now included in negligent manslaughter counts.

Filter by Reported Date of Offense:

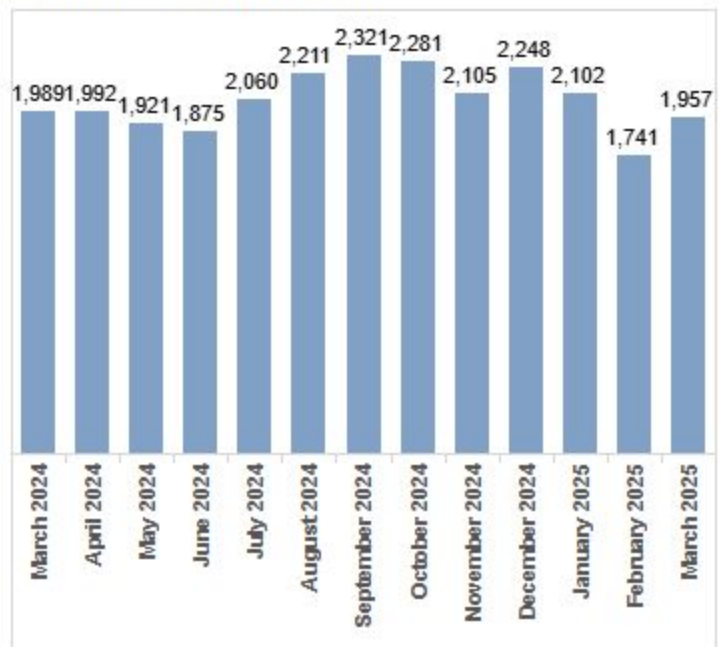
March 2024 - March 2025

Offense Count by Category

Person	Assault Offenses	9,852
	Homicide Offenses	64
	Human Trafficking Offenses	27
	Kidnapping/Abduction	77
	Sex Offenses	582
	Total	10,602
Property	Arson	343
	Bribery	2
	Burglary	4,856
	Counterfeiting/Forgery	263
	Embezzlement	39
	Extortion/Blackmail	41
	Fraud Offenses	3,229
	Larceny Offenses	26,803
	Motor Vehicle Theft	5,474
	Robbery	1,204
	Stolen Property Offenses	24
	Vandalism	7,419
	Total	49,697
Society	Animal Cruelty Offenses	56
	Drug/Narcotic Offenses	895
	Gambling Offenses	0
	Pornography/Obscene Material	69
	Prostitution Offenses	361
	Weapon Law Violations	906
	Total	2,287



Offense Count by Month



View on Tableau Public

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Overview

The Organized Retail Theft Task Force (ORTTF) targets high-harm, repeat retail theft offenders through strategic prosecution and interagency collaboration. The task force has partnered with both local and national retailers to streamline case referrals, improve evidence collection, and coordinate law enforcement strategies. These efforts have led to over 30 suspect identifications, expanded investigations into fencing operations, and partnerships with federal agencies. The ORTTF has trained more than 650 retail professionals and created communication channels tailored to retailer needs, significantly improving prosecution outcomes. Currently, the ORTTF is pursuing 123 defendants tied to over 1,600 incidents and \$6.9 million in losses, focusing the most serious consequences on the most prolific offenders.

Collaboration

The ORTTF has collaborated with the National District Attorneys Association, Retail Industry Leaders of America, Oregon Retail Crime Association of Oregon (ORCAOR) and conducted over 30 in-person store visits to better understand retailers' safety and operational challenges. These visits also informed the task force about theft-prevention technologies, aiding not just retail theft cases but also investigations involving human trafficking, drug and weapons smuggling, and a hit-and-run incident. Beyond downtown, the task force has coordinated with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Gresham Police Department, aligning reporting practices with local needs. This unified approach has improved intelligence gathering, streamlined reporting, and strengthened case development across jurisdictions.

Notable Cases

- Between January and September 2024, Austin Kountz committed over 41 thefts in Multnomah County, resulting in more than \$35,000 in losses to both local and national retailers. The ORTTF worked in coordination with retailers, local law enforcement, and partner agencies to secure his arrest and prosecution. Kountz was sentenced to 36 months in prison.
- Over an eight-month span, Ryan Poffenberger carried out more than 58 thefts in Multnomah County, causing over \$100,000 in losses to six retail establishments. A coordinated investigation led to his conviction and a 56-month prison sentence.
- Elton Ralston committed 79 thefts in less than five months across seven Oregon counties and six counties in Washington. His actions, primarily involving price tag switching, led to more than \$57,000 in losses for a single retailer in Oregon. Collaborative efforts across jurisdictions resulted in a successful prosecution, and Ralston received a 20-month prison sentence for his Multnomah County cases.
- Between 2022 and 2024, Melvin Johnson and his accomplices committed 12 thefts from a single retailer in Multnomah County, causing over \$19,000 in losses. The ORTTF, in partnership with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and ORCAOR, secured Johnson's conviction. He was sentenced to 29 months in the Department of Corrections in 2025.