

# AUTO INSIGHTS

Auto and driver risk management tips provided by: KorthaseFlinn Insurance & Financial Services

## Did You Know?

Cars are probably the single most popular target of crime because they are relatively easy to steal. In the time it takes you to brush your teeth, a car is stolen in the United States. To put the brakes on vehicle theft, try the following

## PREVENTING AUTO THEFT

Use these tips to reduce your risk:

- Never leave your car running and unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition, even inside a locked garage.
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.
- Always park in a high-traffic, well-lit area, if possible.
- Consider anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locks or fuel cut-off switches.
- If you park in a fee garage, take the pay-ticket with you.

- Have your vehicle identification number (VIN) etched into each piece of glass on the vehicle as a deterrent.
- Investigate the purchase of an auto alarm system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle. Display an alarm decal near the door handle.
- If you use valet parking, leave just the ignition key with the attendant.
- Copy your license plate and VIN numbers on a card and keep them on you with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly.

## Safety First

According to the Insurance Information Institute, about one-third of a typical comprehensive auto insurance premium goes to pay for auto theft claims. Installing a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees can act as a highly visible physical deterrent if installed properly.