

ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT



Organized Retail Theft Grant Program 2nd Annual Summary Report

Year-End Metrics Review and
Cumulative Trends: Q1-Q9
Highlighting Quarters 6-9
(Jan-Dec 2025)

The Board of State and Community Corrections administers a wide range of public safety, re-entry, violence reduction, and rehabilitative grants to state and local governments and community-based organizations, and provides services to county adult and juvenile systems through inspections of county jails and juvenile detention facilities, technical assistance on local issues, promulgation of regulations, training standards for local corrections staff, and review of in-custody death investigations.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a cumulative summary of second-year outcomes for the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Grant Program administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The report highlights program activities and outcomes achieved during quarters six (6) through nine (9) of the three-year grant cycle, as well as cumulative data from the first two years of grant implementation overall.

The BSCC ORT Grant Program was part of a multi-pronged public safety initiative launched by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2022 and supported by the California Legislature to address the escalating number of property crimes occurring across the state, including ORT, motor vehicle and motor vehicle accessory theft (MVT/MVAT), and cargo theft. The intent of the program was to empower law enforcement and prosecutors to effectively combat these crimes through two separate funding opportunities: ORT Prevention and ORT Vertical Prosecution.

The ORT Prevention Grant Program funding was awarded through a competitive grant for city police departments, county sheriffs' departments, and probation departments to support local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in preventing and responding to property crimes in local communities. The ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant Program funding was awarded through a competitive grant process for district attorneys (DAs) to address increased levels of property crimes through the use of the vertical prosecution model. Both grant service periods began on October 1, 2023, with grantees reporting progress to the BSCC on a quarterly basis.

During the second year of the grant cycle (Q6-Q9), grantees made significant progress with 14,157 arrests and 11,657 case referrals and convictions tied to grant-funded increases in staffing, surveillance, and improved communication within their communities. Grantees additionally made progress in the recovery of stolen property during this time period, with an estimated total value of \$111,013,117¹ in recovered property.

Cumulatively, across year one and two of the grant cycle, grantees continued to report successful outcomes, resulting in a total of **32,613 arrests**, leading to **25,843 case referrals**. The estimated total value of recovered property reported was **\$259,866,084**.



32,613
ARRESTS



25,843
CASE
REFERRALS



\$259 million
IN RECOVERED
PROPERTY

¹ The value excludes the total dollar amount of recovered stolen property in quarter 6, as quarter-specific data for this quarter is not available. Refer to page 7 for additional details.

ORT PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

The ORT Prevention Grant Program supports local LEAs in preventing and responding to organized retail theft (ORT), motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft (MVT/MVAT), or cargo theft. In September 2023, a total amount of \$242,250,000 in grant funds was awarded to 38 grantees (31 city police departments and 7 county sheriff’s offices).² Detailed information about the grantees and their funding is available on the [ORT Prevention Grant webpage](#).³ Table 1 and 2 below list the ORT Prevention grantees and partner agencies.

Table 1 ORT Prevention Grantees

Organized Retail Theft Grantees		
Anaheim Police Department	Garden Grove Police Department	Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office
Bakersfield Police Department	Hemet Police Department	Salinas Police Department
Beverly Hills Police Department	Irvine Police Department	San Fernando Police Department
Brea Police Department	Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department	San Francisco Police Department
Campbell Police Department +	Los Angeles Police Department	San Jose Police Department
Chula Vista Police Department	Modesto Police Department	San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office *
Citrus Heights Police Department	National City Police Department	San Ramon Police Department
Coalinga Police Department	Newark Police Department	Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office
Costa Mesa Police Department	Orange County Sheriff’s Office	Santa Monica Police Department
Daly City Police Department *	Palm Springs Police Department	Santa Rosa Police Department
Delano Police Department	Palo Alto Police Department	Vacaville Police Department
Fremont Police Department	Riverside County Sheriff’s Office-Jurupa Valley Station	Ventura County Sheriff’s Office
Fresno Police Department *	Roseville Police Department	

* Grantees with multi-agency partnerships

+ Partial Award

Table 2 ORT Prevention Grantees and Partner Agencies

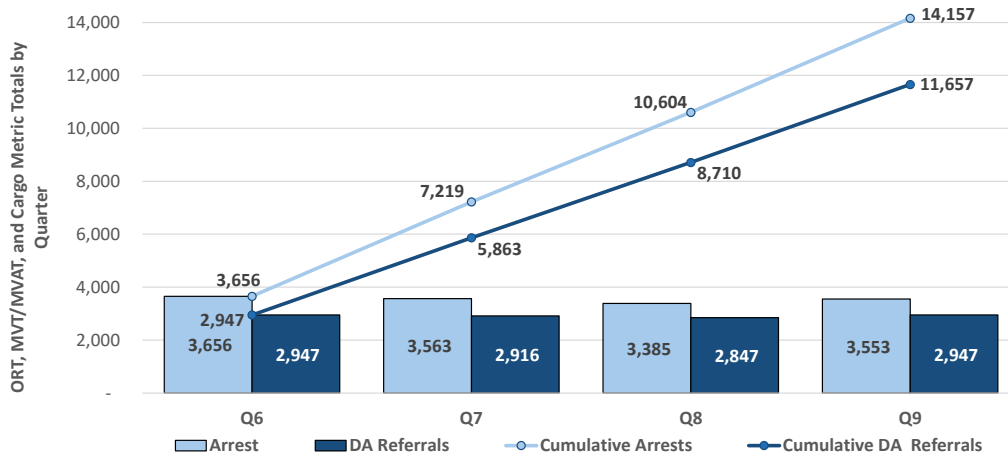
ORT Prevention Grantees with Partner Agencies		
Grantee	Partner Agencies	
Daly City Police Department	San Bruno Police Department San Mateo Police Department	
Fresno Polica Department	Clovis Police Department Fresno County Probation Department Fresno County District Attorney’s Office	
San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office	Atherton Police Department Belmont Police Department Broadmoor Police Department Burlingame Police Department Colma Police Department East Palo Alto Police Department Foster City Police Department	Menlo Park Police Department Northern California Regional Intelligence Center Fusion Center (NCRIC) Pacifica Police Department Redwood City Police Department San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force (VTTF) South San Francisco Police Department

² Three grantees are multi-agency partnerships: one police department with two partners, one police department with three partners, and a sheriff’s office with 13 partners.

³ <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/organized-retail-theft-grant-program/>

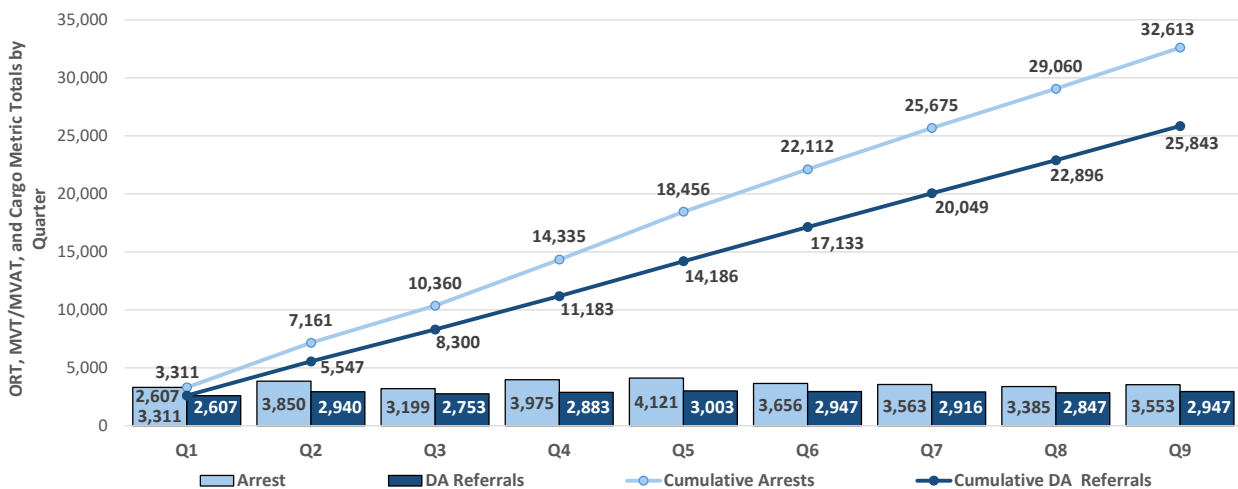
In the second year of the three-year grant service period, a total of **14,157 arrests** occurred related to ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft with **11,657 referrals** to District Attorneys' Offices for prosecution⁴.

Figure 1 ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft metrics across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Cumulative numbers for years one and two of the grant cycle resulted in a total of 32,613 arrests related to ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft with 25,843 case referrals. Figure 2 illustrates ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft trends during year one and two of the grant period across all 38 grantees.

Figure 2 ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft metrics across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.



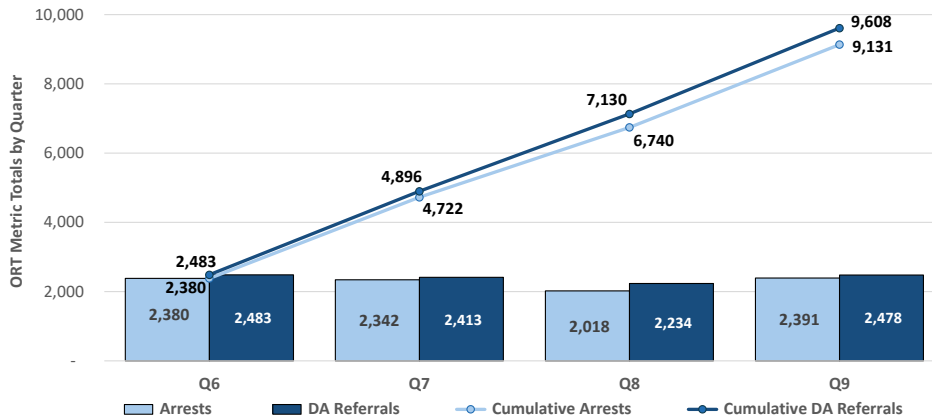
⁴ For the definition of key terms, refer to the ORT Prevention [Data Reporting Guide](#)

Specific breakdowns of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft-related metrics can be found below.

ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT METRICS

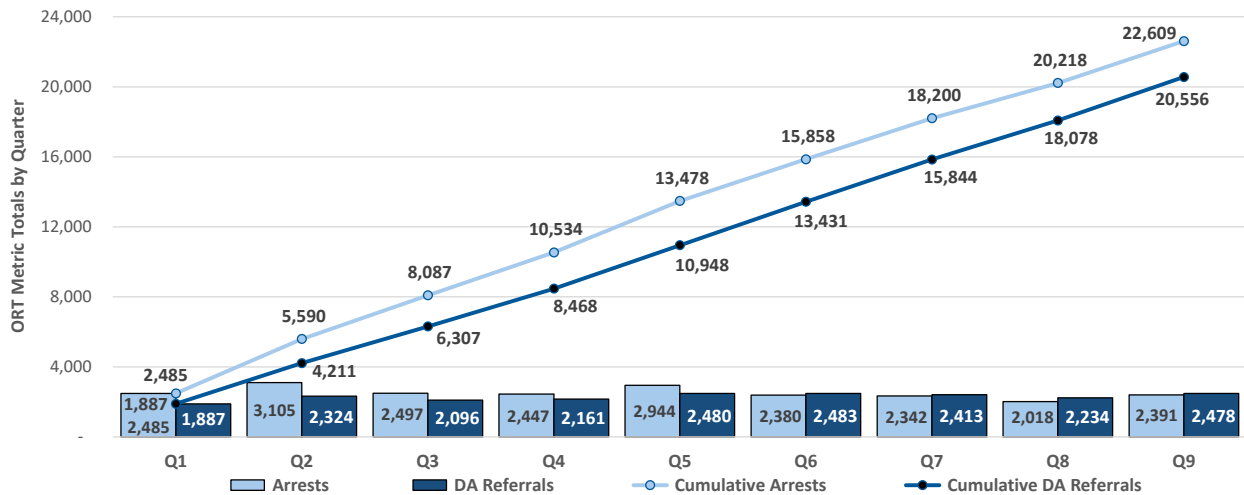
During the second year of the grant reporting period (between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025), grantees reported on ORT metrics. Figure 3 illustrates arrest and case referral trends during the second year of the grant period across all 38 grantees.

Figure 3 ORT metrics across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Grantees reported a cumulative total of 9,131 arrests and 9,608 case referrals to DAs for prosecution of ORT crimes during the second year of the grant period. Aside from a decrease during Quarter 8, the number of arrests and case referrals remained relatively consistent during the second year of the grant period. Figure 4 illustrates the arrest and case referral trends for year one and two of the grant period across all 38 grantees.

Figure 4 ORT metrics across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.



Cumulative totals for year one and two of the grant cycle include, 22,609 arrests related to ORT crimes with 20,556 case referrals.

Grantees have shared project highlights over the second year of the three-year grant period through their quarterly reports. Of note, the **Fremont Police Department** located three suspects who stole approximately \$14,254 of high-end cosmetics from Ulta during Quarter 9. Suspects fled in a rental car with a covered license plate which was later identified using the Real Time Information Center (RTIC). This case is pending investigation.

The **Irvine Police Department** completed an extensive investigation of multiple ORT cases across several counties (i.e., Los Angeles and Orange) in Quarter 9. The investigation of these cases resulted in the arrest of two offenders allegedly responsible for over \$200,000 in merchandise losses.

Also, during Quarter 9, the **Los Angeles Police Department's** Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) assisted the Cargo Theft Unit (CTU) detectives in recovering more than 2,100 pairs of stolen, "unreleased"⁵ Nike shoes and clothing items. One suspect was arrested and the total value of recovered stolen property was approximately \$500,000.

Additionally, the **Roseville Police Department** participated in *Operation Grinch* during Quarter 9, a 7-day blitz operation⁶ with the assistance of several partner agencies. More than 80 different retailers participated. The operation yielded approximately 137 arrests/citations, and [\\$23,136 in recovered stolen property](#)⁷.

In Quarter 7, the **Roseville Police Department** arrested two suspects for stealing approximately [\\$52,000 in deodorant](#)⁸. During processing, detectives learned the stolen goods had been sold to a suspect living in Richmond, who was selling these known stolen items at the Oakland flea market. The suspect from Richmond was arrested.

During Quarter 6, the **Garden Grove Police Department** recovered \$706,000 worth of stolen vehicles from Flock License Plate Readers (LPR) hits alone. The Flock system assisted in approximately 77 different investigations including, but not limited to, auto theft, grand theft, robbery, homicide, and crimes involving a suspect vehicle.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT/MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESSORY THEFT METRICS

During the second year of the three-year grant period, grantees reported on key MVT/MVAT metrics. Figure 5 illustrates arrest and case referral trends during the second year of the grant period across all 38 grantees.

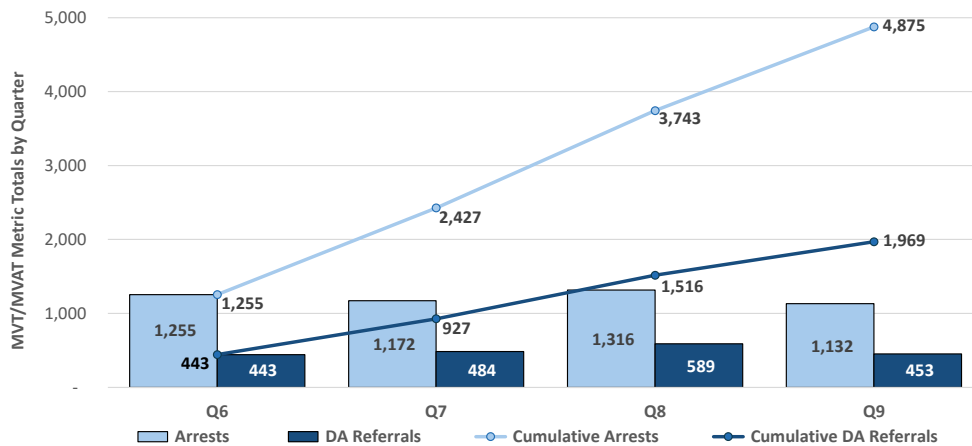
⁵ Unreleased refers to items that were produced by a retailer but never officially released for retail sale to the general public.

⁶ A blitz operation is a pre-planned and coordinated initiative targeting specific crimes within a concentrated area and timeframe.

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17wM2UFJfR/>

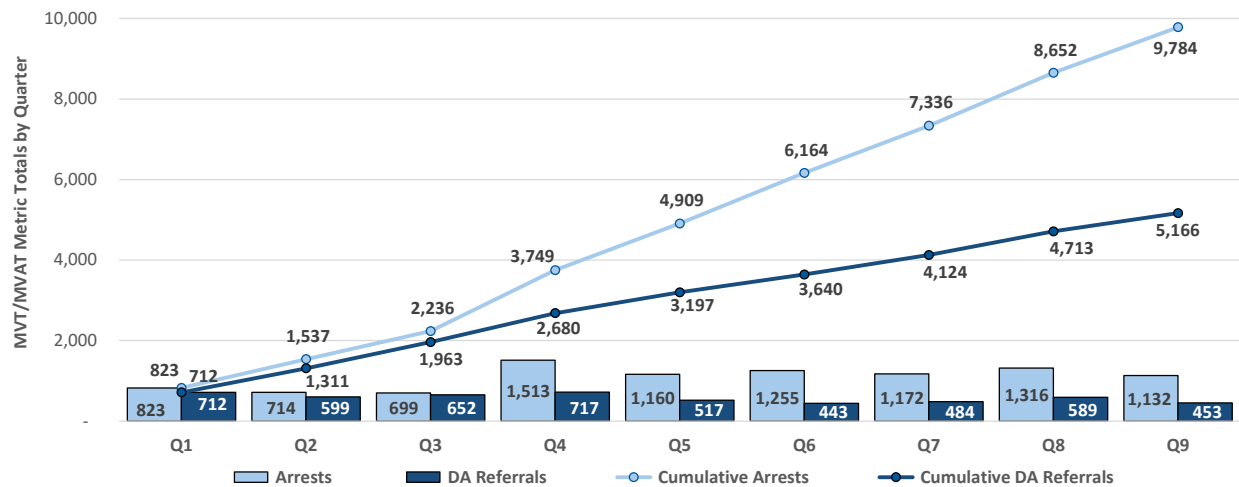
⁸ [Operation Pit-Stain: Trio arrested in \\$50,000 toiletry theft ring in Northern California - CBS Sacramento](#)

Figure 5 MVT/MVAT metrics across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Grantees reported a cumulative total of 4,875 MVT/MVAT related arrests and 1,969 case referrals to DAs for potential prosecution during the second year of the grant period. Figure 6 illustrates the quarterly and cumulative arrest and case referral metrics for year one and two of the grant period.

Figure 6 MVT/MVAT metrics across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.



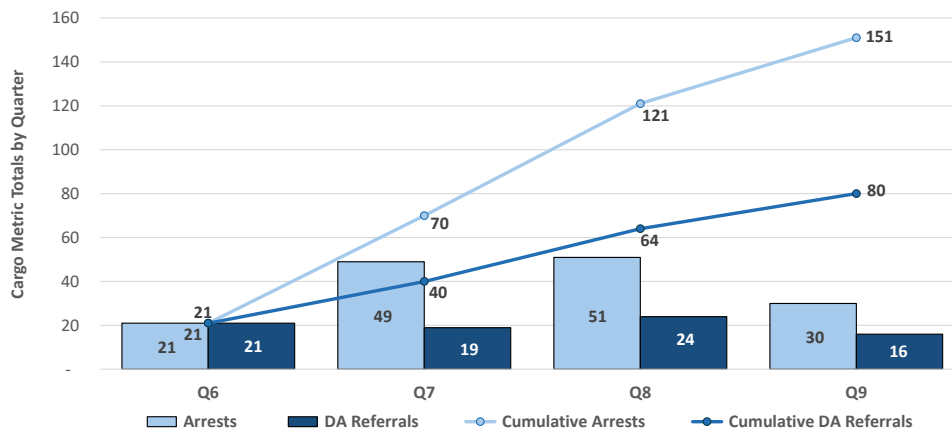
For year one and two of the grant cycle combined, a total of 9,784 arrests occurred related to MVT/MVAT with 5,166 case referrals.

CARGO THEFT METRICS

During the second year of the three-year grant reporting period, grantees reported on cargo theft⁹ metrics. Figure 7 illustrates arrest and case referral trends during the second year of the grant period across all 38 grantees for the cargo theft metrics.

⁹ For the definition of cargo theft, refer to the ORT Prevention [Data Reporting Guide](#).

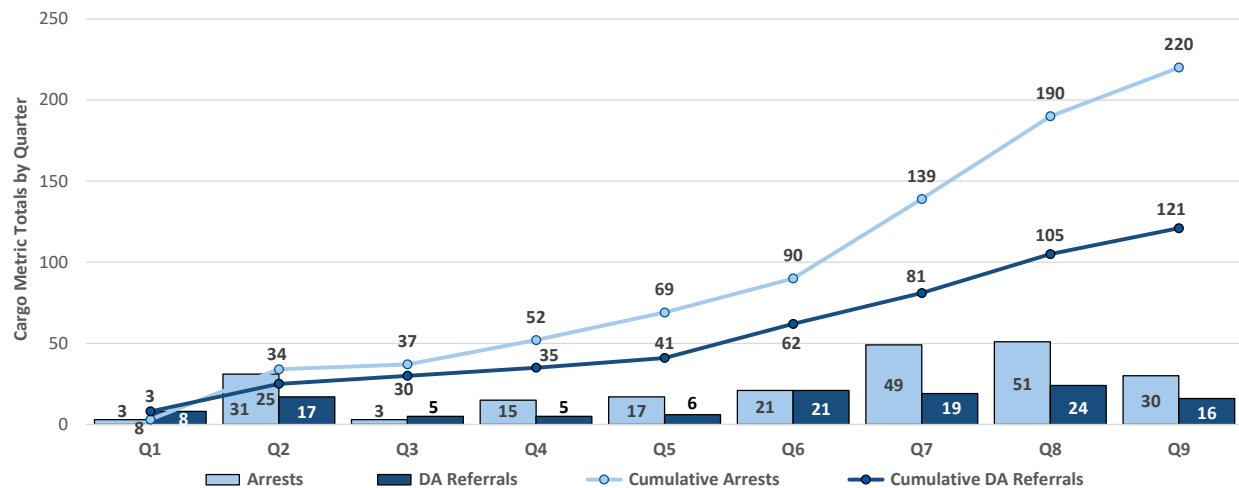
Figure 7 Cargo theft metrics across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Grantees reported a cumulative total of 151 arrests and 80 case referrals to DAs for prosecution for cargo theft crimes during the second year of the grant period. Overall, the number of arrests varied between 21 and 51 per quarter and the number of case referrals varied between 16 and 24 per quarter.

Figure 8 illustrates arrest and case referral trends during year one and two of the grant period across all 38 grantees for the cargo theft metrics.

Figure 8 Cargo theft metrics across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.



For year one and two of the grant cycle combined, a total of 220 arrests occurred related to cargo theft with 121 case referrals.

(As only seven (7) of all 38 grantees have project purpose areas (PPAs) focused on cargo theft, totals are noticeably lower than the more common PPAs of ORT and MVT/MVAT.)

PROPERTY RECOVERED

After the grant service period began, a modification to the Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) was made to capture expanded data from grantees in an effort to understand more about the impact of the ORT grant. Implemented in Quarter 7 of the grant cycle, this QPR modification allowed grantees to report on the estimated value of stolen property recovered on a quarterly basis.

The estimated total value of property recovered was \$111,013,117¹⁰ during the second year of the grant period. To capture property recovered from preceding quarters, grantees reported cumulative totals for Quarters 1 through 6 via a one-time survey. Cumulatively for both year one and two of the grant period, the estimated total value of property recovered was \$259,866,084.

ORT VERTICAL PROSECUTION GRANT PROGRAM

ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

The ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant Program supports DAs in addressing increased levels of retail theft property crimes through the use of a Vertical Prosecution (VP) model¹¹. In the vertical prosecution model, a prosecutor is assigned to an ORT case from beginning of the case through the conclusion (e.g., initial hearing/arrestment to sentencing). Under this model, victims, witnesses, and law enforcement officials have a single point of contact. In September 2023, a total amount of \$24,868,293 in grant funds was awarded to 13 District Attorney Offices. Detailed information about the grantees and their funding is available on the [ORT Vertical Program Grant webpage](#).¹² Theft-related property crimes encompass a broad range of offenses, including ORT crimes, which are a subset of theft-related crimes.

Table 3 ORT Vertical Prosecution Grantees

ORT Prevention Grantees	
Alameda County District Attorney's Office	Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
Humboldt County District Attorney's Office	Santa Clara District Attorney's Office
Orange County District Attorney's Office	Sonoma County District Attorney's Office
Placer County District Attorney's Office	Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office
Riverside County District Attorney's Office	Ventura County District Attorney's Office
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office	Yolo County District Attorney's Office
San Francisco County District Attorney's Office	

¹⁰ The value excludes the total dollar amount of recovered stolen property in quarter 6, as data for this quarter is not available.

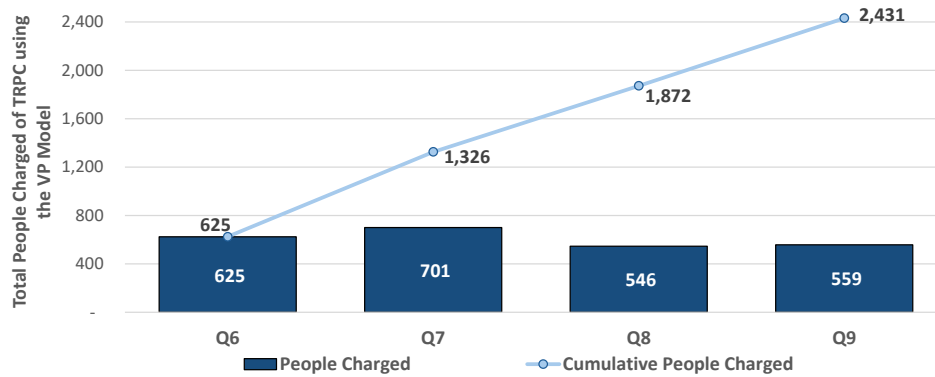
¹¹ The Vertical Prosecution model is one method of prosecution utilized by District Attorneys.

¹² <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/organized-retail-theft-vertical-prosecution-grant-program/>

METRICS FOR THEFT-RELATED PROPERTY CRIMES

During the second year of the grant reporting period, grantees reported on theft-related property crime (TRPC) metrics using the VP model¹³. Figure 9 illustrates the trend of people charged for TRPC during the second year of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

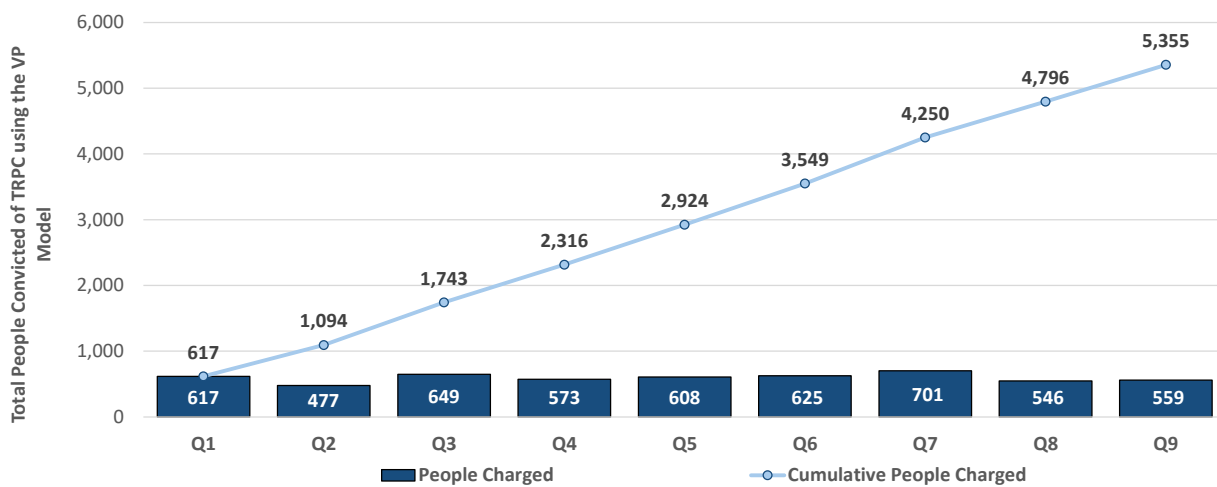
Figure 9 People charged with TRPC using the VP model across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Grantees reported a cumulative total of 2,431 people charged for TRPC using the VP model during the second year of the grant cycle.

Figure 10 illustrates the trend of people charged for TRPC during year one and two of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 10 People charged with TRPC using the VP model across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.

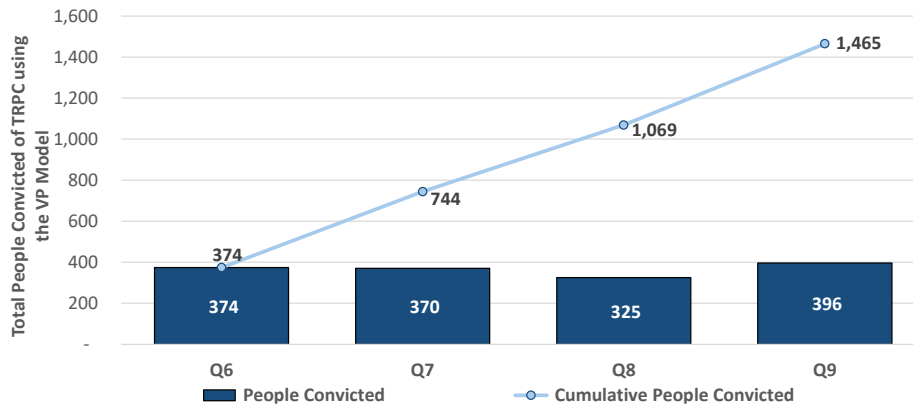


¹³ For the definition key terms, refer to the ORT VP [Data Reporting Guide](#).

For year one and year two of the grant cycle combined, a total of 5,355 people were charged with TRPC using the VP model. Overall, the number of people charged each quarter remained relatively consistent.

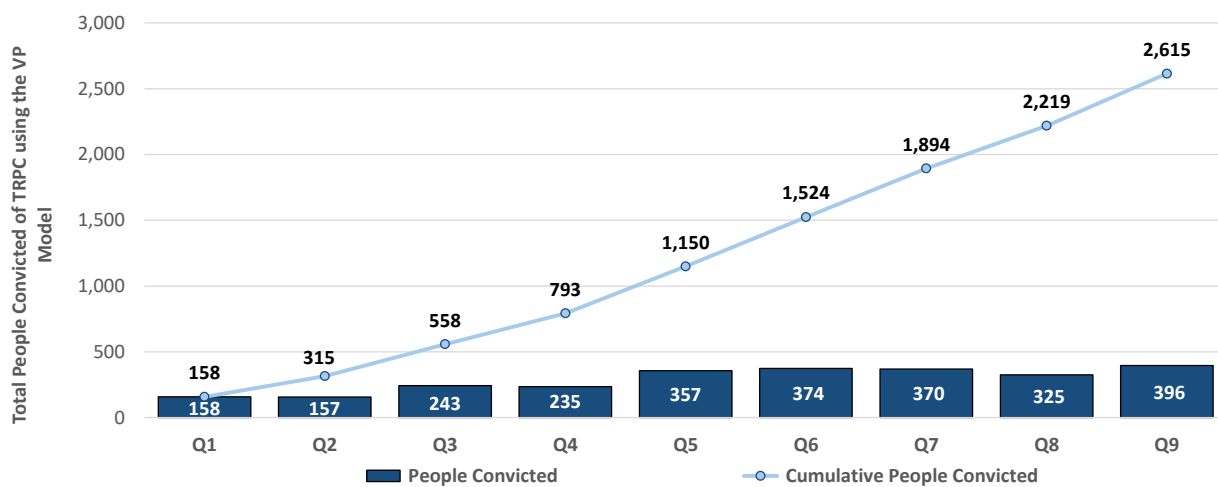
Figure 11 illustrates the trend of people convicted for TRPC during the second year of the grant period across all grantees.

Figure 11 People convicted of TRPC using the VP model across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.



Across the second year of the grant period, grantees reported a cumulative total of 2,431 people charged and 1,465 people convicted of theft-related property crimes, all of which were obtained using the VP model. In general, the number of people charged, and the number of people convicted fluctuated across all quarters. Figure 12 illustrates the trend of people convicted for TRPC during year one and two of the grant period.

Figure 12 People convicted of TRPC using the VP model across all grantees during the year one and two of the grant period.



For year one and two of the grant cycle combined, grantees reported a total of 5,355 people charged and 2,615 people convicted of theft-related property crimes using the VP model.

METRICS FOR ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT CRIMES

During the second year of the grant reporting period, grantees reported on ORT metrics using the VP model. Figure 13 illustrates the trend of trend of people charged with ORT crimes during the year one and two of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 13 People charged with ORT crimes using the VP model across all grantees during the second year of the grant period.

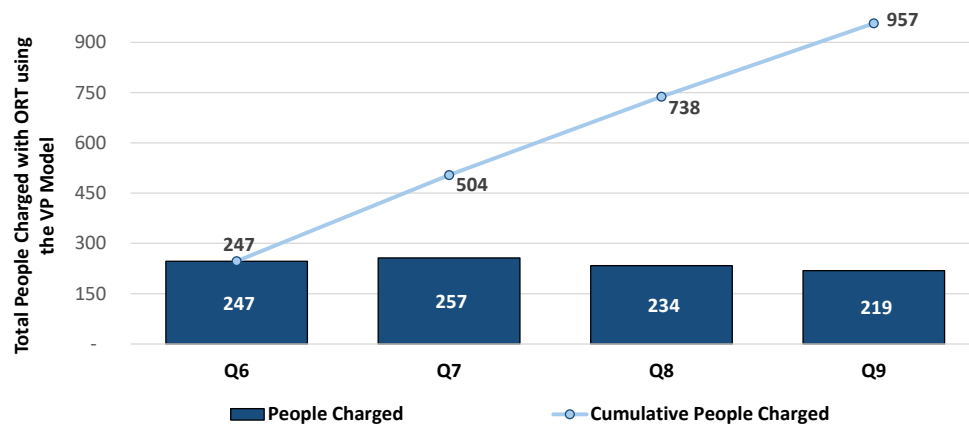


Figure 14 illustrates the trend of people charged with ORT crimes during year one and two of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 14 People charged with ORT crimes using the VP model across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.

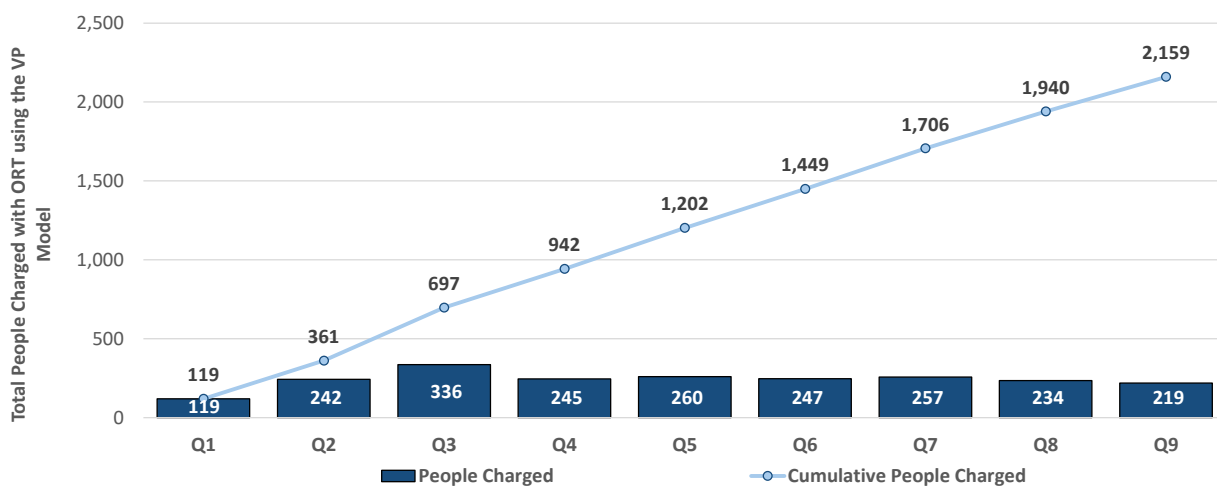


Figure 15 illustrates the trend of people convicted of ORT crimes during the second year of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 15 People convicted of ORT crimes using the VP model across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.

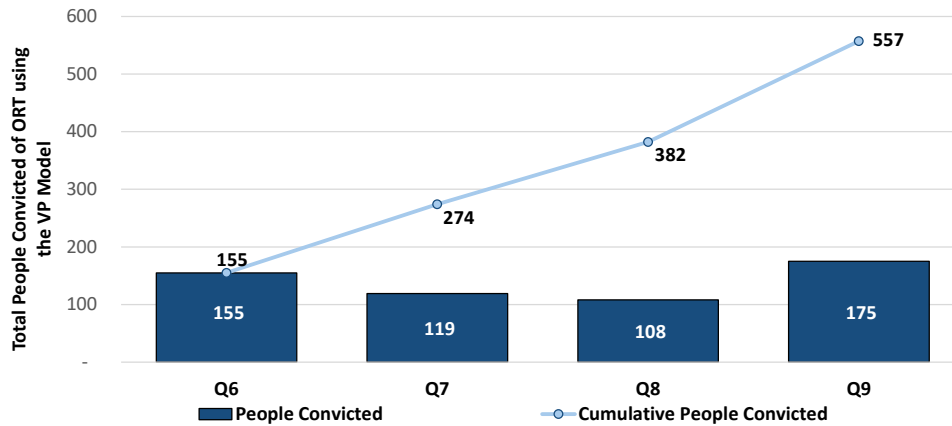
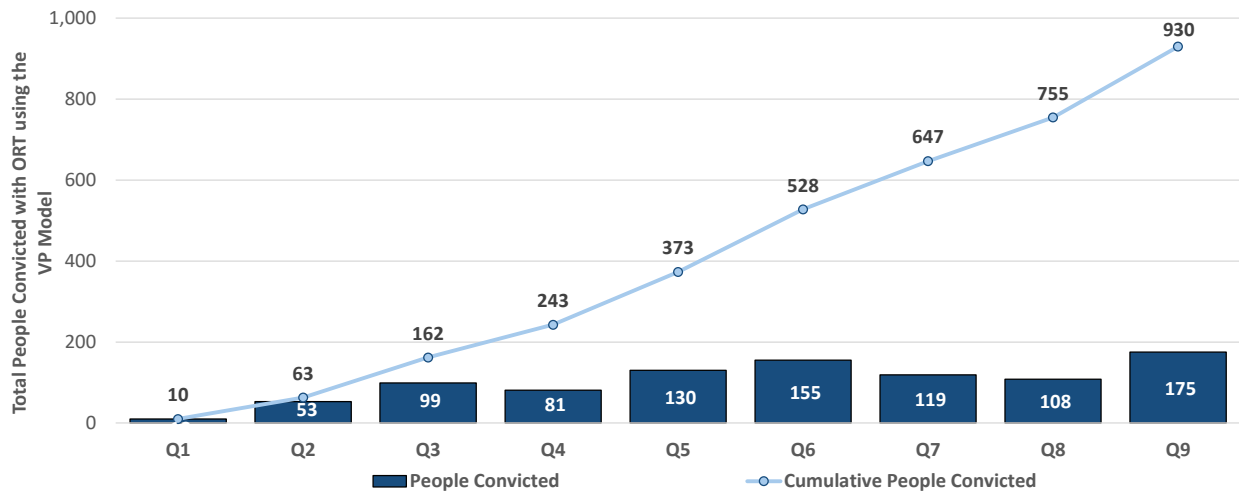


Figure 16 illustrates the trend of people convicted of ORT crimes during year one and two of the grant period across all grantees.

Figure 16 People convicted of ORT crimes using the VP model across all grantees during year one and two of the grant period.



During the second year of the three-year grant period, grantees reported a total of 957 people charged and 557 people convicted of ORT crimes, obtained using the VP model. The number of people charged fluctuated across all quarters. The overall number of people convicted decreased across Quarters 7 and 8 but significantly increased in Quarter 9.

For years one and two of the grant cycle combined, grantees reported a total of 2,159 people charged, and 930 people convicted of ORT crimes using the VP model. Grantees have also reported the positive impact of utilizing the vertical prosecution model:

“The ORT grant has enabled our office to expand the prosecution of retail thefts through the vertical prosecution model. Our office is now better positioned to identify and prosecute upper-level offenders who orchestrate organized retail theft and recruit lower-level individuals to commit the crimes.” Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho

“The vertical prosecution model assigns dedicated prosecutors to Organized Retail Theft (ORT) cases, allowing them to focus on repeat offenders and coordinated theft crews stealing from multiple businesses and counties. By centralizing oversight, prosecutors can aggregate related cases, coordinate with other counties to avoid duplicative work, and pursue more efficient, targeted prosecutions on the worst offenders. This individualized approach improves accountability for ORT offenders and supports stronger, more consistent sentencing outcomes.” Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen

Grantees noted a number of project highlights specifically for the second year of grant implementation. During Quarter 9, the **Placer County District Attorney** held a [press conference](#)¹⁴ at the Roseville Galleria Mall to highlight the [Placer County’s retail theft initiative program](#)¹⁵. The press conference highlighted the initiative’s achievements and collaborative partnerships among prosecutors, local Chamber of Commerce, law enforcement agencies, and business leaders across Placer County. Speakers included representatives from the Placer County Board of Supervisors, the Roseville Galleria Mall, the Placer County Sheriff’s Office, the Roseville Police Department, and a small business owner that was the victim of organized retail crime.

The **Orange County District Attorney** assisted the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and local law enforcement with two retail theft operations in Quarter 9. One operation was conducted in Garden Grove at a Marshalls store, while the second operation occurred at an outlet mall in Orange City called *The Black at Orange*. These blitz operations resulted in 17 arrests, which included 7 felonies.

During Quarter 8, the **Ventura County District Attorney** arrested 14 suspects involved in a high-level, sophisticated theft ring stealing electrical devices and other merchandise from Home Depot with. An estimated [\\$3.7 million in Home Depot property](#)¹⁶ and \$800,000 in cash from alleged money laundering crimes was recovered.

The **Yolo County District Attorney** launched an innovative Direct-to-DA retailer reporting program designed to expedite the investigation and prosecution of retail crimes called “FastPass to Prosecution”. This program was launched in the Fall of 2023 and led to successful prosecution of organized retail theft crimes. Additional details about this program can be found at the [Yolo DA website](#)¹⁷. The FastPass program has been expanded to include more retailers, operating on a county-wide basis, and creating more opportunities for the reporting and prosecution of ORT related crimes.

¹⁴ https://youtu.be/Jn-u_1abK5Q?si=TuwtYY-VI1RS6VIA

¹⁵ <https://www.placer.ca.gov/9543/New-countywide-retail-theft-initiative>

¹⁶ <https://abcnews.com/US/14-arrested-largest-home-depot-theft-ring-officials/story?id=124990974>

¹⁷ <https://yoloda.org/yolo-da-announces-the-launch-of-fastpass-to-prosecution-combatting-retail-theft-through-retailer-initiated-reporting-and-rapid-prosecution/>

ORT FELONY CONVICTIONS

During the second year of the three-year grant period, grantees reported on the number of felony convictions for people who received an ORT conviction. Figure 17 illustrates the trend of those who received felony convictions during the second year of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 17 Felony convictions using the VP model during the second of the grant period.

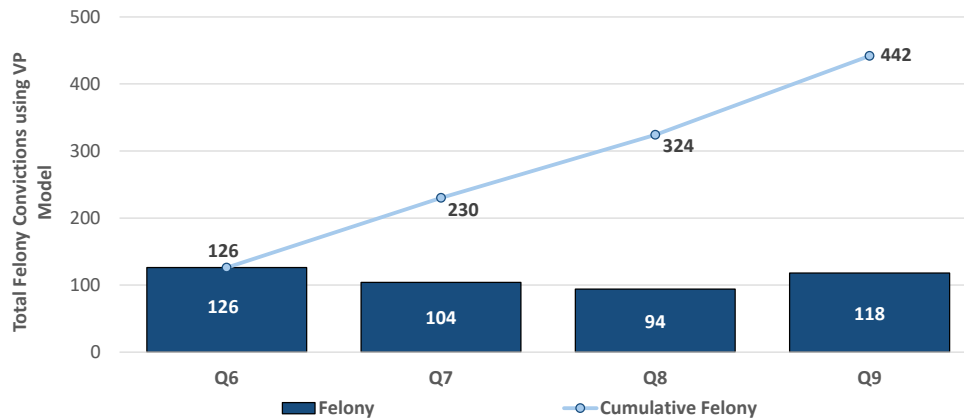
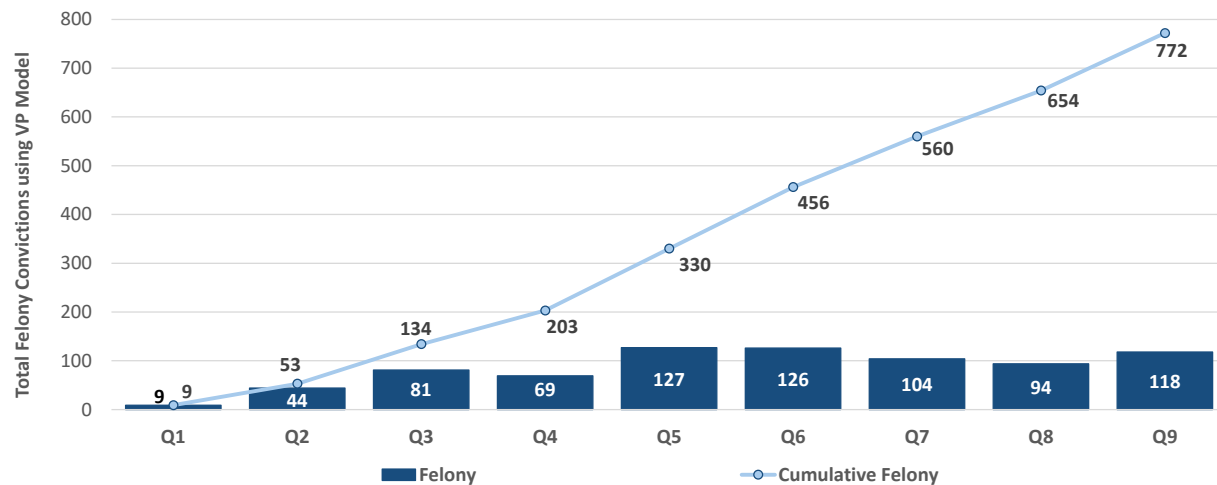


Figure 18 illustrates the trend of those who received felony convictions during year one and two of the grant period across all 13 grantees.

Figure 18 Felony convictions using the VP model during year one and two of the grant period.



During the second year of the grant period, grantees reported a cumulative total of 442 felony convictions obtained using the VP model. The number of felonies decreased across Quarters 7 and 8 but increased in the final quarter of the year (Q9).

Altogether for both years one and two of the grant cycle, grantees reported a total of 772 felony convictions crimes obtained using the VP model.

SUMMARY

The Organized Retail Theft Grant Program has made an impact in addressing organized retail theft and related crimes in the second year of implementation. Grantees made significant progress, with 14,157 arrests and 11,657 case referrals and an estimated recovery of \$111,013,117¹⁸ in stolen property. Altogether for both years one and two of the grant cycle, a total of 32,613 arrests occurred related to ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft with 25,843 case referrals. Additionally, the estimated total value of property recovered was \$259,866,084 during year one and two of the grant period.

These successes were realized through a variety of grant-funded resources, such as the purchase of equipment (cameras, software/databases, etc.), and hiring and training staff. These resources assisted grantees to address ORT crime and strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and the retail community. Increases in the number of arrests and convictions are expected to remain relatively consistent throughout the grant cycle as grantees have concluded project ramp-up.

The tenth quarterly report of grantee progress is anticipated May 2026. Following BSCC's review and subsequent analysis of the reports, updates regarding grantees' progress and reported metrics will be made available on the [BSCC ORT Prevention Grant webpage](#)¹⁹ and the [BSCC ORT Vertical Prosecution Grant webpage](#).²⁰

¹⁸ The value excludes the total dollar amount of recovered stolen property in quarter 6, as data for this quarter is not available.

¹⁹ <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/organized-retail-theft-grant-program/>

²⁰ <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/organized-retail-theft-vertical-prosecution-grant-program/>

APPENDIX A: DATA COLLECTION

ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF INCIDENT, ARREST, AND REFERRAL METRICS

The relationship between arrests by law enforcement and referrals to the District Attorneys' Offices (DAs) for prosecution is complex. Once an arrest is made, law enforcement must conduct an investigation *prior to* referring a case for prosecution. The investigation, which includes the collection of evidence, witness interviews, victim statements, etc., can take a significant amount of time. For this reason, arrests are not always equal to the number of referrals for prosecution. Arrests made in one quarter may not be referred for prosecution until subsequent quarters. Similarly, an incident may occur in one quarter which prompts an investigation during the same quarter and, given the time to investigate, an arrest may not be made until a subsequent reporting period. Finally, not all incidents involve an arrest, and not all arrests result in a referral for prosecution. An arrest may not lead to a referral for prosecution due to insufficient evidence or a variety of other factors at the local level.

Arrest metrics are totals for the grantee (and any partner agencies). Arrests can be made by any officer on any assignment and therefore difficult to directly attribute to the ORT Prevention Grant Program. The number of referrals to DAs is collected by funding source (ORT Prevention Grant funds and other funding sources). For this document, the total of all referrals to District Attorneys' Offices for ORT prosecution was used to be consistent with the reporting of incident and arrest metrics.