BIKE INDEX

Briefing to Seattle City Council Sustainability & Transportation Committee Tuesday, May 16

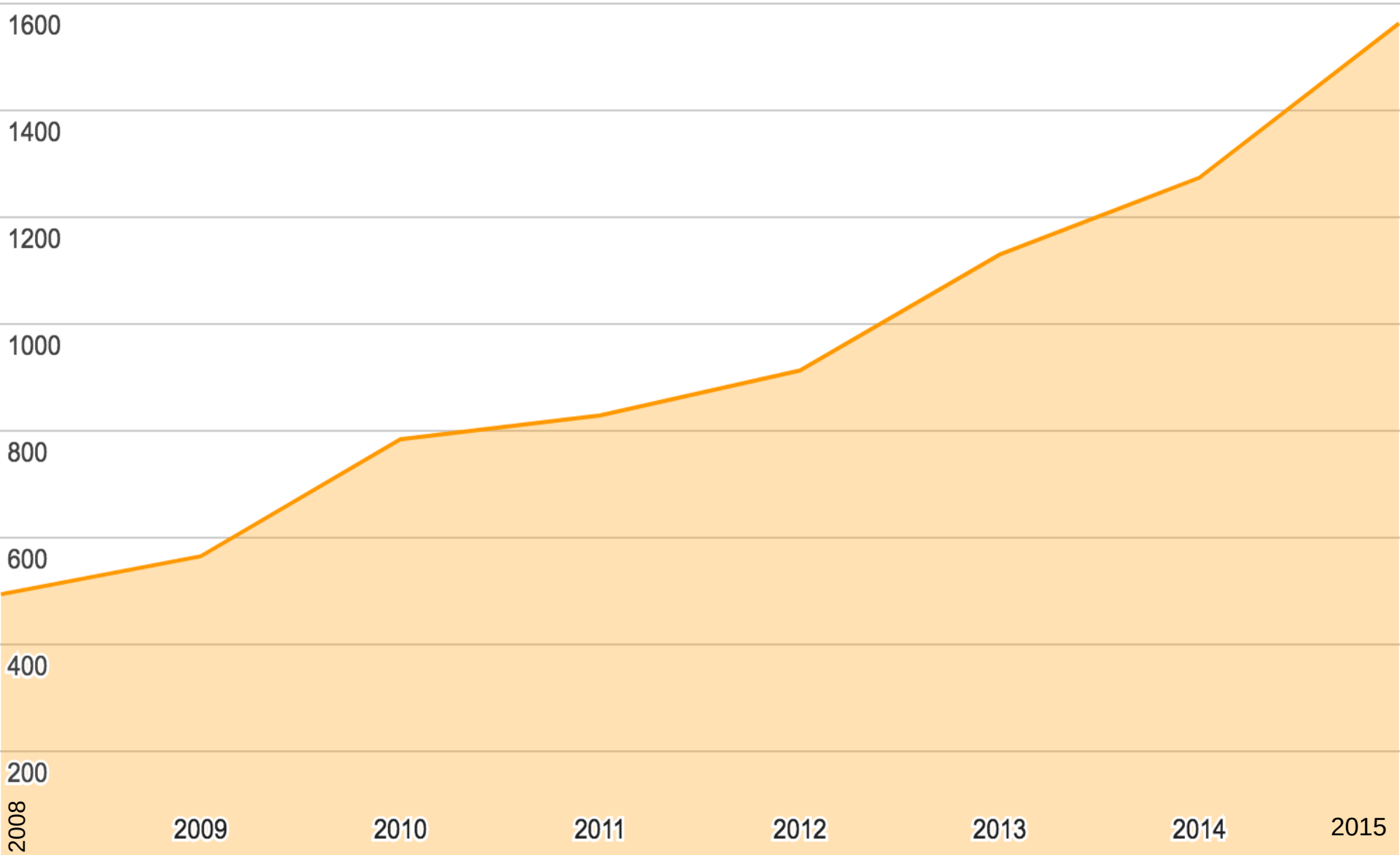
- Brock Howell, Bicycle Security Advocates
- Bryan Hance, Bike Index

Bicycle Security Advocates

Advocates for improving bicycle parking and fighting bike theft.

Bicycle Security Advocates

Bicycle Thefts by Year in Seattle



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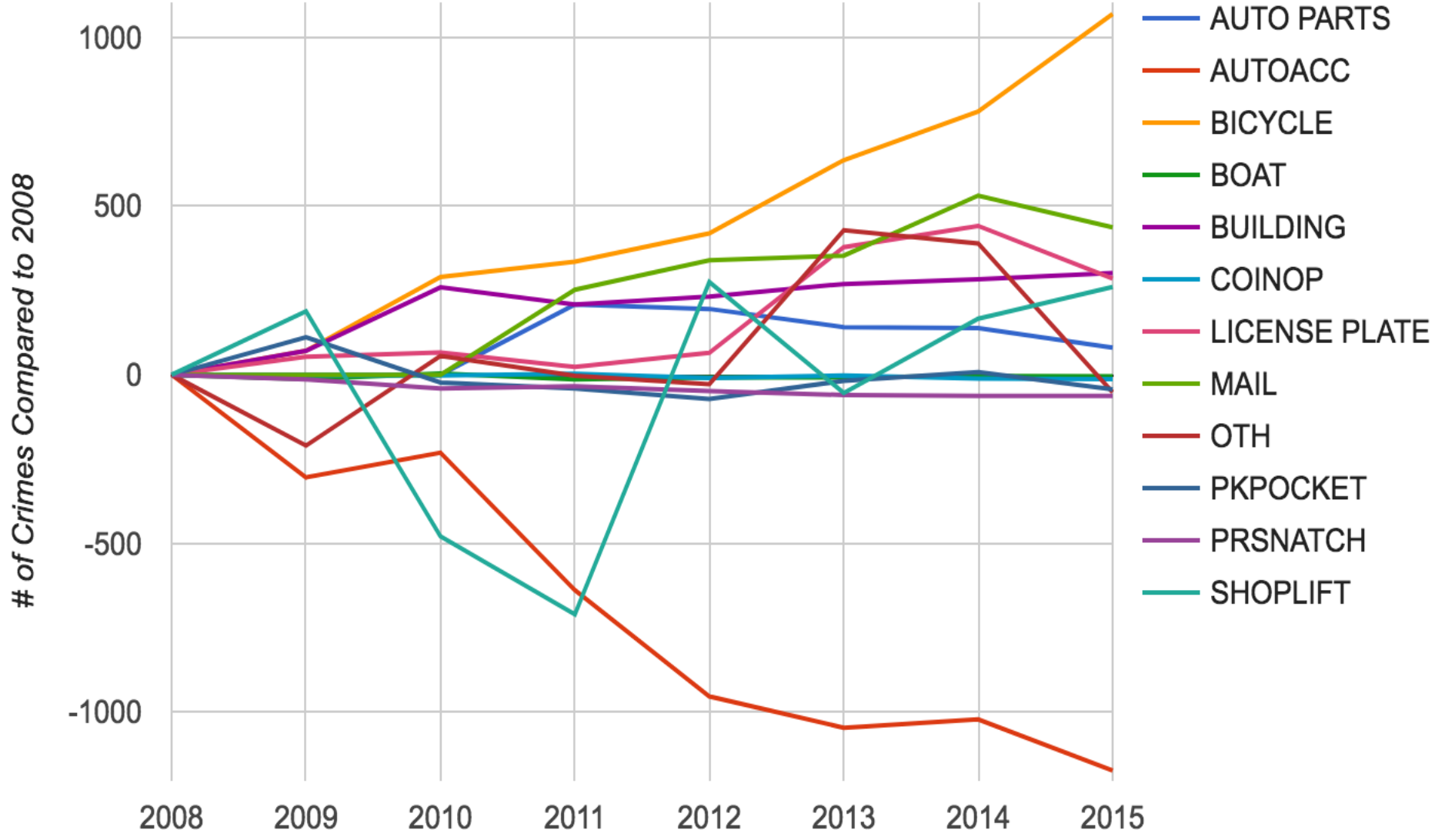
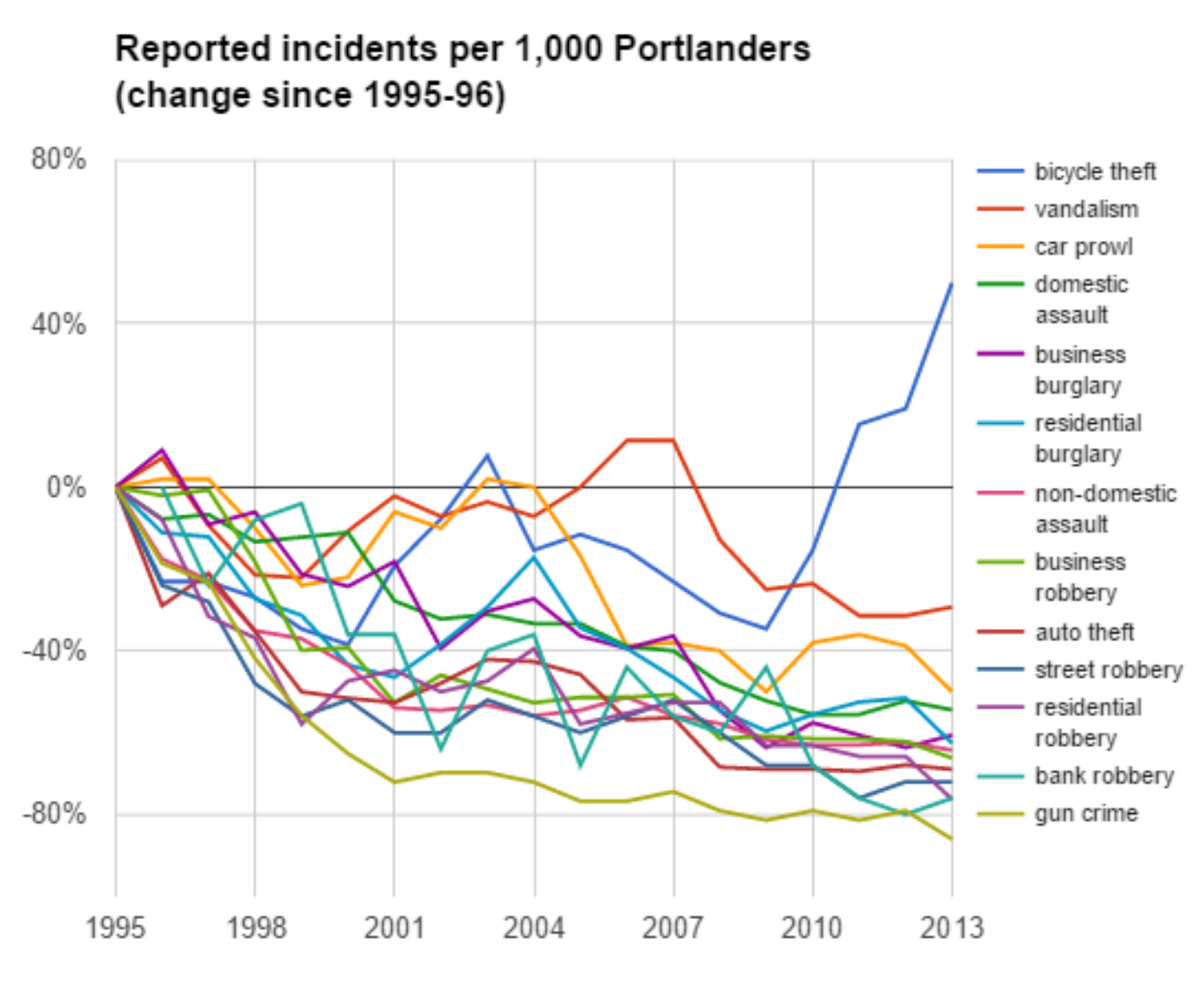
Larceny Crimes in Seattle



Bicycle Security Advocates



"In Portland, crime has plummeted in every major category except one," Michael Andersen, BikePortland.org (April 30, 2015), https://bikeportland.org/2015/04/30/portland-crime-plummeted-every-major-category-except-one-142503

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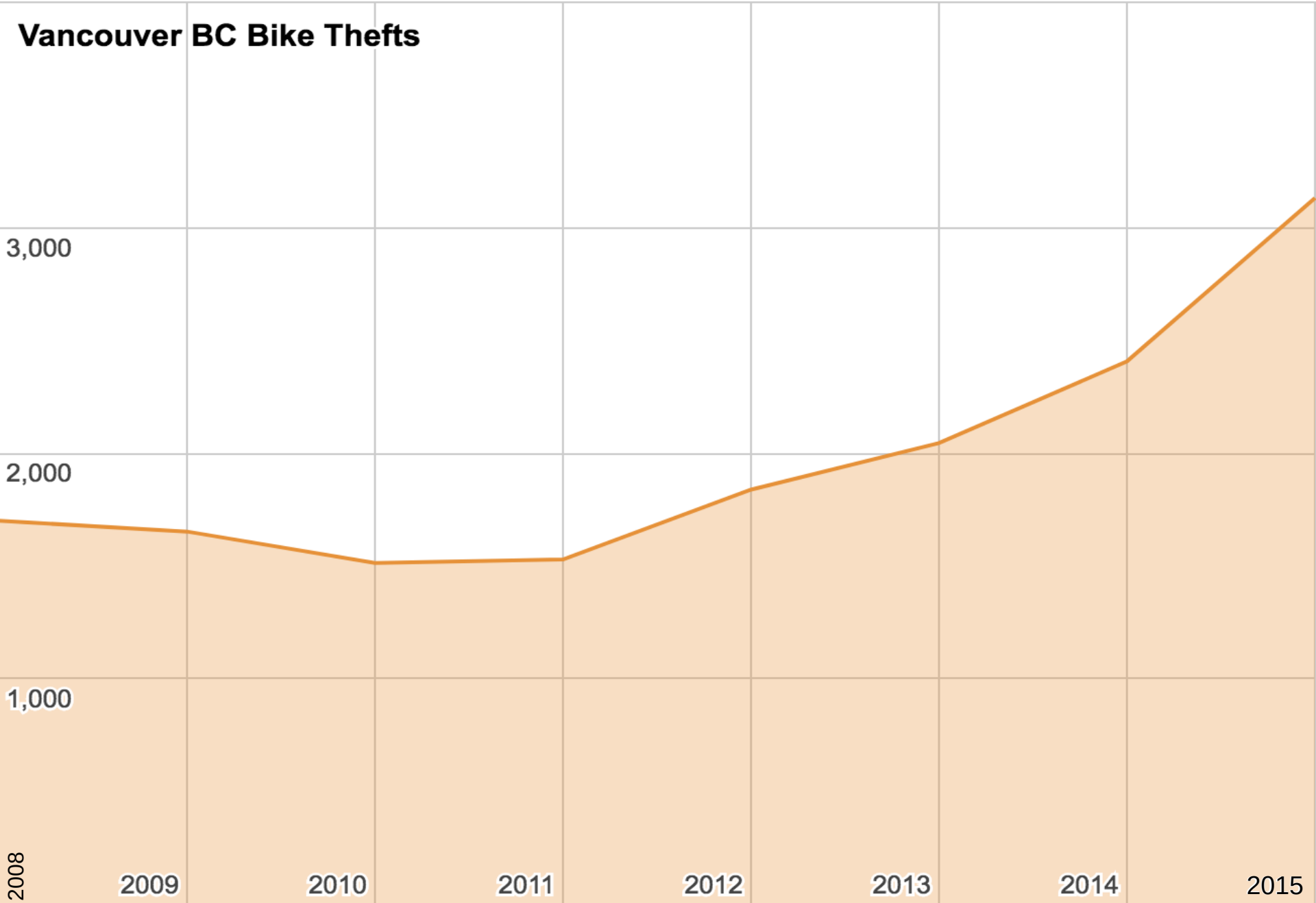

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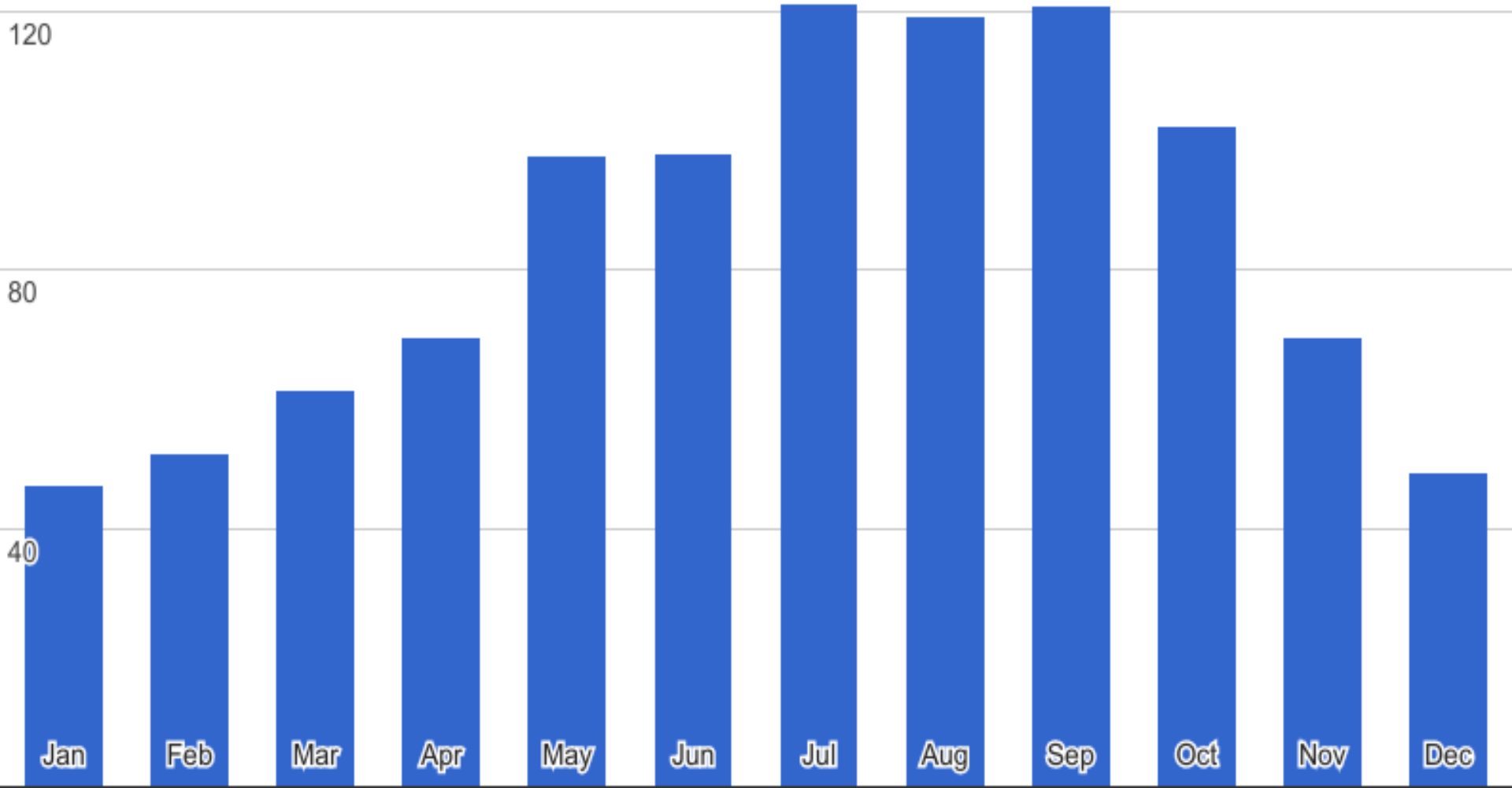
Average by Month

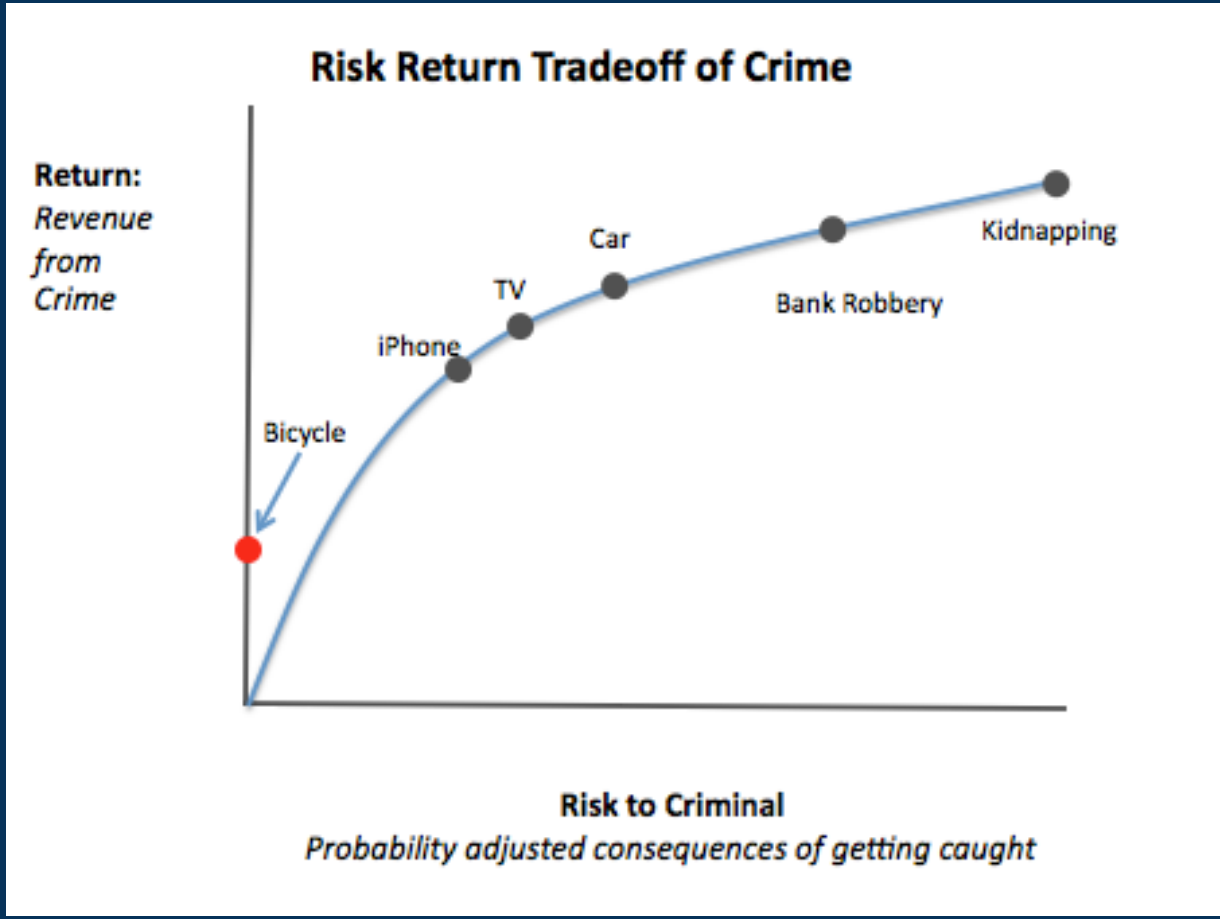
Month / Ave by Month



Bicycle Security Advocates

3.1%

Bicycle Security Advocates



"What happens to stolen bicycles?" Priceonomics.com (Aug. 28, 2012), https://priceonomics.com/post/30393216796/what-happens-to-stolen-bicycles

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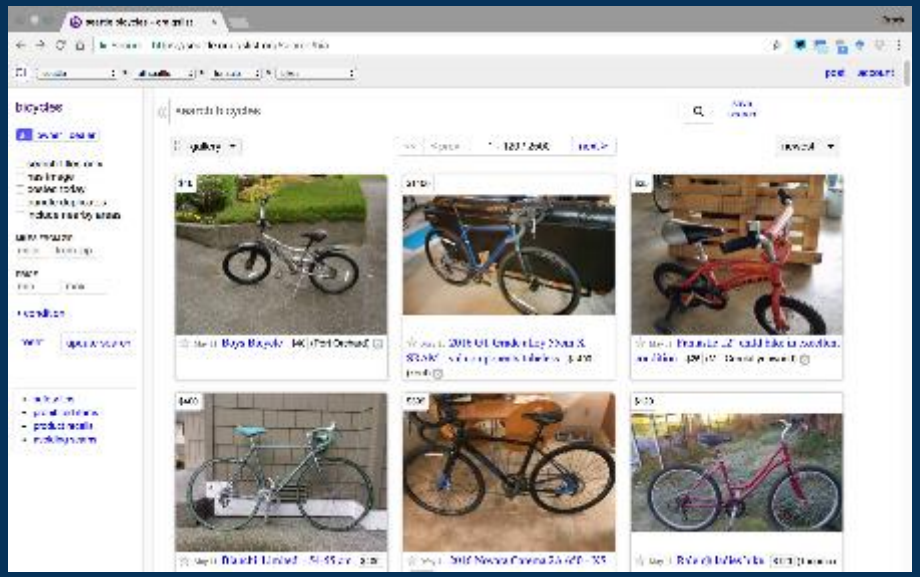
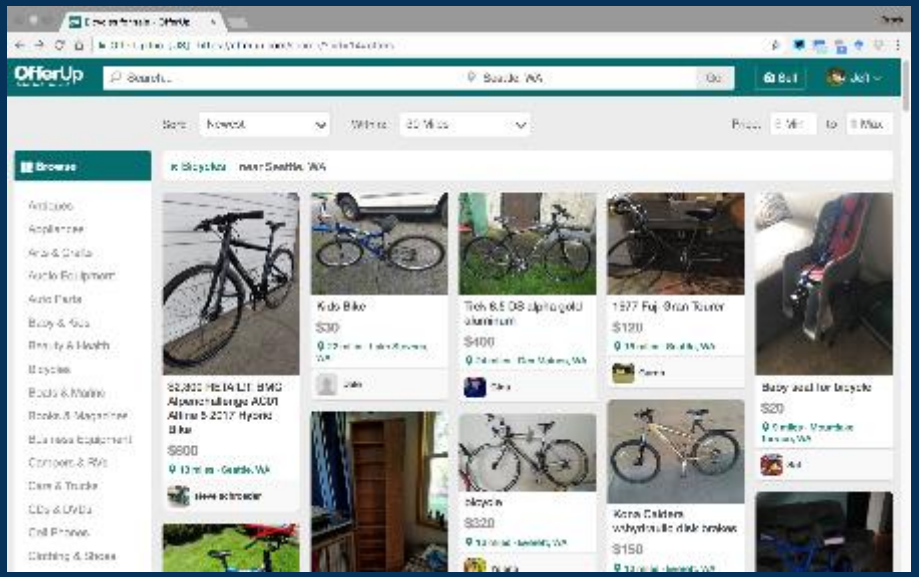




Bicycle Security Advocates

Perspectives

Social Justice

Connected to other crimes

Significantly impacts the bottom line of bike retailers

Bicycle Security Advocates

Bryan Hance

BIKE INDEX

Bike Index: Hello Seattle!

Who we are & why we're here

- **Bryan Hance**: Tech background, 'bike theft nerd'
- I ran **stolenbicycleregistry.com from 2005-2014**
- **Seth Herr** (background in bike shops) started **Bike Index in 2013**
- We merged in **2014**
- **Bike Index today:** over **114,000** bikes on file, **3,700+** recoveries, and **380+** partner organizations across the world
- **@bikeindex** on Twitter + Instagram
- **@stolenbikessea** – Seattle Twitter

Bike Index: Registration That Works

- **FREE indexing:** **pre-** and **post-** theft
- The more we **index**, the more we **recover**. We're aiming for a **critical mass!**
- **Free search**, **open API**, we prove bike ownership & provide stolen bike data
- Bike Index is the only system with **point of sale indexing**
- Bike Index is the only system sharing data with **pawn search partners**
- Bike Index is a nonprofit **501(c)(3)**

Bike Index recovers the most bikes.

So … why bikes?

- **Ubiquitous** crime with a visceral response.
- **Huge financial impact** – $100's of millions yearly*

  (* under reporting is est @ 15-30%, bike theft data = hard to get!)
- **More bikes on the road –** higher in value
- **Rampant online black market** fuels theft & fencing
- **Bike Thefts** = lower enforcement priority
- **'Balkanized' data** – City & state systems don't always communicate. When stolen bikes cross city/state lines, regular systems fail.

Sparks Fly As Bike Thief Grinds Through Lock

Bike Index centralizes this data – this leads to more recoveries.

Bike Index partners:

Community

- Bike shops, cycling organizations, cities, police, universities, other anti-theft orgs, countless daily theft victims.

Online region-specific sites / orgs

- **PNW:** BikePortland.org, SeattleBikeBlog.com, WeBikeEugene.org, etc.
- **Nationally:** GoBikeBuffalo, Indycog, BikingToronto, BikingInLA, TucsonVelo, BikeCleveland, CyclingUtah, Stolen Bikes NOLA, Savannah Bikes, **WSORCA** ...

Law enforcement, cities, and universities

- Portland Police Bureau, Seattle Police Dept., SFPD, King Co. Sheriff's Office, Berkeley CA, St. Louis PD, Pacific.edu, University of Washington, LAPD West, Bicycle Security Advocates, most of the folks on this panel, etc ... For a full list see **bikeindex.org/where**

Calculating the impact

The last 10 stolen bikes registered w/ values on file

- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118930 $1000
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118931 $1200
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118932 $700
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118935 $4000
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118939 $1200
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118923 $1600
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118916 $800
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118887 $1700
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118891 $980
- https://bikeindex.org/bikes/118895 $1000

Total: $14,180

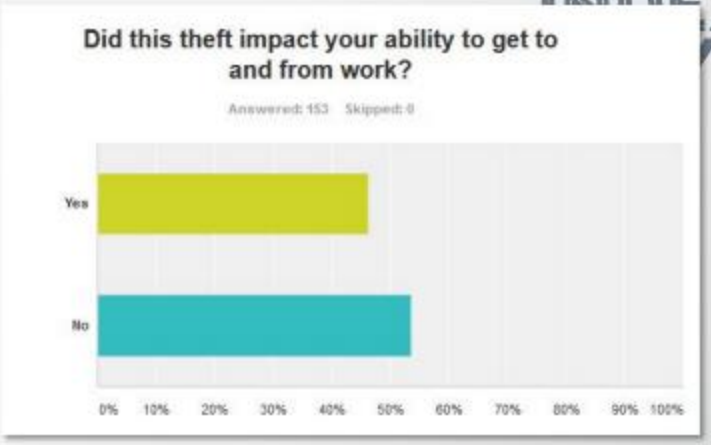
- This is just **10** of **~40** stolen bikes reported stolen that day

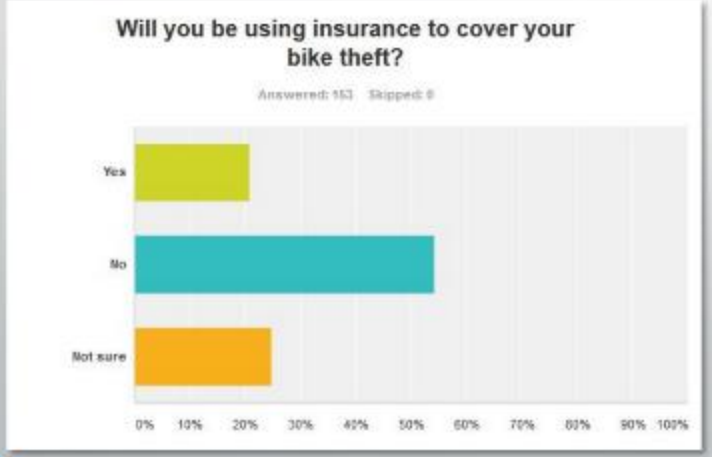
- Bike-only: doesn't cover other costs (lost time, other theft damages)

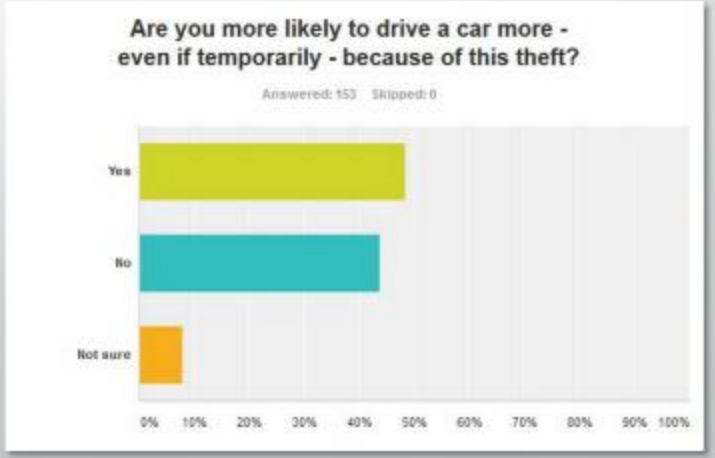
Most victims aren't making insurance claims on these bikes and shoulder the whole loss.

More theft = less bikes

- More theft = less bikes
- Less bikes = more cars
- Many victims absorb 100% of the theft







Bike theft hurts shops + community

- Black market bikes **depress the legitimate market**
- Shops compete with thieves who fence bikes **online**, **unregulated**, at a **100%** profit
- **Victims**: Est ~7-15% stop riding after a theft
- **Victims**: tend to buy **cheaper** bikes after a theft

  Circular issue: many victims - post theft - buy online b/c cheaper.
- **Black market bikes** = closely tied to local drug + property crimes, 'quality of life' issues. Bikes are a type of 'street currency'.

Bike Index in Seattle

- Some quick Seattle bike theft stats:

Records in **Seattle** within 25 miles

	Stolen in year	Total stolen by eoy	Recovered in year
2014	386	1590	18
2015	1096	2687	132
2016	1150	3839	137

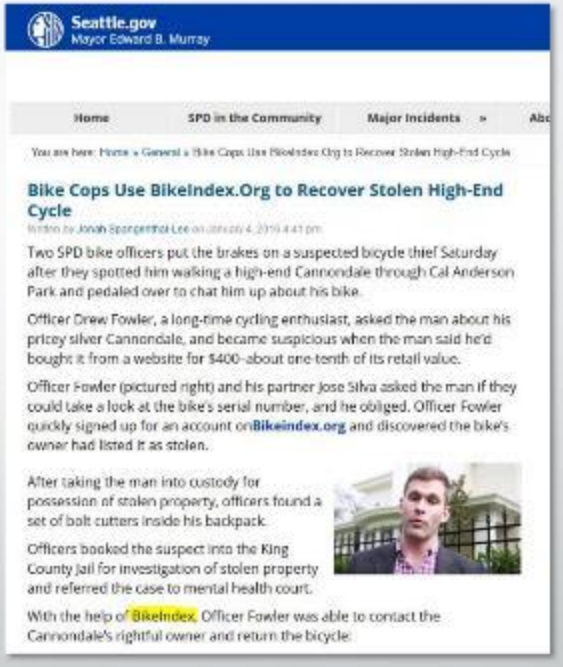
Remember: This is only bikes reported to the Bike Index

More bikes Indexed = more recoveries!

Organic adoption across multiple law enforcement agencies

Lots of 'informal' use first (i.e. cops who ride) followed by more formal adoption

Bike Index augments systems already in place.



More bikes Indexed = more recoveries!

Bike Index lets the community take an active role in the problem – through Indexing and recovery. We're fast - It takes **less than a minute** to register a bike!

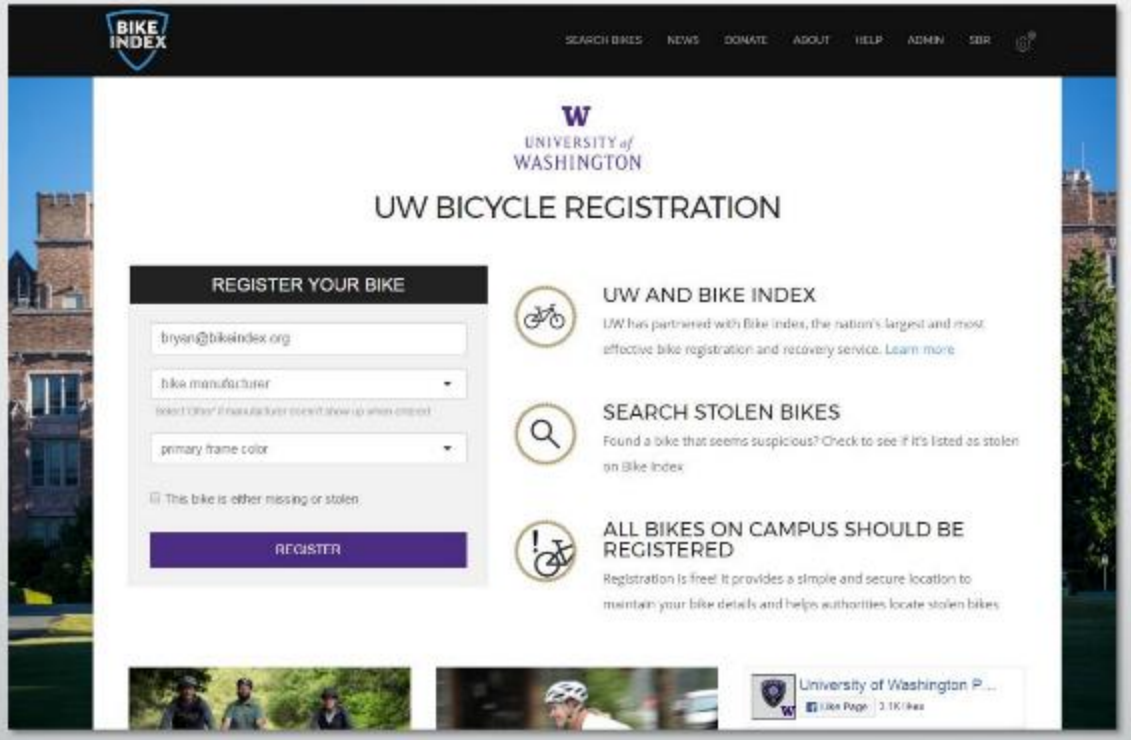
More bikes Indexed = more recoveries!

* Many are recovered via **photos only**, **no serial on file** - matched while in the field.

In Seattle: King Co. Sheriff's - @kcsobees

(I've lost count how many bikes the KCSO officers have recovered.)

Bike Index in Seattle: UW!



Bike shops: Key partners in the equation

- Indexing at time of **sale**
- Indexing at time of **service**
- Serial checks for **suspect interactions**
- **Seriously, this is all FREE. Zero. Zilch. Nada!**
- **We also have 'low tech'** options – come talk to us!

Roughly a dozen Seattle shops using Bike Index at last count.

So very many awesome, vigilant shops - thank you for all you do!

Advanced partnerships

- **Bike data shared with partners like:**
  - **Perfecto.bike** – verified online marketplace
  - **LeadsOnline** - nation's largest pawn search system

- **Extra law enforcement support**
  - **Bulk serial search** for warehouses
  - **Free** registration setup for city, police, city org's
- **Various 'Theft Task Force' groups**
  - Members of the **Portland BTTF** – we're seeing lots of similar 'task force' groups springing up across cities in the US.
  - BTTF = Two officers, community, industry & city-level partners in Portland.

Newest partner - VerifiR

- **VerifiR.com** – tech from the pharma industry
- Chips implanted **in the frame** (or under paint)
- Can't remove the chip w/o damaging the bike!
- Scans via smartphone (NFC)
- **Bike Index + VerifiR:**
  - They bring **amazing chip tracking technology**
  - Bike Index brings **ownership data** and **registration/search/recovery network**.

Thanks to our API we can 'talk' to other services like VerifiR.

Thank you!

I'm bryan@bikeindex.org

Please don't hesitate to contact me!

Bicycle Security Advocates

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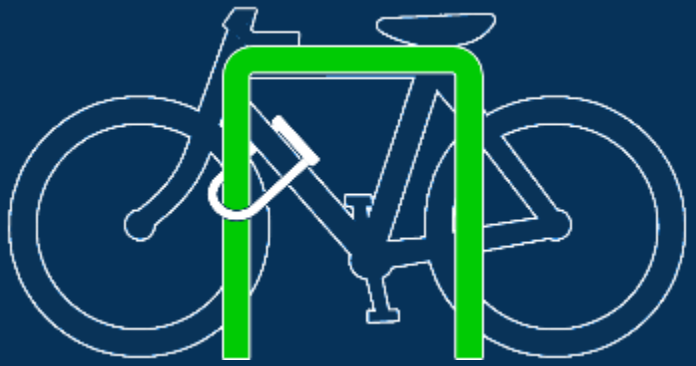
Brock Howell



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1. Vaccinate bikes

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500,000

Bicycle Security Advocates

1. Vaccinate bikes

Have retailers index bikes and transfer "ownership" to buyers.

Require Craigslist, OfferUp, etc. to include a field for sellers to list the bike's serial number or Bike Index ID code.

Have producers of paid event rides include a field for registrants to list their bike's serial number or Bike Index ID code.

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2. Improve Police Investigations

Create a single point of contact at SPD for reporting bike thefts and coordinating investigations.

Eliminate issues of reporting online v. to the precinct.

Coordinate bike theft investigations across precincts, with the major crimes division, and with KCSO and UWPD.

Build relationships with bike shops, pawn shops, Craigslist, OfferUp, etc.

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3. Funding

Help bike retailers adopt pre-indexing through technical assistance and training.

Educate bicycle owners on the need to index their bikes and on proper locking techniques.

Fund the back-end database costs and investigatory assistance of Bike Index or another online indexing site.

Bicycle Security Advocates

	BIKE INDEX	529 GARAGE
Background	NPO, started in 2005, based in PNW	LLC, started in 2013, based in PNW
Code & Platform	Open API / web-based	Proprietary / primarily app-based
# of Indexed Bikes	114,000	Unknown
# of Recoveries	3,770 (287 in Seattle)	Unknown
# of Seattle Bike Shops	8 exclusively (10 total)	1 exclusively (3 total)
User Profile Integration	Facebook, Strava	Facebook, Twitter, Google+
Structure	Network / Community: Twitter Alerts & Relationships	Top-Down: Push Notifications via Mobile App & Email
Database Integration	LeadsOnline Perfecto.bike	National Bike Registry
Partnerships	**UW, Seattle Bike Blog**, & 380+ other partnerships	Marketing Contracts with College Campuses & Vancouver PD
Other	Lightspeed POS Integration VerifiR	Extensive use of Stickers For Purchase

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