



SAN LEANDRO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention



Bait Car Operations

• Simple

- Police surveil stationary car containing valuables
- Lock offender inside the vehicle

• Elaborate

- Tracking devices monitor vehicle location and movement
- Fuel cutoff switches
- Parts marking
- Audio/video recording

BAIT CAR!





SAN LEANDRO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Goal

- **Deter**

- Use robust outreach to publicize the program (Sallybanks, 2001)

- **Apprehend**

- Arrest and prosecute those who have taken the bait



Considerations

- **Staff**

- One supervisor; officer(s); patrol redirected to bait vehicle activations

- **Efficacy**

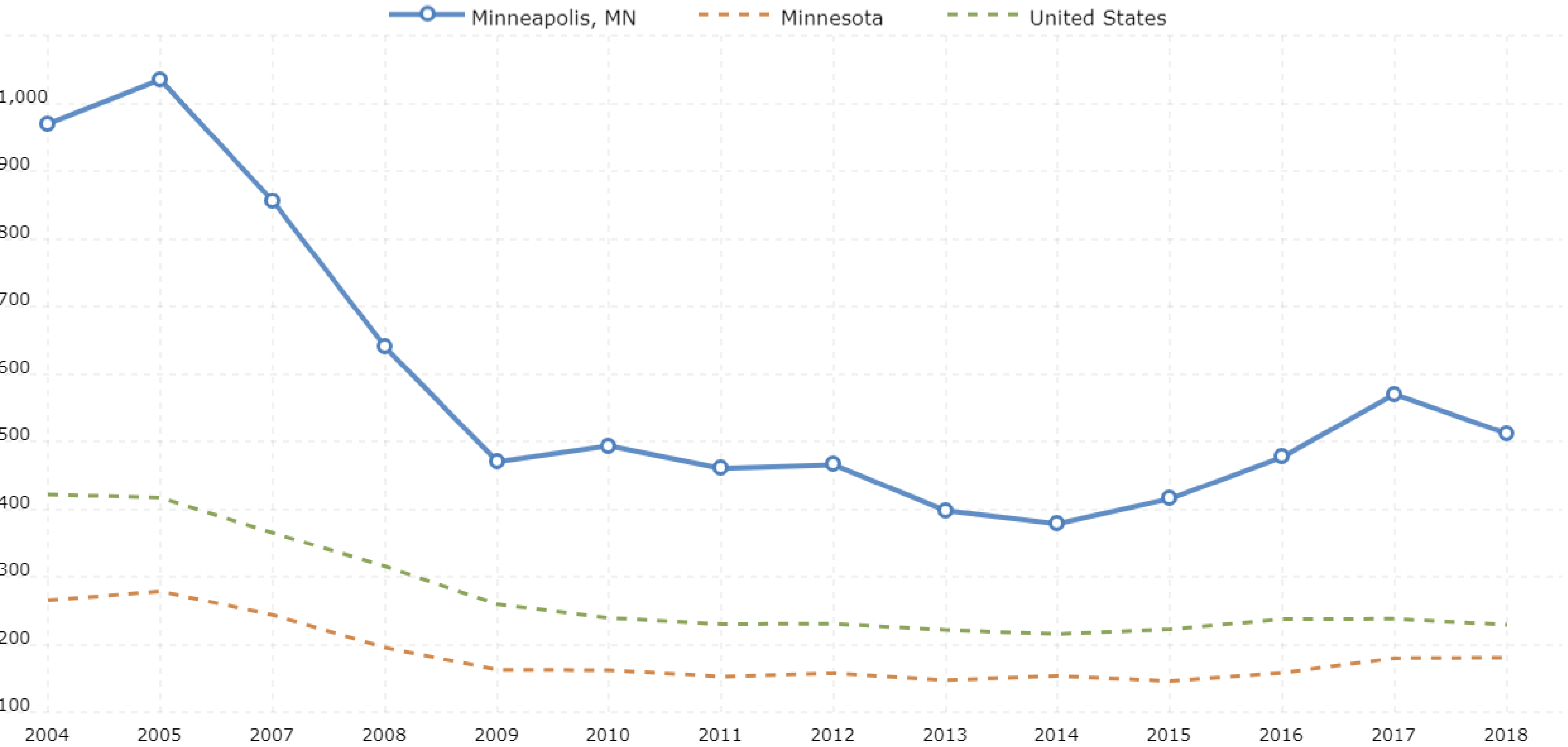
- Research findings
- Criminal prosecution considerations

- **Risk Management**

- Minimize harm

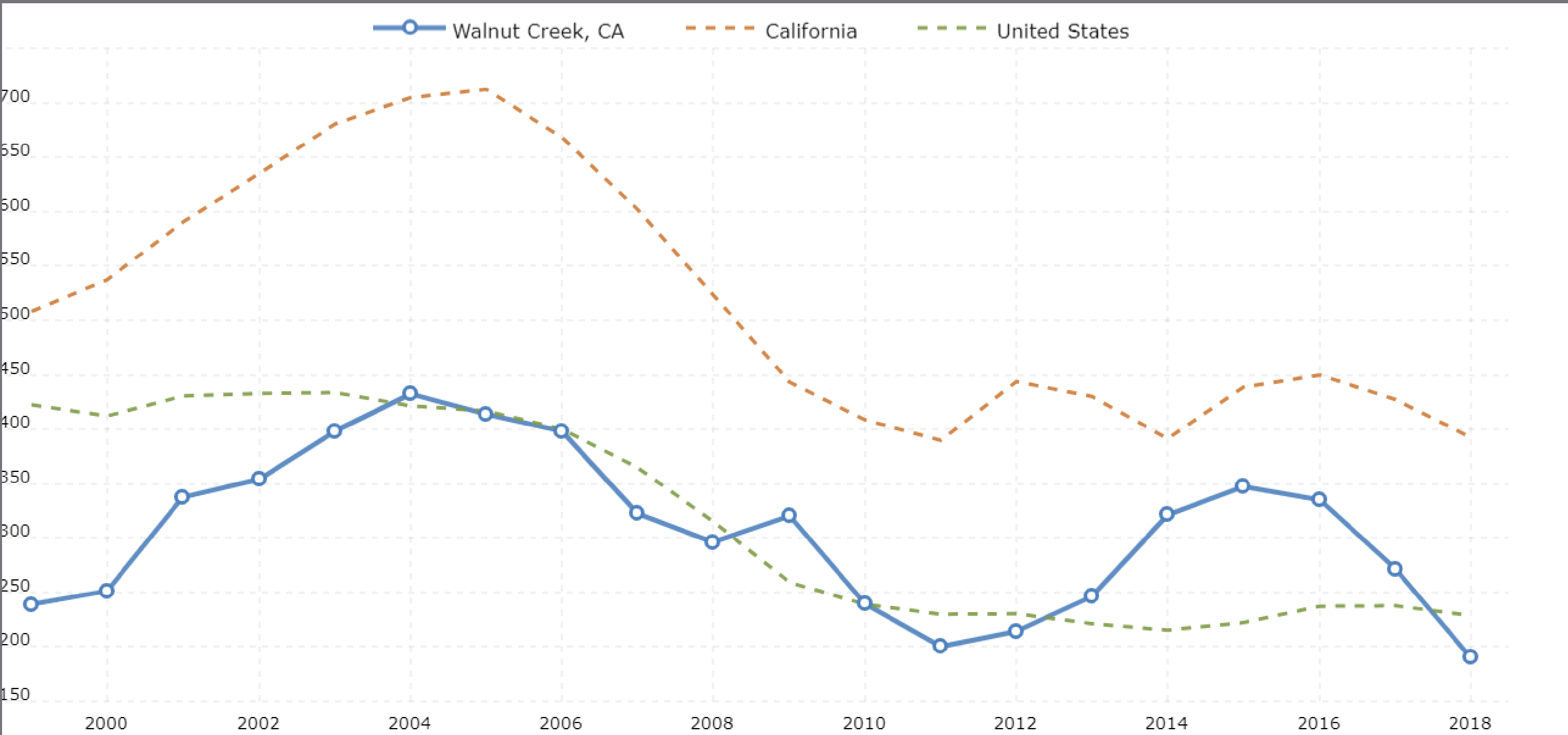


Early Adopter





Recent Adopter





New Legislation

■ AB 1740

- Recycler required to record the year, make, model, and a copy of the vehicle title.
- Prohibited from purchasing a catalytic converter from a person who is not the verifiable owner

■ SB 1087

- Prohibits the purchase of a used catalytic converter other than from specified sellers and an individual with proof of ownership
- Recyclers can only buy from specified sellers



Potential Solutions

- **Partner with local businesses to offer free or discounted catalytic converter etching/encasing**
- **Enact a local ordinance to discourage theft/resale**
 - **Unlawful to possess without proof**
- **Widely publicize our layered approach through varied media platforms, pamphlets, newsletters, etc.**



Recommendation

- **Staff recommends we not execute a bait car program but implement multi-pronged deterrents:**
 - **Work with local businesses to explore free/discounted catalytic converter etching/encasing**
 - **Adopt a local ordinance making it illegal to possess/sell/purchase a used catalytic converter**
 - **Employ a broad awareness/education campaign**



References

- **Alpert, G., Kenney, D., Dunharn, R., Smith, W., & Cosgrove, M. (1996). Police Pursuit and the Use of Force. https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/pr/164833_part1.pdf**
- **Newman, G. (2007). Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Response Guides Series. <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-pl34-pub.pdf>**
- **Sallybanks, J. (2001). Assessing the police use of decoy vehicles. Great Britain, Home Office, Policing and Reducing Crime Unit.**