



2021 RAPID ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by the Maryland Department of State Police

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Volume 12

2021 Annual Report

Regional Automated Property Information Database

FEBRUARY 2022



RAPID enters its second decade

Regional Automated Property Information Database

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RAPID IN THE NEWS

- Enters its 2nd decade
- New & Updated
- RAPID Continues to Expand Partnerships

RAPID started as legislation in 2009 and has evolved into a proven platform that assists law enforcement on a daily basis. The ability to search and review data from pawn shops and ADRS processors results in the recovery of stolen items, which often are able to be returned to their rightful owners. RAPID assists local, county and state law enforcement in the identification and prosecution of both opportunistic and career criminals.

At the end of 2021, RAPID has led to the recovery of an estimated \$57,218,180 worth of property leading to the arrests of 14,382 suspects and closed 19,705 criminal investigations.

COVID-19 has continued to challenge RAPID processes during 2021. There was continued uncertainty in determining the ability for licensees to operate and the ability of our business partners, LE and citizens to maintain their health and safety as the pandemic loosened its grip.

The RAPID Unit worked closely with allied law enforcement and local businesses and provided continued guidance and support to ensure they were operating within the recommendations and guidelines.

RAPID met the challenge of the new ecoATM cell phone systems growth into the State of Maryland. New processes and training has been developed and

provided to business operators and law enforcement partners as the machines are deployed.

Moving into 2022, RAPID will implement data driven investigative tools using the information obtained from the RAPID database. This information will be used to initiate investigations into suspicious and high value pawn and ADRS transactions.

RAPID GROWTH		
Year	Total Users	Total Queries
2011	2062	578,578
2012	2541	881,246
2013	3024	1,161,699
2014	4797	1,478,317
2015	5750	1,669,750
2016	5384	2,089,914
2017	5635	2,711,592
2018	5928	2,957,698
2019	6032	3,354,076
2020	6386	3,613,429
2021	6543	3,715,536

Maryland RAPID Laws and Acronyms

- Business Regulation Article Title 12** – Regulates the acquisition of pawn and precious metal transactions.
- Business Regulation Article Title 17, Sub-Title 10** – Regulates the acquisition of scrap metal transactions.
- Transportation Article Title 15, Sub-Title 5** – Regulates the licenses of Automotive Dismantlers, Recyclers, Scrap Processors and the acquisition of whole and vehicle part transactions.
- Transportation Article Title 25, Sub-Title 2** – Regulates the disposition of abandoned vehicles.

- ADRS** – Automotive Dismantlers, Recyclers and Scrap Processors
- BWI** – Business Watch International
- DL** – Department of Labor

- LE** – Law Enforcement
- MVA** – Motor Vehicle Administration
- NCIC** – National Crime Information Center

RAPID Report by Jurisdiction

“The Regional Automated Property Information Database, known as RAPID, was developed in an effort to track stolen property. This database is widely used by law enforcement and has significantly improved the ability of police officers to close property crime cases with arrests.”

Colonel Woodrow Jones III
 Superintendent
 Maryland State Police

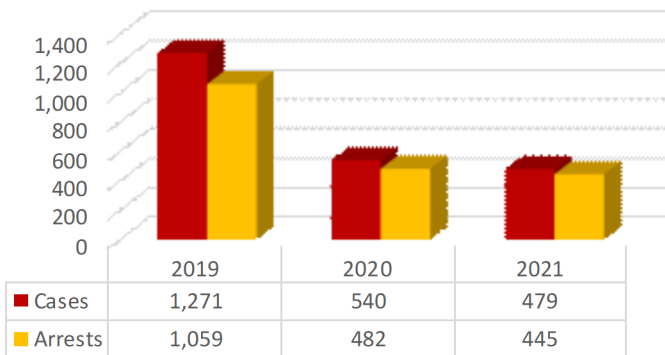
County	Cases	Arrests	Recovery
Allegany	4	4	\$1,500
Anne Arundel	6	6	\$46,000
Baltimore County	194	194	\$751,825
Baltimore City	77	77	\$120,150
Calvert	3	3	\$3,869
Caroline	3	3	\$4,190
Carroll	34	6	\$8,655
Cecil	0	0	0**
Charles	10	9	\$17,922
Frederick	1	1	\$350
Garrett	1	1	\$250
Harford	10	8	\$9,500
Howard	20	20	\$59,457
Kent	2	2	\$17,800
Montgomery	0	0	0**
Ocean City	1	1	\$1,080
Prince George's	50	50	\$83,227
Queen Anne's	1	1	\$1,000
Somerset	1	1	\$14,000
St. Mary's	9	8	\$19,550
Talbot/Dorchester*	4	4	\$65,839
Washington	21	21	\$14,625
Wicomico	6	6	\$25,350
Worcester	1	1	\$1,477
Westminster	12	12	\$16,668
Multi - Jurisdictional	8	6	\$42,004

* Statistics combined. ** No statistics reported

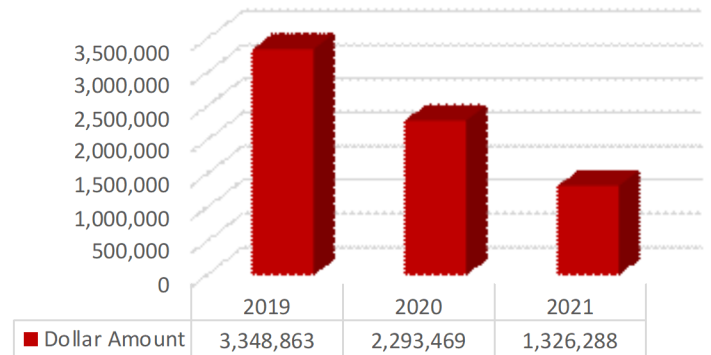
2021 Statistics

(Statistics and success stories are self-reported by the individual agencies.)
 (Not all agencies track these exact parameters or account for subsequent investigations.)
 (It is important to note some businesses were closed for a period of time due to the pandemic.)

RECENT YEARS



RECOVERY



RAPID Administration & Updates

As RAPID passed the anniversary of the first full year of the upgraded RAPID system, users have become accustomed to the new features and search methods. The RAPID county administrators have played a pivotal role in the success of the new system as users accessed and utilized the platform. As more users from across the region join the ranks of RAPID, this new system has continued to prove itself as a reliable and informational database. This would not have been possible without the assistance, cooperation and dedication of BWI and all RAPID users. A huge thank you for those who assisted with this monumental task.



**BUSINESS
WATCH
INTERNATIONAL**

In 2020, RAPID instituted on-line training sessions as the result of COVID. RAPID personnel recognized the value of this training and has continued the practice during 2021. RAPID has provided 14 training sessions which has resulted in 157 new users being trained, bringing the overall total RAPID users to over 6,500. The ability to provide online training for RAPID users embraces the continued evolution of technology to modern day law enforcement.

"RAPID is a godsend! The speed of the new system makes searches much easier"

RAPID Administrator
Howard County Police Department.

Multi-agency Crime Solving

RAPID currently provides access to 274 federal, state and local agencies in Delaware, District of Columbia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

RAPID has the ability to link crimes that have been committed in one or more jurisdictions or states and provide law enforcement with the resources to identify suspects and recover property. The ability of law enforcement from all jurisdictions to work together has allowed for the recovery of stolen property, the identification and dismantling of criminal theft rings and the arrest of the persons responsible for committing these crimes.

In September 2021, MDSP RAPID personnel, county administrators and others attended the Annual Maryland Retail Theft conference held in Anne Arundel County, MD. This experience provided networking between law enforcement, retail theft loss prevention officers and retail establishments. Retail theft remains a primary target for shoplifting and the potential pawn of these stolen goods. This training allows all involved to evaluate and counter recent crime trends.



Partners	Users	Agencies
DE	1480	85
DC/FED	215	38
PA	207	116
NJ	3	2
VA	254	23
WVA	19	9
NH	33	1

Cross Border Investigations

DE to Queen Anne’s County, MD:

The Delaware State Police located a stolen generator at a pawn shop in Queen Anne’s County, MD. During their investigation they identified and arrested a suspect and recovered the property for the owner.

New Castle, DE to Cecil County, MD:

A residential theft of jewelry led to a criminal investigation by the New Castle Police Department. Using RAPID, investigators located the stolen property and identified the suspect. During the arrest, the suspect confessed to the crime and a theft from a victim in Maryland. Upon the relay of information and subsequent MDSP investigation, two victims from Maryland were located. The suspect, who worked as a cleaning person, had stolen jewelry from both homes. The value of the recovered items was \$18,400 and the suspect was charged accordingly.

MD to DE:

A victim reported a stolen cell phone valued at \$1000. During a RAPID search by investigators, the cell phone was located at a pawn shop in Delaware. The cell phone was recovered and the suspect was charged with theft.

VA to Howard County, MD:

A RAPID NCIC hit revealed stolen jewelry in excess of \$20,000 sold to a pawn shop in Howard County, MD. The suspect was charged and the jewelry recovered in this case by the Howard County Police Department.

VA to Charles County, MD:

RAPID NCIC hit led to the recovery of a firearm reported stolen in Fairfax, VA. The firearm, valued at \$499 was recovered and returned to the victim. Charges are pending in this case.

VA to Prince George’s County, MD:

The Prince George’s County Police Department assisted the ATF with locating and recovering stolen property from a robbery spree which resulted in a homicide in Prince Williams County, VA. Nine stolen watches were recovered and the homicide suspect was identified and charged.

St. Mary’s County, MD to VA:

A RAPID NCIC hit for a stolen vehicle led to the recovery of a Dodge Charger valued at \$8,000. The vehicle was reported stolen to the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police. The vehicle was scrapped in St. Mary’s County, MD. The vehicle had been abandoned and brought to the scrap yard by a tow company.

*“The ability to search RAPID for stolen items and suspects is a beneficial investigative tool.”
Trooper—Maryland State Police*

RAPID Success with Business Crimes

Montgomery County - Retail Theft of tools and equipment:

The Montgomery County Police Department was investigating a retail shoplifting case. Using RAPID they located two subjects pawning new in box items. Continued investigation led to the recovery of \$7,047.80 of property, the closure of 12 cases and arrests of two suspects.

Baltimore County - Employee Theft:

MDSP CED investigators utilized RAPID to investigate and recover numerous Apple products stolen by an Amazon Distribution center employee. These items were pawned at numerous pawn shops in the county. The thefts totaled in excess of \$25,000. Two arrests were made in this case.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Office - Employee Theft:

Sheriff Deputies were contacted by a victim who reported her wedding and engagement rings stolen while she was exercising at Planet Fitness. During a search by deputies, the victim and Planet Fitness Staff, only the wedding band was located. Carroll County Sheriff’s Office set up a saved search and three months later the engagement ring was pawned. It was pawned by an employee from Planet Fitness who had assisted in the search for the stolen items when they were reported. The employee had been terminated prior to the recovery of the engagement ring from the pawn shop. The ring valued at \$6,000, was returned to the victim. The female employee was charged with theft.

MDSP Princess Anne - Employee Theft:

The MDSP Princess Anne Barrack conducted a theft investigation at an ADRS dealer in Somerset County, MD. During the investigation it was found that two employees stole \$14,000 worth of scrap metal from their ADRS employer. As a result of the RAPID database and the investigation, both suspects were charged in this case.

“Love the layout, it is user friendly and it provides numerous avenues for searches .”

Administrator / Crime Analyst
Calvert County Sheriff’s Office



Cross Jurisdictional Investigations and Recoveries

Montgomery and Prince George's County:

The Montgomery County Police Department was investigating numerous thefts from retail stores. Their investigation led them to a pawn shop operating three stores in separate jurisdictions. It was determined that these stores were knowingly accepting stolen items and reselling them on eBay. Case remains open for charges.

Howard and Prince George's County:

During an investigation into a retail theft from Home Depot, MDSP CED located a suspect pawning new in box items matching the thefts. Their investigation led to the arrest of the suspect pawning the items and led them to the actual suspect committing the thefts. Two suspects were arrested.

Worcester and Montgomery County:

A NCIC alert in RAPID located a Rolex watch that had been reported stolen. The Rolex was pawned for \$9,000. As a result of this alert, additional stolen property was located at a pawn shop in Worcester County, MD. A total of \$9,705 in jewelry was pawned and recovered. The suspect was charged with felony theft over \$25,000 in this case.

Talbot County:

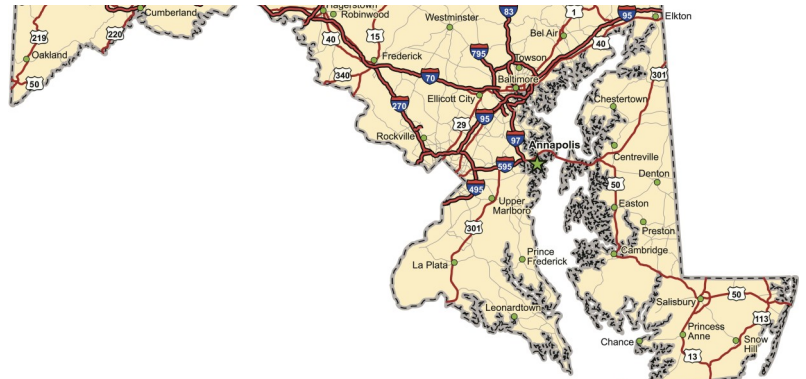
A RAPID check was conducted and revealed property stolen from a commercial burglary in St. Michaels, Maryland. Several stolen optical sunglasses, valued at \$775 were pawned in multiple jurisdictions. A suspect was identified and charged in this incident.

St. Mary's and Howard County:

An unknown suspect stole a \$300 kitchen mixer from Walmart. During the theft, a license plate was obtained and during a name search in RAPID, it was discovered that the suspect had pawned mixers at a pawn shop in Howard County, MD. The item was recovered and the suspect was charged.

Charles and Prince George's County:

Charles County Sheriff's Office was investigating the theft of two leaf blowers from a landscaping trailer. As the result of a RAPID NCIC hit, both leaf blowers were located at a pawn shop in Prince George's County, MD. The property was recovered and the case was closed by arrest.



RAPID Search Features put to the test

RAPID has many features that enhance law enforcement's ability to recover stolen property. These features have been proven to provide the best outcome for locating information.

HIGHLIGHTED FEATURES

- **eBay Search**
- **Quick Search**
- **Serial Search**
- **Name Search**
- **Saved Search Alert**
- **NCIC Alert**

Howard County - Quick Search:

Using the quick search feature, Howard County Police Department was able to develop three suspects and recover \$1000 of property stolen from automobiles. The case was closed by arrest.

Anne Arundel County - Saved Search:

Using the saved search feature, a subject was identified selling woman's jewelry. An investigation determined that she worked as a maid and was stealing from her clients. These thefts were undetected by the owners. The thefts totaled \$45,000 and \$22,000 worth of jewelry, which was recovered and returned. Two subjects were arrested in this case.

MDSP Queen Anne's County - NCIC Alert:

A RAPID NCIC alert located a stolen vehicle at a scrap yard in Howard County, MD. The vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner. The suspect was identified and charged for the Motor Vehicle theft.

MDSP Anne Arundel County - Serial Search:

MDSP Glen Burnie Barrack initiated an investigation after an Apple Watch and GPS Unit were stolen from a vehicle abandoned on the shoulder after a vehicle collision. Using a serial number search, the trooper located the item at a local pawn shop. The item was recovered and the suspect charged.

St. Mary's County - Name Search:

A suspect walked out of Lowe's with a cart full of new in box tools. Employee's were able to get a license plate and identify the suspect. A name search in RAPID revealed that the suspect pawned the items 21 minutes after the theft. He was arrested five days later while attempting another theft at Lowe's.

RAPID Investigative Successes

“RAPID is a great system! It has allowed us to monitor and retrieve data from Pawn Shops in real time. It has also allowed us to track trends within and around the county.”

Frederick County Sheriffs Office

Baltimore County - Armed Robbery:

A search through RAPID after three armed robberies resulted in the recovery of stolen property and the identification of the suspects. Arrests were made in this case.

Washington County - Retail Theft:

MDSP Hagerstown Barrack was investigating a retail theft of vacuums from Walmart. A suspect was identified and using the name search function in RAPID, the stolen items were located at a local pawn shop. The items were recovered and the suspect charged with theft valuing \$1854.

Talbot County - Theft:

MDSP Easton Barrack troopers were investigating a theft of tools valued at \$2,564. During the investigation and with the use of RAPID the stolen items were found to have been pawned at shops in Dorchester and Wicomico counties. The property was recovered and the suspect was charged.

Kent County - Theft:

Kent County Sheriff's Office was investigating the theft of a dirt bike. Using the RAPID quick search function, officers found that the item had been pawned/sold in Delaware. The suspect was identified from the pawn transaction and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Queen Anne's County - Theft:

RAPID was used to locate a 3/4 CTW diamond ring stolen from a residence. Using name search, the ring was located and recovered. The suspect was charged for the theft valuing over \$1,000.

Prince George's County - Armed Robbery:

After an armed robbery at a jewelry store, a RAPID search located the \$22,828 in jewelry which been pawned. The suspect was identified and charged.

Easton Police Department - Theft:

During a theft investigation where the victims boyfriend had stolen \$40,000 in cash, investigators discovered RAPID transactions which led to the recovery of \$20,000 in stolen jewelry from the victim. The suspect was charged for felony theft and all the jewelry was recovered.

St. Mary's County - Burglary/Theft:

An employee stole multiple chain saws and a backpack blower from an employer. During a RAPID name search the items were located at a local pawn Shop. The theft value was \$8,600 and the suspect was charged in this incident.

Harford County - Retail Theft:

A couple were stealing new in box items from a retail store. During the course of the investigation, a RAPID search located the items, which had been pawned at a local pawn shop. Both suspects were identified and charged and the property, valued at \$6,510, was recovered.

Frederick County - Burglary & Theft:

During an investigation for a residential burglary and theft, deputies found that a unknown subject had stolen a Xbox, Apple air pods and \$480 in currency. During a RAPID search, deputies located the Xbox, which had been pawned at a local pawn shop. The property was recovered and the suspect was identified and charged.

St. Mary's County - Retail Theft:

A suspect that had committed seven known retail thefts at Target was identified after pawning the laptop that had been stolen. The suspect would place items in the cart and exit the store. The thefts, which included clothes and electronics, were valued at \$3,750. The suspect was arrested when she returned to Target and attempted an additional theft. The suspect was charged for the thefts.

Anne Arundel County - Theft:

A RAPID NCIC hit led to the recovery of electronic game consoles stolen from a University. This led to additional stolen items from other agencies.

MDSP CED - Illegal possession of a firearm:

A RAPID check of recent pawn transactions showed that a subject that was prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition, had pawned a 20 gauge shotgun. This investigation led to an arrest.

Baltimore County - Theft:

A victim purchased a ring from a licensed pawn dealer. A short time later the ring was stolen. Due to the detailed description by the original Pawn dealer, the \$30,000 ring was located after being pawned at a second pawn shop. The ring was recovered and returned to the owner and the suspect was arrested.

MDSP Berlin - Retail Theft:

MDSP was called to Home Depot after a shoplifter stole \$1477 worth of new wire. The suspect entered the store and placed the wire in a trash can from the store and exited without paying for the property. This was the second event with the same suspect. The store obtained a tag number from the vehicle. Investigators were able to obtain the suspects name and during a search of RAPID it was discovered that the suspect had scrapped the wire in Wicomico County, MD. The suspect was charged with theft.

Talbot County - Jewelry Theft:

The Talbot County Sheriff's Office was investigating the theft of jewelry from a residence. During the investigation, it was discovered that the suspect had stolen jewelry to include a diamond ring worth \$22,500. A RAPID search located the property at a pawn shop in Dorchester County, Maryland. The property was recovered and the suspect was arrested.

“Thank you for facilitating the excellent RAPID Online User Training course today. I learned quite a bit and access to the database will greatly enhance our ability to carry out the OIG's mission at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center.”

Special Agent– NASA OIG

Investigative Successes Continued

Carroll County - Retail theft

During a retail theft investigation, deputies determined that a suspect had stolen numerous rolls of Romex wire from Lowes. After determining the size and weight of the wire, a RAPID search of scrap transactions located wire that was scrapped four hours after the theft. The suspect was identified by the scrap record and matched to store surveillance video. The suspect was charged for the \$2300 theft.

Kent County - Theft:

Deputies from the Kent County Sheriff's Office were investigating a theft of eight large brass lawn statues stolen from a residential property. A search of RAPID by name indicated that a suspects family member had sold numerous heavy brass and copper items to a local scrap yard. Seven of the eight items were recovered. It was also discovered that several items that the victims had not known were missing had also been sold. The items recovered have an original aggregate value of approximately \$15,000. There was one arrest in this case.

MDSP Cumberland - Theft:

Troopers were investigating a residential theft of a PlayStation and virtual reality headset. A suspect was developed and using the name search feature of RAPID the items were located and recovered from a pawn shop. The suspect was charged with theft valuing \$1609.



Expanding the use of RAPID

Over the years RAPID has been used as a law enforcement tool that has resulted in information used to solve a variety of crimes. RAPID has provided valuable information to investigators in a range of cases to include: weapon investigations, auto thefts, carjacking's, armed robberies (commercial and personal), locating wanted and missing persons, identifying accessories to crimes, homicides, fraud, identity thefts as well as other felonies and misdemeanors. Here are few examples from 2021 cases:



MDSP CED - Polygraph Unit:

During a polygraph exam of a subject on probation and prohibited from possessing electronic computer equipment, polygraph operators determined that the subject was being deceitful. After reaching out to MDSP CED investigators, a RAPID search was conducted. The search revealed that the subject had recently pawned a laptop computer and a gaming system. It was determined that the subject had possessed these items in violation of his probation.

MDSP Easton - Unlicensed ADRS:

A Corporal with the MDSP Easton Barrack observed roadside signs advertising for the purchase of unwanted motor vehicles. During the investigation, it was noted that the signs failed to possess the required ADRS license number. A RAPID search revealed that the subject has been scrapping vehicles and had made \$195,264 in the last year. It was also discovered that the same subject had been cited for these violations two years prior. The subject was contacted and issued additional citations for Title 15: operating without an ADRS license were issued.

MD Transportation Authority Police - Auto Theft:

MDTA Police were investigating an auto theft. Using RAPID they located the stolen vehicle which also contained two stolen box truck toolboxes. All the property was recovered and returned to the victims. There were two suspects identified and charged in this investigation.

Baltimore City PD - Homicide:

Baltimore City Police Department was investigating the homicide of a 69 year old female inside of a church. During the crime scene processing DNA was collected which led to a possible suspect. Detectives searched RAPID using the suspects name and located the jewelry that had been stolen from the victim and was pawned by the suspect matching the DNA hit. With the evidence recovered from RAPID, Homicide detectives were able to solve the homicide and arrest the suspect responsible. This incident was covered heavily by local media outlets.

Regulatory Partners



The **Comptroller of Maryland** provides high quality, efficient, timely financial and administrative services. The Comptroller’s Office has been a valued partner to our scrap metal and junk dealers. Law enforcement has been partnering with them for not only scrap cases, but also investigations relating to secondhand transactions.



The **Maryland Department of Labor** continues to change Maryland for the better by providing a predictable and inclusive regulatory environment. One of the missions of the Department of Labor is to license and regulate individuals who buy or otherwise acquire from the public secondhand gold, silver, platinum and other precious metal objects or otherwise trade with the public in secondhand precious metal objects. The program also regulates pawnbrokers in counties that do not have local laws that regulate those businesses.



The **Maryland Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Administration** developed broad goals that focus on five key elements of their vision: customer service, safety, stewardship, security and workforce. These elements assist RAPID in our efforts to partner with the MVA for pro-active compliance and enforcement issues. When issues are discovered, the local, county or MDSP jurisdiction responsible for that area are notified and requested to assist. In addition to law enforcement; during many occasions, zoning officers, Office of the State Fire Marshall, environmental protection agencies and other jurisdictions are invited to participate in the collaborative investigations.



TRANSACTION COUNT BY INDUSTRY

Industry	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jewelry	1,396,100	622,908	616,777	572,198	540,015	334,387	350,370
Scrap Metal	3,906,610	2,119,474	2,472,050	2,292,464	2,011,225	1,462,248	1,595,659
Vehicles	203,068	122,964	399,922	118,012	110,363	85,049	79,271
Cellular Phones	25,223	20,459	26,796	27,656	39,321	24,449	32,719
Others*	2,740,054	2,507,101	2,081,759	1,958,104	1,769,748	162,519	198,479

*Pawn and Secondhand transactions not specified under State law.

RAPID

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At the end of 2021 and as RAPID starts into its second decade of operation, RAPID has grown from a data collection platform into a multi-faceted resource utilized by law enforcement along the Mid-Atlantic. This resource has continued to assist law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering stolen property and in many cases, it results in the recovery of the property and the return of such to its grateful owner. RAPID has assisted with the identification and apprehension of both individual suspects and theft rings responsible for crimes against persons and property.

The continued commitment from our law enforcement users and RAPID administrators is instrumental in helping solve and deter various types of crimes but also ensures we are protecting our citizens' property.

A special thanks is extended to the administrators, legislators, regulatory bodies, allied law enforcement agencies, dealers and Business Watch International for all their efforts, hard work, support and perseverance through the years.

As evidenced in this publication and many others, it is clear these partnerships are beneficial; not only for law enforcement, but victims alike. These partnerships ensure our continued success as we enter 2022.