



# 2023 RAPID ANNUAL REPORT

**Prepared by the Maryland Department of State Police**

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# 2023 Annual Report

Regional Automated Property Information Database

FEBRUARY 2024



## RAPID gains nationwide access to dealer data- Regional Automated Property Information Database

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### RAPID HIGHLIGHTS

- State of Maryland migrates to new platform.
- Nationwide Searches with LeadsOnline
- RAPID leads to the recovery of stolen firearms from across the country.

The Maryland RAPID program started as the result of legislation in 2009 and developed into a proven platform that has assisted law enforcement for over a decade. It provides access to search and review data from pawn shops, scrap yards and ADRS processors daily transactions. This has led to 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 2023, RAPID has led to the recovery of an estimated total of \$59,122,983 worth of property leading to the arrests of 14,833 suspects and closed 20,334 criminal investigations.

In 2023, the State of Maryland began its transition from the BWI Platform to a new platform vendor, LeadsOnline. This transition was completed in

August of 2023 and added Maryland law enforcement to the list of 5,500 agencies utilizing LeadsOnline. LeadsOnline offers over 70,000 users access to nationwide data from over 22,000 businesses. In 2023, this resulted in the recovery of six firearms that were reported stolen in Maryland from locations such as Washington, Texas, Kentucky and Indiana. Additional property has been

recovered from Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.

Having access of this magnitude allows users to search for and recover more stolen property than ever before. In addition to the property recovered through users searches, over 43 items have been recovered after being entered into NCIC and being compared to transaction data in LeadsOnline.

RAPID Searches	
Year	Total Queries
2013	1,161,699
2014	1,478,317
2015	1,669,750
2016	2,089,914
2017	2,711,592
2018	2,957,698
2019	3,354,076
2020	3,613,429
2021	3,715,536
2022	3,938,298
2023	3,978,382

### Maryland Pawn, Scrap and ADRS 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  
**LOL** - LeadsOnline

**DL** – Department of Labor  
**LE** – Law Enforcement  
**MVA** – Motor Vehicle Administration  
**NCIC** – National Crime Information Center

# RAPID Report by Jurisdiction

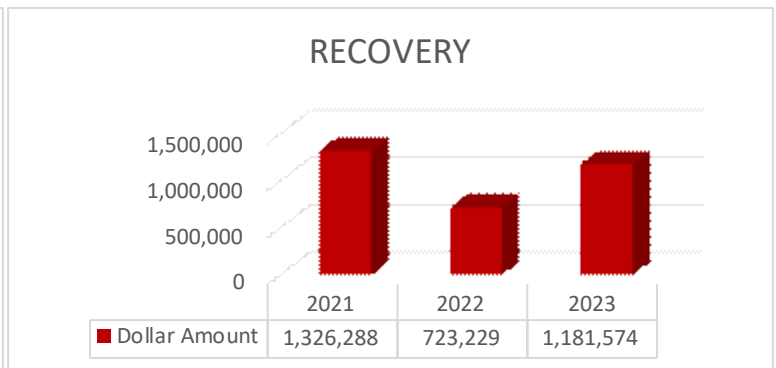
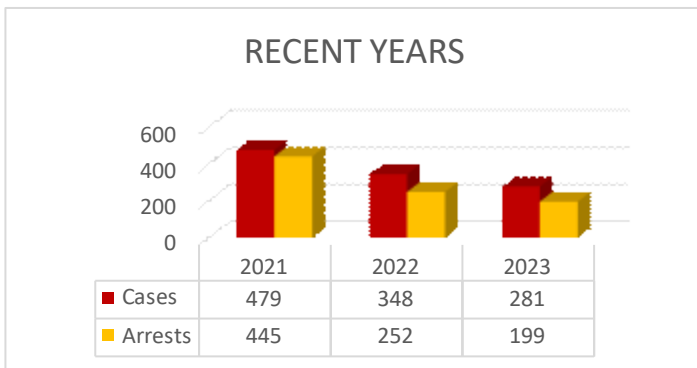
*"Thanks to the nationwide data that LeadsOnline collects, we located 5 guns stolen from our jurisdiction in 2023 from LeadsOnline NCIC hits; all were located out of state and from as far back as a 1987 burglary."*

**Laura Dohoney**  
**Anne Arundel County**  
**RAPID Administrator**

County	Cases	Arrests	Recovery
Allegany	3	3	\$2,075
Anne Arundel	26	13	\$60,850
Baltimore County	72	55	\$658,364
Baltimore City	29	29	\$94,860
Calvert	2	1	\$2,000
Caroline	0	0	\$0
Carroll	2	1	\$650
Cecil	1	1	\$1,100
Charles	5	4	\$22,500
Dorchester	5	5	\$3,545
Frederick	16	7	\$22,711
Garrett	0	0	\$0
Harford	4	7	\$6,768
Howard	20	20	\$94,156
Kent	0	0	\$0
Montgomery	7	2	\$18,759
Ocean City	0	0	\$0
Prince George's	40	11	\$134,585
Queen Anne's	0	0	\$0
Somerset	0	0	\$0
St. Mary's	12	3	\$3,854
Talbot	1	1	\$120
Washington	27	27	\$26,425
Wicomico	4	4	\$12,715
Worcester	0	0	\$0
Westminster	3	3	\$12,037
Out of State	2	2	\$3,500

## 2023 Statistics

(Statistics and success stories are self-reported by the individual agencies.)  
 (Not all agencies track these exact parameters or account for subsequent investigations.)



# RAPID Administration & Updates

During 2023, the MDSP transitioned from the BWI platform that had managed the RAPID data to the LeadsOnline platform. Throughout early 2023, MDSP provided training to the county administrators that manage each jurisdiction. After this training was completed administrators gained access to the system and were able to use and test the system.

In July of 2023, all Maryland dealers using the RAPID system were notified of the transition and began registering for their new dealer accounts. This affected 588 dealers and by late July most Maryland dealers had completed the transition and were actively reporting to LeadsOnline.

## LeadsOnline

During July of 2023, all Maryland users of the BWI platform were also transitioned to the LeadsOnline platform. There are 88 law enforcement agencies in the state that are using the LeadsOnline system which now has over 1800 users.

Maryland law enforcement now has access to nationwide data from over 55,000 dealers. This access will allow for the recovery of more property which will lead to case closures and arrests for cases that would have previously gone unsolved.



## Retail Theft Crime trend continues in Maryland

The State of Maryland has seen an increase in pawn shop transactions involving new retail items over the last few years that are suspected to be the result of retail theft from large big box retailers such as Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart and Target. This data is supported by an August 2023 news release summarizing the effect of retail theft for the retailers. It was estimated that in 2021, \$94.5 billion was lost to inventory shrinkage which included organized retail theft, shoplifting and employee theft. Target estimates it has lost \$400 million in profit as of August 2023 to retail theft. This trend has continued and Target reported an increase of 120% in violence or threats of violence during the first five months of 2023 during incidents of shoplifting and theft.

In 2023, pawn dealers in the State of Maryland reported over 39,000 new items during daily transactions. These items range from tools, houseware and home goods, personal hygiene products to cosmetics, sunglasses and handbags. These stolen items are often taken to pawn shops where they are sold by the subjects committing the theft for a heavily reduced price or placed on online marketplaces. After pawn shops receive them, these items are frequently posted on online marketplaces at prices lower than retail, leading to substantial profits when resold by the pawn shops.

Maryland law enforcement is working with local, state and federal partners to combat this rising trend. These thefts not only fuel violent crimes but are also often committed to fund the purchase of routinely abused controlled substances.

## MDSP RAPID Unit Investigations

In March of 2023, the MDSP RAPID Unit began an investigation into a female subject that had received over \$23,000 while pawning new in box retail items during the previous 12-month period. Over the course of the next few months, investigators used surveillance techniques and worked with Loss Prevention Officers at Home Depot and Kohl's to obtain video footage of the suspect committing multiple thefts. With the assistance of the LPO's and in person surveillance, investigators built a case and authored search and seizure warrants for the suspects' vehicle and residence. In August, the MDSP RAPID Unit was at the Home Depot in Carroll County, where the suspect was observed entering the store, loading multiple items into a large green curbside trash can and exiting the store without paying for the items. Members of the MDSP RAPID Unit contacted the suspect as they loaded the stolen items into their vehicle and executed the vehicle search warrant. More than \$2,500 of stolen retail property was recovered from the vehicle and trash can and returned to the store. During the execution of the search warrant over \$1,000 of additional property was located to include the plastic bins and trash cans used to conceal the stolen property as the suspect exited the store. The suspect provided a full confession and is pending indictment for over \$150,000 in theft from Maryland retail stores.

In August of 2023, the MDSP RAPID Unit began an investigation after becoming aware of multiple Jesus head jewelry pendants being pawned at Maryland pawn shops. It was quickly determined that the items were fake gold that had been altered by adding small pieces of real gold to the back side of the pendants. MDSP RAPID unit investigators contacted the pawn shops and gathered information that led to the suspects identification. Using LeadsOnline, investigators located additional transactions in Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia. In the course of the investigation, the suspects fled to Texas. By leveraging LeadsOnline, MDSP RAPID unit investigators successfully issued a nationwide alert to all pawn shops, leading to the suspects being denied service by a dealer in Texas. Subsequently, the suspects returned to Maryland. Following their return to Maryland, the suspects were targeted by the MDSP RAPID unit investigators who executed a search warrant and obtained confessions from the suspects. The suspects promptly reimbursed all pawn loans and the case is currently awaiting prosecution.

## Cross Jurisdiction Investigations and Recoveries

### Washington D.C. to Prince George's County:

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority was able to recover a stolen Apple iPhone valued at \$800 after it was pawned at a Maryland Game Stop. A NCIC hit led investigator's to the suspects and led to two arrests and the recovery of the iPhone.

### Fairfax, VA to Prince George's County, MD:

The Fairfax County Police Department and the FBI were investigating the theft of jewelry valued at \$40,000. During a search of a police database they located a RAPID transaction that led them to a Maryland pawn shop. The jewelry was located and recovered and the suspect was charged with theft.

### Maryland to Washington (WA):

A NCIC hit on a pawned firearm led to the recovery of a rifle by the Prince George's County Police Department Pawn Unit. The firearm was stolen during a 1984 burglary in Prince George's County. The stolen rifle was recovered by the Everett Police Department and shipped back to the Prince George's County Police Department.

### Cecil County, MD to Delaware:

The MDSP North East Barrack was investigating a theft from a motor vehicle. The stolen camera items were located in LeadsOnline after they were pawned in the State of Delaware. All the items were recovered and charges are pending.

### Virginia to Prince George's County, MD:

The Fairfax County Police Department was investigating the theft of a HP laptop valued at \$1,722. The laptop was located as the result of a RAPID NCIC hit and was recovered at a Maryland Pawn Shop by the Prince George's County Police Department. It was released back to Fairfax County Police Department.



# Cross Jurisdiction Investigations and Recoveries

## Cheverly Police Department and Prince George’s County:

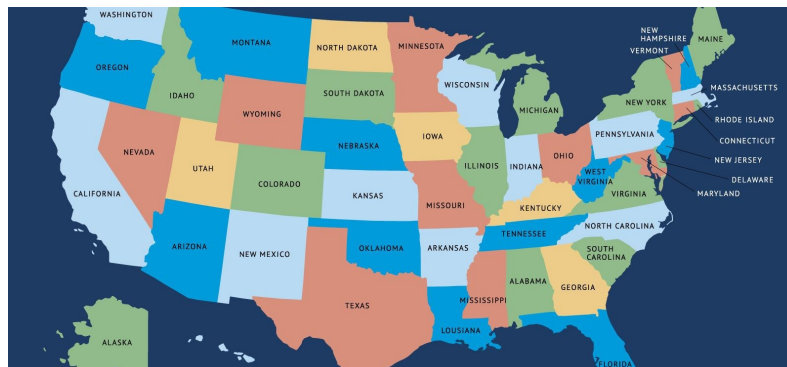
In September of 2023, the Cheverly Police Department began an investigation into residential burglaries. During their investigation detectives developed a suspect and conducted a name search in LeadsOnline. The results revealed that the suspect had pawned over \$30,000 in jewelry and coins at pawn shops in Prince George’s County and Washington D.C. All items were recovered and the suspect is pending charges.

## Arlington, VA and Prince George’s County:

During the course of an investigation by the Arlington Police Department involving the theft of Trek bicycle valued at \$4,400, a property search was conducted in LeadsOnline. The search revealed that the suspect had pawned the stolen bicycle in Prince George’s County. The property was recovered and the suspect was charged.

## Fairfax, VA to Prince George’s County:

The Fairfax County Police Department was investigating the theft of a Nikon 105MM camera. During the course of the investigation a search for the property was conducted in LeadsOnline. This property search revealed that the stolen camera had been sold to a pawn shop in the State of Maryland. With the assistance of the Prince George’s County Police Department, the camera, valued at \$1,000 was recovered and returned to the victim.



## Search Features lead to case closures!

LeadsOnline 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

- Property Search
- Person of Interest Activity
- Serial # Search
- Name Search
- Ebay Search
- NCIC Alert

### Baltimore City - Property Search:

The Baltimore City Police Department was investigating an armed robbery of a T-Mobile during which the store owner was shot and killed. Using property search, the stolen items were located after they were pawned. Two suspects were arrested and charged for homicide.

### Prince George’s County- Name Search:

Using the name search feature, the Prince George’s County Police Department located a subject that had scrapped numerous pieces of copper and A/C units. PGPD was notified when the suspect returned to the dealer attempting to scrap additional items. The suspect admitted to over \$50,000 in thefts of copper and A/C units.

### Pennsylvania State Police- Name Search:

A name search through LeadsOnline after the theft of a diamond ring led troopers to a pawn shop in Washington County, Maryland. The diamond ring, valued at \$3,000 was recovered and the suspect was charged.

### Baltimore County- Property Search:

The Baltimore County Police Department investigated a burglary during which 32,700 pounds of nickel briquettes were stolen. During the investigation, detectives used RAPID to search for the stolen property. It was discovered that the items had been sold at a scrap yard. Detectives determined that there were four suspects involved in the burglary and related theft. The property, valued at \$425,000 was recovered and the four suspects were charged.

# RAPID Investigative Successes

*"LeadsOnline has been great to use and the Kent County Sheriff's Office Detectives have appreciated it ease of use and the depth of information available."*

**Cpl. J. Proudfoot**  
Kent County  
RAPID Administrator

## Anne Arundel County - Armed Robbery:

Using LeadsOnline, law enforcement identified an armed robbery suspect who had committed three jewelry store robberies across two different counties. The suspect was tracked down after selling the stolen jewelry in another county, leading to his arrest and the recovery of over \$22,000 worth of jewelry.

## Cecil County - Theft:

The Elkton Police Department was investigating the theft of A/C units from an apartment complex. Using LeadsOnline to search for the scrap metal, they developed a suspect that was charged and convicted of a theft scheme, ordered to pay restitution and given a five year prison sentence.

## Baltimore County - Theft:

Baltimore County Police Department was contacted for a theft involving two watches valued at \$12,335. During the course of the investigation a NCIC hit was located in LeadsOnline. The property was recovered and a suspect was arrested and charged for the theft.

## Prince George's County - Robbery:

The Hyattsville Police Department was investigating a robbery in which the suspect stole a 14K gold Cuban necklace from the victim valued at \$5,000. Using LeadsOnline investigators conducted a property search and located the item which was pawned in Montgomery County. A suspect was arrested and charged for the robbery and theft.

## Baltimore County Police Department - Theft:

The Baltimore County Police Department was notified of the theft of a Rolex watch valued at over \$15,000. During the investigation, they received a NCIC hit after the watch was pawned. The watch was recovered and the suspect was charged for the theft.

## Harford County - Burglary/Theft:

The Perryville Police Department was investigating a burglary and theft of over \$1,000 in property from a boat. The MDSP RAPID Unit assisted the investigating officer with searches in LeadsOnline and located the property at a pawn shop. Two cases were closed and a suspect was charged.

## Washington County - Burglary:

During a burglary and theft investigation, deputies used RAPID to search for transactions made by a known suspect. The search led to the recovery of firearms, a welder and a chainsaw valued at over \$5,200. The property was recovered and the suspect was charged.

## Harford County - Theft:

A guitar and an amplifier were stolen from inside of a motor vehicle. The property was valued at over \$1,750. A suspect was developed and a search was conducted in LeadsOnline. The property was located at a pawn shop in Baltimore City and was recovered. Charges are pending against the suspect.

## Frederick County - Burglary:

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office was investigating a burglary in which two generators, valued at \$1,900 were stolen. After a suspect was identified, a name search in LeadsOnline located the items had been pawned. The generators were recovered and the suspect was charged.

## Baltimore County - Burglary:

The Baltimore County Police Department was called to the scene of a burglary and theft in which three Apple laptops were stolen. The stolen laptops, valued at over \$3,000 were entered into NCIC. This generated a NCIC hit through LeadsOnline after they were pawned. The laptops were recovered and a suspect arrested. It also resulted in the closure of four related cases.

## Prince George's County - Burglary & Theft:

Prince George's County Police Department was investigating a residential burglary and theft of property valued at \$30,000. Using LeadsOnline the property was located after it was pawned in MD and DC. As a result the suspect was identified, the property was recovered and the suspect was charged with burglary and theft.

## Howard County - Theft:

Howard County Police Department was investigating a theft of multiple pieces of jewelry with a value exceeding \$151,000. During the investigation detectives were able to identify the suspect in this theft. A name search in LeadsOnline located some of the property at a pawn shop. A total of \$49,104 of the stolen property was recovered and the suspect was charged in this case.

## Prince George's County - Theft:

In 1983 the Greenbelt Police Department took a theft report for a Marlin .22 rifle that was stolen. The firearm was put into NCIC. On September 7, 2023 a NCIC hit was generated after the item was pawned at a pawn shop out of state. The firearm was then recovered.

*"The LeadsOnline platform has given law enforcement in the State of Maryland a nationwide tool to locate stolen property and track suspects across state lines. The value of the platform has already been proven with our successes in 2023."*

**F/Sgt. Jesse Haas**  
MDSP RAPID Unit Commander

# Investigative Successes Continued

## Delaware State Police - Theft:

During a theft investigation the Delaware State Police (DSP) developed suspects in a residential theft in which a push mower and weed trimmer were stolen. During a search of RAPID, DSP located the items pawned in a Dorchester, MD pawn shop. With the assistance of the MDSP RAPID unit the property was recovered and returned to the victim. The suspects were charged with theft of over \$500 of property.

## Prince George's County - Theft:

Officer's from the Prince George's County Police Department were investigating the theft of a gold ring. The ring was valued at \$12,900. During the investigation they were able to develop a suspect. Using LeadsOnline to conduct a name search, they were able to locate the ring after it was pawned a local pawn shop. The ring was recovered and returned to the victim. The suspect was arrested and charged with the theft.

## Dorchester County - Theft:

Deputies from the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office were investigating the theft of tools valued at over \$3,000. During the investigation, a suspect was developed and a name search was conducted in LeadsOnline. The stolen property was located after it was pawned. The property was recovered and the suspect was charged.

## Expanding the use of RAPID

The RAPID database can be utilized to solve a multitude of crimes that are not directly related to retail thefts and items pawned at the local pawn shop. Investigators have access to data that can be used to solve personal crimes of violence and discover crime trends that would have previously been unsolved. Having access to these resources enables investigators to actively search data and respond proactively. In previous years RAPID has assisted with locating wanted and missing persons as well as solving homicides. Here are few examples from 2023 cases:

### MDSP CED - Firearms Enforcement Unit:

During a review of pawn transactions the MDSP Firearms Enforcement Unit located a pawn transaction involving four firearms. A records check of the subject that pawned the firearms revealed that they were prohibited for a disqualifying offense. The firearms were seized and the suspect is pending charges.

### Anne Arundel County - Fake Rolex Scam:

The Anne Arundel County Police Department Pawn unit discovered the sale of a fake Rolex at a pawn shop. Using LeadsOnline investigators identified three suspects and recovered five fake Rolex watches. Through LeadsOnline searches of all the suspects, they were found to have conducted fake gold and fake Rolex transactions nationwide. Communication and collaboration with other jurisdictions resulted in numerous charges for these suspects across the country.

### Prince George's County - Armed Robbery:

In January of 2023, the Prince George's County Police Department initiated an investigation into a series of armed robberies targeting taxi drivers. In each instance, the suspect brandished a knife and threatened the victims by holding it to their necks and stole property. Detective's identified a suspect and conducted a search of the RAPID database and located the stolen property at a pawn shop. A second subject was determined to be involved and was arrested, during which he provided a full confession to six armed robberies.



# Regulatory Partners



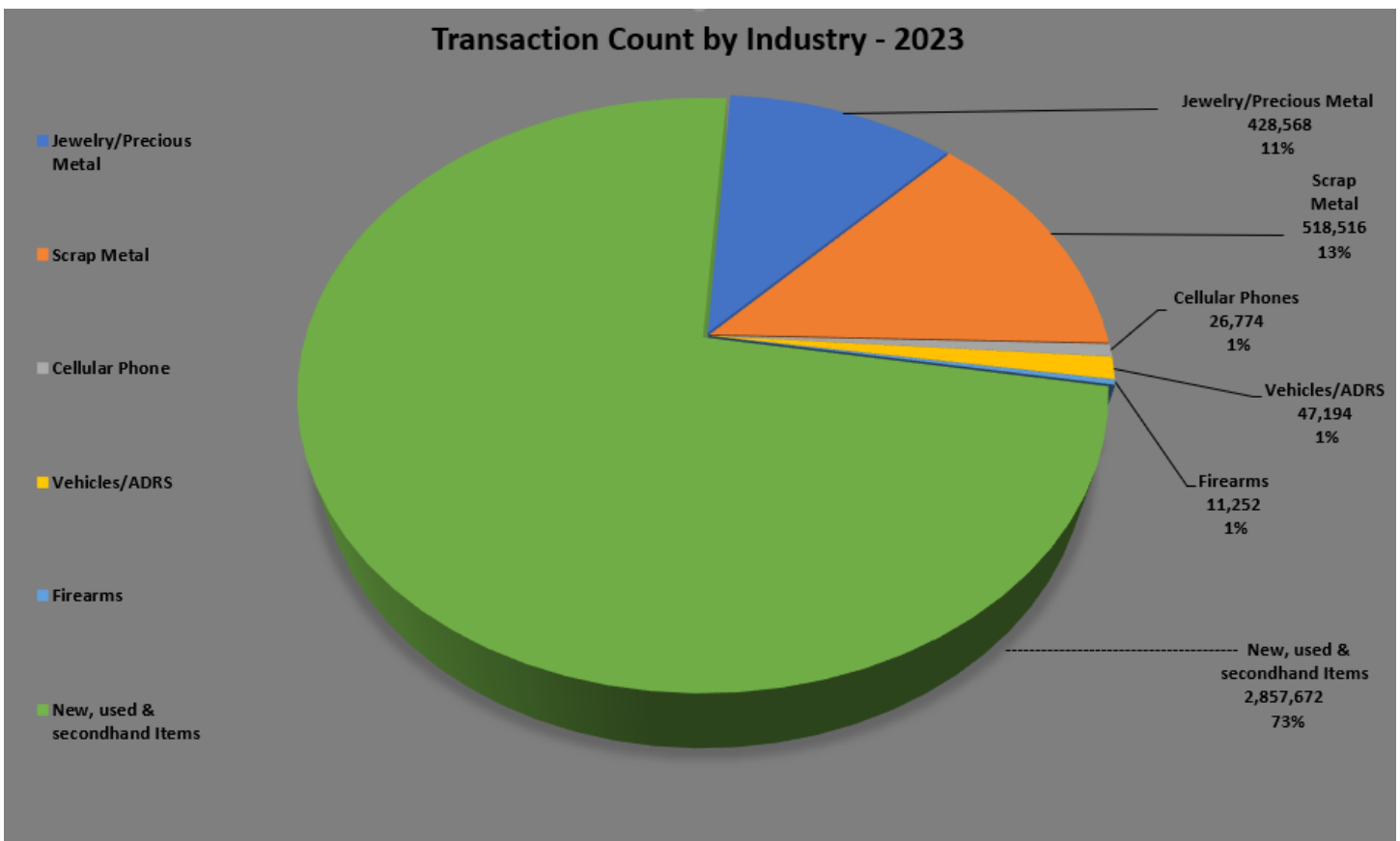
The **Comptroller of Maryland** provides high quality, efficient, timely financial and administrative services. The Comptroller’s Office has been a valued partner to our scrap metal and junk dealers. Law enforcement has been partnering with them for not only scrap cases, but also investigations relating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



## RAPID

### Points of Contact



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With the use of the State of Maryland's new platform provided by LeadsOnline, Maryland law enforcement now has the ability to reach outside of the state and has gained access to thousands of records from neighboring and nationwide jurisdictions. Crime does not recognize state boundaries and often thefts are committed away from the perpetrators living area in attempts to conceal their identity. This ability to track suspects and property will result in the recovery of property and the arrest of suspects committing these crimes. Since its inception, RAPID has led to the recovery of over \$59,000,000 in property and the arrest of thousands of suspects. As we progress into 2024, law enforcement will have the ability to continue this trend.

The continued commitment from our law enforcement users and RAPID administrators is instrumental in helping to 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 LeadsOnline for all their efforts, hard work, support and perseverance to ensure the continued success of the RAPID program.

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 into 2024.