



# Organized Retail Crime in Colorado

What it is, where it's happening, and how to fight back.



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# Today's Speakers

- Christopher Howes, President, Colorado Retail Council
- Dave Ternus, Manager of Asset Protection Solutions, Walgreens
- Nick Ventrella, Field Investigator, Target
- John Dillon, Director of State & Local Government Relations, The Home Depot

# Organized Retail Crime vs. Shoplifting

- Intent: Shoplifting is typically for personal use, while ORC is for resale and profit.
- Scale: ORC involves large quantities of merchandise, while shoplifting is often a smaller amount.
- Cooperation: ORC involves groups, while shoplifting is usually done by a single individual.

# Key Aspects of ORC

- Coordinated and planned: ORC is not random; it involves planning, coordination, and often multiple individuals.
- Large-scale theft: ORC involves stealing significant quantities of merchandise, often with the intent to resell.
- Financial gain: The stolen goods are usually resold to make a profit, often through fencing operations or online marketplaces.
- Criminal enterprise: ORC is often connected to larger criminal networks, including drug trafficking and human trafficking.
- Vulnerability exploitation: ORC groups exploit vulnerabilities in the retail supply chain, such as lax security or weak inventory control.
- Impact on retailers and consumers: ORC has significant financial consequences for retailers, leading to increased costs and potentially higher prices for consumers.

# Growth of ORC

- *“Retailers reported a 93% increase in the average number of shoplifting incidents per year in 2023 versus 2019 and a 90% increase in dollar loss due to shoplifting over the same time period.”*
  - National Retail Federation & Loss Prevention Research Council, 2024
- While theft undoubtedly affects retailer margins, the surge in violence associated with these crimes has become a major concern. Retailers' top priority is to ensure the safety of both associates and customers. According to “The Impact of Retail Theft & Violence 2024” report by the NRF, 73% of retailers reported that shoplifters have become more aggressive and violent over the past year, with 84% expressing heightened concern about the violence occurring during theft incidents.

# The Impact of ORC

- *“In 2022, retailer losses, or shrink, amounted to nearly \$100 billion dollars in the USA, of which organized retail crime is a significant driver.”*
- Loss of 2023 Tax Revenue in Colorado = \$139,810,700
  - U.S. Chamber of Commerce, March 15, 2023

# ORC in the Media

- “Nationwide coordinated retail crime crackdown results in hundreds of arrests, authorities say” - CNBC, June 4, 2025

<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/06/04/retail-crime-crackdown-hundreds-of-arrests.html>

- *“Bipartisan Coalition Urges Congress to Take Action Against Rise in Organized Retail Crime”*

“Organized retail crime has reached a level never before seen in this country...No community is immune from the economic impact and the violence that comes with it.”

- National Association of Attorneys General, in their February 24, 2025 Letter to Congress

# ORC in the Media

- “\$1 million of merchandise recovered in North Texas organized retail theft arrests, DPS says”

*Police seized \$636,000 and recovered an estimated \$1 million in stolen merchandise, officials said.*

- WFAA, Channel 8 ABC News, Denton County Texas  
June 13, 2025



# Colorado Organized Retail Crime Alliance

- What is it?
- How to join
- Cost is free!
- How to leverage the data
- [COORCA.org](https://coorca.org)

# The COORCA Partnership

- Leveraging Asset Protection experts for police officer training to assist law enforcement in identifying ORC in your city
- Municipal Property Crimes Detectives coordination with our Retail Major Crimes teams.
- Coordinating with retail industry on “shoplifting blitz” operations
- Establishing local “tip lines” to capture intel and act as a deterrence
- Thinking ‘out of the box’ by educating others who may be able to assist

# Recent Legislative Efforts in Colorado

- House Bill 1141 by Rep. Brandi Bradly (R) Sedalia - Dead  
*Gift Card & Retail Property Crime Penalties*
- House Bill 1142 by Reps. Phillips & Armagost - Dead  
*Increase Criminal Penalty for Failure to Exit Premises*
- House Bill 1147 by Reps. Mabrey/Velasco - **Vetoed** by Gov Polis  
*Fairness & Transparency in Municipal Court*
- Senate Bill 70 by Senators Roberts (D) & Liston (R) - **Passed**  
*Online Marketplaces & Third-Party Sellers*

# Questions and Answers

- Call to Action

# THANK YOU!

Let's Work Together  
to Make Our Cities Safe

- Colorado Organized Retail Crime Alliance  
COORCA.org



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