

Robberies and Carjacking

The National Crime Victimization Survey reports that each year 49,000 carjackings and attempts occur in the United States. About half of reported carjackings were failed attempts. Of the completed carjackings, 92% had weapons where only 75% were armed during the failed attempts.



Statistics tell us that carjackers must be armed to be taken seriously by victims.

Handguns are usually the weapon of choice followed by a knife.

Most often, carjacking occurs when a car is parked in a wide open area and the owner is either exiting or entering the vehicle.

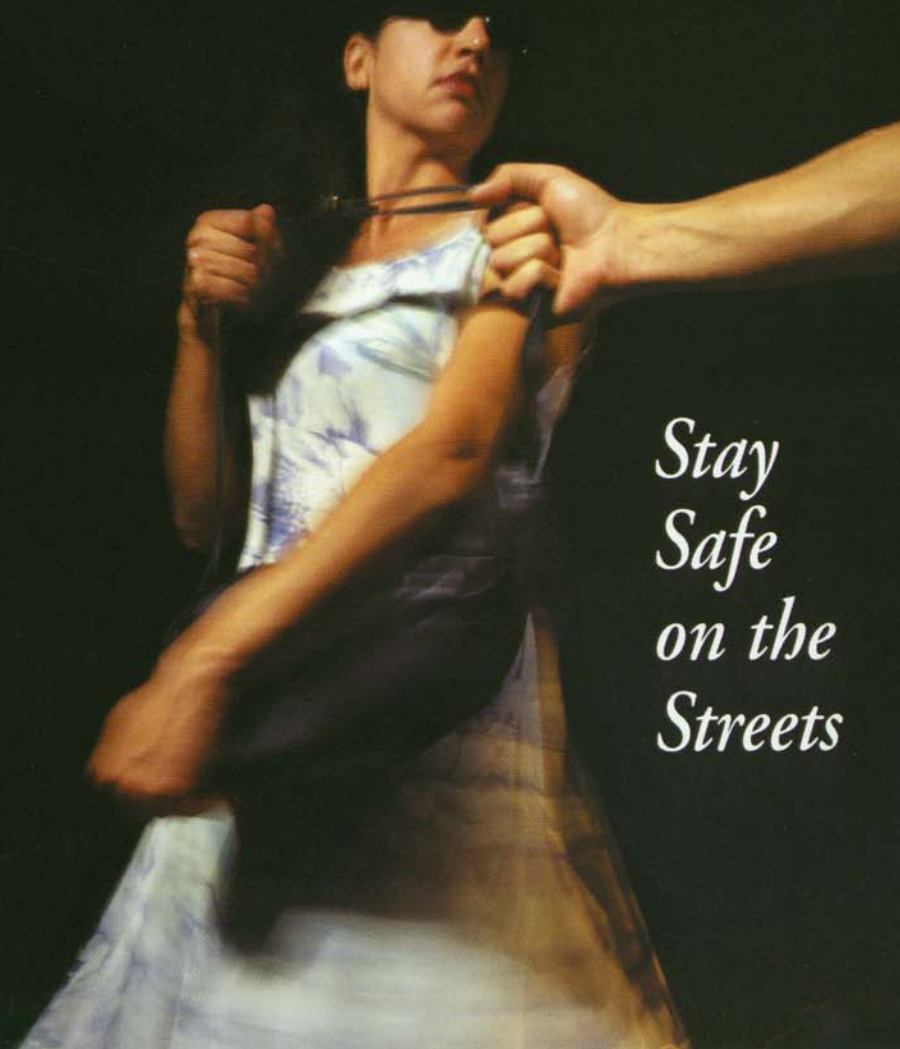
Popular carjacking locations are parking lots, shopping centers, gas stations, car washes, convenience stores, ATMs, hotels, valet parking, fast-food drive-thru, and outside of retail stores.

- Be alert to your surroundings. Don't be a target to someone by having your back turned when loading packages.
- Make it a habit to get in your vehicle and leave the area immediately. Have your children understand and practice this concept.
- Be aware of the "bump and rob" scam. This is how it works: A car behind you rear-ends you or bumps into you. You get out to check the damage and someone sneaks into your car and drives off. Be sure to look carefully around you before getting out of your vehicle. If you are uncertain, insist on going to a busy place or police station.
- Do not resist or fight. Give up the property and save your life.
- If you are accidentally kidnapped in a carjacking, keep calm and ask to be dropped off immediately. Carjackers are often on their way to commit other crimes such as robbery or drive-by shootings.
- If you are forced to drive, see if it's possible to crash your car near a busy intersection so that others can come to your aid and call your local law enforcement agency.
- Always report the crime to the local law enforcement agency. Your accurate description of the attacker can help prevent others from being a victim.

Bus and Subway Sense

- Use busy and well-lighted stops.
- Always keep alert—no dozing or daydreaming!
- If someone is bothering you, don't be afraid to speak up and loudly say, "Leave me alone!" If necessary, hit the emergency device.
- Watch the people who get off at your stop. If you feel uneasy, walk to where you see other people.

Be Street Wise



Stay Safe on the Streets

Simple Street Sense

- No matter where you find yourself—walking the street, in an office building, shopping mall, parking lot, driving or waiting for a bus or subway—keep alert and be aware of your total surroundings.
- Always radiate a sense of calmness and confidence, and know where you are heading to.
- Trust your intuition. If certain people or surroundings make you feel uneasy—leave the area or avoid the person.
- Be knowledgeable of the neighborhoods around where you live and work. Know important locations like police and fire stations, hospitals and public phones. Check out what time the stores and restaurants in your area open and close.



Street Safety— Day and Night

- Choose well-lighted and well-traveled streets. Never take shortcuts through alleys, parking lots or wooded areas.
- Be careful to keep expensive jewelry, cash and other tempting items concealed.
- Don't wear restrictive clothes or shoes that make it difficult to move easily and quickly.
- Carry purse or bags close to your body and not loosely dangling on straps. Stick wallet in an inside coat pocket or in the front pants pocket.
- When possible, use automated teller machines during the daytime. Try to use drive up ATMs or ones located inside stores. Always have your card in hand and be ready for your transaction when you approach the machine. If anyone nearby makes you uneasy, leave the area.
- Have your house key or car key in hand before reaching the door.
- If someone is following you, cross the street or switch directions. Walk towards a well-lighted, populated area like a store, restaurant or house. If you are frightened, yell for help.
- If you are caught working late, make sure you are not alone in the building. Have someone like a co-worker or security guard walk you to your car or transit stop.

Road Rage

Over the last five years, violence on the roads has increased by 51 percent. People are losing their lives on the highways by what is known as "road rage." The majority of drivers become angered by being cutoff or tailgated. It's estimated that 70 percent of drivers get irritated by slow drivers. Here are some important factors to consider in trying to reduce the anxiety of driving.

- Never allow yourself to be engaged in a test of wills. If someone is tailgating, pull into the slow lane and let them pass. Don't be a tailgater yourself or cut others off in traffic. Stay out of driving in the passing lane when possible.
- Never make angry or obscene gestures. Use your horn sparingly and only as a warning.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to reach your destination. Being late is a major cause of stress on the road.



- If an aggressive driver is nearby, don't make eye contact.
- Don't take the challenge of driving in traffic personally.
- Realize that driving is one big cooperative venture. When you drive aggressively, you may feel that others are trying to slow you down or get in your way.
- If you witness an aggressive or out of control driver, stay out of the way. Contact the authorities if you feel an aggressive driver is being a danger to others.
- Don't use cell phones while driving whenever possible.

Car Sense

- Always keep your car in good driving condition and make sure that you have plenty of gas to get you to your destination.
- Keep your windows rolled up and the car locked when you drive and park, even for short trips. Check the outside and inside of the car before getting in.
- Avoid parking in remote areas. Be very careful in vacant lots or underground parking. Know where the exits and emergency phones are located.
- If someone is following your car, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, store, gas station or other open business to get help.
- Never pick up a hitchhiker.
- Leave enough space between your car and the vehicle in front of you when you are waiting at a light or stop sign. If someone were to approach you in a threatening manner, you would have room to pull out.