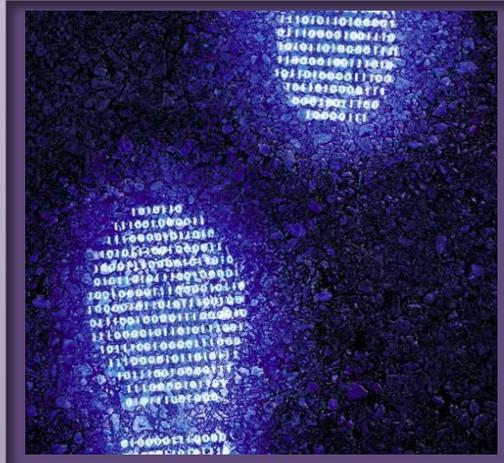


## What are the facts about robbery?

- ❖ Nationwide in 2010, there were an estimated 367,832 robberies.
- ❖ An estimated \$456 million in losses were attributed to robberies in 2010.
- ❖ Firearms were used in 41.4% of the robberies for which the UCR program received additional information in 2010.
- ❖ In 2010, 72% of male victims of robbery and 53% of female victims of robbery stated that the offender was a stranger.
- ❖ 43.2% of all robbery offenses were committed on streets and highway, 17.3% in residence, and 13.2% in commercial establishments.
- ❖ Robbery (44%) was the most likely offense to involve an armed offender.
- ❖ 18,669 of all persons arrested for robbery in 2010 were under the age of 18.
- ❖ The average dollar value of property stolen per reported robbery was \$1,239.

## Resources for Information and Assistance



### Sheriffs:

**Hart 706.376.3114**

**Franklin 706.384.2525**

**Elbert 706.283.2421**

**Madison 706.795.6202**

**Oglethorpe 706.743.8102**

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# ROBBERY VICTIMIZATION



Northern Judicial Circuit  
Office of the District Attorney  
Victim Services

762-338-8825 (Elbert, Oglethorpe)  
706-795-6322 (Madison, Franklin)  
706-376-3128 (Hart)

Kristie Cross  
Director of Victim Services

The Victim Services Program does not discriminate against individuals or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability. If you believe you have been the target of discrimination, you have the right to file a civil rights complaint. Information on how to file a civil rights complaint can be found on the Office of Justice Programs website.

### **Robbery...**

is taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of someone by force or by threat of force violence. If a weapon is used, it is called armed robbery and is usually considered by the police and courts to be more serious than robbery without a weapon.

is not only a property crime, but also a crime against a person—a crime that might result in violence.

involves not only the loss of property, but also the threat or use of violence. Robbery occurs more frequently than either rape or homicide. Unlike victims of rape or other personal assaults, robbery victims seldom know their assailants. Victims know their robbers in only twenty-six percent of robberies. Of all violent crimes, robbery is most likely to be committed by more than one offender.

Robberies occur in many different settings. They may happen on the street, in the home, in a park, on public transportation, or in a business such as a bank, store, hotel, gas station, or restaurant. Anyone can become a victim of robbery—even a child.

Because victims encounter robbers face-to-face or in close proximity, they often feel a total and immediate loss of control. When a weapon is involved, the sense of helplessness and the fear of death can be strong, and can lead to both short-term and long-term crisis reactions.

Most property stolen during a robbery is never recovered, and financial losses can be substantial. If the stolen property has unique or sentimental value for the victim, emotional reactions can be intense.

## **IF YOU ARE A ROBBERY SURVIVOR**

A robbery can be a violent, life-threatening situation. As a robbery victim, you may have many feelings, thoughts, and reactions to what has happened.

You may feel angry at the robber or the police and court system for not doing enough. You may feel intense sadness and grief over possessions that you have lost. You may feel guilt that perhaps something you did led to the robbery, even though you did nothing wrong. You may feel nervous in crowds or very suspicious when you are alone with someone you do not know. You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the robbery. You may find that you startle more easily at little noises or abrupt movements. You may also feel vulnerable and that you are not in control of your life.

How victims react to robbery varies from person to person. Your reaction may be immediate or delayed. Although you may feel as if you are the only one experiencing these feelings and that no one else can understand what you are going through, your reactions are normal. Some reactions may decrease within a few days; others may continue for some time or resurface after being triggered by another event.

It is important for you to deal with and resolve your crisis reactions at your own pace. Many victims say it is helpful to talk with others about the robbery experience and about their crisis reactions. As victims talk about their robbery, over time they pit the incident into perspective and begin to cope with its consequences.



## **WHERE CAN YOU GET HELP?**

Remember, as a robbery victim, you are not alone. Your community may have victim assistance programs, caring professionals, and support groups—all of which are there to help you with information, services, and referrals. Social services programs and trained professionals also can help you find out about crime victim rights in your state.

If the robbery involved any injury or threat of injury, you may be eligible for reimbursement by your state's crime victim compensation program for certain out-of-pocket expenses that are related to the robbery, such as medical or counseling expenses and lost wages. The Victim Services Program, in your community can help you determine your eligibility and fill out compensation applications.

Remember, it is important to keep a record of expenses incurred as a result of the robbery. If the offender is arrested and convicted, you may request the restitution by completing a victim impact statement and listing your losses. Restitution for certain losses may be ordered by a judge as part of the sentence imposed on the offender.