



Carjacking

Carjacking, a type of robbery, is theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle by force or threat of force. Like any crime, a carjacker is looking for an easy target. Things you can do to reduce your chances of being victimized include:

- Always be aware of your surroundings. If someone suspicious is near your car, walk to a safe area.
- Always leave room between your car and the one in front of you in the event you need to get away from your surroundings.
- As soon as you enter your car immediately lock all doors and make sure your windows are up.
- Have your keys ready when nearing your car. Do not stand outside your car looking for your keys.
- If a stranger approaches you once you're in your car, do not open the window or door. Drive away while blowing your horn if you feel endangered. Never open a window or door for a stranger.
- If someone appears to be driving an unmarked police car tries to pull you over, motion to the person to follow you. Then safely proceed to a safe area such as a police station or other open public facility where others are nearby.
- If someone tries to stop you and you don't feel safe, drive to a safe area for help.
- If you notice your car has already been unlocked or a door is open, leave the car and call for help.
- Park in well-lit areas with good visibility and frequented by other people.



Carjacking Facts¹

- Between 1987 and 1992, carjackings accounted for 2% of the 1.9 million vehicle thefts per year that occurred nationwide.
- An average of 35,000 completed and attempted carjackings took place each year in the United States between 1987 and 1992. In 52% (18,600) of the carjackings the offender succeeded in stealing the victim's motor vehicle.
- Men were more likely than women and blacks were more likely than whites to be victimized by carjacking. Persons age 35 or older were less likely than younger people to become carjacking victims.
- Most carjacking victims escaped without injury. Victims were injured in 24% of the completed carjackings and 18% of attempted carjackings.
- Offenders used a weapon in 77% of all attempted and completed carjackings.



- Carjackings were more likely to occur in the evening or at night. About two-thirds of all carjackings occurred after dark.
- Most carjackings occurred away from the victim's home. 29% took place in a parking lot or garage, and 45% occurred in an open area, such as on the street. 18% occurred at or near the victim's home.
- Victims identified the offenders' race as white in 32% of all carjackings, black in 49%, and Asian or American Indian in 6%.
- Men committed 87% of all carjackings.
- About half (54%) of all completed or attempted carjackings were committed by groups of two or more offenders. 41% percent were committed by lone offenders.
- The risks of carjacking were different in different types of residential areas. Most at risk were urban, followed by suburban and rural.

If your car is stolen, report it to the police immediately.

Source: ¹U.S. Department of Justice, 1994 Report
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pubal/p2.htm#car>