

# Robberies Leave Their Mark on the District

Robberies are a serious problem in Washington — and one of the top indicators of street violence. A Washington Post analysis shows the crime this year is concentrated in the vibrant central city area north of downtown, where nightlife and housing prices have taken off in recent years. Across the city, an average of 11 robberies take place each day. Although numbers are far below those reached in the late 1980s and early 1990s, they have been climbing the past two years. Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey declared a crime emergency in July to deal with a rise in homicides and robberies.

## Crime Zones Haven't Changed

The central part of the city has long been a favorite of robbers. As those areas become more developed, drawing new residents, robbers are finding more targets of opportunity.

### MAP LEGEND

- Robberies with gun 773
- All other robberies 1,927
- ◆ Security cameras 48

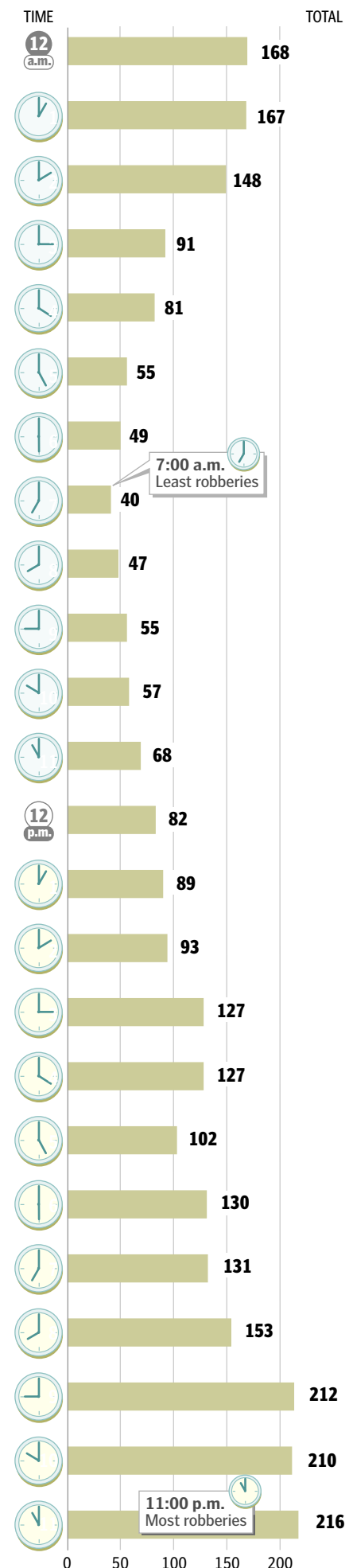
Total robberies  
Jan.-Sept. 21:  
**2,700**

As reported by D.C. police. Does not include robberies reported by other agencies.

### The Time Of the Crime

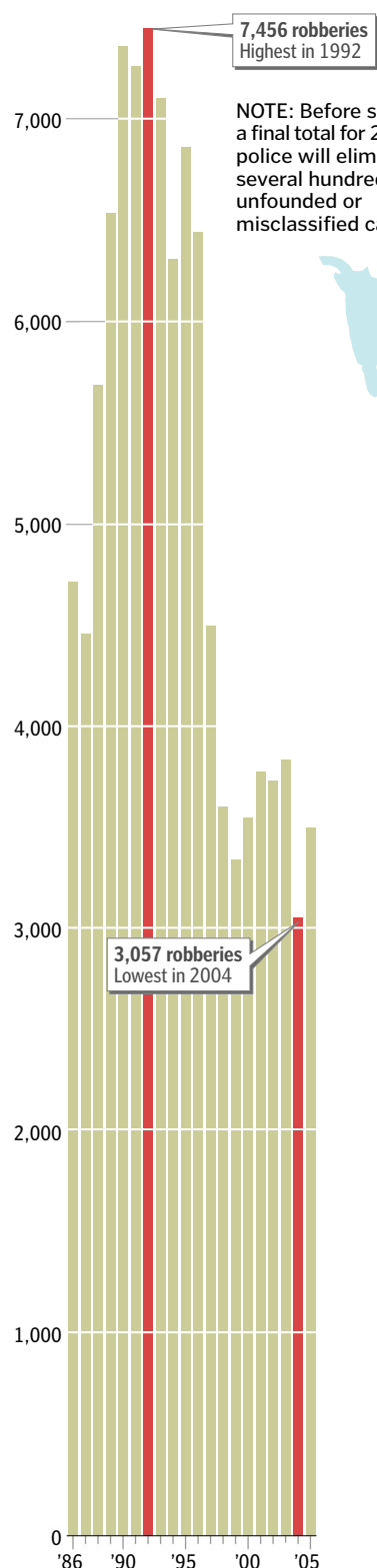
Robberies occur at all hours. Early morning, about 7 a.m., has the lowest incidence of reports; while the greatest numbers take place between 9 and 11 p.m.

Robberies as of Sept. 21. Time not accounted for some of the reported incidents.



### Previous Totals

The frequency of robberies is less than in the early and mid-1990s, according to FBI statistics. These numbers are lower than those provided by D.C. police.



### In Other U.S. Cities

Robberies committed in 2005, per 1,000 in population, based on FBI statistics.

City	Total robberies	Robberies per capita
Washington	3,502	6.36
Chicago	15,964	5.56
Miami	2,019	5.20
Los Angeles	13,797	3.56
New York	24,722	3.04

SOURCE: Uniform Crime Reporting Program, "Crime in the United States, 2005"

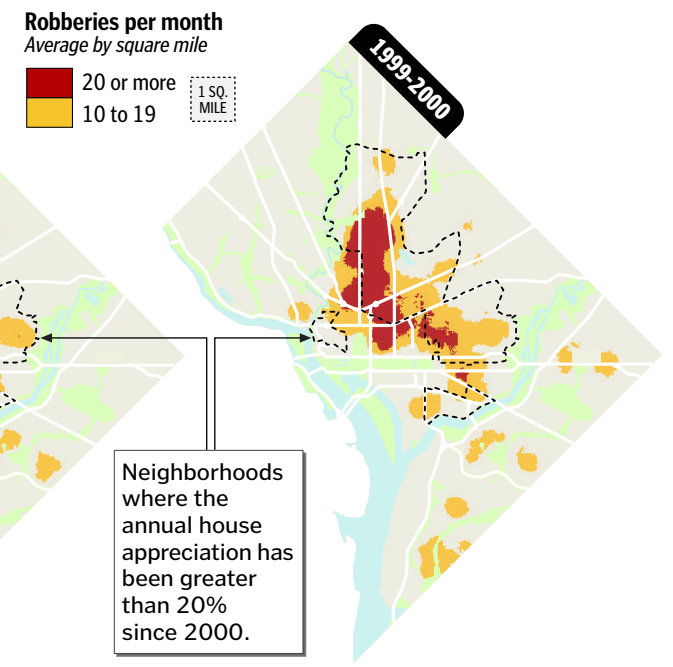
### Responding to Robbery

Law enforcement experts unanimously agree that if you are being robbed, cooperate with your assailant. D.C. police crime prevention specialists also offer the following tips:

- Stay in well-lit areas and walk along main streets when possible. Try not to walk alone.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially at night. Do not distract yourself by talking on a cellphone or listening to music.
- If it appears that you are being followed, walk into a public building or toward a populated area.
- If you think you are in danger, talk loudly, even if you are alone.
- Yell "Fire!" or "My child! My child!" You are less likely to get help if you yell "Police!"
- If your assailant says he has a weapon, assume he does.
- If your assailant is unarmed, throw your money, purse or wallet and run. Do not do this if the robber has a weapon; the action could escalate the attack.
- If a robber tries to force you into an alley or car, run.

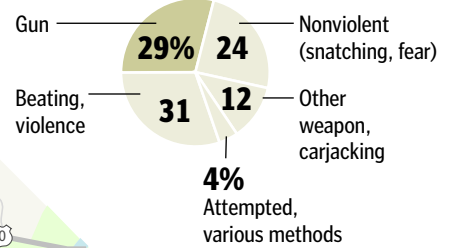
SOURCES: D.C. police, FBI "Crime in the United States," NeighborhoodInfoDC

RESEARCH BY DAN NEATING, GRAPHIC BY LARIS KARKLIS, APRIL LUMMINGER, TOBEY AND NATHANIEL VAUGHN KELS0 — THE WASHINGTON POST



### Robbery Methods

Most robberies in the District are not committed at gunpoint.



### Monitoring the Problem

Closed-circuit television cameras help investigators gather information about robberies and other crimes. Locations were chosen based on crime analysis and input from the community, D.C. Council members and ANC members. Some of their features:

- Surveys public space only, 24 hours a day.
- Pans 360 degrees and tilts 180 degrees.
- Records in color and has day/night capabilities.
- Monitors wide areas but is capable of zooming in on a particular location.
- Captures action that occurs directly under them as well as a block or two away. Generally, if you can see a camera down the street, it can record what you're doing.
- Stores information for 10 days.

Cameras have not led to any arrests, but D.C. police are reviewing data collected for several incidents.

