

DEFINITION: Street robbery is defined in this brief as the use or threat of force to steal property from a person in public space. Street robbery is also known as mugging, which usually encompasses the crime of snatch theft as well. Snatch theft differs from street robbery in that it is the taking of property from a victim without the use or threat or intimidation. It is recorded separately by police in England and Wales.

UK TRENDS: Following a peak in 2002/03, substantial decreases in street robbery volumes were seen across England and Wales. Recent figures however indicate an upward trend, with increases

The situations that give rise to street robbery hotspots are complex and vary across places and times. Tactics and strategies that respond to a street robbery problem should be selected with the circumstances in mind. Responses should therefore be intelligently matched to the context of the crime problem. Good quality analysis should be able to reveal the contextual details of your local robbery problem so that you may disrupt it.

Robbery is a mobile crime which is frequently over in minutes. It is challenging for police agencies to investigate and detect such crimes. Some types of robbery might be more detectable than others - it is these offences where enforcement activities should be specifically targeted. Some evidence exists that high visibility patrols reduce street robbery incidents, although such tactics are costly and are not sustainable long-term. Helping victims to report robbery swiftly increases the chance of apprehending the offender.

Alternatives to enforcement also need to be considered. Protecting potential victims at specific places and times through awareness campaigns may reduce the risk of victimisation. Done sensitively, such campaigns can also send a reassurance message. Protecting victims is best

JDiBrief Crime

Street Robbery: RESOURCES (5 of 5)

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GENERAL RESOURCES

UK based – POLKA library run by the National Policing Improvement Agency
<http://polka.pnn.police.uk/>

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UK GOVERNMENT REPORTS

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Braga, A. A., Hureau, D. M. & Papachristos, A. V. (2011). The Relevance of Micro Places to Citywide Robbery Trends: A Longitudinal Analysis of Robbery Incidents at Street Corners and Block Faces in Boston. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. Vol 48, pp. 7-32.

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Tompson, L. & Townsley, M. (2010). (Looking) Back to the Future: using space-time patterns to better predict the location of street crime. *International Journal of Police Science and Management*. Vol 12, pp. 23-40.

Wright, R., Brookman, F. & Bennett, T. (2006). The Foreground Dynamics of Street Robbery in Britain. *British Journal of Criminology*. Vol 46, pp. 1-15.