

3. Robbery. Robbery is *the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.* In any instance of Robbery, **count one offense for each distinct operation (i.e., incident), including attempts.** Do not count the number of victims robbed, those present at the robbery or the number of offenders.

Essential Elements of a Robbery:

- Committed in the presence of a victim (usually the owner or person having custody of the property).
- Victim is directly confronted by the perpetrator.
- Victim is threatened with force or put in fear that force will be used.
- Involves a theft or larceny.

Because some type of assault is an element of robbery, do not report an assault as a separate crime as long as it was performed in furtherance of the robbery. However, if the injury results in death, classify the incident as Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter.

Aids to Classifying Incidents as Robberies

The classification of Robbery includes both armed robbery and robberies where only personal weapons are used. Armed robbery includes incidents commonly referred to as stickups, hijackings, holdups, heists, carjackings, etc. Carjackings are robbery offenses in which a motor vehicle is taken through force or threat of force. In such case, following the Hierarchy Rule, report **only** a robbery, **not** a motor vehicle theft. (The **Hierarchy Rule** is discussed on pages 53 and 54.) Robberies in which only personal weapons, such as hands, arms, fists, feet and teeth are used or threatened to be used, may be referred to as strong-arms or muggings.

The *UCR* considers a weapon to be a commonly known weapon (a gun, knife, club, etc.) or any other item which, although not usually thought of as a weapon, becomes one in the commission of a crime. Robbery also includes crimes involving pretended weapons or those in which the weapon is not seen by the victim, but the robber claims to possess one.

Remember, the use or threat of force is an essential element of robbery. For example, classify a pocket-picking or purse-snatching where force is neither used nor threatened as Larceny-Theft. However, if force or threat of force is used to overcome the active resistance of the victim in a purse-snatching or other such crime, classify the offense as Robbery.

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Example of Robbery

Scenario: Two students returning to campus from a night at a local bar are approached by three armed men on a city sidewalk outside their residence hall and told to hand over their wallets. The students comply, and the three armed men leave without harming the students. Classify this as one Robbery on public property.