



Regional Security Office
Advisory Bulletin 25-09

UNITED STATES EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

SUBJECT: Criminal Acts Involving Motorcycles

Members of the Embassy community reported to the RSO a number of incidents that involved assailants on motorcycles who robbed individuals on the streets of Santo Domingo.

Examples of reported incidents:

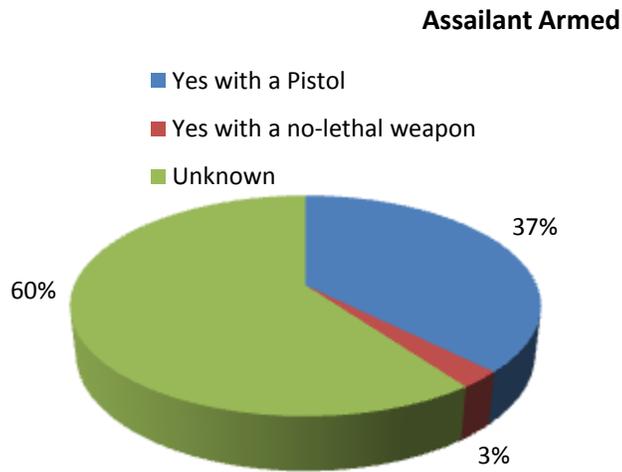
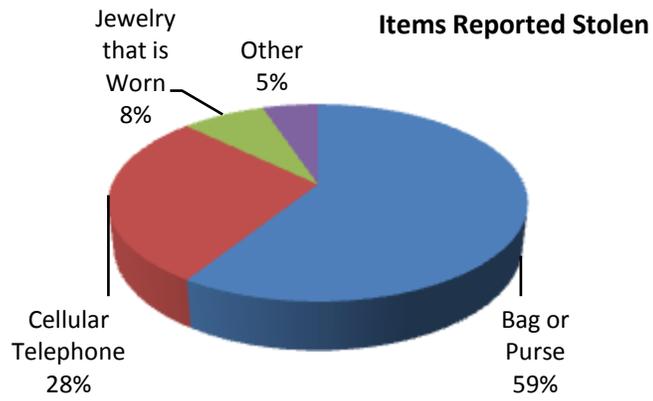
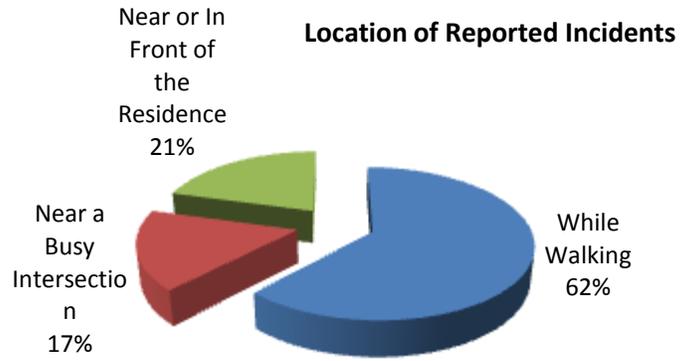
1. As the victim was exiting the vehicle in front of her residence, two assailants on a black Yamaha RX115 motorcycle snatched the victim's purse;
2. At the intersection of Avenue Mexico and Maximo Gomez, two assailants on a motorcycle grabbed the victim's cellular telephone from her hand as she was standing at the intersection;
3. In Bella Vista, as the victim was walking down a busy street, two armed assailants on a motorcycle assaulted and robbed the victim of her purse;
4. In Gazcue, as the victim was crossing Avenue George Washington, two assailants on a motorcycle snatched a gold chain from victim's neck.

Recently RSO reviewed on-hand National Police cases involving robberies or thefts that have occurred by individuals on motorcycles and the results of the review revealed:

- 62 percent of the reported incidents occurred while the person was walking on a public street;
- 59 percent of the items that were stolen were bags and/or purses;
- 30 percent of the assailants used black in color Yamaha RX 115 motorcycles;

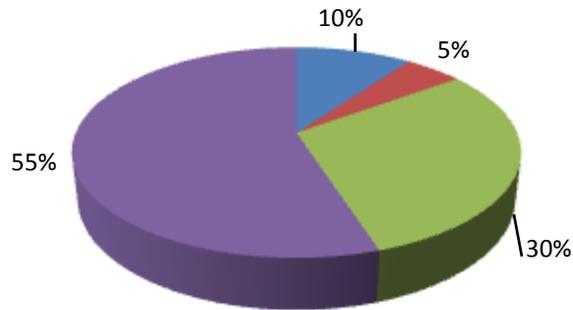


- 37 percent of the assailants were armed with pistols;
- 29 percent of the incidents occurred on Friday, a pay day for many, followed by the weekend;
- Majority of the incidents occur between 1600 and 2200 hours (evening rush hour);
- 83 percent of the motorcycles had two riders;

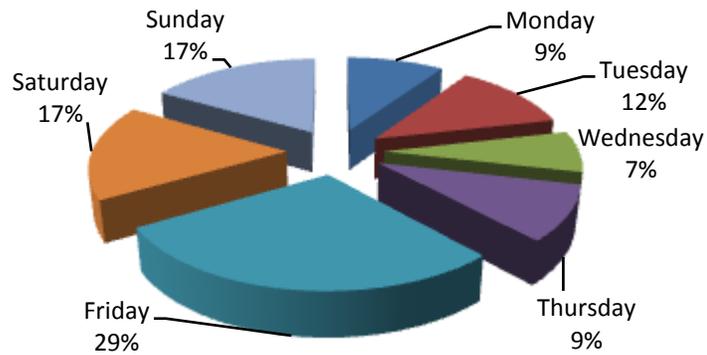


Type of Motorcycle

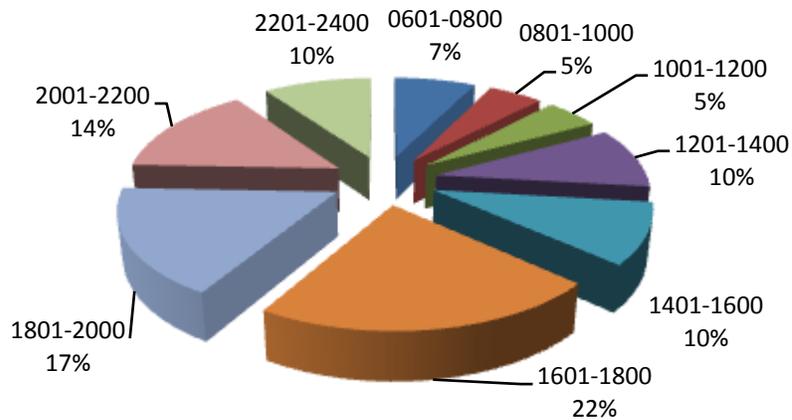
■ Honda C70 ■ Suzuli 125 ■ Yamaha RX 115 ■ Unknown



Number of Reported Incidents By Day of Week



Time of Incident



HOW TO STAY SAFE

Some people take foolish risks and some of them lose. If a robber threatens you with a gun, your chances of safely disarming him or her are small. To be prepared, your best

protection lies in thinking ahead, "What would I do if this happened to me?" If you don't have a plan you may panic or do something to cause the robber to panic and hurt you.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF

- Be aware of your surroundings. Walk with a purpose, head up, and looking around. Stay in lighted areas at night. The robber doesn't want to be seen.
- Stay with the crowd — there is safety in numbers.
- Women should carry their wallet in their pocket, not their purse. If possible avoid carrying a purse or bag.
- If you carry a purse, carry it close to your body, like a football player carries a football. Do not place the strap across your body or over your shoulder. When the robber grabs your purse, you may be pulled along with the robber until the strap breaks and you are injured.
- Be cautious when wearing "flashy" jewelry. Visible jewelry is usually an advertisement for others to target you.
- Be conscious of people just "hanging around" anywhere, especially near public building entrances and garages or around your residence.
- Notify police of strangers who are hanging around your home, or apartment for no apparent reason.
- Take the profit out of robbery by not carrying large sums of money, or credit cards on your person whenever possible.
- Vary your routine — don't do the same thing at exactly the same time every day.
- Don't flash your cash.
- Lock your car doors whenever you are in your vehicle. Before exiting, wait a minute and examine your surroundings. When exiting the vehicle, hold your alarm remote in your hand and in case of an emergency, activate your alarm as a measure to scare off the assailant and alert the neighbors that you need assistance.
- If you are walking and you notice that a motorcycle is following you, enter a store or public building. This would also be a good time to use your cell phone and contact help.
- If someone acts suspiciously, looks at you closely or follows you, head for store or a large grouping of people.
- Carry a whistle or other noise making device. Use it to call attention to yourself if threatened.
- Walk in the middle of the sidewalk rather than near a building or along the curb.

DON'T let yourself be distracted. Criminals often work in pairs—one person gets your attention while the other steals your purse, wallet, or bag.

BASIC CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Many crimes can be prevented if you:

Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings.

Appear calm and confident in public. Look like you know where you're going.

Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, leave.

Know the neighborhoods where you live, work, and attend school, including where the police stations, fire stations, public telephones, and hospitals are located.

Avoid dangerous situations, like walking alone at night.

CELL PHONE SAFETY TIPS

Cell phones are fast becoming a favorite target of thieves. To reduce your chances of becoming the victim of a cell phone theft, the RSO offers you the following safety tips:

- Always be aware of your surroundings. Thieves may be watching you.
- Use your cell phone security lock.
- Avoid becoming distracted by your cell phone conversation when walking on the street.
- Keep your cell phone out of site. Don't hang it from your purse, jacket or within your hand.
- Switch the ringer off to avoid attracting the attention of thieves.
- Consider using hands-free technology.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

Not all crimes are preventable. If you are attacked, your goal is to escape safely. To better your chances:

- Don't resist or refuse to give up your valuables.
- Scream to attract attention.
- Stay alert. Listen and observe carefully so you can make the best decisions about how to react.
- Get a description. Note the characteristics that will help you describe your attacker to the police—the suspect's sex, age, height, weight, race, hair, eye color, glasses, tattoos, scars, and complexion. Note the condition of the attacker's clothing and any distinguishing shoes, hats, or other items.