



ROBBERY IN OHIO AND THE U.S. 2004

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Data sources

The FBI collects data on crime using the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The UCR Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of city, county, and state law enforcement agencies voluntarily submitting data on reported crimes. The traditional or summary-based UCR reporting has been used for more than 70 years and involves manual data collection on eight major crime categories: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Incident-based UCR, called the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), was developed in the 1980s to allow law enforcement agencies to participate in an automated system for providing more complete detail on individual crimes and a heightened level of accuracy in crime reporting. Ohio's version of this reporting program, the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS), was begun in the late 1980s, and has replaced traditional summary-based reporting in many areas of the state.

OIBRS is a voluntary crime reporting program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the state and federal government in an automated format. From a research standpoint, incident-based reporting allows for a detailed analysis of crime, suspects, victims, arrestees, and property. As of December 31, 2004, 48.8 percent, or approximately 5.8 million, of the Ohio population was covered by OIBRS crime reporting. Because reporting for Ohio is incomplete, caution should be used in interpreting the findings reported in this paper, as the data may reflect more the composition of the OIBRS-reporting jurisdictions than the composition of the state as a whole. Additionally, because the number of agencies submitting OIBRS data increases yearly, no year-to-year comparisons can be made with the data.

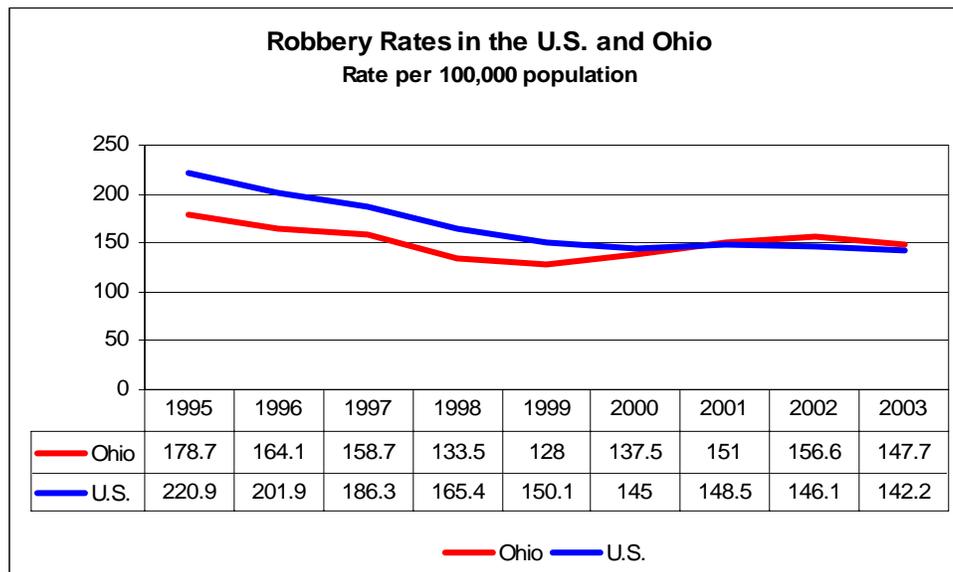
Unless otherwise stated, the following report used 2004 OIBRS data in the analysis of robberies in Ohio.

Robbery offenses in Ohio and the U.S.

Robbery is defined by the FBI as the taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear. It is considered a violent crime because it involves force or threat of force. According to the FBI's UCR program, in 2003 the U.S. experienced 413,402 robberies — 29.9 percent of all violent crimes in 2003.

UCR data show that the nation's rate of robbery in 2003 was 142.2 robberies per 100,000 population. Of all U.S. regions, the Midwest states¹ experienced the lowest robbery rate, at 118.5 robberies per 100,000 population. Despite the low robbery rate in the Midwest, Ohio's robbery rate of 147.7 was higher than both the Midwest rate and the U.S. rate, and was surpassed in the Midwest only by Illinois (188.2).

UCR data show that from 1995 to 1999, Ohio experienced a decreasing robbery rate which mirrored that of the U.S., although at a lower rate. However, while the U.S. rate remained relatively steady from that point on, the robbery rate in Ohio began to increase, surpassing that of the nation in 2001 and peaking in 2002 before beginning to decline in 2003.



Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, 1995-2003.

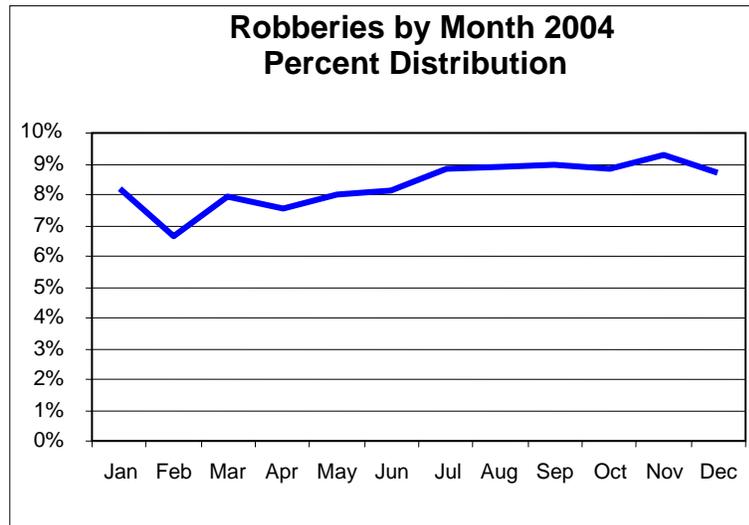
¹ For the UCR program, the Midwest states include Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota

Analysis of 2004 Robberies in Ohio

Characteristics of robberies

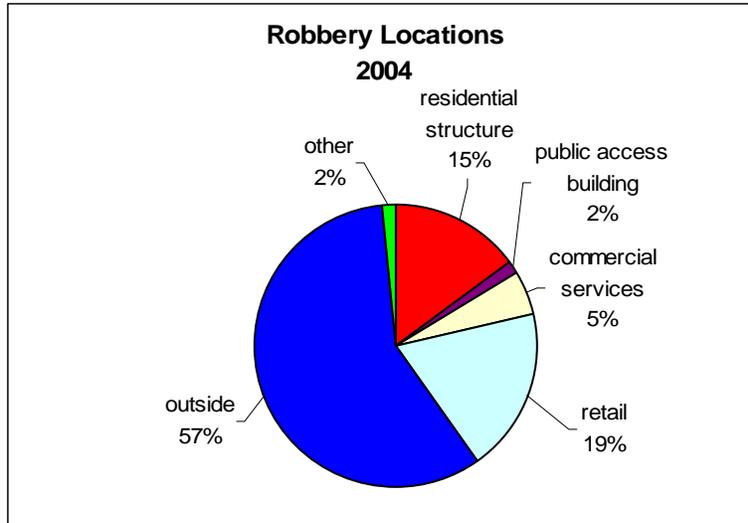
In 2004, Ohio's OIBRS agencies reported 12,327 robberies. Nearly 92 percent of these robberies were completed. The following characterize these offenses.

By month. Robberies occurred least frequently in the cold winter months in Ohio. The robbery rate increased from a low in February to a steady high throughout the summer months. In the autumn months, the rate rose slightly higher before beginning its descent. UCR data show that this pattern has been found for the U.S. as well.



Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

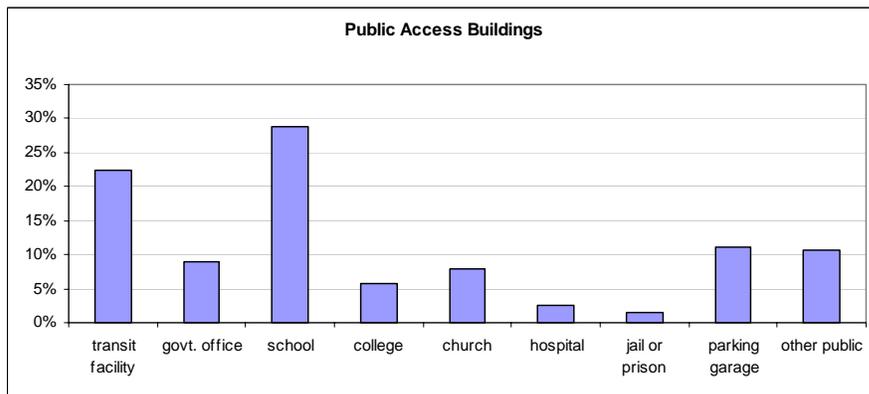
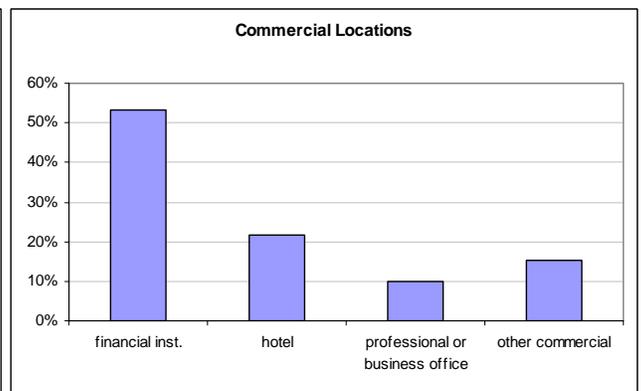
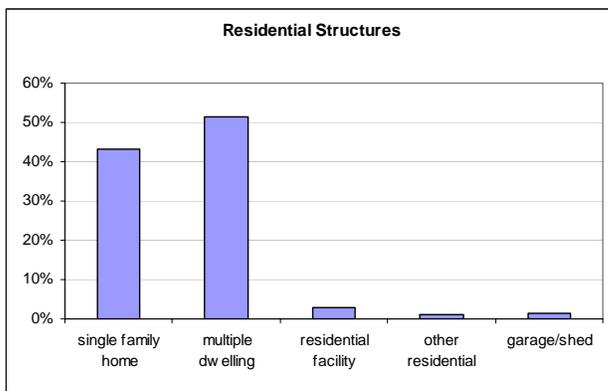
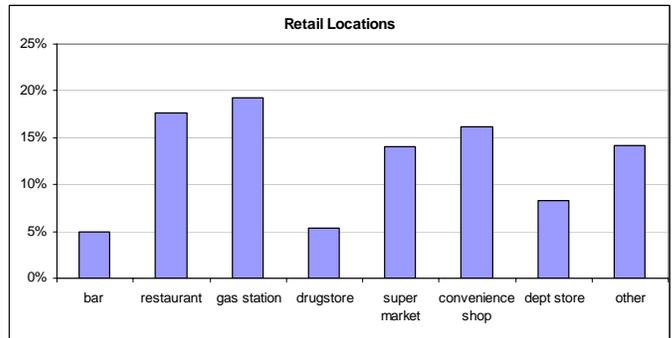
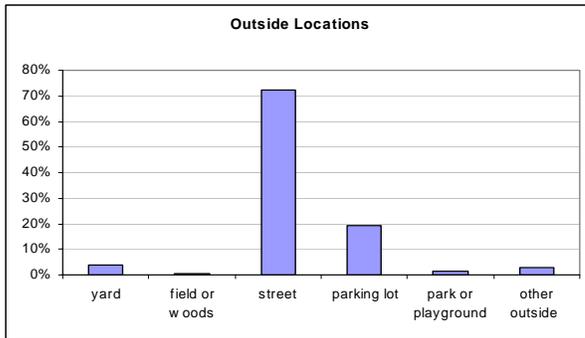
By location. In Ohio, the majority—57 percent—of robberies occurred in outside locations, followed by retail establishments (19 percent) and residential structures (15 percent).



Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

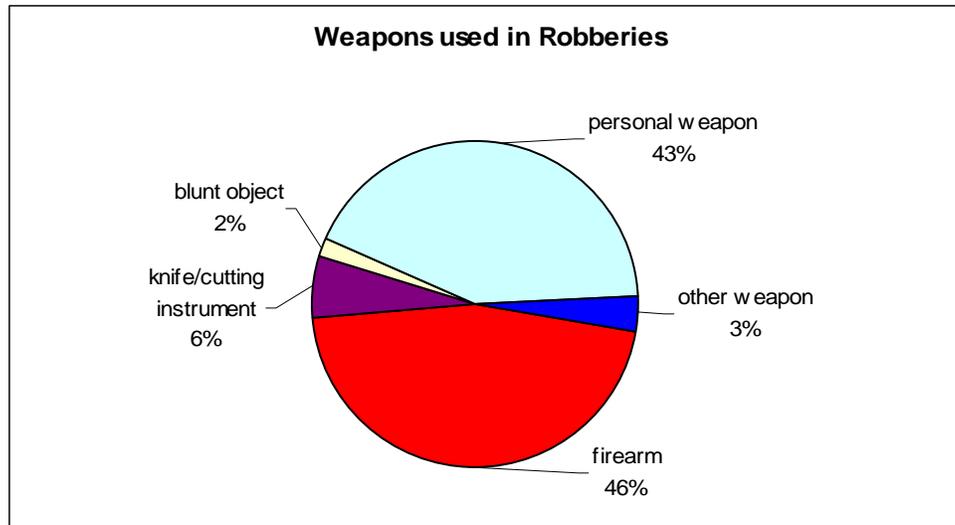
The most common outdoor locations for robberies were streets and parking lots, accounting for 91.5 percent of all outdoor robberies. In retail establishments, gas stations (19 percent), restaurants (18 percent), convenience stores (16 percent), and supermarkets (14 percent) were the most frequent targets. Ninety-five percent of residential robberies occurred in single- or multiple-family dwellings. Five percent of robberies occurred in commercial buildings that provide services, such as banks, beauty salons, doctors' offices, and hotels. Slightly more than one percent occurred in public access buildings, such as schools, churches, hospitals, jails, and government buildings.

Robbery Locations



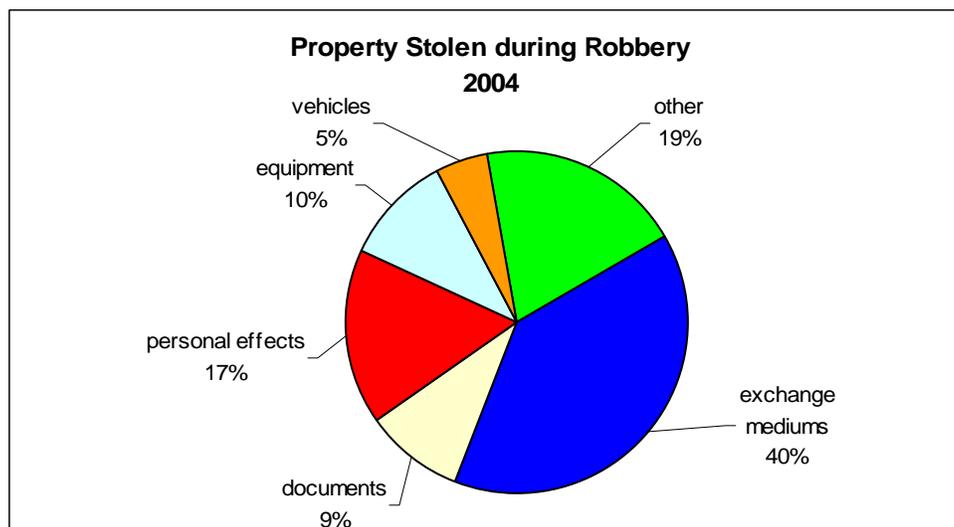
Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

Weapon type. Of the robberies reported in OIBRS in 2004 for which the presence or absence of a weapon is known, a weapon was used in more than 79 percent of the incidents. Of these incidents, firearms were the most frequently reported weapon, accounting for 46 percent of such robberies. Personal weapons, such as hands, feet, and fists, were the second most frequent weapon used, at 43 percent.



Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

Property Stolen. Exchange mediums, such as money, credit cards, and negotiable instruments (endorsed checks, money orders, gift certificates, etc.) were the most frequently stolen items during a robbery, making up 40 percent of all stolen property. Personal effects, including purses and wallets, made up 17 percent of all stolen property. Forty-four percent of all equipment stolen was office equipment.



Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

Victims. The majority of robbery victims, 83 percent, were individuals. Sixteen percent of victims were classified as businesses, and slightly more than one percent were financial institutions such as banks or credit unions.

When the victims were individuals, 69 percent of those for whom the sex was identified were male. Of those victims for whom age information was recorded, 11 percent were juveniles, and nearly 60 percent were age 35 or under. Approximately 4 percent of

robbery victims were age 65 or older. Of those victims for whom race information was recorded, 46 percent were Black and 53 percent were White.

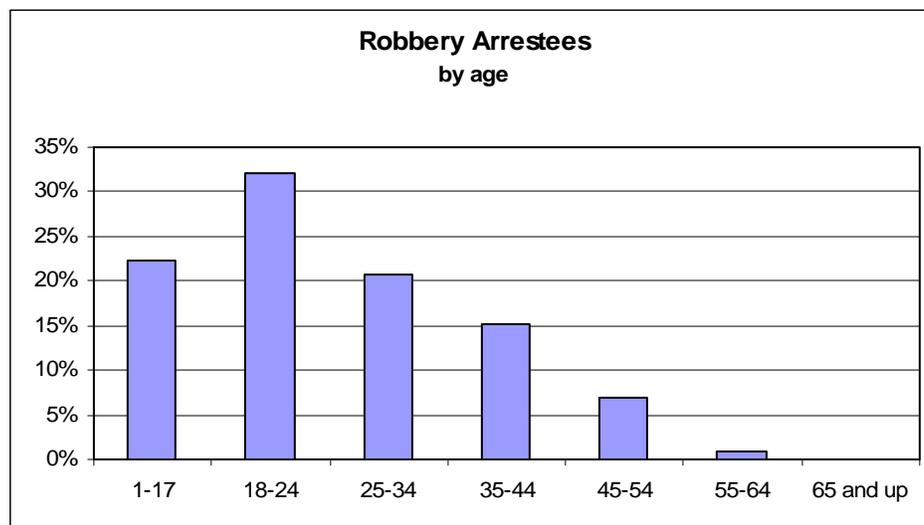
Most victims of robbery—69 percent—reported having no physical injury as a result of the crime. Approximately 25 percent reported suffering an apparent minor injury, such as scratches and minor cuts or bruising. Slightly more than one percent reported sustaining a severe laceration, and nearly two percent reported suffering a major injury other than broken bones, internal injuries, tooth loss, or unconsciousness.

Robbery arrests in Ohio and the U.S.

UCR data show that in 2003, there were 75,667 arrests for robbery in the U.S. Nearly 90 percent of robbery arrestees were male. More than 23 percent of all robbery arrestees were under the age of 18, and 82 percent were under age 35. More than 54 percent were Black, and nearly 44 percent were White.

Ohio OIBRS data for 2004 revealed similar patterning of arrestee data. The majority of robbery arrestees, more than 89 percent, were male. For White arrestees, more than 14 percent were female and more than 85 percent were male. For Black arrestees, there were fewer females and more males arrested for robbery—nine percent and 91 percent, respectively.

OIBRS data show that more than three-quarters of robbery arrestees were under the age of 35. Additionally, more than 22 percent of all robbery arrestees were juveniles. The number of individuals arrested for robbery steadily decreased beginning with the 25-34 age group.

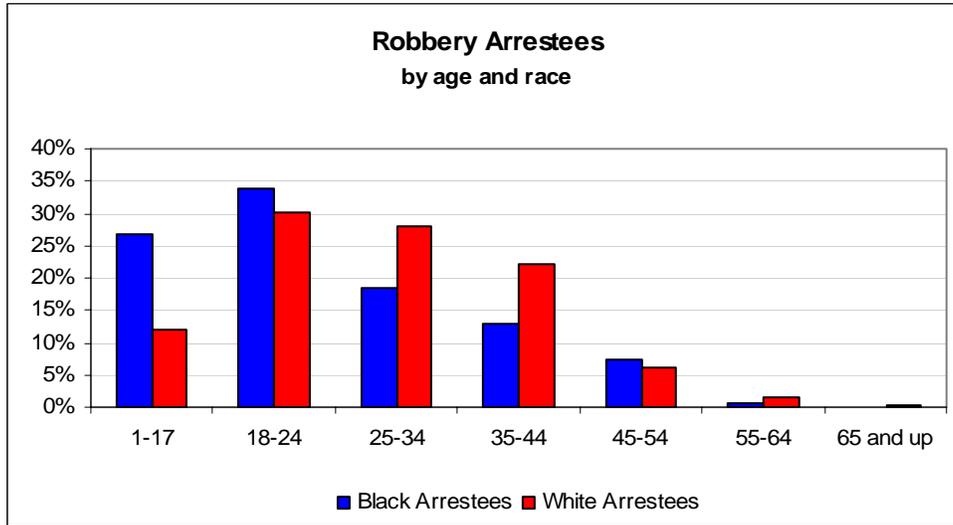


Source: 2004 OIBRS data.

In comparing age differences among those arrested for robbery, the percentage of robbery arrestees under age 35 who were Black was 79 percent, while for Whites, the percentage

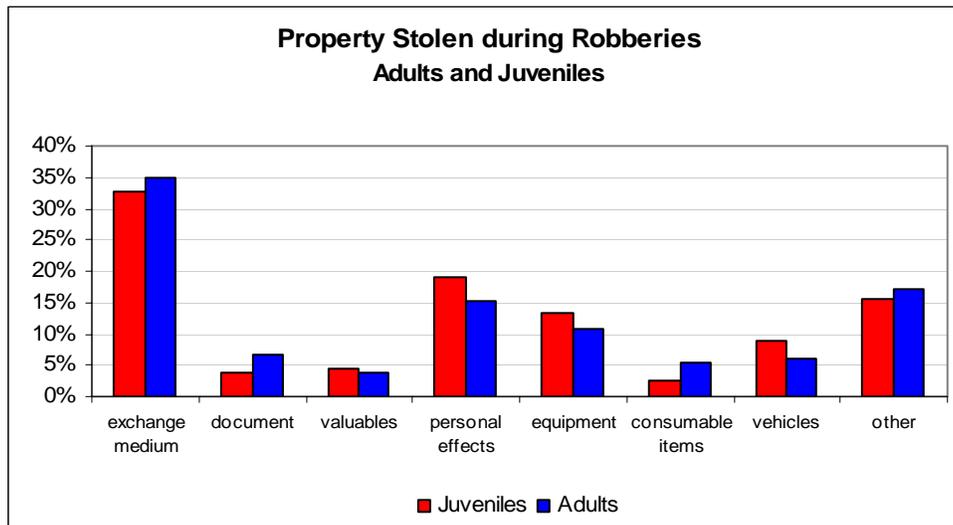
was 70 percent. More than 22 percent of White robbery arrestees, but only 13 percent of Black arrestees fell within the 35-44 age category.

In Ohio, juveniles under age 18 made up more than 22 percent of all robbery arrestees. Of all Black robbery arrestees, nearly 27 percent were under age 18. Of all White robbery arrestees, 12 percent were under age 18.



Source: 2004 OIBRS data

The types of property that were stolen by arrestees were compared for juveniles and adults. In general, the types of items stolen did not differ much as a function of age. Some minor differences were noted, however. A greater percentage of adults than juveniles stole exchange mediums (money, credit/debit cards, and other such items) and documents, while a greater number of juveniles stole personal effects (including purses and wallets), equipment and vehicles.



Source: 2004 OIBRS data