

# Carjacking Pt 2: Avoidance / Stalling Strategies

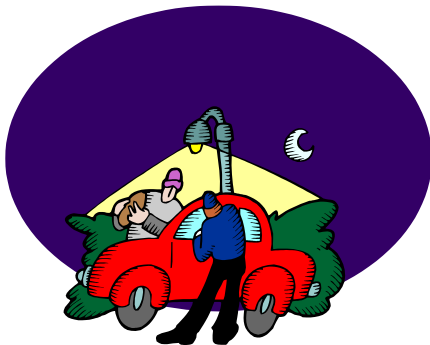
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## Carjacking Statistics:

### Carjacking facts (National Crime Victimization Survey, 2004):

- From 1993-2002, there was an average of 38,000 carjacking attempts nationwide annually (50% of which were successful).
- Almost 2/3 of carjacking incidents occurred within five miles of the car owner's home.
- Carjackings take place any time (most between 10PM and 2AM), anywhere and in every type of neighborhood.
- Men committed 93% of carjackings. Males were victimized more than females; African Americans more than Caucasians; Hispanics more than non-Hispanics.
- A weapon was used in 74% of carjackings.

*Carry a canister of Pepper*



## Know the Facts

Forcible auto theft, a/k/a carjacking, is considered a dangerous crime because carjackers are unpredictable, usually armed, often violent (47% of the time they result in injury whether the attempt was successful or not); and the "jacking" can lead to other serious crimes such as murder or sexual assault. However, carjacking remains an under-researched and poorly understood crime. The latest statistics I could find were from 2004!

If confronted, don't resist. As in any robbery, if all the carjacker wants is your property (car) give it up and get out of there. But sometimes, under certain circumstances, like you're in the car and carjacker approaches you on foot, other tactics can be effective. One that has been successful in the past is to simply accelerate the car and drive off fast. Just remember that cars aren't bulletproof. (*See "Carjacking Pt 1: Facts & Tips"*)

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*Most experts agree: Avoid a kidnapping at all costs. Unless you have other escape options in place, strongly consider fiercely resisting, EVEN if the carjacker has a weapon: Throw the car keys on the ground or in his face to blind him then strike or start yelling to attract attention, then start running to a close safe place (in a zigzag pattern if the carjacker has a gun). If you have no other options, be prepared to stand and fight.*

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Despite all the advice about resistance at any cost, if a carjacker has a gun to your head or a knife at your throat, this might not seem like the best action to take. If you can't avoid being taken as a hostage, you might still have options.

## Successful Strategies

Listed below are stories ripped from the headlines that illustrate some other tactics you might use in a carjacking (or other crime scenarios). They show how cooperation avoids injury allowing "technical" backup to save the day and how verbal strategies can be used to stall for time and create opportunities to get help or escape.

### ■ Hostage Phones for Help from Car Trunk (New York Daily News, 6/26/00)

ARLINGTON, Va. — Police tracked down and rescued a woman who called for help on her cell phone after she was forced into the trunk of her car by a gunman. The woman's ordeal ended after about two hours Thursday when the suspect, fleeing cops at speeds of up to 100 mph, crashed on an exit ramp.

The woman, a 24-year-old medical student whose name was not released, suffered a bump on the head. ***"She more than likely saved her life by grabbing her phone from her bag when it all started,"*** said a State Police spokeswoman.

### ■ Hatch Latch Escape, (New York Daily News, 4/2/00)

The inside-trunk release lever of her 2000 Ford Taurus is demonstrated by Janette Fennell, who was once locked in a car trunk for an hour by armed robbers and has



**Make a Safety Plan for a carjacking scenario, including taking a yearly self defense course!**

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Josephine Brancaccio isn't the only "Granny" to thwart a carjacker: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=granny%2C+81%2C+thwarts+carjacker&atb=v204-1&ia=web>

Jet's wife Esther Green used a highly-successful stalling strategy called "Fast Talk-Bargaining." For more tips and stalling strategies, go to [www.crimeprevention101.com](http://www.crimeprevention101.com)

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No absolutes exist in crime scenarios and no advice can address every variable. Evaluate each situation individually and only respond in the way you judge will ensure your safety or survival. Sometimes nothing can be done to prevent an undesirable outcome.

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Visit [crimeprevention101.com](http://crimeprevention101.com) for Carjacking Pt 1: Facts & Tips and for Pepper Spray information AND receive a free eBook "All-Time Top Tips for Keeping Yourself Safe!"

been campaigning to have inside trunk releases [put] in cars. Now all Ford, Lincoln and Mercury autos sold in U.S. and Canada will include them.

**Note:** As of September 2001, according to the Federal motor vehicle safety standard (FMVSS) No. 401, all car trunks must be equipped with a release latch or equivalent alternative system. If your car is older and doesn't have one, speak to your dealer or an alarm shop about having one put in. Also, check out:

**3 Ways to Escape from the Trunk of a Car:** <https://www.wikihow.com/Escape-From-the-Trunk-of-a-Car>

**Trapped in a trunk? Emergency Release Could Save your Life:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QNm5MWjLMg>

#### ■ Granny, 81, Thwarts Carjacker, (New York Daily News, 8/25/99)

ELMWOOD PARK, NJ — She's 81, has six grandchildren, a pacemaker and a will of iron. Josephine Brancaccio refused to give up her 1983 Nissan Sentra in the Bergen County carjacking and a suspect is in jail as a result. The incident began at about 2:00 PM Sunday in Elmwood Park. While Brancaccio was stopped at a stop sign in an industrial area, a carjacker reached in through the open driver's window and grabbed the wheel and Brancaccio, police said. But, the grandmother stepped on the accelerator and the car rolled across the street.

A passing driver, Alejandro Hernandez, was forced to stop short by the rolling Sentra. He realized something was wrong and followed. The Sentra traveled several hundred yards before hitting a curb and stopping near the Marcal paper mill. Hernandez got out of his vehicle and tried to pull the assailant off Brancaccio. He soon had help from two Marcal truck drivers, who subdued the attacker. ...."She was always tough. She wouldn't let anything get past her," said grandson Michael Fornelius, 22.

**Note:** The safest way to help someone is to phone for the police, honk the horn to make a lot of noise and attract attention. Keep following so the carjacker knows his crime has been detected. It turned out ok for Ms. Brancaccio because a lot of people were around to help, and, more importantly, the carjacker did not appear to have a weapon.

#### ■ Jets Wife Outwits Pair of Carjackers, (New York Daily News, 4/30/99)

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. — The wife of New York Jets safety Victor Green thwarted a carjacker by secretly dialing 911 on her cell phone and then talking with the driver, dropping clues for the emergency dispatcher. ...Despite her terror, Ester Green remembered the cell phone in her 10-month old daughter's diaper bag as she and the baby were driven through this Atlanta suburb Monday in the backseat of her Mercedes.

Green left the phone hidden in the bag and tried to give the dispatcher clues about what had happened and where she was. ..."**Please stop the car. Please. It's not worth all this,**" Green told the driver, according to a 911 recording released Wednesday. "**You can have the car ... Please just let me get my baby out of the car..**"

To describe their location for the dispatcher, Green asked the driver to let her off at landmarks along the way. At one point, she said, "**Make a right onto Highway 85.**" The 911 tape reveals that dispatcher Holly Eason immediately relayed the information. Green kept up her act even as police closed in on the carjackers. With sirens sounding in the background, Green, feigning surprise, told the driver, "**Oh, my God, they want you to stop.**" [Note: **Police pulled them over at this point.** <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/carjackers-foiled-by-cell-phone/>]