

## VIOLENT CRIME IN THE US

- In 2016, an estimated 1,248,185 violent crimes occurred nationwide, an increase of 4.1 percent from the 2015 estimate.
- When considering 5- and 10-year trends, the 2016 estimated violent crime total was 2.6 percent above the 2012 level and 12.3 percent below the 2007 level.
- There were an estimated 386.3 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants in 2016, a rate that rose 3.4 percent when compared with the 2015 estimated violent crime rate.
- Aggravated assaults accounted for 64.3 percent of violent crimes reported to law enforcement in 2016. Robbery offenses accounted for 26.6 percent of violent crime offenses; rape (legacy definition) accounted for 7.7 percent; and murder accounted for 1.4 percent.

## WHAT TO TEACH KIDS

- **Don't talk to strangers.** A stranger is anyone that your family doesn't know well.
- **Point out safe places.** Show your children safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there's trouble.
- **Teach your children to be assertive.** Make sure they know that it's okay to say no to an adult & to run away from adults in dangerous situations.
- **There's safety in numbers!** Encourage your children to play with others.
- **Teach children to trust their instincts.** If they feel scared or uncomfortable tell them to get away as fast as they can & tell an adult.
- **Take bullying seriously.** Many kids are embarrassed to say they have been bullied. You may only have one chance to step in and help.
- **When your child is bullied** encourage them to walk away tell a teacher, principal or another adult. Don't respond to a bully with violence.

## CONTACT US



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# YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## - VIOLENT CRIMES -

*Tips to avoid becoming a  
victim of violent crime*





## TROUBLE SPOTS

- **Stairwells** and out-of-way corridors don't use the stairs alone. Talk to a building manager about improving poorly lighted corridors and stairways.
- **Elevators** don't get into an elevator with people who look out of place or behave in a strange or threatening manner.
- **Restrooms** Attackers can hide in stalls and corners. Make sure restrooms are locked and only employees have keys.
- **After hours** don't work late alone. Create a buddy system for walking to parking lots.
- **Wherever you are** — on the street, in an office or waiting for public transportation — stay alert and tuned into your surroundings.
- **Send a message** you are calm, confident & know where you're going.
- **Trust your instincts.** If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or place.
- **Know the neighborhoods** where you live & work. Check out the locations of police & fire departments & hospitals.



## ON FOOT

### Day & Night

- **Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets.** Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- **Don't flash large amounts of cash** or other tempting targets like jewelry or expensive clothing.
- **Carry your purse close to your body,** don't let it dangle by the strap. Put a wallet in a front or inside pocket.
- **Have your car or house key in hand** before you reach the door. · If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant or well-lighted house.
- **If you're scared,** yell for help.
- **Stay alert!** Don't dose or daydream.
- **If someone harasses you, use your voice.** Loudly say "leave me alone!" If that doesn't work, dial 911. · If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a place where there are a lot of people



## ON WHEELS

- Always roll up windows & lock your car when you park.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas.
- Leave enough space to pull around the vehicle in front of you when you are stopped in traffic or at a red light.



## IF YOU ARE BEING ROBBED

- Don't resist. Give up your property; don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from being victims.