



HOT PRODUCTS BAGGAGE THEFT IN AIRPORTS

BRIEF

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO

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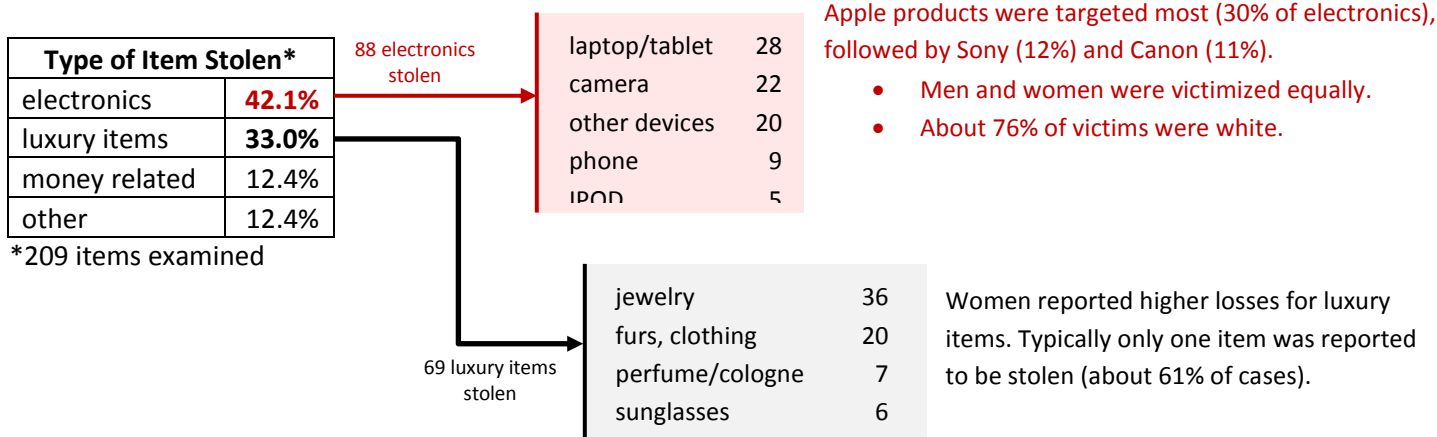
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Key Findings

Theft From Carry-on and Checked Baggage in Airports Servicing New York City: John F. Kennedy (JFK), LaGuardia (LGA) and Newark Liberty (EWR)

Hot Products

Analysis of reported theft from baggage in three airports servicing New York City found that offenders are more likely to select C.R.A.V.E.D. items--concealable, removable, available, valuable, enjoyable, and disposable.



Peak Risk

Thefts are more common in **December and January** (32% of 127 cases). This may be related to the higher likelihood that people are traveling with gifts.

55% of theft occurred on 3 days—**Thursday, Saturday and Sunday**—suggesting that weekend/leisure travel is more risky.

Travelers on **American, Jet Blue, and Delta** reported higher levels of theft (60% of 122 cases examined). However, this may be a function of better reporting and record keeping.

Travelers headed to **California or Florida** experienced more losses.

In general, men and women were equally targeted and age was not a factor.

Prevention

There are several things you can do to reduce your risk of victimization.

1. Zip tie all zippers closed and plastic wrap your luggage—particularly, if you check in several hours early or you have extended layovers between flights.
2. Avoid checking your luggage at the gate!
3. Avoid putting valuables in your luggage; instead, take important articles in your carry-on or leave them at home!
4. Carefully monitor your belongings during TSA screening.
5. Keep cash, credit cards, and other small valuables in areas of your bag that can be zipped /secured.

¹ This research was conducted under the supervision of **Dr. Nerea Marteache Solans**. For more information see the project report: Temis-Plascencia, Kristy (October 2014). *Hot Product: Baggage Theft in Airports, Independent Study Final Report*, Center for Criminal Justice Research.