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# HOT PRODUCTSBRIEBAGGAGE THEFT IN AIRPORTSApril 2015

## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

#### 15.151-IS.0-BRIEF

**Key Findings** 

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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.

						Apple pro	oducts were targeted most (30% of electronics),
Type of Item Stolen*		88 electronics	la	laptop/tablet		followed by Sony (12%) and Canon (11%).	
electronics	42.1%	stolen	Ca	camera other devices		Men and women were victimized equally.	
luxury items	33.0%	<b>_</b>	-			• About 76% of victims were white.	
money related	12.4%			hone	9		
other	12.4%		1		5		
*209 items exami	ined						
				jewelry		36	Women reported higher losses for luxury
	69 luxury items stolen		furs, clothing perfume/cologne		20	items. Typically only one item was reported to be stolen (about 61% of cases).	
					7		
	stolen		sunglasses		6		

### <u>Peak Risk</u>

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.