



UCT CAMPUS CRIME INSIGHT: ROBBERY (22 May 2017)

Prepared by the Safety and Violence Initiative, University of Cape Town

About UCT Campus Crime Insight

The UCT Campus Crime Insights are produced in order to give the UCT community and visitors a more informed analysis of crime in-and-around UCT campuses so that people can make more informed decisions about their personal safety.

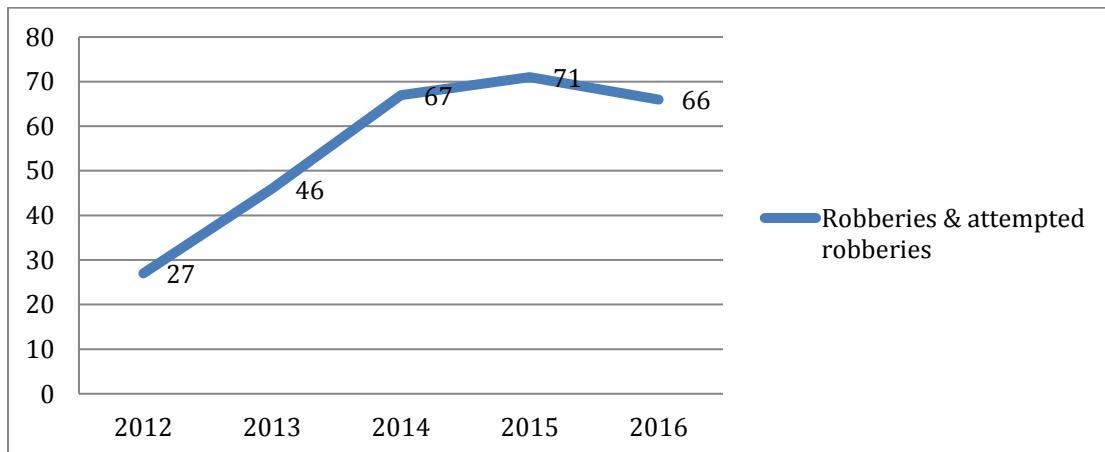
UCT is an open campus, and a number of UCT properties, particularly student residences, are in residential areas that are currently experiencing elevated crime levels. For example, the South African Police Service data for the Mowbray Policing Area has shown a 113% increase in reported robberies with aggravated circumstances between 2010/11 to 2015/16, from 47 to 100 cases respectively. The number of reported cases of common robbery increased by 124% (from 34 cases to 76) over the same period.

Reported robberies and attempted robberies in-and-around UCT (all campuses)

As of 22 May 2017 there have been 36 reported cases of robberies and attempted robberies of students and staff in-and-around UCT campuses this year. This was a 12.5% increase in reported robberies compared to the same period in 2016 (32 cases).

The number of robberies and attempted robberies increased significantly every year between 2012 and 2015, but declined slightly in 2016 (compared to 2015). That is, from 2012 to 2015 there was a 163% increase in reported robberies and attempted robberies against UCT students and staff, but a 7% decrease in 2016 compared to 2015 data.

Reported robberies and attempted robberies of UCT students & staff: 2012-2016



Current crime hotspots

Most robberies have been concentrated in certain 'hotspots', mainly in Mowbray and Observatory, but robberies have taken place in other areas too. The majority of the robbery incidents have taken place after dark; in the early hours of the morning; and during times during the day when there are very few people around.

Such hotspots have varied over time, but over the past 6 months the main robbery hotspots have been:

- M3 footbridge, Mowbray
- Woolsack Drive, Rosebank
- Falmouth Rd, Observatory
- Cecil Rd, Mowbray
- Selby Rd, Mowbray
- Rosebank train station (and surrounds)

Perpetrators

Most perpetrators of robbery have been men, with women being involved in a minority of cases. Robbers have mostly used knives and firearms to rob victims, but the threat of violence has also been used. There have been two broad categories of perpetrators.

1. A single person, or a small group, that robs victims and then runs away
2. Small groups of men that travel by car and rob students and staff, mainly those that are alone at the time
3. In some cases UCT students have been robbed whilst travelling in a minibus taxi

Victims

Both men and women have been victims of crime in and around UCT campuses, with persons walking (or waiting) alone being the most vulnerable to being robbed in crime hotspots. Small groups of women walking together have also frequently been robbed in crime hotspots.

In the vast majority of cases staff and students have been robbed of their cell phones and money. Robbery victims have also frequently had laptops, items of clothing, and student cards stolen. Fortunately, very few robbery victims have been injured.

Campus Protection Services (CPS), the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District (GSCID) and the South African Police Services

UCT's Campus Protection Services, the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District security personnel, and the South African Police Services undertake extensive patrolling and other visible policing functions in-and-around UCT. They have prevented numerous robberies from happening and have been directly involved in the arrest of a number of robbery suspects. Critically, they do not have the capacity to patrol all areas at all times.