

The Best Precautions Are Simple

- a. Always lock doors and windows at every home entry point.
- b. Don't open your door to strangers EVER.
- c. Install security systems that make forced entry difficult.
- d. Keep as few drugs as possible, prescription and otherwise, in the home.
- e. If possible, avoid storing substantial cash or valuable jewelry at home. If you must do so, don't talk about it to *anyone*.



Home invaders come in all shapes, sizes, colors, ages, wardrobe styles, and genders. Don't assume you'll "know" whether or not someone is planning to force entry. If you don't know the person, don't let them in.



www.homeinvasionnews.com

THANK YOU!

We're happy to provide you with the Home Invasion pamphlet.

Please visit HomeInvasionNews.com for answers to many more questions like these:

What does "home invasion" mean?

How are home invasions different from other crimes like breaking and entering or burglary?

How common is home invasion?

What is law enforcement reporting about home invasions?

What do the experts say about home invasions?

What can I do to make my home more secure?

What outside professional help should I consider?

What are my legal rights to protect myself?

Home Invasion

Answers to 12 Common Questions



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Home Invasion Answers



1. What is home invasion?

Home Invasion News defines classic “home invasion” as having six essential components:

1. Multiple perpetrators (two or more).
2. Forced entry into the home.
3. Occupants at home at the time of the invasion (a situation possibly intended by the perpetrators to facilitate “finding” hidden cash, credit card numbers, etc.).

4. Use of weapons and physical intimidation.

5. Property theft.

6. Victims, primarily unknown to the perpetrators, who have been “scoped out” and selected for a particular reason (vulnerability, wealth, prescription drug possession).

2. Are home invasions on the rise?

Nobody knows. For one thing, we hear about home invasions more often because the media uses the term freely. However, statistically, legally, and factually, “home invasion” statistics are not compiled separately from burglary, armed robbery, and similar crimes.

Statistics from 1991 to 2011 suggest that, overall, violent crimes [e.g. home invasions] are on the decline.

The FBI’s most recent *Preliminary SemiAnnual Uniform Crime Report for 2012* released on January 14, 2013, however, paints a different picture.

“Statistics released in this report indicate that the number of violent crimes reported in the first six months of 2012 increased 1.9 percent when compared with figures from the first six months of 2011. The number of property crimes increased 1.5 percent for the same time frame.

Some media reports have suggested an increase in home invasions, but law enforcement has no clear statistics to support the notion.

Again, that’s because the FBI and most police departments don’t track “home invasions” as a separate crime.

Want facts on home invasion? Read more at the *Home Invasion News* website.

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/home-invasion-facts>



Though the term “home invasion” is used extensively by the media to describe a certain type of crime, only a few states have laws that define and punish a crime called “home invasion.”

A sizeable percentage of crimes reported by the media as “home invasions” appear to involve one gang/group of drug dealers forcing entry into the home of another gang/group to retrieve drugs and or cash from the sale of drugs.

Preliminary figures indicate that, as a whole, law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation reported an increase of 1.9 percent

in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention for the first 6 months of 2012 when compared with figures reported for the same time in 2011.

The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

The number of property crimes in the United States from January to June of 2011 increased 1.5 percent when compared with data from the same time period in 2011. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. Arson is also a property crime, but data for arson are not included in property crime totals.

Concern and public outrage related to serious home invasion crimes are prompting additional state legislation related to home invasions. For example, on March 15, 2011, a bill making home invasion deaths a capital crime passed the New Hampshire House without debate. Details on the crime that prompted the change in New Hampshire’s death penalty law involved a brutal home invasion machete and knife attack on a mother and daughter.

So, while it’s true that “home invasion” is not, as yet, defined as a separate crime in most states, over the last few years, several states have moved to designate home invasion a separate crime, including Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, Florida, Louisiana, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/a-review-of-home-invasion-laws-in-the-u-s/>

Read more about crime rates at the FBI website.

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/preliminary-annual-ucr-jan-jun-2011>

Chances and Trends



3. What's the likelihood that you will be faced with a home invasion?

Home Invasion News would say "unlikely." Horrific home invasions are big news for local and national media, of course. For example, the widely reported Cheshire, CT, murders, which occurred in July 2007, drew national attention. Still, we're not seeing much danger of the average person suffering a home invasion.

Considering the number of stories that *Home Invasion News* has covered over the past year, we can say that murders

associated with home invasions are uncommon. Assaults and physical injuries are more common, but even these are usually not life threatening.

And, as we said in our *Home Invasion News* story of August 16, 2011, people who deal or use drugs (or both) are more likely to be targets of "home invasion" than the average person.

In fact, as near as we can tell, 40% to 55% of media-reported "home invasion" crimes mention "drugs" in the report.

Moreover, it's important for the general public to remember

that "home invasion prevention" is part of a large commercial market served by security products manufacturers, media outlets, private and public law enforcement, security consultants, and so on.

Therefore, while shocking when they do occur -- and never to be taken lightly -- home invasion crimes are not as widespread as the marketing around us would suggest.

In short, please don't believe everything you read!

Want details on home invasion? Read more at the *Home Invasion News* website:

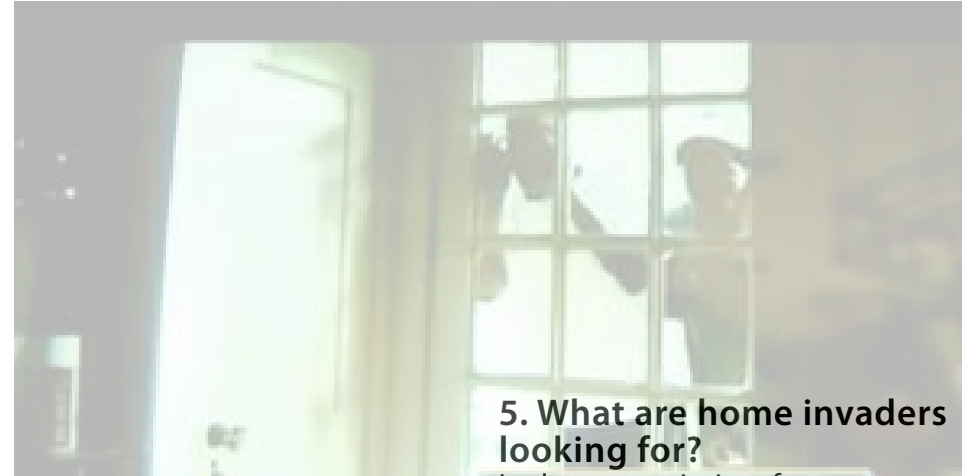
<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/home-invasion-facts>



4. What trends are we seeing in home invasion?

Home Invasion News has noted a few trends emerging from the home invasion crimes we've covered.

- a. Home invasion crimes often target the elderly and the wealthy.
- b. Home invasion thieves are most commonly in search of prescription drugs and property that can be easily sold, such as jewelry and electronics.



5. What are home invaders looking for?

In the vast majority of cases, one or more of the following five items are reported to have been the target of home invasion theft, so, if you have these on hand, don't advertise it!

- c) Many home invasions are connected to drug crimes and are sometimes a means of settling scores between rival gangs.

1. Cash
2. Drugs (both prescription and illegal)
3. Credit cards
4. Jewelry
5. Electronics

For more information on how law enforcement is fighting home invasion, read this article in *Home Invasion News*.

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/federal-violent-crime-task-forces-fight-home-invasion>

Entry, Awareness, Self Protection



6. How do home invaders usually get into a house?

Typically, through an open door. For one thing, many home invaders rush the premises after tricking the homeowners into willingly opening the door. Another significant number of perpetrators enters through an unlocked window or door, including through an open garage door. Many others force entry through a window or door.



Open garage doors are an easy way to force entry into your home. Keep ALL doors locked.

7. How can I tell if somebody is a home invader?

You can't be sure, so if you don't know the person outside, don't open your door.

8. How can I protect my family against home invasion?

a. Always lock doors and windows at every home entry point.

b. Don't open your door to strangers EVER.

c. Install security systems that make forced entry difficult.

d. Keep as few drugs as possible – including both prescription and illegal drugs - in the home.

e. Avoid storing substantial cash or valuable jewelry at home. If you do, talk about it to no one.

Want details on home invasion? Read more at the *Home Invasion News* website:

www.homeinvasionnews.com

How common is home invasion? Read more at the *Home Invasion News* website:

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/how-common-is-home-invasion/>



9. Is it okay for me to shoot someone who invades my home?

That's both a moral and legal question, so the answer is: "It depends." Different states have different laws regulating the legality of using firearms to protect the home.



Under the Castle Doctrine, 26 states have laws that protect homeowners from *criminal prosecution* should they shoot or kill someone in the process of protecting their home from illegal trespass or a violent attack:



Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio [extends to vehicles of self and immediate family], Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming.

States with Castle Doctrine states, however, leave the homeowners vulnerable to a *civil prosecution* from the home invasion perpetrators (meaning that the homeowners can be sued for medical bills

and other expenses stemming from the incident).

The following 17 states have enacted so-called "Stand Your Ground" laws, designed to protect homeowners from *both criminal and civil prosecution*:

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington.

States with weak or no specific Castle Law include Idaho, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Virginia, Vermont, and the District of Columbia.

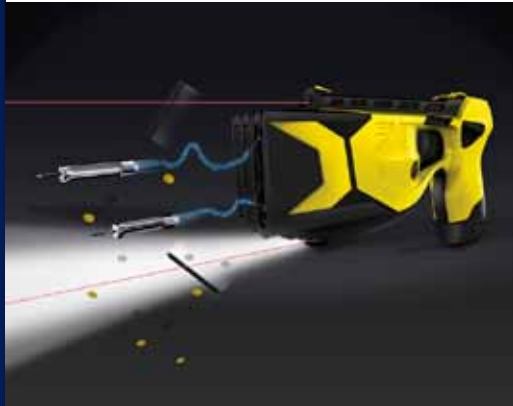
For more detailed information, read our *Home Invasion News* article on this subject or check out the comprehensive and very excellent Wikipedia entry on this topic, which contains links to the specific laws of each state.

Finally, *Home Invasion News* is **not equipped** to give legal advice, so always consult your attorney.

For more information on state laws, read, "Can I shoot a home invader?" on the HomeInvasion-News website or check out the excellent Wikipedia entry. Links are below.

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/can-i-shoot-a-home-invader/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_doctrine

Violence, Risk, Keeping Safe



10. Do home invaders typically kill their victims?

There are no statistics to answer this question.

After following home invasion robberies reported across the country since 2010, HIN can report that victims are rarely killed by intruders.

On the other hand, victims are often physically harmed in other ways, so the long-term effects of post-traumatic and other disorders is unknown.

11. If someone nearby me has suffered a home invasion, does that increase my risk?

Probably not. Our scrutiny of nationwide home invasion crimes suggests that the majority of home invasions are somewhat random, at least in terms of close geographic proximity.

A better measure of likelihood is whether or not you are keeping substantial drugs (legal or illegal), expensive jewelry and electronics, or cash on the premises.

Our research suggests that 50% or more of home invasion crimes involve victims who either use or sell illegal drugs.

Another large percentage of reports suggests that the perpetrator(s) were familiar with their targets and knew that cash, prescription drugs, or valuables were present in the home.

In other words, overall reports would suggest that neighborhoods *per se* are not commonly targeted.

Are you at risk of being kidnapped during a home invasion? Read more here.

<http://www.homeinvasionnews.com/home-invasion-kidnapping-are-you-at-risk/>

12. What can my neighbors and I do to protect against home invasion?

Five home-occupant behaviors go a long way in reducing the chance of being a home invasion target:

- a. Always lock doors and windows at every home entry point.
- b. Don't open your door to strangers EVER.
- c. Install security systems that make forced entry difficult.
- d. Keep as few drugs as possible, prescription and otherwise, in the home. If you are treating illness with prescription drugs, the fewer people who know about it, the better.
- e. If possible, avoid storing substantial cash or valuable jewelry at home. If you must do so, don't talk about it to *anyone*.

The Faces of Home Invasion

