

Table 12.5 is a summary of robbery by type from the FBI's *Crime in the United States, 2014*.

As noted previously, the National Crime Victimization Survey collects data to provide additional information concerning crime and victims in the United States. In reference to robberies, some key findings, based on 2014 data, are listed below:

- The number of robbery victims increased by less than 3% from 2013 (645,645) to 2014 (664,211).
- Among male robbery victims, 54% of offenders were strangers and 40% non-strangers; among female robbery victims, 38% of offenders were strangers and 57% nonstrangers.
- In 2014, 48% reported there was no weapon involved in the robbery, compared with 45% who reported there was a weapon; less than 8% did not know.¹⁶⁵

To illustrate key aspects of feminist pathways, we apply this perspective

to the crime of robbery-theft. Emily was a 24-year-old woman incarcerated in a midwestern correctional facility for women. She was sentenced to 15 years for armed robbery. One may ask how Emily got to this point in her life. What pathways did she take during her life that resulted in her incarceration? To answer these questions, one could conduct an in-person interview with Emily and attempt to gain a more in-depth understanding of her life prior to being incarcerated.

After listening to Emily's past experiences, one obtains a greater understanding of how key aspects of her life led her down the pathway to incarceration. Emily was one of four children. Her father left her mother when she was two years old. She had a very unstable family life. When Emily was five years old, her mother married a man named John. Both her mother and John abused drugs and alcohol. John was physically abusive to Emily, her siblings, and her mother. John started sexually abusing Emily when she was 12 years old. During this time, Emily had a difficult time in school, both academically and socially.

At 15 years of age, Emily ran away. She was living on the streets and started abusing drugs, especially crack cocaine. When she was 17 years old, Emily met Matt, a 25-year-old involved in various criminal activities, including theft and drug sales. Although the relationship was quite tumultuous, Emily and Matt had a child. Eventually, Matt left Emily and the child. A year later, Emily lost custody of her child due to abuse and neglect. Emily continued to abuse drugs. To support her drug habit, Emily engaged in various criminal activities, including prostitution, shoplifting, burglary, and robbery.

THINK ABOUT IT

Critical thinking questions:

1. How does knowing Emily's "pathways" help us understand why she engages in criminal behavior?
2. What policies/programs could have been implemented to change Emily's "pathway" to incarceration? https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

TABLE 12.5

Robbery by Location in the U.S. in 2014

| LOCATION | NUMBER OF OFFENSES (2014) | PERCENT DISTRIBUTION | AVERAGE VALUE |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Street/highway | 116,259 | 41.0% | \$871 |
| Commercial house | 39,793 | 14.0% | \$1,872 |
| Gas or service station | 7,095 | 2.5% | \$1,026 |
| Convenience store | 15,276 | 5.4% | \$699 |
| Residence | 47,569 | 16.8% | \$1,466 |
| Bank | 5,220 | 1.8% | \$3,816 |
| Miscellaneous | 52,608 | 18.5% | \$1,235 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015). *Crime in the United States, 2014*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.