



WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



JERRY L. CLAYTON
SHERIFF

2201 Hogback Road ♦ Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-9732 ♦ OFFICE (734) 971-8400 ♦ FAX (734) 973-4624 ♦ EMAIL sheriff@ewashtenaw.org

MARK A. PTASZEK
UNDERSHERIFF

Factors Contributing to Burglary of Single-Family Houses

60 percent of residential burglaries occur in the daytime

The national average for clearance rates is 14 percent

I. Target Selection-Burglars select targets based on a number of key factors. Some include:

1. Familiarity and convenience of the location which include:

- Houses near or in high-crime areas.
- Houses near major thoroughfares.
- Houses on the outskirts of neighborhoods.
- Houses previously burglarized.
- Houses near previously burglarized houses.

2. Occupancy-MOST burglars DO NOT TARGET occupied houses:

- Houses vacated for extended periods.
- House vacated during the day.
- Houses of new residents.
- Houses WITHOUT dogs.

3. Visibility:

- Houses with cover-trees, shrubs, or other features that obscure doors and windows.
- Houses that are secluded.

- Houses with poor lighting.
 - Houses on corners.
 - Houses with concealed architectural design.
4. Accessibility determines how easily a burglar can enter a house:
- Side or back entries *MOSTY COMMON ENTRY LOCATION.
 - Houses next to alleys.
5. Vulnerability or Security-The following houses are at risk:
- Houses with weakened entry points-old doors, decayed windows.
 - Houses whose residents are careless about security-open windows and doors.
6. Potential Rewards
- Houses displaying signs of wealth.

II. Goods Stolen

1. Burglars steal cash and goods they can easily carry and sell including jewelry, weapons, televisions, computers, stereo equipment.
2. Few Burglars keep the goods they steal; they usually get rid of them with-in 24 hours.
3. Burglars tend to dispose of stolen goods through local pawnshops, taxi drivers, small-store owners, bars, gas stations, and on the street.

III. Entry Methods

1. Two-thirds of Burglars FORCE ENTRY.
2. Unsecured windows and doors.
3. Burglars use simple tools such as a screwdriver or simply break or kick an entry point.

4. In one-third of burglaries the offenders enter through an unlocked door or window. ESPECIALLY basement windows and exterior and interior garage doors.
5. No consensus on an entry point-it depends on the house's architecture and where it is located on its lot.

IV. Burglars

1. 87 percent are males.
2. 66 percent under 25 years of age.
3. 69 percent are white/29 percent are black.
4. Commit other crimes.
5. Motivated by need for quick cash.
6. Alcohol addiction/Financial problems.
7. Drug abuse particularly heroin abuse.
8. Often know their victims and their daily routines.