

# BURGLARY, ROBBERY, AND THEFT

Robbery, burglary, and theft all involve the loss of valuable items. However, these crimes differ: Robbery, a violent crime involving the loss of property, occurs when the victim is present and a theft or attempted theft occurs. The offender can use force or threaten force, with or without a weapon or injury to the victim.<sup>1</sup> Burglary, a property crime, is when a theft occurs from a dwelling or structure that may or may not be inhabited at the time of the crime.<sup>2</sup> (If someone is present in the structure when it is entered, then the victimization is defined as a robbery.) Theft, often known as larceny theft, occurs when there is an unlawful taking of property, by stealth and without force.<sup>3</sup> Since 2003, the overall occurrence of household property crimes (household burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and thefts) has decreased by 10 percent and robberies have decreased by approximately 7 percent. While the dollar value of these crimes is difficult to pinpoint, especially accounting for the intangible effects of victimization, total losses to victims from property crimes (which include burglary and larceny theft) amount to billions of dollars every year.<sup>4</sup>

## Burglary

- In 2012, 2,103,787 burglaries were reported to the police in the United States, at a rate of 670.2 per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>5</sup>
- Between 2011 and 2012, the volume of burglary known to police in the United States decreased by 3.7 percent, and the rate per 100,000 people decreased by 4.4 percent.<sup>6</sup>

1 Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Robbery*, accessed June 18, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=313>.

2 Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Burglary*, accessed June 18, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=321>.

3 Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Property Crime*, accessed June 18, 2014, [http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=32#terms\\_def](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=32#terms_def).

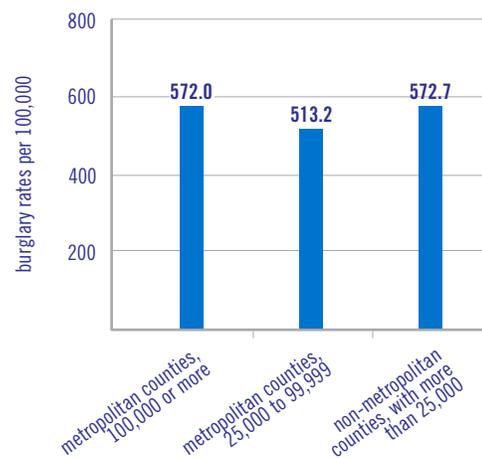
4 Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2007," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, report update 1), Table 82, accessed October 7, 2014, <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cvus07.pdf>. This report on crimes both reported and not reported to police stated the cost of property crime at more than \$16 billion.

5 Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2014), Table 1, accessed October 7, 2014, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatadecoverviewpdf/table\\_1\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_by\\_volume\\_and\\_rate\\_per\\_100000\\_inhabitants\\_1993-2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatadecoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls).

6 Ibid., Table 1A, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatadecoverviewpdf/table\\_1\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_by\\_volume\\_and\\_rate\\_per\\_100000\\_inhabitants\\_1993-2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatadecoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls).

- Burglaries occurred at a rate of 572.0 per 100,000 inhabitants in metropolitan counties of more than 100,000 in 2012. The number of burglaries known was 245,668.<sup>7</sup> Metropolitan counties with populations between 25,000 and 99,999 recorded 119,087 known burglaries, or a rate of 513.2 per 100,000 inhabitants. In non-metropolitan counties with more than 25,000 inhabitants, burglaries occurred at a rate of 572.7 per 100,000; the number of known burglaries was 60,352.<sup>8</sup>

**BURGLARY RATES BY COUNTY TYPE, 2012**



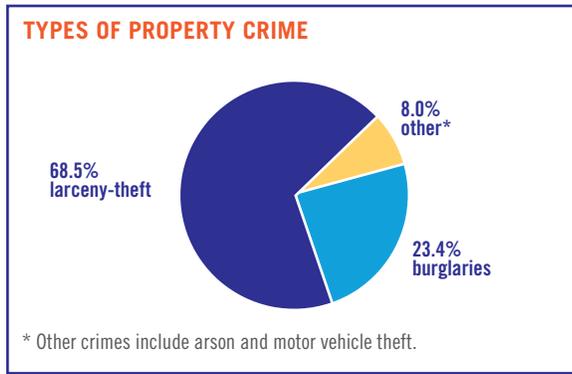
- The number of known burglaries by forcible entry was 1,111,849 or 410.2 per 100,000 population in 2012. The number of burglaries by unlawful entry known to law enforcement was 631,788 or 233.1 per 100,000 population.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2012, 536,729 burglaries known to police were committed at nonresidential (store, office, etc.) locations; 1,567,058 burglaries known to police occurred in residences in the United States. Of those residential burglaries, 428,411 occurred at night (24.2 percent) and 830,518 occurred during the day (47.0 percent).<sup>10</sup>

7 Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, Table 14, accessed June 5, 2014, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/14tabledatadecpdf/table\\_14\\_crime\\_trends\\_by\\_metropolitan\\_nonmetropolitan\\_counties\\_2011\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/14tabledatadecpdf/table_14_crime_trends_by_metropolitan_nonmetropolitan_counties_2011_2012.xls).

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid., table 19, accessed June 5, 2014, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/19tabledatadecpdf/table\\_19\\_rate\\_by\\_selected\\_offenses\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/19tabledatadecpdf/table_19_rate_by_selected_offenses_2012.xls).

10 Ibid., Table 7, accessed June 5, 2014, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/7tabledatadecpdf/table\\_7\\_](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/7tabledatadecpdf/table_7_)



## Robbery

- Between 2011 and 2012, the rate of robberies known to the police in the United States decreased 0.8 percent.<sup>11</sup> Larceny-theft crimes known to the police decreased 0.7 percent.<sup>12</sup> The rate of overall property victimization known to the police decreased 1.6 percent during this time.
- The robbery victimization rate was 2.8 per 1,000 households in 2012. The rate of theft victimization was 120.9 per 1,000 households. The rate of motor vehicle theft was 5.0 per 1,000 households.<sup>13</sup>
- Between 2011 and 2012, the rate of robbery victimization increased by 22.3 percent. The estimated number of motor vehicle theft victimization decreased 2.0 percent; theft victimization increased 16 percent.<sup>14</sup>
- As reported by victims in 2012, 47.6 percent of robberies of male victims were committed by a stranger, and 13.3 percent of robberies of female victims were committed by a stranger.<sup>15</sup>

- As reported by victims in 2012, 37.3 percent of robberies involved no weapons. Firearms were used in 29.4 percent of robberies, and a knife was used in 11.8 percent of robberies.<sup>16</sup>
- The rate of robberies per 100,000 inhabitants known to police in metropolitan counties with over 100,000 inhabitants was 74.0 in 2012, while the same rate for the most densely populated non-metropolitan counties (with 25,000 or more residents) was 16.0.<sup>17</sup>
- Of all reported robbery cases, 122,174 involved a firearm, and 126,600 cases involved a strong-arm (the use or threatened use of hands, arms, feet, fists, or teeth as weapons to deprive the victim of property).<sup>18</sup>
- The rate of reported robbery cases involving a firearm was the highest (25.0 per 100,000 inhabitants) in metropolitan counties. However, the rate of robberies known to the police involving a strong-arm was highest in suburban areas (24.5 per 100,000 inhabitants).<sup>19</sup>

## Theft

- There were an estimated 7,820,909 larceny-thefts known to police nationwide or 3,033.9 per 100,000 population in 2012.<sup>20</sup>
- In metropolitan counties with over 100,000 inhabitants in 2012, there were 600,680 cases of larceny-theft known to police, which is a rate of 1,447.7 per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>21</sup>

[offense\\_analysis\\_united\\_states\\_2008-2012.xls](#).

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 Jennifer L. Truman, Lynn Langton, and Michael Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), Table 3, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv12.pdf>.

14 Calculated from Jennifer L. Truman, Lynn Langton, and Michael Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), Table 3, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv12.pdf>.

15 Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Number of Robberies by Sex and Victim-Offender Relationship, 2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed June 5, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

16 Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Percent of Robberies by Weapon Use and Weapon Category, 2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed June 5, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

17 Ibid., Table 14, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/14tabledatadecpdf/table\\_14\\_crime\\_trends\\_by\\_metropolitan\\_nonmetropolitan\\_counties\\_2011\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/14tabledatadecpdf/table_14_crime_trends_by_metropolitan_nonmetropolitan_counties_2011_2012.xls).

18 Ibid., Table 19, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/19tabledatadecpdf/table\\_19\\_rate\\_by\\_selected\\_offenses\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/19tabledatadecpdf/table_19_rate_by_selected_offenses_2012.xls).

19 Ibid.

20 Ibid., Table 1, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatacoverviewpdf/table\\_1\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_by\\_volume\\_and\\_rate\\_per\\_100000\\_inhabitants\\_1993-2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatacoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls).

21 Ibid., Table 18, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/18tabledatadecpdf/table\\_18\\_rate\\_by\\_counties\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/18tabledatadecpdf/table_18_rate_by_counties_2012.xls).

# Burglary, Robbery, and Theft

- Property crime decreased 0.9 percent from 2011 to 2012. The five-year trend showed a 8.2 percent decrease between 2008 and 2012.<sup>22</sup>
- Of all property crimes in 2012, 64.0 percent were larceny-theft and 23.2 percent were burglaries.<sup>23</sup>
- Victims reported a rate of property crime victimizations of 155.8 per 1,000 households in 2012.<sup>24</sup>
- Of thefts known to police, thefts from motor vehicles accounted for 24.0 percent of all thefts in 2012. Shoplifting accounted for 18.6 percent.<sup>25</sup>
- Victims reported 34 percent of property crimes to police in 2012. Law enforcement received reports on 55 percent of burglaries, 79 percent of motor vehicular thefts, and 26 percent of thefts.<sup>26</sup> ★

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid., Table 1, [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatacoverviewpdf/table\\_1\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_by\\_volume\\_and\\_rate\\_per\\_100000\\_inhabitants\\_1993-2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatacoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls).

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Truman, Langton, and Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, Table 5.

<sup>25</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, "Larceny-theft." [http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/larceny-theft\\_table-larceny-theft\\_percent\\_distribution\\_within\\_region\\_2012.xls](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/larceny-theft_table-larceny-theft_percent_distribution_within_region_2012.xls).

<sup>26</sup> Truman, Langton, and Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, Table 4.

