

## Property Crimes

- Larceny/theft is the most common property crime committed in the United States and is defined as the unlawful taking, leading or riding away from the possession or constructive possession of another
  - Covers most types of theft that do not include the use of threats, violence or force
  - Includes grand theft and petty theft which the distinction depending on the value of the asset stolen
- Burglary FBI defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft
  - Unlawful entry element enables states to define shoplifting as a burglary if it can be shown that a suspect entered a store with the intention of stealing, thereby making the entry unlawful
- Motor vehicle theft FBI defines motor vehicle theft as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle
  - MV is a larceny, but it is considered different enough an serious enough to warrant separate classification
- Arson defined as any willful or malicious burning or attempting to burn, without or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, person property of another, etc.
  - Arson may have a variety of instrumental motivations such as financial gain, revenge, and intimidation or expressive motivations that may signal psychopathology of some sort
- Embezzlement is defined as the misappropriation or misapplication of money or property entrusted to the embezzler's care, custody or control
  - Rarest of all property crimes
- Fraud theft by trick
  - Fraudulent conversion and obtaining money or property of another through false pretenses or deceptive practices (e.g. bad checks)
- Forgery and Counterfeiting- making, altering, uttering or possessing with intent to defraud anything false in the
- Vandalism- willfully or malicious destruction, injury disfigurement or defacement of any public or private property, real or personal, without consent of the owner or persons having custody or control
- Stolen Property- buying, receiving, and possessing stolen property
- Identity Theft- occurs when someone uses your personal information without your permission to commit fraud or some other crime
  - Criminals gain access to the personal information of others by stealing it, buying it or simply by having it given to them by their unwary victims
- Cybercrime- the use of computer technology to criminally victimize unwary individuals or groups

- Everyone who enters cyberspace, uses a credit card, and/or has a social security number, is a potential victim of cybercrime

### Property Crimes

Trend: On the decline

### The Classification of Property Offenders

Occasional Property Offender:

1. Situational
2. No/Limited Group Support
3. No/ Limited Skills
4. No criminal identity
5. No/ Limited contact with the criminal justice system

Conventional Property Offender:

1. Non-situational (frequently engage, crime is a source of income for the individual as a supplement to another job)
2. Medium Group Support
3. Criminal Technique/ Skill
4. Greatest criminal identity
5. Highest contact with the criminal justice system

Professional Property Offender

1. Non-situational (Profession is being an offender, not as a supplement to another job)
2. Highest Group Support
3. Greatest Skill/ Specialization
4. Criminal Identity of "Professional"
5. Limited Contact with the Criminal Justice System

Burglary: Example- Conventional Property crime

Burglary as a career- 4 requirements to be a good burglar

- Master the many skills needed to commit lucrative a burglar
- Be able to team up to form a criminal game
- Have inside info
- Cultivate fences or buyers for stolen wares

### Examples of Types of Property Offenders

Occasional: shoplifting, check forgeries, employee theft, larceny

Conventional: robbery, burglary, auto theft

Professional: embezzlement, bank robbery, counterfeiting

## Routine Activities Approach to Property Crime

### Main Ideas:

- Criminal opportunity results when victims and offenders converge in time and space
- This convergence is strongly influenced by the lifestyles and routines of victims

### Three factors in criminal opportunity

#### 1. Suitable Target

- Ex: visibility of target, use of security measures (lights, locks, alarm systems)

#### 2. Lack of Guardianship

- Ex: amount of time away from property during the day (work) and night time (dining, clubs, etc.)

#### 3. Motivated Offender