



Journeys To And From Burglary in Western Australia

Joe Clare, John Fernandez,
Anna Ferrante, Frank Morgan

Journeys to and from burglary in Western Australia (WA) have been examined recently by two different studies. First, an interview-style study was conducted by Ferrante and Clare (2006) which broadly explored local burglary. This research involved voluntary interviews with incarcerated offenders in Perth metropolitan prisons and resulted in 235 completed records (see Table 1 for the demographic composition of this sample). All offenders interviewed had recorded at least one conviction for a burglary offence in the last five years. Second, an analysis of official records (WA Police Offence Information System, OIS, for 1999)¹ was undertaken by Fernandez, Clare, and Morgan (2006) that focused on suburban travel patterns to commit burglary in WA.

This bulletin summarises aspects of the findings from these two reports, focusing on (a) how offenders report they travel to and from burglary, and (b) exploring the 'local' nature of this crime as demonstrated by official data. Implications for crime reduction resulting from some integration of these findings are also discussed.

Travelling To and From the Most Recent Burglary – Interview Findings

The interview based research (Ferrante & Clare, 2006) discovered that the two main avenues offenders use to get to properties when committing burglaries are walking and travelling by car (44% and 46% of all interview cases, respectively). When offenders used a car it was stolen 32% of the time. Interestingly, 16% (38 cases) of all interviewed offenders reported that they *did not* leave the burglary in the same way that they got there. Of these, 5% of the total sample reported being apprehended at the scene, while 11% left using a different mode of transport. In 6% of these cases the offender reported exiting the scene of the burglary with the aid of a stolen vehicle (car, motor bike, or truck). Thus, although the majority of offenders (83%) did use the same mode of transport to get to and from their most recent burglary, in more than 1 in 20 burglaries a vehicle was stolen from the scene of the crime which facilitated the offender's get-away.

Crime Research Centre
35 Stirling Hwy
WA 6009
Tel: 6488 2830
Fax: 6488 1111
www.crc.law.uwa.edu.au

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Office of Crime Prevention
Tel: 9222 9733
www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au



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