

ANALYSIS OF 1974 BURGLARIES

LEWISTON, IDAHO

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NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

Presented by:

LAW ENFORCEMENT PLANNING COMMISSION
State of Idaho

50163

INTRODUCTION

At the invitation of Chief of Police, William Siler, a crime analysis of Lewiston burglaries committed in 1974 was undertaken by the Law Enforcement Planning Commission. LEPC staff completed the study in the spring of 1975. This report is a summary and analysis of the data gathered from the Lewiston Police Department on burglaries reported.

The technique used for data gathering and analysis was the Crime Analysis-Project Evaluation - Research (C A P E R) technique developed by the Santa Clara Criminal Justice Pilot Program. C A P E R is based on the coding of key data elements obtained from police offense reports, and a cross-sorting of coded data into categories. Through this system, totals are put into tables and analyzed for patterns, similarities, or unusual frequencies.

A total of 287 offense reports were coded for this report. These were divided into non-commercial burglaries and commercial burglaries, since there was a significant difference in their proportions ($Z = 4.40$ $2 = .05$). Non-commercial burglaries accounted for 63% of the total reported burglaries in 1974.

The type of premise where non-commercial burglaries occurred during the 1974 period is shown in Table I below. Houses alone accounted for 68.8% (124) of the non-commercial burglaries, while houses, together with apartments, and mobile homes made up 88.8% of the total non-commercial burglaries.

TABLE I
NON-COMMERCIAL PREMISE BY FREQUENCY FOR 1974 BURGLARY

<u>Premise</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Premise</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
House	124	Duplex	1
Apartment	31	Truck/Pickup	2
Mobile Home	5	Const. Site	1
Motel/Hotel	7	Unspecified and all other private dwellings	9

The commercial premise frequencies indicated a wider cross section of locations burglarized than was the case for non-commercial locations. As shown in Table II, Page 2, of the specified locations, gas stations were most frequent and schools were next. Several types of locations were recorded only once. The twenty-six burglaries classified in the "unspecified and all other commercial" category occurred in a variety of locations such as a car wash, welding shop, sporting goods store, beer distributor plant, etc.

The type of entry involved for non-commercial and commercial burglaries is shown in Table III, Page 2. As can be seen from this data, no force was involved in 3.1% of the entries on non-commercial premises, while 15.1% of the commercial robberies were non-forcible entries. A much higher percentage of commercial robberies were forced entries (75.5%) than were the non-commercial entries requiring force (46.1%).

TABLE II
COMMERCIAL PREMISE BY FREQUENCY FOR 1974 BURGLARY

<u>Premise</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Bar	8
Restaurant	3
Unspecified and all other off- premise food/drink	2
Super market	4
Convenience market	2
Unspecified and all other commercial	26
Gas station	15
Medical office	3
Pharmacy-small	2
Dry goods/boutique/music store	5
Hardware/auto supplies/building material/tractor dealer	3
Truck	1
Unspecified and all other public/ private area	7
School	10
Church	7
Unspecified and all other public entertainment	2
Rental	1
Office Building	1
All other	2

TABLE III
NON-COMMERCIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTRY FOR LEWISTON BURGLARY 1974

<u>Entry</u>	<u>Non-Commercial</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Total</u>
No force	56	16	72
Force	83	80	163
Unknown	41	10	51

The point of entry for both commercial and non-commercial burglaries is shown in Table IV on the following page. The door was the most common point of entry, and a window was the next most common. Over 61% of the non-commercial entries were made through a door or window, while over 77% of the commercial entries were made through a door or window. There were fifty-five non-commercial cases where the point of entry was unknown. This was the result of either the officer not actually knowing the point of entry, or sometimes neglecting to put the information in the offense report when it was known.

TABLE IV
POINT OF ENTRY FOR NON-COMMERCIAL AND COMMERCIAL LEWISTON BURGLARIES 1974

Point of Entry	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Door	68	48	116
Window	42	33	75
Garage Door	4	1	5
Adjacent premise	0	1	1
Basement	9	3	12
Other	2	3	5
Unknown	55	16	71

Information available concerning the location of the point of entry is presented in Table V. Because of the large number of unknown locations for both non-commercial and commercial robberies, very few conclusions can be reached pertaining to points of entry. The offense reports were usually filled out by describing the direction of the point of entry (e.g., the north-east corner), which usually made it impossible for coders to classify the information into the categories as listed in the Table.

TABLE V
LOCATION OF POINT OF ENTRY FOR NON-COMMERCIAL AND
COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES, LEWISTON 1974

Location of Point of Entry	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Front	36	20	56
Rear	34	18	52
Side	14	6	20
Roof	0	1	1
Unknown	95	60	155

The method used to obtain entry into non-commercial and commercial locations is shown in Table VI, following page. Excluding the large number of unknown cases in the non-commercial class, the "open, unlocked" category accounted for the largest number (21.6% of the total non-commercial burglaries. The unknowns in this category were probably due, in part, to the same reasons as given for the unknowns in Table IV. For commercial burglaries, the breaking of a glass was used most frequently as a method of entry (43.8%).

TABLE VI
METHOD OF ENTRY FOR NON-COMMERCIAL AND
COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES, LEWISTON 1974

Method of Entry	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Open, unlocked:	39	6	45
Force screen only:	14	1	15
Cutting device:	2	3	5
Body force:	10	10	20
Pry tool:	14	14	28
Break glass:	32	46	78
Remove door/window:	1	1	2
Other:	9	4	13
Unknown:	59	20	79

Table VII, page 5 , identifies the property targets of the burglars, once entry was gained to both the commercial and non-commercial premises. Cash was taken most frequently in both types of burglary. The item taken most frequently after cash in non-commercial burglaries was food, while the second most frequent target in commercial burglaries was trade tools.

Very few of the losses from burglaries in 1974 involved items with serial numbers and, in fact, the commercial category had no loss of items reported with serial numbers. Only five non-commercial burglaries involved the loss of serial numberd items. These are shown by category of dollar value in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII
SERIAL NUMBER LOSS BY DOLLAR CATEGORY FOR
NON-COMMERCIAL AND COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES, LEWISTON

Serial No. Loss	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
\$500 - \$999.99	2	0	2
\$1,000 or more	2	0	2
Unknown value	1	0	1

TABLE VII
PROPERTY TARGETS OF COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES

Target	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Cash	42	40	82
Checks	2	2	4
Securities	1		1
Credit cards	6		6
Clothing	9		9
Jewelry except watches	10		10
Watches	9	2	11
Other personal access.	9		9
Beer		7	7
Liquor	6	1	7
Prescription drugs		3	3
Other drugs, medicines		1	1
Needles, syringes		1	1
Television sets	13	4	17
Radios	7	4	11
Phonograph/stereo	9	1	10
Tape recorder/player	7	2	9
Phonograph records/tapes	4	1	5
Cameras	4		4
Photographic supplies/access.		2	2
Musical instruments	2	2	4
Two-way radio equipment	2		2
Furniture	1		1
Home appliances/clocks	7	1	8
Home furnishings		1	1
Toys		1	1
Collections	14		14
Motorcycle/scooter	1		1
Auto/truck/cycle/access.	6	4	10
Gasoline & other veh.sup.	2	2	4
Typewriters		1	1
Calculators	2	3	5
Other professional equip.		1	1
Stationery/office supplies		1	1
Equipment (machines)	2	2	4
Tools/commercial	2	3	5
Tools/trade	10	10	20
Raw materials/supplies		4	4
Long guns	13		13
Hand guns	6		6
Knives	2		2
Sports accessories	4		4
Camping accessories	3		3
Food	21	5	26
None	10	11	21
Other	8	6	14
Unknown	16	3	19

The value of the total loss was divided into nine categories plus an unknown. The dollar amounts of the divisions and the frequencies for non-commercial and commercial burglaries is shown in Table IX. The highest number of non-commercial burglaries involved losses of \$100.00 to \$199.99, with the next most frequent category of loss ranging between \$200.00 and \$499.99. These two categories made up 51.8% of the non-commercial burglaries. The same two categories of dollar loss were also most frequent under commercial burglaries. There were three times as many non-commercial burglaries involving losses of more than \$1,000.00 as compared with commercial burglaries involving losses of the same amount. Furthermore, a significant difference was found between the categories for non-commercial burglaries at the .95 level of confidence ($\chi^2=38.9$) but there was no significant difference between categories for commercial burglaries at the .95 level of confidence ($\chi^2=15.34$).

TABLE IX
TOTAL LOSS FOR NON-COMMERCIAL
AND COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES, LEWISTON
1974

Total Loss	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
\$0	24	13	37
\$0.01 - \$4.99	5	7	12
\$5.00 - \$19.99	11	14	25
\$20.00 - \$49.99	11	13	24
\$50.00 - \$99.99	20	6	26
\$100.00 - \$199.99	33	15	48
\$200.00 - \$499.99	23	15	38
\$500.00 - \$999.99	13	8	21
\$1,000.00 or more	9	3	12
Unknown	31	11	42

Table X on the following page lists seven categories for classifying the discoverer of the burglary and gives the frequencies for non-commercial and commercial burglaries within each category. The vast majority of the burglaries were discovered by the victim, employee, or inhabitant. Only one commercial burglary was discovered by an alarm, and only two commercial burglaries took place at locations equipped with alarms.

TABLE X
THE DISCOVERER OF NON-COMMERCIAL AND
COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES IN LEWISTON
1974

Discoverer	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Police officer	0	11	11
Victim/employee/inhabitant	168	78	246
Relative, friend, acquaintance	11	2	13
Citizen witness	3	2	5
Citizen passing	0	1	1
Alarm	0	1	1
All other	0	1	1
Unknown	0	5	5

The number of 1974 burglaries cleared for non-commercial and commercial premises is shown in Table XI. As can be seen from this information, higher percentage of commercial burglaries were cleared by arrest than non-commercial burglaries (9.5% versus 5.5%).

TABLE XI
NON-COMMERCIAL AND COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES CLEARED
1974

Cleared	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Arrest	10	10	20
Reduced charge	3	0	3
Unfounded	1		1

The value of the recovered property is divided into the same dollar categories as for the loss value in Table IX, page 6. The frequencies for these categories by commercial and non-commercial burglaries is shown in Table XII on the following page.

TABLE XII
VALUE OF RECOVERED PROPERTY FOR
1974 BURGLARIES IN LEWISTON

Value	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
\$0	171	96	267
\$5.00 - \$19.99	2	0	2
\$20.00 - \$49.99		1	1
\$50.00 - \$99.99	2		2
\$100.00 - \$499.99	2	2	4
\$500.00 - \$999.99		1	1
\$1,000.00 or more	2	2	4
Unknown	2	4	6

Both non-commercial and commercial burglaries were also analyzed to determine when they occurred. Table XIII gives the frequency of burglaries by day and night if known. Known non-commercial burglaries occurred at night 35.4% of the time.

TABLE XIII
DAY PERIOD OF NON-COMMERCIAL AND COMMERCIAL BURGLARIES
1974

Day Period	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
Day	36	7	43
Night	64	77	141
Unknown	81	22	103

Finally, the burglaries were divided into the months they were reported, as shown in Table XIV on the following page. This information reveals no significant difference between months for either the non-commercial or commercial burglaries ($\chi^2=7.74$ and $\chi^2=18.8$ respectively).

TABLE XIV
1974 LEWISTON BURGLARIES BY MONTH FOR NON-COMMERCIAL
AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES

Month	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Total
January	20	15	35
February	13	14	27
March	12	7	19
April	14	5	19
May	17	7	24
June	11	8	19
July	14	8	22
August	12	9	21
September	17	11	28
October	13	4	17
November	17	4	21
December	21	14	35

END