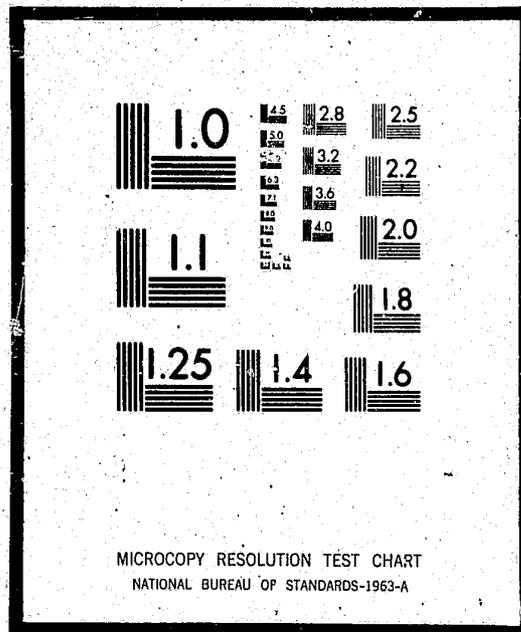


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CRIMINAL HISTORIES OF BURGLARY AND DRUG OFFENDERS
IN SELECTED CALIFORNIA COUNTIES, 1971

SUMMARY

An examination of a sample of adults arrested on burglary and drug offense charges during 1971 in selected California counties reveals:

- Burglars are a smaller and slightly older group who have more frequent and more serious arrests and go to prison more often than do drug offenders.
- Drug offenders get arrested primarily for miscellaneous type misdemeanors and for other drug offenses.
- Those involved in drugs tend to get arrested for offenses involving marijuana rather than the more habit forming opiates.
- Offenders arrested for burglary and drug offenses appear to be from two differing segments of the criminal population. There is no significant common points in their prior criminal history backgrounds to indicate any relationship between burglary and drugs.

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Criminal Statistics has increasingly been asked to develop information regarding the extent of drug involvement of persons arrested for other type offenses, primarily property crimes. The Bureau does not collect such information on a routine basis and it was necessary to launch a special study to learn something of the problem and respond to inquiries.

Also, BCS is participating in the 1973 Crime Specific-Burglary Program which is designed to establish any relationship between burglary and drug offenses committed by the same individual. This offender data is being gathered from the 12 agencies involved in the program in a manner which will allow any such relationship to be recognized.

This study of relationship between drugs and property offenses was initiated to provide the Bureau with an initial source of property crime/drug involvement information and to test the data gathering techniques to be used for the Crime Specific Program.

METHODOLOGY

In 1972 the Bureau of Criminal Statistics published "Offender-Based Criminal Statistics in 12 California Counties." The data base for this study consisted of arrest information on adult offenders arrested in selected Northern California counties. Using this base as a source of individual arrest, a sample was drawn to include proportions of all offenders arrested for burglary and for drug offenses in 1971.

Each criminal record in Department of Justice files is assigned an identifier by the Bureau of Identification called a CII number. Numbers drawn from the base data were assembled through a computer program to yield a listing of all defendants whose identification number ended in either a zero or a five, thus producing a 20 percent sample. The original runs listed 1,016 names from the total 5,194 records for burglary/drug arrests in the selected Northern California counties in 1971.

With the exception of a very few records, the sample drawn consisted of adult offenders. The few juveniles in the sample were eliminated. Records of each offender represented in the sample listing was further investigated and those not meeting the criteria for this study - a 1971 burglary or drug offense arrest - and those with multiple arrests for a single defendant were eliminated. The effect of these reductions was to fix the offender as the unit of count. The final total of 876 records was distributed as shown in Table I.

TABLE I
BURGLARY AND DRUG ARRESTS IN SELECTED CALIFORNIA COUNTIES, 1971

	Total	Percent
Total . .	876	100.0
Burglary	283	32.3
Drugs . .	593	67.7

STUDY RESULTS

Each individual record in the sample total was researched and coded for standard descriptive information: age, race and sex, and also for prior criminal history information which had a bearing on the study. The results of all data elements researched are listed and the outstanding features explained in the following tables and text.

TABLE II
Age by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total . . .	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
18-19 . . .	281	32.1	84	29.7	197	33.2
20-24 . . .	342	39.1	98	34.6	244	41.1
25-29 . . .	136	15.5	46	16.3	90	15.2
30-34 . . .	51	5.8	22	7.8	29	4.9
35-39 . . .	22	2.5	8	2.8	14	2.4
40 and over	44	5.0	25	8.8	19	3.2

AGE

As shown in Table II drug offenders in the sample tend to be younger than those charged with burglary; the median age of the former is 21.5 versus 22.4 for the latter. Drug offenders lead in the first two groupings, 18-19 years and 20-24 years. Burglars lead slightly in the other four groups with the greatest difference, 5 percent, in the 40 and over category. The proportion of burglars is almost twice that of drug offenders - 19.4 percent to 10.5 percent - in the 30 and over groups.

TABLE III
Sex by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total . . .	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
Male . . .	753	86.0	258	91.2	495	83.5
Female . .	123	14.0	25	8.8	98	16.5

SEX

As Table III demonstrates, males dominate both categories of offenders. Females, however, do show higher percentages of arrests for drugs, 16.5 percent as compared to 8.8 percent for burglary.

TABLE IV
Race by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
White	700	79.9	204	72.1	496	83.6
Mexican-American. .	75	8.6	26	9.2	49	8.3
Negro	83	9.5	45	15.9	38	6.4
Other	18	2.0	8	2.8	10	1.7

RACE

Table IV shows the breakdown by race for the study group. Whites are predominant in both categories. The greatest number of non-whites are in the burglary arrest group, 27.9 percent. Non-whites in the drug arrest group make up only 16.4 percent of the total.

TABLE V
Prior Record by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
No prior. . .	321	36.6	81	28.6	240	40.5
Minor	242	27.6	73	25.8	169	28.5
Major	228	26.1	82	29.0	146	24.6
Prison. . . .	85	9.7	47	16.6	38	6.4

PRIOR RECORD

According to Table V, burglars have more incidence of police involvement than do drug offenders. Some type prior police record is shown for 71.4 percent of those arrested on burglary charges compared to 59.5 percent for drug offenders. Drug offenders have a slight lead only in the minor record group. Burglars lead in the other two prior record categories and show a 10.2 percent greater total for prior prison sentences than do drug offenders.

TABLE VI
Existing Criminal Status by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
Not under commitment. . .	665	75.9	202	71.4	463	78.1
Under commitment.	211	24.1	81	28.6	130	21.9
Parole.	70	8.0	33	11.7	37	6.2
Probation	138	15.8	47	16.6	91	15.4
Institution	3	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.3

EXISTING CRIMINAL STATUS

When arrested, as shown in Table VI, burglars were more frequently under some kind of previous commitment - 28.6 percent compared to 21.9 percent for drug offenders. The largest difference is in parole where burglars lead by 5.5 percent. This is consistent with the 10.2 percent greater total of prison records for burglars.

TABLE VII
Total Prior Criminal Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	321	36.6	81	28.6	240	40.5
One	125	14.3	32	11.3	93	15.7
Two-four.	190	21.7	65	23.0	125	21.1
Five-nine	127	14.5	48	17.0	79	13.3
Ten or more	113	12.9	57	20.1	56	9.4

TOTAL PRIOR CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

Burglars not only have more serious records, but as indicated in Table VII, are also more often arrested. Burglars had two or more prior arrest incidents in 60.1 percent of the cases compared to 43.8 percent for drug offenders. Burglars in the ten or more arrest incidents category accounted for 20.1 percent of the total while only 9.4 percent of the drug offenders fell into this category.

TABLE VIII
Sequence of Property or Drug Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total.	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
No prior property or drugs	467	53.3	123	43.5	344	58.0
Prior property, no drugs	189	21.6	101	35.6	88	14.8
Prior drugs, no property	98	11.2	15	5.3	83	14.1
Prior property and drugs, property first in sequence	84	9.6	33	11.7	51	8.6
Prior property and drugs, drugs first in sequence.	30	3.4	9	3.2	21	3.5
Property and drugs, sequence together.	8	0.9	2	0.7	6	1.0

SEQUENCE OF PROPERTY/DRUG INCIDENTS

Table VIII shows the sequence of property/drug arrests as they appear on the criminal history or "rap" sheet. The burglary and drug offenders in the sample had no prior property or drug arrests in 43.5 percent and 58 percent of the cases respectively. It is evident that among burglary subjects, prior property offenses with no drug involvement far outweighed those having arrests for drugs with no property offenses present - 35.6 percent against 5.3 percent. In the drug offender category no preference was apparent. Fourteen point eight percent had prior property offenses without drug involvement while 14.1 percent had committed previous drug crimes but not property.

In both groups, the prior property and drugs, the drugs first in sequence grouping accounted for only 3.2 percent and 3.5 percent.

TABLE IX

Total Prior Burglary Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	690	78.8	184	65.0	506	85.3
One	113	12.9	56	19.8	57	9.6
Two-four. . .	63	7.2	36	12.7	27	4.6
Five or more.	10	1.1	7	2.5	3	0.5

TABLE X

Total Prior Receiving Stolen Property Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	823	94.0	254	89.7	569	96.0
One	49	5.6	26	9.2	23	3.9
Two-four. . .	4	0.4	3	1.1	1	0.1
Five or more.	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE XI

Total Prior Misdemeanor Property Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	752	85.8	219	77.4	533	89.9
One	76	8.7	34	12.0	42	7.1
Two-four. . .	40	4.6	23	8.1	17	2.9
Five or more.	8	0.9	7	2.5	1	0.1

TABLE XII

Total Prior Felony Property Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	733	83.7	215	76.0	518	87.4
One	88	10.0	39	13.8	49	8.3
Two-four. . .	47	5.4	23	8.1	24	4.0
Five or more.	8	0.9	6	2.1	2	0.3

TABLE XIII

Total Prior Misdemeanor Crimes Against Persons Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	794	90.6	244	86.2	550	92.8
One	60	6.9	31	11.0	29	4.9
Two-four. . .	19	2.2	7	2.5	12	2.0
Five or more.	3	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.3

TABLE XIV

Total Prior Felony Crimes Against Persons Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None	747	85.2	223	78.8	524	88.4
One	89	10.2	39	13.8	50	8.4
Two-four. . .	33	3.8	15	5.3	18	3.0
Five or more.	7	0.8	6	2.1	1	0.2

TABLE XV
Total Prior Other Misdemeanor Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None.	466	53.2	133	47.0	333	56.2
One	149	17.0	44	15.5	105	17.7
Two-four. . .	156	17.8	58	20.5	98	16.5
Five or more.	105	12.0	48	17.0	57	9.6

TABLE XVI
Total Prior Other Felony Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None.	771	88.0	230	81.3	541	91.2
One	62	7.1	27	9.5	35	5.9
Two-four. . .	42	4.8	25	8.8	17	2.9
Five or more.	1	0.1	1	0.4	-	-

ARREST INCIDENTS BY TYPE

Tables IX through XVI show arrest incidents by type of incident with the total number of arrests for each. Burglars lead in total incidents in all cases except in the other misdemeanor, one arrest category. Here drug offenders have a 2.3 percent lead.

TABLE XVII
Total Prior Drug Arrest Incidents by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None.	665	74.8	224	79.2	431	72.7
One	127	14.5	36	12.7	91	15.3
Two-four. . .	80	9.1	19	6.7	61	10.3
Five or more.	14	1.6	4	1.4	10	1.7

PRIOR DRUG ARRESTS

Both groups, in Table XVII, were highest in the no prior drug arrest groupings; 79.2 percent for burglars and 72.7 percent for drug offenders. Drug offenders lead in all groupings of prior incidents, however not greatly in any single category. For total incidents of prior arrests for drugs, drug offenders have such arrests 27.3 percent of the time and burglars 20.8 percent.

TABLE XVIII
Prior Arrest Incidents Showing Type of Drugs Used by Arrest

	Total	Percent	Burglary	Percent	Drugs	Percent
Total	876	100.0	283	100.0	593	100.0
None.	655	74.8	224	79.2	431	72.7
Marijuana	114	13.0	29	10.2	85	14.3
Dangerous drugs	40	4.6	11	3.9	29	4.9
Opiates	5	0.6	3	1.1	2	0.3
Other drugs	4	0.4	1	0.3	3	0.5
Marijuana and dangerous drugs	19	2.2	1	0.3	18	3.0
Marijuana and opiates	1	0.1	-	-	1	0.2
Marijuana, opiates and dangerous drugs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dangerous drugs and opiates	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undetermined type of drugs.	38	4.3	14	5.0	24	4.1

TYPE DRUGS USED

In Table XVIII the type of drug used in prior arrest incidents as reflected by the booking charge is shown. Both groups prefer marijuana to other types, 10.2 percent for burglars and 14.3 percent for drug offenders. Next, and a distant second, is dangerous drugs with 3.9 percent and 4.9 percent respectively. The opiates categories contained low frequencies for both groups. The undetermined type of drugs category is high in comparison to the other but if the type could be determined and were spread reasonably over the other groups, the percentages probably would not change much.

CONCLUSIONS

The base data for this study were drawn from prior criminal records in the Department of Justice, Bureau of Identification files. These records are based on arrest booking as reported by local police agencies on fingerprint cards.

Criminal records show only those instances where the subject of the record has been arrested and fingerprinted. Those times where the individual has committed an unlawful act and not been arrested cannot, of course, be accounted for, nor can those where the arrest was not recorded by a fingerprint record being sent to the State Identification Center.

The data presented do not include juvenile arrest histories which are inconsistently reported to the Bureau of Identification and the Bureau of Criminal Statistics.

The jurisdiction represented, size, training and overall efficiency of each policing agency also influence criminal histories. The efficiency of the agency can determine the chance of an individual being arrested and subsequently having a criminal record.

With these limitations stated, the following conclusions are made:

There are no significant similarities in the prior criminal histories of burglars and drug offenders. In fact, they seem to be from two different segments of the criminal population.

Burglars are an older, primarily male, group much more prone to become involved with the police. They are a numerically smaller group and they tend to commit more serious offenses, get arrested more frequently and go to prison more often. They have a higher incidence of being on parole or probation when arrested.

Drug offenders are younger, have fewer arrests and the arrests they do have are for the less serious offenses, primarily "other" misdemeanors which would include traffic and local ordinance violations.

If prior records are deemed to be accurate representations of offenders' criminal involvement then some judgment can be made regarding the sequence of arrests appearing on the record. If arrests for drug offenses are followed by property crimes arrests frequently then it can reasonably be surmised that drug offenders turn to property crimes to support their habit. The sample does not support this theory.

The information for the type drug used table is based on the booking offense. So far as can accurately be determined from the offense, the drug used primarily in incidents of drug arrests is marijuana with dangerous drugs a distant second in frequency. Opiates, generally considered to be more habit forming, account for very few of the total arrests based on drug type.

Based on the evidence available in this study there is nothing in the arrest records of burglars and drug offenders to indicate a predisposition to commit property crimes to support a drug habit nor is there any indication that burglars are heavily involved in drug offenses.

If any generalizations can be made from the information available in the criminal histories of the two groups, they would be: burglars are among the smaller group of the more experienced criminals. Drug offenders are generally found among the more numerous group of petty offenders. There is no reason to believe the two groups share common criminal characteristics.

END