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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20531

Frances Witlock
National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Box 6000
Rockville, Md. 20850

Dear Ms. Witlock:

Enclosed please find two documents produced by the Georgia State Crime Commission under grant No. 77-SS-99-6024. These are submitted to you as part of LEAA close out procedure.

If you have any questions concerning these documents, please contact me at 492-9066.

Sincerely,

Marianne W. Zawitz

Marianne W. Zawitz
National Criminal Justice Information
and Statistics Service

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
REFERRAL ACTION RECORD

DATE INITIA 10 25
NCJRS ACTION INITIATOR
C. Rackmales
NCJRS USER NO. (If any)

REQUESTER (Name and Title)

ORGANIZATION/ACTIVITY

CJRS

TELEPHONE NO.

ADDRESS

To A. Chiang

OCT 26 1979

ACTION REQUESTED

ACQUISITIONS

The enclosed two documents
are not to be announced on SNI.
They are forwarded to you for inclusion
on the Data Base. Availability source is
the Georgia State Crime Commission

ACTION TAKEN

A 26 78.

Thank you.

✓ ANALYSIS OF
BURGLARIES IN GEORGIA
FROM JANUARY - JUNE, 1977

State Crime Commission

April, 1978

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OCT 26 1979

I. Introduction and Methodology

ACQUISITIONS

During 1976 in Georgia, 71,984 burglaries were reported to law enforcement agencies. This crime, which accounted for 30 percent of all serious crimes during that period, increased 18.5 percent between 1973 and 1976.

This report attempts to document the nature of these crimes in Georgia. The state's 159 counties were divided into three categories based on population, and differences in characteristics of burglaries committed in each category were examined. This was done because knowledge of either the differences or similarities of these characteristics might enable crime reduction and target hardening programs to concentrate on the type of burglary most prevalent in that general area.

Information on the characteristics of burglaries used in this report was obtained from the Georgia Crime Information Center's (GCIC) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program for the period January 1 through June 30, 1977. Although summary information on the volume of crime has been available from the UCR Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for many years, detailed data on the type, location and time of burglaries is available from only the GCIC system which has replaced the FBI program. Since GCIC released their initial UCR data for the first six months of 1977, this was the only period on which this report could be based.

It should be noted that this report was intended to investigate burglary at a macro and not a micro level. Characteristics of over 31,000 burglaries were examined, but only within three population groups to determine whether similarities or differences existed in the group's profiles. To be truly effective, this approach would have to be undertaken at the micro level by each jurisdiction. This would require analysis of crimes by beat, zone or census tract, and is obviously not feasible for a statewide report.

Two methods of dividing the state into groups were tested to determine the better approach. The first used population density as the criterion; the second used population. Correlation analysis indicated that population density accounted for over 80 percent of the variance, but that population accounted for over 94 percent. The latter

was chosen, based on the assumption that if population was a better predictor of volume then it would likely be a better criterion to use in analyzing burglary characteristics.

Due to the fact that Fulton and DeKalb counties are so populous that they have the potential to skew results of any analysis of this type, these two counties were designated as a separate category. The remaining counties were separated into several sets of categories. One set included three categories, each containing one-third of the counties. Another set contained three categories, each with one-third of the population. Two sets were developed after visually examining the distribution of counties by population.

Analysis of the population-burglary correlates for each category in these sets indicated the best overall correlations were found in the set that divided the remaining counties into two groups, with the break at a population of 50,000. The following table presents pertinent information for the three categories. Since twelve counties with a combined population of 1.6 percent of the state's total reported either no crimes or no burglaries, these counties were excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY INFORMATION ON COUNTIES BY CATEGORY

<u>Category</u>	<u>Size in Population</u>	<u>Number of Counties</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Percent of State Population</u>
1	0 - 48,000	128	2,020,100	40.3%
2	48,001 - 260,000	17	1,854,700	37.0
3	470,000 - 585,700	<u>2</u>	<u>1,055,700</u>	<u>21.1</u>
TOTAL		147	4,930,500	98.4%

II. Findings

Table 2 includes information on characteristics of burglaries reported during the first six months of 1977 in the categories described in Table 1. The higher burglary rates per 100,000 population in categories 2 and 3 reflect the difference in percentages of population and burglaries within the groups. Fulton and DeKalb counties with 21.4 percent of the population account for 32.3 percent of the burglaries, whereas counties with less than 50,000 people have 41.0 percent of the population and 22.0 percent of the burglaries.

Clearance rates, which indicate the percentage of burglaries cleared by law enforcement by the arrest of one or more persons, are the lowest for counties with 50,000 to 260,000 people but are the highest in Fulton and DeKalb counties. These two counties account for 43.0 percent of all burglary clearances in the state and 33 percent of all persons arrested for burglary.

Information on the type of burglaries indicates 76.5 percent were committed with the use of force, 17.5 percent required no force, and 6.0 percent were attempts. A slight trend is evident for no-force burglaries, with the higher population groups reporting smaller percentages of no-force burglaries. The smallest population group of counties reported the smallest percentages of attempted burglaries.

Of all reported burglaries, 63.5 percent were committed in residential areas and 36.5 percent in non-residential areas. Night burglaries (6:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.) accounted for 40.1 percent, day burglaries for 52.6 percent, and unknown time burglaries for 7.3 percent. A very slight trend is evident in higher percentages of residential burglaries for the larger population categories. No trend is evident for night-day percentages, but counties with less than 50,000 population reported the highest percentage of burglaries occurring at unknown times.

The combined location and time variables indicates that residential-day burglaries outnumber residential-night burglaries by almost a 2 to 1 margin. Non-residential burglaries occur in approximately equal volume during day and night hours. No trends are evident except for a slight downward trend in percentages of non-residential day burglaries in the larger population groups.

For the entire state, adults arrested for burglary outnumber juveniles by a margin of 1.65 to 1. The more populous regions apparently have a higher involvement of juveniles in burglaries, since the ratio of adults to juveniles decreases from 2.2 to 1 for counties with less than 50,000 people to 1.2 to 1 for Fulton and DeKalb counties.

Table 3 includes Pearson correlation coefficients for selected variable pairs. These coefficients indicate the strength and direction of relationships between two variables. A coefficient of 1.0 indicates a perfect one-to-one relationship; a coefficient of 0.0 indicates no relationship exists. A positive coefficient indicates both variables progress in the same direction, whereas negative coefficients indicate that one variable increases as the other decreases. An "ns" indicates that the correlation was not significant at the .05 level, which means that the probability of designated relationships occurring by chance was less than 5 percent.

The correlation analysis indicates that population is a better indicator of burglary incidence than density and is equal to density as a predictor when correlated with burglary rate. No significant correlations emerged from the analysis of burglary incidence and various characteristics of the crime in the state. In category 2, however, which includes counties with 50,000 to 260,000 people, a relatively strong correlation exists between the incidence of burglary and the percentage of crimes that occur at night. Also in this category, the percentage of attempted burglaries increases and the percentage of burglaries occurring at unknown times decreases as the volume of crimes increases.

The counties in population category 2 exhibited relatively strong and negative correlations between clearance rates and both the percentage of burglaries occurring in residential areas and the percentage of attempted burglaries. The remaining significant correlations involving clearance rates were all very weak.

Analyses involving burglary rates indicate that in population category 2, strong positive relationships exist with percentage of attempted burglaries and fairly strong negative relationships exist with percentage of burglaries occurring at unknown times. Either very weak or non-significant correlations exist with the remaining variables.

III. Conclusions

Perhaps the most significant conclusion available from analyzing characteristics of burglaries among different population groups in Georgia is that very few differences exist in the crime's profile in various regions of the state. The more populous regions, especially Fulton and DeKalb counties, have a higher concentration of crimes, but striking differences in type, location or time of burglaries do not exist.

Several factors tend to indicate, however, that reporting procedures may vary among regions of the state. The higher than average percentage of burglaries occurring at unknown times in counties with less than 50,000 people may indicate the need for better investigative reporting. The smaller than average percentage of attempted burglaries in these counties may result from hesitation on the part of victims to report such crimes, or hesitation by law enforcement agencies to record the crimes. If the latter case is true, this could explain the higher clearance rates for these counties, since correlation analysis indicates a weak association between higher clearance rates and smaller percentages of attempted burglaries, and between higher burglary rates and higher percentages of attempted burglaries.

As stated in the introduction to this report, analyses of this type can be undertaken at a more detailed level. For example, an agency might sub-divide the number of non-residential burglaries into several different types of categories. Time of incidents could be counted according to shift and location according to zone or beat. Such an analysis could also be helpful in manpower allocation programs.

TABLE 2
CHARACTERISTICS OF BURGLARIES

VARIABLE	CATEGORY							
	1		2		3		TOTAL	
Burglary Rate per 100,000 population	340		770		955		634	
Clearance Rate per 100,000 burglaries	13.8		11.5		19.4		14.6	
Type								
force	5,140	74.8%	10,676	74.7%	8,069	80.1%	23,885	76.5%
no force	1,451	21.1	2,627	18.4	1,405	13.9	5,483	17.5
attempt	281	4.1	983	6.9	601	6.0	1,865	6.0
total	<u>6,872</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>14,286</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>10,075</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>31,233</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Location - Time								
residential	3,906	56.8%	9,198	64.4%	6,714	66.6%	19,818	63.5%
non-residential	2,966	43.2	5,088	35.6	3,361	33.4	11,415	36.5
total	<u>6,872</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>14,286</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>10,075</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>31,233</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
night	2,412	35.1%	5,957	41.7%	4,160	41.3%	12,529	40.1%
day	3,700	53.8	7,628	53.4	5,113	50.7	16,431	52.6
unknown	760	11.1	701	4.9	802	8.0	2,263	7.3
total	<u>6,872</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>14,286</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>10,075</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>31,233</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
res-night	1,123	16.3%	3,364	23.6%	2,315	23.0%	6,802	21.8%
res-day	2,341	34.1	5,338	37.4	3,934	39.1	11,613	37.2
res-unk	442	6.4	496	3.5	465	4.6	1,403	4.5
non-res-night	1,289	18.8	2,593	18.1	1,845	18.3	5,727	18.3
non-res-day	1,359	19.8	2,290	16.0	1,179	11.7	4,828	15.5
non-res-unk	318	4.6	205	1.4	337	3.3	860	2.7
total	<u>6,872</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>14,286</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>10,075</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>31,233</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

TABLE 2 (continued)

VARIABLES	1		2		3		TOTAL	
Number of Counties	128	87.0%	17	11.6%	2	1.4%	147	100.0%
Number of Burglaries	6,872	22.0%	14,286	45.7%	10,075	32.3%	31,233	100.0%
Population (1976)	2,020,100	41.0%	1,854,700	37.6%	1,055,700	21.4%	4,930,500	100.0%
Number of Clearances	945	20.8%	1,645	36.2%	1,955	43.0%	4,545	100.0%
Number of Adult Arrests	1,035	68.6%	1,016	62.9%	803	55.1%	2,854	62.3%
Number of Juvenile Arrests	474	31.4	599	37.1	655	44.9	1,728	37.7
total	<u>1,509</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>1,615</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>1,458</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>4,582</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

TABLE 3
CORRELATIONS OF SELECTED VARIABLES

<u>Variable Pair</u>		<u>Category</u>		
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Burglary	- population	.84	.87	correlations
	- density	.72	.60	not applicable
	- juvenile arrest	.20	ns	in this group
	- force %	-.19	ns	
	- no force %	.17	ns	
	- attempt %	ns	.43	
	- res. %	ns	ns	
	- non-res. %	ns	ns	
	- night %	ns	.56	
	- day %	ns	ns	
	- unk %	ns	-.50	
Clearance Rate	- population	-.15	ns	
	- density	-.17	ns	
	- juvenile arrest %	.28	ns	
	- force %	.22	ns	
	- no force %	-.18	ns	
	- attempt %	ns	-.49	
	- res. %	ns	-.57	
	- non-res. %	ns	.57	
	- night %	ns	ns	
	- day %	ns	ns	
	- unk %	ns	ns	
Burglary Rate	- population	.40	ns	
	- density	.41	ns	
	- juvenile arrest %	ns	ns	
	- force %	-.15	ns	
	- no force %	ns	ns	
	- attempt %	ns	.75	
	- res. %	ns	ns	
	- non-res. %	ns	ns	
	- night %	ns	ns	
	- day %	ns	ns	
	- unk %	ns	-.44	

NOTES: 1) ns signifies a non-significant correlation at a .05 level.