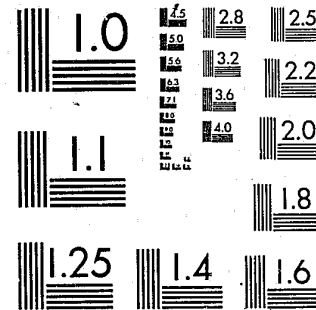


National Criminal Justice Reference Service

ncjrs

This microfiche was produced from documents received for inclusion in the NCJRS data base. Since NCJRS cannot exercise control over the physical condition of the documents submitted, the individual frame quality will vary. The resolution chart on this frame may be used to evaluate the document quality.



MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS-1963-A

Microfilming procedures used to create this fiche comply with the standards set forth in 41CFR 101-11.504.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the author(s) and do not represent the official position or policies of the U. S. Department of Justice.

National Institute of Justice
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

DATE FILMED

12/01/81

**PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU
CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION**

**EVALUATION OF THE
RESIDENTIAL SECURITY
SURVEY PROGRAM**

FEBRUARY, 1981

**B.R. BAKER
CHIEF OF POLICE**

**CHARLES JORDON
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY
JAN STANGIER
STEVE BEEDLE**

76804

Summary of Findings:

- Of 104 randomly selected security survey participants, 72% complied in all or in part with the recommendations made to improve the security of their homes.
- Of the 28% who did not comply with the recommendations, 31% said it was too costly and 38% said they either couldn't do the work themselves or thought someone else would return to do the work for them.
- An analysis of reported forced entry burglaries showed an 88% reduction in the burglary rate among security survey participants 12 months after participation in the program as compared to 12 months before participation.
- This group of security survey participants experienced a burglary rate of 0.96 per 100 households as compared to the city-wide rate of 3.6 per 100 households - a reduction of 73% or 2.64 per 100 households.

Introduction:

The Portland Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Division offers several services to residential homeowners and renters to reduce their chances of being victimized. One of these services is the security survey where a representative of the Bureau "surveys" a home or apartment to determine security risks. The representative then makes recommendations to improve security on the dwelling. Typical recommendations include better locking devices for doors and windows, strengthening door frames, improving lighting, and changing landscape features (shrubs, etc.) so neighbors and passers-by are better able to observe suspicious activity at the house.

Purpose:

Two issues must be examined in evaluating the success of the program. First, did program participants comply with the recommendations made on the security survey?

NCJRS

APR 6 1981

ACQUISITIONS

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice 76804

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Steve Beedle, Jan Stangier
Portland Police Bureau

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

And second, did program participants experience fewer victimizations than before participation? Compliance is a critical factor in measuring program success as non-compliance would indicate no change in the behavior of the participant and therefore no difference between participation and non-participation.

Procedure:

In order to evaluate the success of the program in achieving its stated goal, participants were interviewed via telephone to determine their rate of compliance with the recommendations. Each of the participants' addresses was then queried on the Bureau's Columbia Region Information Sharing System (CRISS) computer to determine the reported burglary rate before and after participation in the security survey program.

104 persons were interviewed from a random sample of 150 participants who had received a security survey between July and December 1979. This time frame allowed 12 months on either side of the date of service to measure the effects of the security survey. In addition, adequate time had to be allowed for participants to comply with security survey recommendations. Renters were not interviewed because restrictions are often placed on them that prevent them from complying. A call-back system at different hours of the day was used to ensure that those individuals reached would not be a self-selected group (i.e. systematically different from the group as a whole). Four questions were asked in the telephone interview to determine whether the security survey participant had complied with the recommendations of the survey. (A copy of the survey may be found in the Appendix). In order to qualify as having partially complied, an occupant had to have installed locks, strengthened door frames, or pinned (or otherwise secured) windows. Trimming shrubs or improving lighting alone was not considered partial compliance in this study.

After compliance was established via the telephone survey, a record check was run on each participant to determine whether or not (s)he had been a victim of a reported residential burglary. A comparison was made exactly 12 months before and 12 months following the date of service appearing on the security survey form so that each participant was given equal time periods in which to experience a victimization.

Results:

A. Compliance

72% of the 104 randomly selected security survey participants complied in all or in part with the recommendations made to improve the security of their homes. Of the total, 36% (37 respondents) complied with all of the major recommendations. 57% (59 respondents) of the total population surveyed had installed locks.

28% of those interviewed did not comply with any of the major recommendations made on the survey. Of those who did not comply, the most frequent reason given (31%) was that compliance was too costly. Five respondents (17%) said they didn't know who to call to do the work or couldn't do the work themselves. Another six respondents (21%) said they thought someone else would return to their homes to do the work. This finding may indicate that some recipients of the security survey are confusing this service with the Division's Home Security Program where qualifying residents receive free locks, hardware, and installation after they have had a security survey. (There are no restrictions on who may have a security survey other than that the homeowner or renter reside within the city limits of Portland). Two respondents said they "never got around" to implementing the recommendations. Another two persons said they felt they didn't need the work done that was recommended.

B. Victimization

The program's primary goal is to reduce the residential burglary rate among participants. The program was successful in achieving this goal. An analysis of reported forced entry burglaries showed an 88% reduction in the burglary rate among security survey participants after participation in the program as compared to 12 months before participation. Only one forced entry burglary was reported in the 12 months following participation in the program as compared to 8 burglaries reported in the 12 months just prior to participation. This finding in reported burglary is probably not due to chance.¹ The post-program burglary rate was also found to be an average of 2.64 per 100 households less than the 1979 city-wide rate for residential burglary of 3.6 per 100 households.

Of interest, the point of entry for the one reported forced entry burglary following the security survey was through an inadequately secured basement window. The security survey had emphasized that this situation needed to be corrected by installing a metal screen over the window, but the owner of the house did not comply with this specific recommendation.

The burglary rate decrease found in this study must be viewed in the context of two factors, however. The first factor is that many households request security surveys shortly after being victimized, thus the reported rate of burglary for this group could be artificially high preceding the security survey.² For example, a previous study found that 56.5 percent of the households reporting crimes did so four months or less before participating in one of the Division's crime prevention programs.³ A second factor to consider is that studies⁴ have indicated that, in most cases, the reporting rate for burglaries increases after participation in crime prevention activities.

With respect to the first factor, however, data analysis revealed that the number of reported burglaries up to one year after the security survey date was also less than the number of reported burglaries up to two years (4 burglaries) and three years (7 burglaries) before participation in the security survey program. Related to the second factor, the reported rate of burglary following the security survey could be more accurate than those reported rates found prior to the security survey. It should be noted that studies⁵ have consistently found that approximately 50% of residential burglaries are not reported. The above analysis, therefore, suggests that the reported burglary rates up to two and three years prior to the security survey could be much higher than the number actually reported, while the rate following the survey is probably a more accurate reporting level.

Summary

The analysis of reported burglaries indicates that the security survey program is having a positive effect on decreasing the burglary rates among participating households.

The results of the telephone survey also show a high percentage of compliance with survey recommendations. The degree of compliance is particularly good in view of the cost and time involved in implementing recommendations.

References

- 1 z-score = 3.28, p is less than .05
- 2 Beedle, S. and Stangier, J. Evaluation of the Portland Police Bureau's Home Security Program. The Bellringer: A Periodic Review of Criminal Justice Evaluation, 1980 (20), 9-11
- 3 Evaluation of the Home Security Program, Portland Police Bureau, Crime Prevention Unit, Portland, Oregon 1979.
- 4 Evaluation of the City of Portland's Crime Prevention Bureau Program, Office of Justice Programs, Portland, Oregon, 1977.
- 5 For example:
City of Portland Police Bureau Crime Prevention Victimization Survey, Applied Social Research, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 1980.

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Washington, D.C., 1979.

Data Retrieval Operator for this study: Delores Gleich

APPENDIX

TIME: 1st CALLBACK 2nd CALLBACK 3rd CALLBACK

DATE:

HOME SECURITY SURVEY COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU, CRIME PREVENTTION DIVISION - 248-4126

NAME: PHONE:

Person answering questionnaire is: Same name as above
Family/Household member

Hello, my name is . I'm calling on behalf of the Portland Police Bureau. On you had a security survey done on your home by a member of the Portland Police Bureau. At the time of the survey, several recommendations were made to improve the security on your home. I'm calling to find out if the security survey was helpful to you.

- Were you able to comply with some or all of the recommendation?
Yes (GO TO NUMBER 2)
No (GO TO NUMBER 3)
- If YES, what specifically did you do to improve the security on your home?
Install locks on doors
Pin windows
Install Screening on basement windows
Modify exterior lighting on house
Modify landscaping
Other (BE SPECIFIC)
- If NO, why not? (DO NOT READ)
Too costly
Didn't understand the recommendations
Never got around to it
Other (BE SPECIFIC)
- Finally, as a result of the security survey of your home, have you taken any other Crime Prevention precautions, such as:
Lock doors and windows
Leave lights on when away
Have neighbors watch house
Other (BE SPECIFIC)

OFFICE USE ONLY

RE: 1. Doors 2. Locks 3. Door Frame/Strike Plate 4. Windows
5. Basement 6. Garage 7. Lighting 8. Landscaping 9. Misc.

END