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CANADIAN URBAN VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Patterns in Property Crime

Bulletin

9

PATTERNS IN PROPERTY CRIME

Crimes involving property loss and damage are a source of growing public concern. The financial costs of replacing stolen or damaged property place severe hardship on some Canadians, particularly those from lower or fixed income households. Victimization surveys show that in addition to the suffering caused by material loss, victims of such property crimes as break and enter can experience severe psychological reactions.

This Bulletin describes the findings of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey as they relate to property victimization in the city of Edmonton. An earlier

Bulletin in this series (Bulletin 8) dealt with patterns in violent crime. In 1982, 61,000 Canadians in seven cities¹ were interviewed about their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system, their experiences with crime in 1981, and the impact the experience had upon them. In 1985, this survey was replicated in Edmonton using the same methodology and core questionnaires.

¹ The seven cities included in the 1982 survey were Greater Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax-Dartmouth and St. John's. A more detailed description of the survey methodology can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Data from the two surveys make it possible to begin to trace patterns in this city in the risk of victimization, reported and unreported crime, the extent and distribution of certain crimes, and victims' perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. The better our understanding of factors which affect risk, and of the circumstances in which specific offences are most likely to occur, the greater will be our chances of reducing crime through the development of effective crime prevention programs, and of mitigating the consequences of crime through effective services for victims.

The Socio-Economic Context of the Survey

The relationship between socio-economic and demographic factors and the level of crime in a city, region, or country has long been the subject of interest to researchers and policy makers alike. On the basis of these two surveys, spaced only three years apart, it is once again evident that the relationship is very complex, and that data from an historical series of identical surveys would be required to identify the most important elements that determine trends and patterns.

As described in Bulletin 8, Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is a city of approximately 600,000 people. At the time of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (CUVS) early in 1982, the oil industry in northern Alberta was at a peak and Edmonton was enjoying considerable prosperity. The adult population (aged 16 and older) was

about 404,200 (CUVS, 1982). Individuals and families were attracted to Edmonton by employment opportunities which caused a corresponding boom in housing and service industries. The net migration into Edmonton from other provinces in Canada was approximately 10,000 in 1981 (Statistics Canada, 1986). By the time of the second victimization survey in 1985, the oil industry was in a slump and the level of unemployment had increased. The net migration out of Edmonton in 1984 was about 13,000 (Statistics Canada, 1986). The adult population in 1985 was estimated to be 420,300 (CUVS, 1985).

By 1985, the proportion of males in the Edmonton population had increased from 47% to 50%, and those who described their employment status as "looking for work" in the

survey year had increased from 2% to 6%.² In 1985, 55% of Edmonton residents were in paid employment compared to 62% in 1982. The mean age of the adult population had also increased from 35.4 in 1982 to 36.4 in 1985. One in three Edmonton residents were single and approximately one-half were married in both survey years. The average number of evening activities outside the home each month increased from 21 per adult resident to 23.

² Unless otherwise indicated, changes or differences which are described in the text are statistically significant at the .05 level. This means that we are 95% sure that the noted change was not simply a chance result of the particular sample selected for interview (see Appendix 3).

General Patterns in Property Victimization

Given the increase in the number of adult males in the population, and the increase in both unemployment and evening activities over this three year period, an increase in the incidence of property crime might have been expected.

This was not the case, however. The 1985 survey uncovered an estimated 89,600 incidents of property crime (break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism) in the 1984 calendar year. This represents a 16% decrease from the 107,100 property crimes estimated to have occurred in Edmonton in 1981. While there was no appreciable change in the estimated incidence of violent crime over the same time period (see Bulletin 8), the decline in property crime was statistically significant (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Property crimes recorded by the Edmonton police also decreased — with some year-to-year fluctuations — from 49,790 incidents in 1981 to 45,414 in 1984 (Figure 2). Although the crime categories used in the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey approximate, as closely as possible, the major crime classifications used by the police to compile Uniform Crime Reports, caution is required when comparing these two measures of crime because of important differences between them. For example, the surveys captured only those incidents involving Edmonton residents while police statistics reflect all incidents known to have occurred in Edmonton, whether they involved residents, commuters or visitors. Police statistics include vandalism and theft of property involving business premises while survey statistics include only property crimes against private homes and personal property. In addition, estimates based on survey data include all incidents which were reported to interviewers whether or not they came to the attention of the police. As a result of these differences, the victimization surveys uncovered approximately twice as many incidents as were recorded by the police in both 1981 and 1984 (reference years for the 1982 and 1985 surveys). Nevertheless, the *direction* of change was similar using these two independent measures.

Table 1

Estimated Incidence of Property Crime in Edmonton, 1982 and 1985

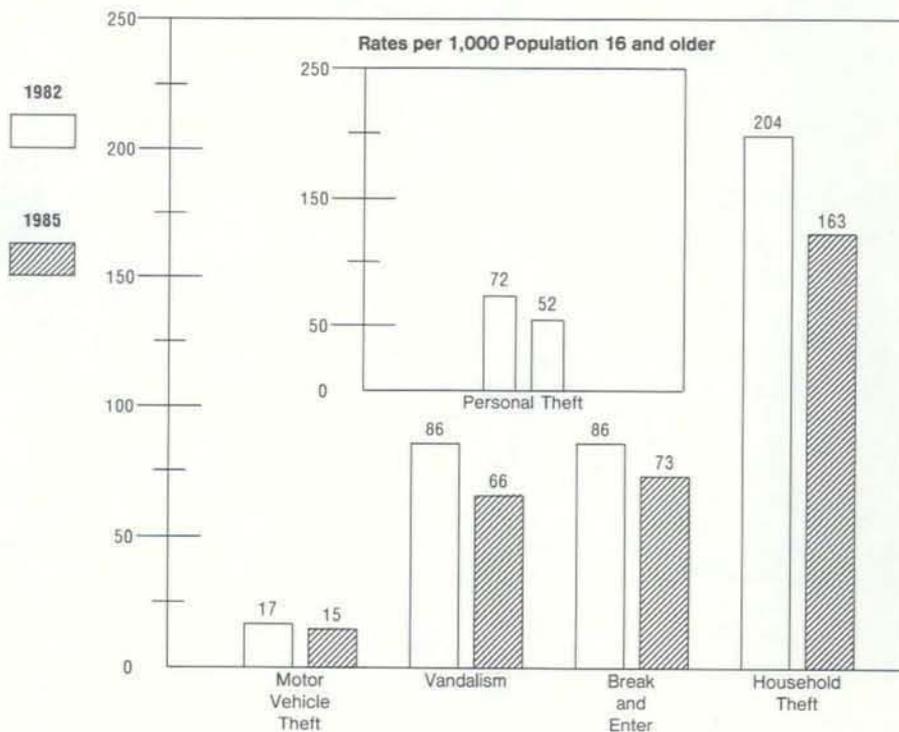
Type of Incident	1982	1985
Break and Enter	17,000	15,600
Motor Vehicle Theft	3,400	3,200
Theft of Household Property	40,600	34,800
Theft of Personal Property	29,100	22,000
Vandalism	17,000	14,000
Total Property Crimes	107,100	89,600

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982, 1985).

FIGURE 1

ESTIMATED RATES OF PROPERTY CRIME IN EDMONTON, 1982 AND 1985

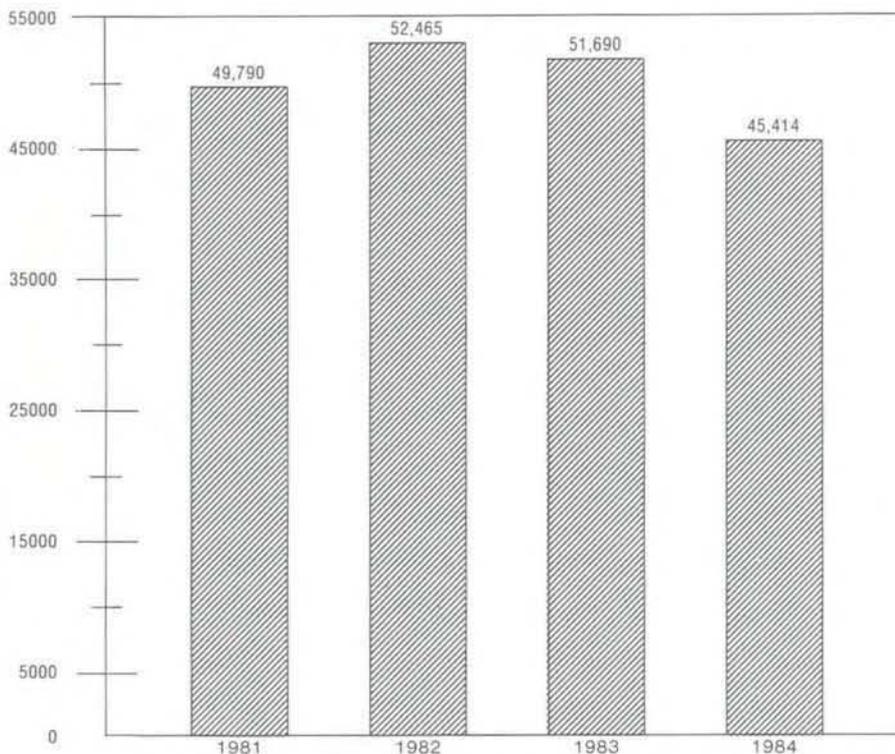
Rates per 1,000 Households



The changes in rates of vandalism, break and enter, household theft and personal theft were statistically significant (see Appendix 3). Rates of motor vehicle theft did not change significantly.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982; 1985).

FIGURE 2
PROPERTY CRIMES⁽¹⁾ RECORDED BY THE EDMONTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT, 1981 - 1984



⁽¹⁾ Property crimes include theft of property, residential break and enter, theft of motor vehicles and willful damage to private property.

Source: Statistics Canada, *Canadian Crime Statistics*, Annual Catalogue #85-205.

Place of Residence

The city of Edmonton can be divided roughly into the downtown area and surrounding suburbs as defined by Edmonton police divisions. According to the Canadian Urban Victimization Surveys, residents of the centre core were significantly younger than suburban residents and they were more likely to be single, unemployed and living in lower income households. Suggestions from other studies that neighbourhoods bearing this description will inevitably have higher relative rates of property crime are not supported by the survey data; despite the marked differences in demographic characteristics, rates of property victimization were not significantly different in these two areas (Figures 3 and 4).

We find that over the three year period, the level of unemployment and the proportion of lower income households increased to a greater extent within the centre core than in other areas of the city, without a corresponding increase in rates of victimiza-

tion. In the central core, rates of property crime remained relatively constant, whereas in the suburbs, all rates except those for motor vehicle theft declined significantly.

Break and Enter

Classified as the most serious property crime measured by the survey, residential break and enter in Edmonton declined significantly from an estimated 17,000 incidents in 1982 to 15,600 in 1985 (Table 1).

Occupancy: In keeping with the findings of other studies, the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey data confirm that the amount of time a home is left unoccupied is a major factor relating to risk of break and enter. Approximately 90% of such incidents took place when the households were unoccupied, nine percent of these while residents were on holiday. Households in which someone was usually home during the day experienced a substantially lower rate of break and enter than

those which were vacant all or part of the day. Residents who frequently participated in activities outside the home in the evenings also experienced a higher rate of break and enter than those who were less active in the evenings.³

In an attempt to reduce the risk of victimization, many residents took precautions to make their homes appear occupied when they were not. These precautions seem to have provided some protection against break and enter since those who installed light timers or routinely left lights on when they were away from the home were less likely to become victims than those who did not practice these simple preventive measures.

Type of Dwelling: As was the case in 1982, type of dwelling was an important factor in determining risk of break and enter in Edmonton in 1985. High-rise apartment dwellers had by far the lowest rate in both survey years (Table 2). There was a significant decline in rates for single houses from 96 per 1,000 in 1982 to 82 per 1,000 in 1985, and no apparent change in rates for other types of dwellings.

Certain types of dwellings provide offenders with a relatively easy opportunity to determine whether, in fact, households are occupied. Even though apartment dwellers were more likely than others to leave their homes vacant during the day, the difficulty faced by offenders in determining occupancy, especially in the case of highrise buildings, seems to contribute to lower rates of break and enter. Controlled access into and restricted escape routes from highrise buildings may also add to the danger of detection, making them less attractive targets for potential burglars.

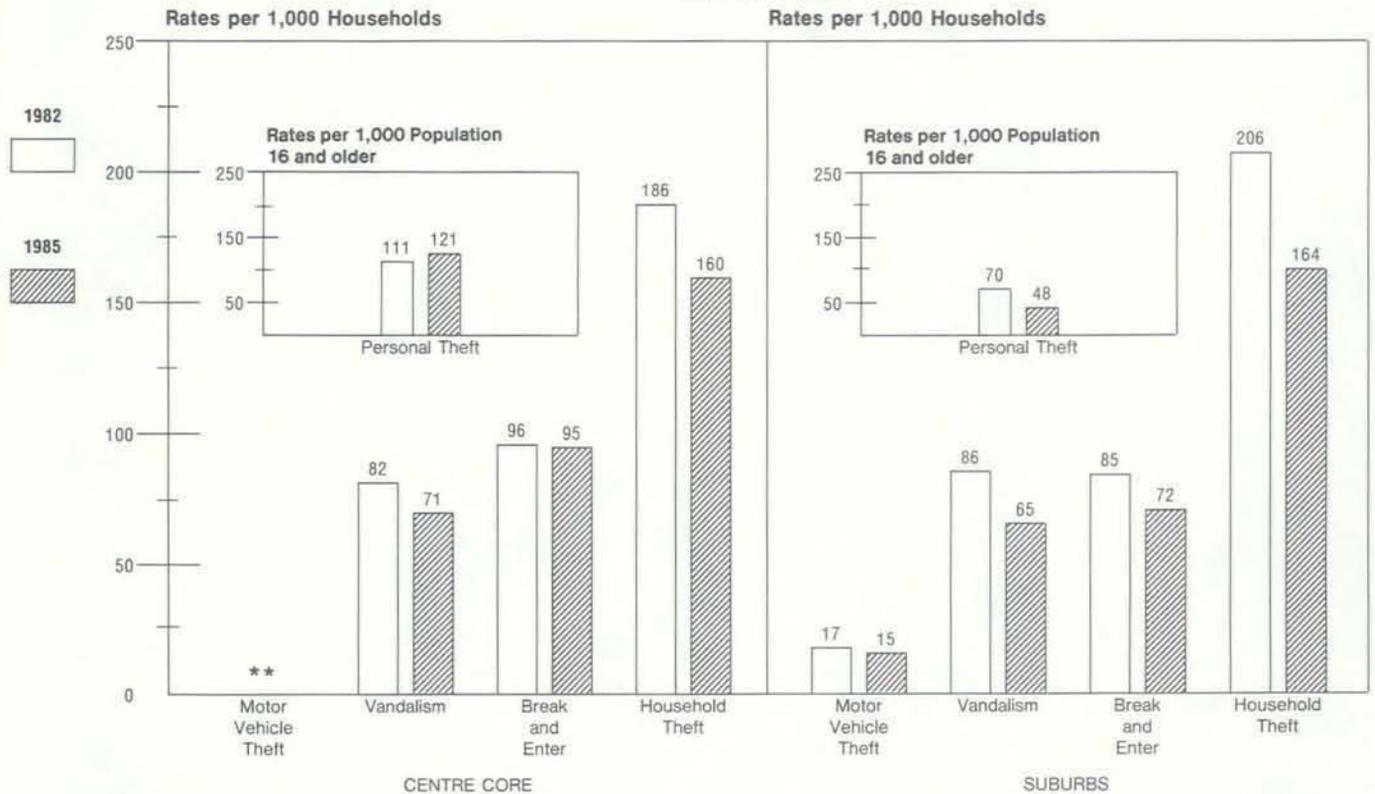
Household Income: The relationship between household income and risk of break and enter is complicated by many other factors which influence the extent to which specific residences will be viewed as attractive and accessible targets (Table 3).

In Edmonton, upper income families were more likely to live in single family dwellings than were lower income families, a factor which, in general terms,

³ While the question of evening activity outside the home was directed to the respondent only and not all members of the household, it is a good indicator of household occupancy in the evenings for smaller households.

FIGURE 3

ESTIMATED RATES OF PROPERTY CRIME IN EDMONTON
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE,
1982 AND 1985



The changes in suburban rates of vandalism, break and enter, household theft and personal theft were statistically significant. The changes in suburban rates of motor vehicle theft and rates of all property crimes in the centre core were not statistically significant (See Appendix 3).

**The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable population estimates.
Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982; 1985).

should have increased their vulnerability to break and enter. At the same time, however, they were also more likely to be owners than renters, and as such, the survey indicates that they were also more likely to have recently installed new locks, to leave lights on when absent, or to use light timers. In both survey years, Edmonton residents from upper income households were also more likely to be aware of community crime prevention programs such as Neighbourhood Watch, Block Parents and Operation Identification.

While lower income families were more likely to live in multiple family dwellings which typically have lower rates of break and enter, they were also less likely to practice target hardening techniques and less likely to be aware of community crime prevention programs.

Method of Entry: Approximately one-third of all break and enter incidents in both survey years were completed

without the use of force. In almost one-half (45%) of those incidents in which no force was used, the offender entered, or tried to enter the home, through an unlocked door or window. A further 9% slipped the lock; 9% had a key and 4% pushed their way in. In incidents in which entry was forced, 54% involved a broken lock or forced door and 38% involved a broken or forced window.

Nevertheless, certain protective measures evidently can have a preventive effect. In three-quarters of attempted break and enter incidents, there was evidence that the offenders had used force to try to break into a dwelling but without success.

Incidents Involving Motor Vehicles

An estimated 3,200 incidents of theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle

were uncovered in the Edmonton 1985 survey. Approximately one-half of these incidents involved cars, one-quarter involved trucks or vans and one-quarter were related to smaller vehicles such as motorcycles, mopeds or snowmobiles.

Although one in five victims of incidents involving motor vehicles were unable to state when the incident occurred, in the vast majority of the remaining cases (85%) the time of occurrence was after dark. Despite the mobility of the target of these offences, two-thirds of all incidents involved vehicles parked near victims' homes. Not surprisingly, incidents which occurred during the daylight hours were more likely than night-time incidents to take place away from victims' homes.

The large dollar values involved in theft of motor vehicles resulted in substantial initial costs to victims, but since a high proportion of victims were insured against theft and damage to

FIGURE 4
CITY OF EDMONTON



Shaded area denotes centre core as defined by Edmonton Police Division D.

Table 2

Estimated Rates of Break and Enter in Edmonton by Type of Dwelling, 1982 and 1985

Rates per 1,000 Households

Type of Dwelling	1982	1985
Duplex	111	81
Single Family Dwelling	96	82
Lowrise	83	69
Rowhouse	69	69
Double	68	75
Highrise	42	40
Total Break and Enter Rate	86	73

The changes in rates for single family dwellings and total break and enter were statistically significant (see Appendix 3).
Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982, 1985).

their vehicles, much lower "after insurance" costs were incurred than was the case in other property offences. In seven cases out of ten the motor vehicles had been returned by the police or recovered by other means by the time of the interview.

Vehicles were also the target in one-half of incidents classified as theft of household property and 80% of vandalism incidents, accounting for some 30,000 incidents in all. This is a drop from the 32,500 thefts of vehicle parts and damage to vehicles estimated to have occurred in 1982. Theft of motor vehicle parts such as hubcaps or radios, and vandalism to vehicles, occurred ten times as frequently as motor vehicle theft.

Although the initial costs were lower when motor vehicle parts were stolen or when vehicles were damaged rather than stolen, the final costs to victims were comparable. In only 6% of incidents involving theft of motor vehicle parts was the stolen property recovered by the police or by any other means by the time of the interview.

Personal and Household Theft

According to the 1985 survey, Edmonton residents experienced an estimated 22,000 incidents of personal theft and 19,600 incidents of household theft not involving motor vehicle parts in 1984. These figures represent a significant decrease from the estimated 29,100 incidents of personal theft and the 20,300 incidents of household theft that occurred in Edmonton in 1981.

The characteristics of personal and household theft incidents varied little between the two surveys. In 1985, the most common types of property stolen in the case of personal theft were clothing (26%), purses and wallets (25%), credit cards, cheques and other personal papers (13%), jewellery (7%) and other personal property (29%).⁴ These incidents were most likely to occur in public locations (46%) or at the victim's place of work (32%) than in or around the victim's home (20%) or neighbourhood (3%). One-half of these incidents took place during the daylight hours (40% on week days and 11% on the week-end) and one-half took place after dark (27% during the week and 22% on the week-end).

⁴ Respondents could list more than one type of property stolen.

Table 3

Estimated Rates of Property Crime in Edmonton by Annual Household Income, 1985

Income Group	Rates per 1,000 Households				Rates per 1,000 Population 16 and Older
	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft of Household Property	Vandalism	
Less than \$10,000	78	18	138	44	70
\$10,000 to \$14,999	82	11	161	66	61
\$15,000 to \$19,999	98	16	190	71	60
\$20,000 to \$24,999	52	13	160	81	52
\$25,000 to \$34,999	79	22	192	86	61
\$35,000 to \$44,999	87	16	185	91	48
\$45,000 and over	85	12	220	88	57

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1985).

In the case of household theft (excluding theft of motor vehicle parts) the most common targets were bicycles (38%), stereo equipment (15%), household articles such as appliances, tools or cameras (14%), lawn furniture (13%) and other household property (27%).⁴ Unlike theft of personal property, most household theft incidents occurred in or around the victim's home (62%) or neighbourhood (10%). Only 10% took place at the victim's workplace and 18% took place in public locations. These incidents were also more likely to take place after dark (61%): 36% during the week and 25% on the week-end. Of the 40% that occurred during the daylight hours, three-quarters happened on a week day, one-quarter on the week-end.

A comparatively small proportion of thefts — one-fifth (20%) of the personal thefts and one-third (32%) of the household property thefts — were covered by insurance.

Reactions to Property Crimes

Proportion of Incidents Reported:

Less than one-half of the total property crimes were reported to the police in each survey year (Table 4). Reporting

⁴ Respondents could list more than one type of property stolen.

rates increased with the value of property stolen or damaged and, as would be expected, were higher for households insured against theft or damage than for those not insured.

In 1985, the proportion of property offences reported ranged from 28% of thefts of personal property, (a relatively minor crime), to 68% of thefts of motor vehicles and 62% of break and enter

incidents, both more serious in terms of consequences for victims. Households composed of two or more adults and no children were the least likely to report incidents to the police (41%), while single parent family households were most likely to report incidents of property crimes (53%).

Reasons for Not Reporting: As was the case in 1982, victims who did not report to the police were most likely to say they thought the incident was "too minor", or that they believed the "police couldn't do anything about it". Smaller proportions of victims did not involve the police because "nothing was taken" or because they felt the inconvenience of reporting would outweigh the possible benefits (Table 5).

Reasons for Reporting: Among those who had reported the incident to police, "wanting the stolen items recovered" was cited most frequently by victims of motor vehicle, personal and household theft, while "wanting the offender arrested" was most important for break and enter victims. "Needing to file a police report in order to claim insurance" was most important for victims of vandalism (Table 6). Break and enter victims were more likely than victims of other property crimes to mention wanting to "obtain advice on prevention" and "obtain protection" as reasons for contacting the police. Victims were not asked why they reported crimes in the 1982 survey.

Table 4

Proportion of Property Crimes Reported to the Police in Edmonton, 1982 and 1985

Type of Incident	1982	1985
	Percent of Incidents	
Break and Enter	62	62
Motor Vehicle Theft	77	68
Theft of Household Property	46	44
Theft of Personal Property	30	28
Vandalism	38	33
Total Property Crimes Reported	46	43

The changes in proportions reported over the three year period were not statistically significant (see Appendix 3).

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982, 1985).

Table 5

Reasons for not Reporting Property Crime in Edmonton, 1982 and 1985

Type of Incident	Too Minor		Police Couldn't do Anything		Nothing Taken		Too Inconvenient	
	82	85	82	85	82	85	82	85
	Percent of Unreported Incidents							
Break and Enter	62	73	61	66	34	45	21	30
Motor Vehicle Theft	57	62	61	61	33	50	12	17
Theft of Household Property	70	76	68	65	8	9	27	31
Theft of Personal Property	60	65	62	65	8	7	20	31
Vandalism	67	80	72	72	33	30	22	29
Total Property Crimes	65	73	65	66	17	20	23	30

Victims could give more than one reason for not reporting any one incident.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1982; 1985).

Victims' Assessments of Appropriate Court Action:

In the 1985 survey, all victims — both those who involved the police and those who did not — were asked what they thought the courts should do about offenders in the type of incident they had experienced. Despite the fact that 57% of incidents remained unreported, the majority because they were considered to be "too minor", very few victims (8%) felt that no official action should be taken or that the offender should receive a warning (8%) (Table 7). Victims were most likely to state that offenders should be required to compensate them for losses suffered (43%) and less likely to state that they should be fined (25%), perform community work (22%) or receive a prison term (16%). Fewer felt that offenders should be placed on probation (9%).

Victims of motor vehicle theft were those most likely to favour a prison term for offenders (33%) while victims of break and enter were more likely than others to state that offenders should be required to perform community work (25%) or should be placed on probation (24%).

Emotional and Physical Consequences of Victimization:

In 1985, the majority of property offence victims reported having experienced one or more emotional or physical reactions following the incident. In almost all cases, female victims were more likely than male victims to report adverse

reactions. The most common reaction to property victimization was anger, followed by a sense of violation of privacy (Table 8). More than one-third of female victims and one-quarter of male victims felt their privacy had been invaded. The proportion increased with the severity of the offence but was substantial even for victims of theft and vandalism.

The type of property victimization most likely to elicit emotional or physical reactions was break and enter. Women who had experienced a break and enter reported reacting to the invasion of their privacy (59%), and with anger (56%), increased fear of being alone at home (44%), anxiety, nervousness and confusion (39%), fear for the safety of others (37%), sleeping difficulties (29%) and fear for their own safety outside the home (26%). Men who had been break and enter victims reacted with anger (53%), felt that their privacy had been invaded (42%) and like women, were more likely to express fear for the safety of others (28%) than were victims of any other type of property crime.

Household composition was found to be linked to adverse reactions to property victimization. Single-parent families were more likely to report emotional reactions than either two-parent families or households with no children (Table 9). This relationship can be explained in large part by the high proportion of single parent families headed by women.

Need for Counselling: Among property offence victims, female victims of break and enter were most likely to state that emotional or psychological counselling should be available for the type of victimization they had suffered;

Table 6

Reasons for Reporting Property Crime in Edmonton, 1985

Type of Incident	Wanted Stolen Items Recovered	Wanted Offender Arrested	File Insurance Claim	Obtain Advice on Prevention	Obtain Protection
Break and Enter	66	80	44	30	35
Motor Vehicle Theft	85	72	54	**	**
Theft of Household Property	84	65	60	19	13
Theft of Personal Property	96	60	38	18	14*
Vandalism	**	53	72	20	16
Total Property Crimes	72	66	54	21	19

Victims could give more than one reason for reporting any one incident.

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable population estimates.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1985).

Table 7

Assessment of Appropriate Court Action, Edmonton 1985

Suggested Court Action	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft of Household Property	Theft of Personal Property	Vandalism	Total Property Crimes
Courts should do nothing	6	**	8	14	9	8
Should receive warning	8	8*	8	8	11	8
Offender should repay victim	34	26	47	43	47	43
Should be fined	20	31	27	26	26	25
Should perform community work	25	19	22	16	22	22
Should be put on probation	24	10*	8	8	6	9
Should receive prison term	25	33	14	15	8	16
Other	18	15	12	12	13	13

Victims could give more than one response to any one victimization.

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable population estimates.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1985).

and yet, 64% of victims who experienced some kind of reaction said they had received no assistance in coping. Those who were helped were most likely to mention receiving assistance from family members (66%), friends or neighbours (42%) and police officers (8%).

Conclusion

Replication of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey in Edmonton has provided us with some important benchmarks against which to measure changes in victimization rates.

Contrary to assumptions that the crime situation in Canadian cities continues inevitably to worsen, property crime was seen to decrease in Edmonton between 1981 and 1984. Of greater significance to the development of effective crime prevention strategies is the fact that the indicators of risk measured by the survey were remarkably stable. That is, factors correlated with victimization remained constant despite an overall decline in incidence and rates. For example, it matters whether homes are continuously occupied or not, and if precautions are taken to make homes appear occupied and to

improve locking systems. These findings support the continuation of traditional "target hardening" strategies for the prevention of crime, indicating that some modest, unobtrusive actions on the part of individuals and neighbourhoods can assist in deterring opportunistic property crime.

Other issues raised in the considerable literature on property crimes cannot be easily addressed by this survey but could be tested with minimal revisions to the existing survey instrument. For example, the present study has shown that although there are important differences between the central core area of Edmonton and the surrounding suburbs in terms of marital, employment and income characteristics, these differences do not translate into significant differences in property crime rates. By contrast, Waller and Okihiro (1978) found that rates of break and enter in Toronto were higher in areas with relatively high proportions of disadvantaged and unattached individuals, as measured by the presence of young unemployed males, single parent families and multiple family units. Waller and Okihiro also found that proximity to public housing was an important factor. More exact

geocoding procedures could be introduced into future victimization surveys to allow for a detailed delineation of neighbourhoods and their socio-economic characteristics. This in turn would enhance our ability to test the universality of the findings of some important neighbourhood studies.

The Edmonton replication survey has also given us the opportunity to study the consequences of victimization on victims of property crime. There can be little doubt that services are needed to help victims develop crime prevention and coping strategies. Although the Edmonton survey in 1985 has shown that the most common sources of support and assistance in times of criminal victimization are other family members or friends, an estimated 1,600 victims of property crime made use of the police-based Victim Service Unit in Edmonton for information about the progress of their case, early return of recovered stolen property, counselling and crime prevention advice.

This Bulletin and others in the series have shown that serious crime is a relatively rare event in Canadian cities. However, addressing the special case of multiple victimization affords an opportunity to explore, develop and test our theoretical and practical knowledge about crime and the structural and dynamic factors which promote or inhibit victimization.

This issue is discussed in the final bulletin in this series, the upcoming Bulletin 10.

Table 8

Emotional and Physical Reactions to Victimization by Sex of Victim, Edmonton 1985

Type of Reaction	Total Property Crimes		Break and Enter		Motor Vehicle Theft		Theft of Personal Property		Theft of Household Property		Vandalism	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
	Percent of Victims											
Anger	63	63	56	53	63	54	75	65	64	63	60	71
Feelings of invasion of privacy	37	26	59	42	40	27*	40	29	30	23	25	18
Fear of being alone at home	15	2	44	5*	**	**	7	**	8	**	7	**
Fear for personal safety outside	13	4	26	8	**	**	12	**	10	3	10	**
Fear for safety of others	15	11	37	28	**	17*	9	6*	10	7	8	6*
Anxious, nervous, confused	20	9	39	16	31	17*	25	7*	12	7	13	6*
Headaches, nausea, loss of appetite	5	1*	9	**	**	**	7*	**	3	**	**	**
Sleeping difficulties	11	3	29	8	**	**	9	**	4	2	5	**
Percent reporting one or more reactions	92	70	80	68	71	61	80	71	70	69	67	74

Victims could mention more than one reaction to a single victimization.

* The actual count was low (11 to 20), therefore caution should be exercised when interpreting this proportion.

** The actual count was too low to make statistically reliable population estimates.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1985).

Suggested Readings:

- Brantingham, J. and P.L. Brantingham, *Housing Patterns and Burglary in a Medium-Sized American City*. Florida State University, 1974.
- Maguire, M., *Burglary in a Dwelling*. London: Heinemann, 1982.
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- Newman, O., *Defensible Space*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1972.
- Repetto, T.A., *Residential Crime*. Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1974.
- Waller, I. and N. Okhiro, *Burglary: The Victim and the Public*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1978.
- Winchester, S. and H. Jackson, *Residential Burglary: The Limits of Prevention*. London: HMSO, Home Office Research Study No. 74, 1982.

Table 9

Emotional and Physical Reactions to Property Crime by Composition of Household, Edmonton 1985

Type of Reaction	One Adult	Two or More Adults	Single Parent Family	Two Parent Family
Anger	66	60	78	62
Feelings of invasion of privacy	33	32	50	32
Fear of being alone at home	12	8	24	14
Fear for personal safety outside	13	10	22	17
Fear for safety of others	7	14	35	25
Anxious, nervous, confused	21	17	39	22
Headaches, nausea, loss of appetite	6	4	14	6
Sleeping difficulties	12	7	28	12

Victims could mention more than one reaction to a single victimization.

Source: Canadian Urban Victimization Survey (1985).

Appendix 1

About the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey, 1985

Early in 1985, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, with the assistance of Statistics Canada, conducted a replication of the Canadian Urban Victimization Survey in Edmonton, Alberta. A random sample of 9,200 Edmonton residents 16 years of age or older was asked about their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system, their experiences with certain crimes, and the impact that criminal victimization may have had upon them.

This replication survey was conducted to trace patterns in victimization, to test for the significance of risk

factors over time, and to enhance existing knowledge about the traumatic effects of victimization. In order to increase the practical utility of the survey for the Edmonton Police Department, special questions were included on the functioning of the Crime Stoppers Program and the Victim Service Unit in Edmonton. Aside from minor changes in the questionnaire made necessary by these objectives, the methodology of the survey was the same as that for the CUVS.

To maximize reliability of recall, respondents were asked to report on

only those incidents which had occurred between January 1 and December 31, 1984. On the basis of these interviews, statistical estimates were made for the population 16 and over in Edmonton. These statistically derived estimates were used throughout this bulletin.

The eight crime categories included are: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism.

Appendix 2

Definitions and Limitations

The eight crime categories included in this survey are: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and entry, motor vehicle theft, theft of household property, theft of personal property and vandalism. These offences are ranked in descending order of seriousness.

1. Sexual assault includes rape, attempted rape, molesting or attempted molestation, and is considered the most serious crime.
2. Robbery occurs if something is taken and the offender has a weapon or there is a threat or an attack. The presence of a weapon is assumed to imply a threat. Attempted robberies are also included in this offence category.
3. Assault involves the presence of a weapon or an attack or threat. Assault incidents may range from

face-to-face verbal threats to an attack with extensive injuries.

4. Break and entry occurs if a dwelling is entered by someone who has no right to be there. "No right to be there" differentiates, for example, between a workman who is in a dwelling with the permission of the owner and steals something, and someone illegally entering the dwelling to take property. The latter would be classified as a break and enter as are attempts to enter a dwelling if there is some evidence of force or knowledge of how the person tried to get in.
5. Motor vehicle theft involves the theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle or other motor vehicle.
6. Theft or attempted theft of household property.

7. Theft or attempted theft of money or other personal property (not household property).

8. Vandalism occurs if property is damaged but not taken.

Incidents which involved the commission of several different criminal acts appear in the tables only once, according to the most serious component of the event. Thus for example, if sexual assault, theft of money and vandalism all occurred at the same time, the incident would be classified in these tables as sexual assault. An incident would be classified as vandalism (least serious on the hierarchy) only if no other crime which is higher on the seriousness scale occurred at the same time.

Appendix 3

Testing for Statistical Significance

The test of significance used in this Bulletin is the two-tailed-t-test because a hypothesis of change in crime rates in either direction is more plausible than one which assumes a given direction.

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