

The Latest Statistics on Home Burglaries in 2023

Home Burglary Awareness and Prevention

Home burglaries occur all the time whether people realize it or not. Even though burglaries have declined in recent years, they caused billions of property losses and never stopped. More than that, victims of home break-ins or burglaries suffer emotional trauma for a long time.

Now it's essential for us to be aware of burglary and take measures to keep our homes safe.



Facts You Need to Know about Burglary

| 2022 Burglary Statistics

Learning more about burglary statistics can help us better protect our homes, properties, and families. Many institutions and organizations have conducted studies on burglaries and some of the facts may be shocking.

On average, there are over 1 million burglaries taking place in the United States each year, according to FBI crime data. It's estimated that a break-in happens every 26 seconds and over 3,000 burglaries occur every day.

Statistics show that most burglaries happen in the daytime between 10 AM and 3 PM, during which people will go out and leave their homes unoccupied. Summer months have more home burglaries than cold

seasons, with July and August being the peak periods.

Regionally, states in East South Central witness more burglaries than those in West South Central and other regions. Also, the burglary rate is generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Among all cities, Houston had the highest number of burglaries in 2021 according to FBI data.

A home burglary takes less time than most people expect. Most burglars are opportunists. They break into a house, grab anything valuable, and get out of the house as soon as possible. In general, a home burglary is committed within 90 seconds to 12 minutes on average.

As of 2021, the total value of stolen property in the U.S. was \$737,294,919,165, but only \$89,484,651,977, or 12%, was recovered. The most likely items to be stolen include motor vehicles, currency, jewelry, firearms, etc.

Despite the high number of burglaries, police solve only 13% of reported cases due to the lack of witnesses or physical evidence. Thus, if we want to avoid house invasions and keep our properties safe, the best way is to raise our awareness and take precautions.

Facts You Need to Know about Burglary

Profile of Burglars

A burglar doesn't show bad intentions on the face. He may look just like an ordinary person in the neighborhood and blend into the circumstance.

However, burglars have some common characteristics:



- Most burglars are males between 18 and 24;
- About half of burglars live within 2 miles of the homes they invade and they are likely to know the victim;
- Most thieves commit home break-ins out of impulse decisions. Only about 12% of burglaries are planned ahead of time.
- Screwdrivers, pliers, pry bars, and hammers are common tools burglars use;
- Many burglars are repeat offenders and they have an arrest record already;
- The majority of burglars commit non-violence invasions and don't use weapons;
- When confronted by the homeowner, the burglar will attack. Over half of assaults happen during home invasions.

Facts You Need to Know about Burglary

| How Burglars Break into A House

Most burglaries involve a forceful entry into the home, but they are not violent. Burglars know the weakness of most homes. Unlocked doors and windows are the most common ways for burglars to enter a house.

34%

burglars walk into the house from the front door

23%

burglars enter a home through the first-floor window

22%

break-ins happen through the back door

9%

burglars gain entrance in the basement or from the garage door



These are the essential areas you should keep protected to reduce the chances of a home burglary.

When doors and windows are locked, determined burglars will use tools for entrance. A pry bar is one of the handy tools for them to open a door or window.

Most burglars start in the master bedroom for valuables and then move to other areas of the house. A small of them go to an office or study first.

Facts You Need to Know about Burglary

Who Are at Risk of Home Burglary?

Burglars are always looking for high rewards with low risks. For them, an ideal target can be an unoccupied house with easy access, sufficient cover, and a great escape route. And some people would be the potential victims of burglars.

According to a study by the Bureau of Justice, renters are more likely to encounter burglaries and home invasions than those who own homes, especially those in small 2 to 4-unit apartment buildings.

Students tend to be frequent targets because they are assumed to own the desirable electronics. The elderly are the next more likely to be victims, followed by middle-aged people.

Homes without security systems are more likely to be broken into

than those with home security systems. 83% of would-be burglars check for the presence of an alarm system before attempting a break-in, according to the FBI. Many burglars will avoid houses with an alarm or security system.

Single-family houses are at higher risk of burglary and harder to secure because they have multiple access points. Houses with neighbors on one side or covered by trees are more likely to be burglarized. The location may offer great convenience for burglars to hide from others.

Also, houses previously burglarized or near burglarized houses tend to be attractive targets as burglars are already familiar with the surroundings and get confidence from their last success.



Facts You Need to Know about Burglary

Useful Tips to Prevent Home Burglary

The majority of home burglaries can be prevented by taking a few precautions that make our homes less attractive and accessible for intruders. Here are some feasible and effective methods that help deter criminals, protect our properties, and reduce the risk of loss.



01 Use Alarm/Security Systems

An alarm/security system is essential in safeguarding the house. As statistics show above, houses with an alarm/security system have a low burglary rate. Most burglars will hesitate to break in after seeing a security camera around the house.

Using an alarm/security system is much more important than just having it. Some homeowners fail to arm the system due to inconvenience. Instead, they put up a sign indicating their homes have an alarm system. But bold burglars familiar with this trick will break in anyway.

Another reason to activate the alarm/security system is the deterring siren. There are many security systems with a built-in siren. When any burglar attempts to intrude into the house, the system will be triggered and then sound a siren, which can alert you and

your neighbors. More importantly, the siren can scare the burglar away.

A reliable security system should offer you 24/7 protection. It monitors your home day and night, leaving no chance for burglars to sneak into your house. All the footage is saved locally. This could be crucial evidence for the police if a break-in occurs.

For homeowners wanting convenient and professional security services, an alarm/security company can be a good choice. After paying monthly or yearly subscription fees, you can have the company install surveillance cameras around your house and watch it, especially the essential doors and windows.



02 Smart Home Security Cameras

Home security can be made more accessible with the help of high technology. The utilization of modern smart cameras makes it easier to safeguard your home and deter would-be criminals.

Smart home security cameras are better than traditional cameras in terms of powerful performance and intelligent alerts. Other than motion detection, a smart security camera can distinguish people and vehicles from other objects, thus providing more accurate alerts when burglars attempt entry.

One of the most significant features of smart security cameras is that they can be accessed via an app on your devices. The app allows you to view live streams or play back videos of the camera at any time. You can

communicate with anyone captured by the camera with two-way audio, which means you can tell the stranger to leave your property even when you're not home.

The smartest part lies in that these cameras can be combined with other smart home devices. You can voice control the smart camera via Google Assistant or Alexa, which brings a lot of conveniences.

More than that, you can build an automated home security system via IoT protocols and software platforms including Matter, IFTTT, Homebridge, SmartThings, etc. Connect all the smart home devices like cameras, bulbs, doorbells, and plugs, then let them run automatically during a specific time. When you're away, you can make it look like someone's in

the house because the light will light up at night, which will reduce the risk of burglary.



03 Protect Doors and Use Locks

In most cases, burglars gain access to your home through the door. The main reason for their success is that many people forget to lock their doors while leaving home. But even if the door is locked, burglars will use tools to destroy the door bolt.

Thus, if we want to keep our home secure, the first thing to do is making our doors more burglar-proof. Here are a few suggestions you can take:

- Replace wooden doors with solid or metal doors at all your entrances.
 - Invest in a heavy-duty deadbolt lock with a throw bolt that's at least 1-inch.
 - Use cylinder guards to prevent burglars from destroying the lock with a hammer or prybar.
 - Make all your door hinges face inward.
 - Make sure exterior doors have strike plates with four 3-inch screws, which can penetrate into the door. Besides, regular replacement of strike plates is necessary due to the wear and tear it sustains.
 - Install a wide-angle peephole with a built-in cover that can prevent people from seeing inside from the outside.
 - Use a smart video doorbell on the front door. It can not only recognize people and objects but record all the motion events in front of it.
 - Protect your sliding glass door with locks and security bars. These devices can secure the sliding glass door as firmly as possible.
 - Lock all the doors and windows when you leave home or go to bed, especially the garage door and sliding glass door!
- Burglars only need a few minutes to break into your house, so don't take any chances with it.



04 Secure Your Windows

Windows are another common way for burglars to get into houses. In contrast, windows are not as strong as doors, and people are more likely to forget to close windows because of the need for ventilation. Therefore, it's also important to secure windows.

- Install bars on the exterior of the windows if you don't mind. These bars can keep would-be thieves from forcing entry through the window.
- Use secondary locks for your windows. The lock many windows come with is not solid enough and can easily be broken. Secondary locks like pin locks and track locks can make the window harder to be broke in.
- Install security window films on your windows and door glass. They can hold the glass in place even after repeated strikes. You can install it both inside and outside to give an extra layer of protection for glass windows.
- Invest in a window sensor. This device can detect if windows unexpectedly open or the glass gets broken, and then make a loud alarm.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.



05

Arrange Things around the House

Check around your house. Some people may ignore the details that facilitate burglars. There are some things to be done:

- Make your valuables invisible. Store your lawnmowers, barbecue, bicycles and other worthy items out of sight. If you buy a new laptop or any expensive things, break down their boxes and throw them into trash bins.
- Put ladders and other tools away. Leave no chance for burglars to use these tools and break into your house.
- Trim bushes and trees near your doors and windows. Overgrown shrubs are the best hiding place for burglars and branches will make it easier for intruders to get to the second-story window. Never offer criminals convenience.
- Don't leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys. You can leave the key to a trusted neighbor.
- Lock your car and take away the keys even if it's in the garage.
- Install more exterior lighting to deter burglars at night. You can put motion detection lights in the backyard and around the garage.
- Place a sticker or sign on important areas like the front door, backyard, sliding glass door, etc. Show people that you have an alarm/security system installed.



06

Preventions Before Vacation

Vacation is a great time for burglars to make big because it's easier for them to break in when no one is at home. Before you go out for vacation, there are several things you must do to prevent burglars.

- Don't post your vacation plan on social media. It could be an invitation for thieves in your neighborhood. You can post photos of your trip after you return.
- Set timers on lights, radios, televisions, etc. Let them turn on and off at different times from morning to evening. Make sure the settings must be different every day, otherwise burglars will know they're programmed.
- Lock up your valuables in a safe, hidden lockbox, or other secure space.
- Leave a car in the driveway. It's a great way to show your home isn't empty. If you don't have an extra car, you can ask a neighbor to use your driveway.
- Don't let the mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Ask the post office to hold your mail, or ask a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Keep your curtains, blinds, and shutters in a similar position to how they normally are. Suddenly closing all the curtains would indicate that no one is at home.
- If you have a landline phone at home, lower the ringer volume so that it cannot be heard outside. Also, make sure to turn down the volume of the answering machine.
- Let your trusted neighbors know that you'll be away. If they notice anything suspicious, they will call the police as soon as possible.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for a long time. The over-grown lawn will indicate to everyone that the house is vacant.
- Again, lock all the doors and windows.



What to Do if Your Home Is Broken Into



Most people feel panicked and even overwhelmed when finding their homes are burglarized. But some inappropriate actions can instead help criminals escape. Here is some advice to help you and your family cope with such things.

- Don't get into the house immediately. When you find your door or window is broken, you'd better leave the house right away. The burglar may still hide in the house and pose a threat to your safety.
- Call 911. Provide your name and address to the operator clearly. You can also tell them whether you hear voices or if there are weapons. Offer them as much useful information as possible and make it clear.
- Don't touch anything. Some impulsive burglars may not wear gloves when they break into your house, which means the police could find crucial fingerprints of criminals. Make sure you don't touch anything to ruin those fingerprints. Inform the police if you find anything suspicious, but don't touch it.
- Make note of suspects. If you notice any unfamiliar or suspicious people or cars around, take note of their physical characteristics and license number. This could help the police track the criminal.