

INTERVIEW WITH A BURGLAR



Who is the face behind the mask?

Researchers interviewed over 400 career burglars to compile information for this e-book to help us better understand why property crime occurs and how you can use that knowledge to better protect your home.

Burglary is traumatizing, expensive and continues to be a problem in America.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of burglary, we hope that you can use this e-book to better understand the problem and the ways you can fight back.

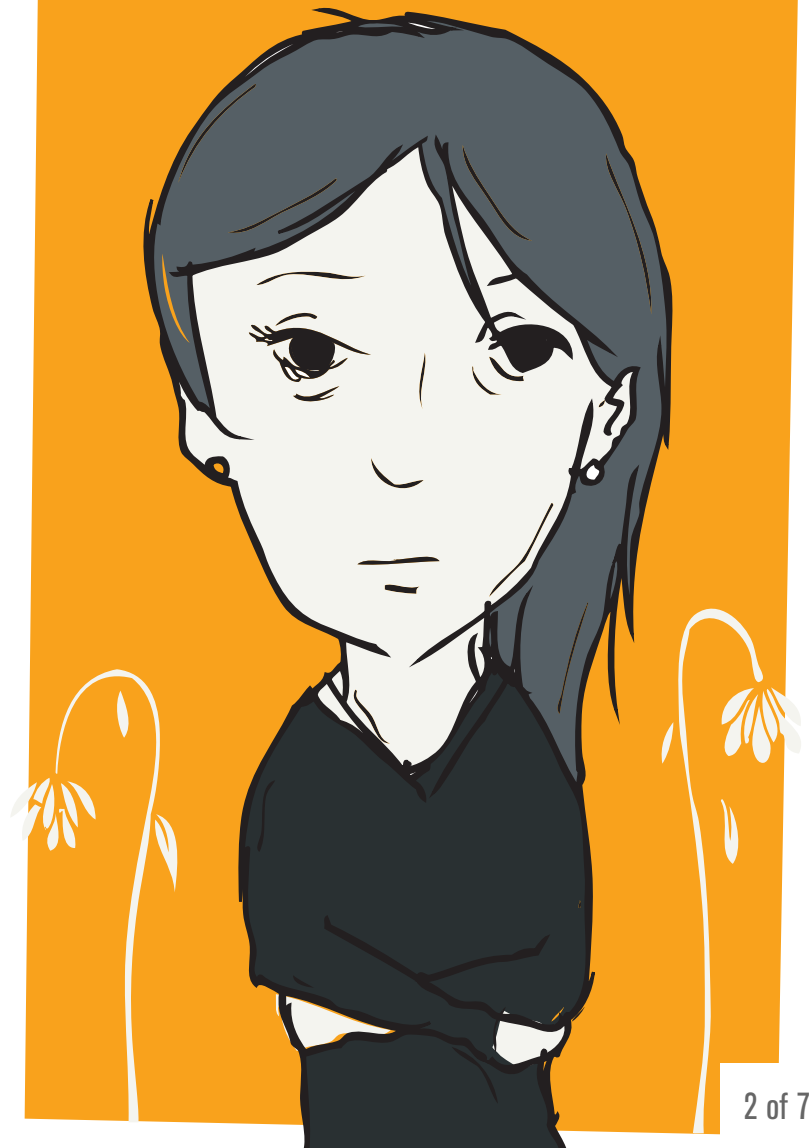
Victims commonly feel helpless, shocked, and violated after experiencing a break-in. They often remain affected for quite some time afterward. **Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for thieves to visit the same home twice.**

Every 15 seconds a burglary occurs in the United States.

Over \$4 billion in property loss due to burglary each year.

Over \$2,000 in property loss per burglary on average.

58% of burglaries take place during the day.



In late 2012, a university research team interviewed over 400 seasoned burglars about how and why they burglarize homes and businesses. The sample of offenders had been arrested for burglary anywhere from 1 to 100 times in the past.

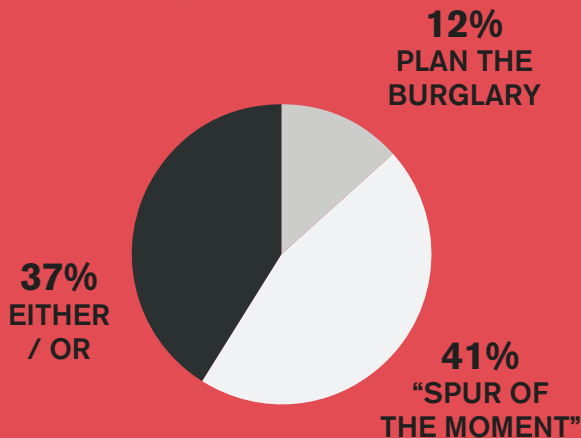
Below are some of their findings.

What are they looking for?

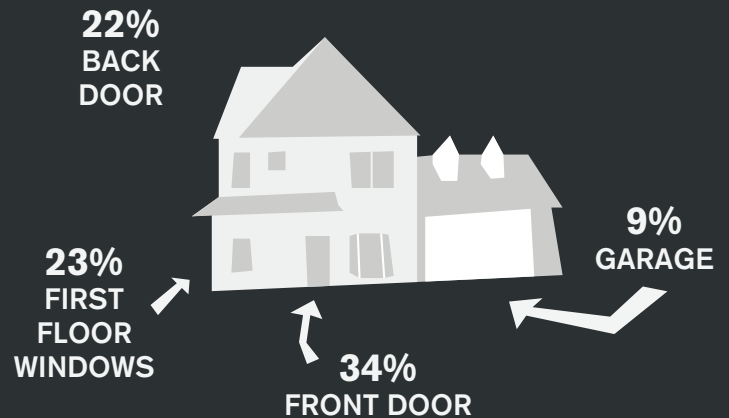
- 79% CASH
- 68% JEWELRY
- 58% ILLEGAL DRUGS
- 58% ELECTRONICS
- 44% PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



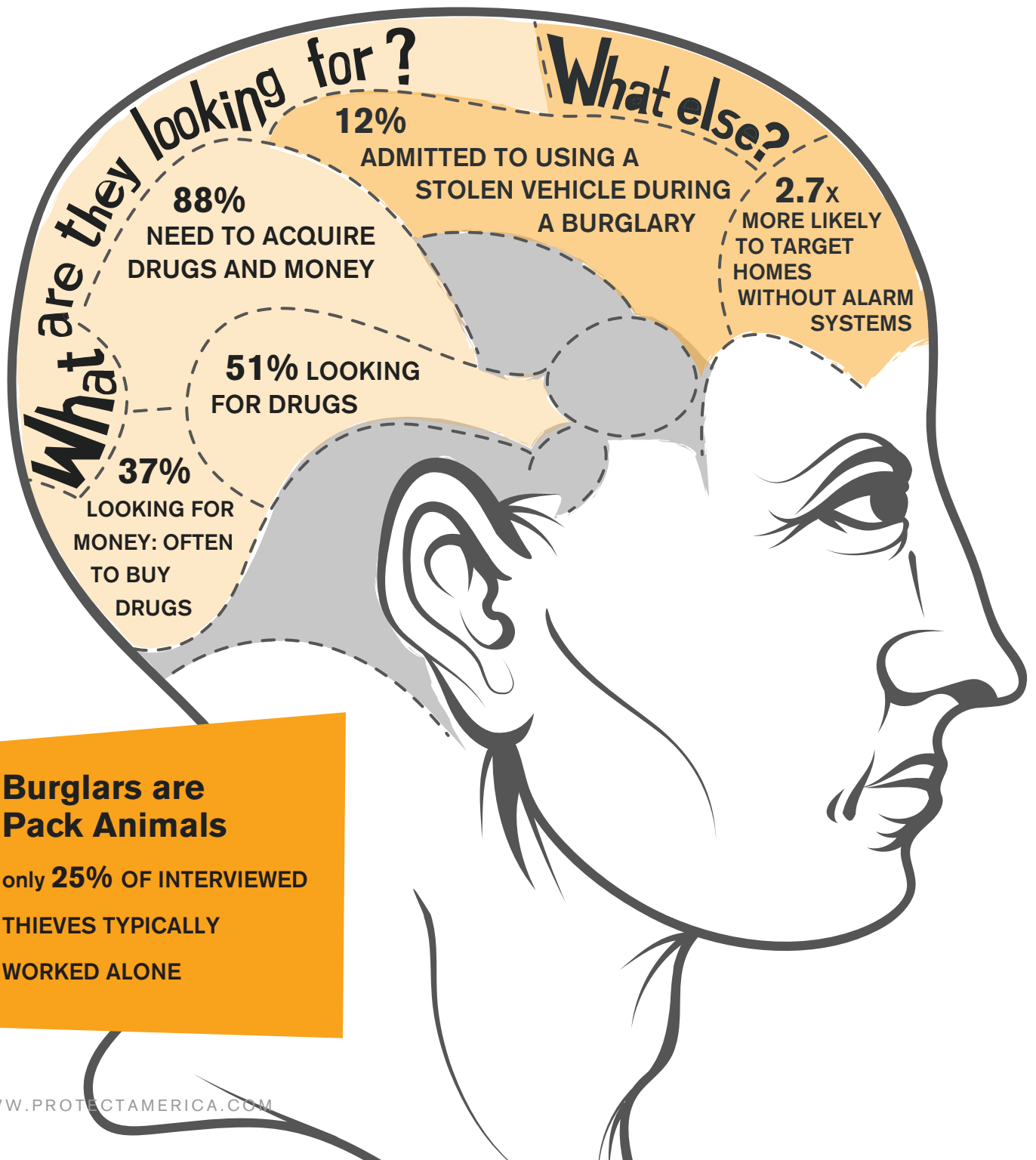
Do they plan it?



How did they get into the home?



The same study indicated that many burglars are heavily affected and even motivated by drug and alcohol use.



Burglars are Pack Animals

only 25% OF INTERVIEWED THIEVES TYPICALLY WORKED ALONE



WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Take a few steps to make your home a less appealing target. While some of these tips may sound obvious, it's important to go down the list and ensure you're doing everything you can to protect yourself.

Lock and shut it

Some burglaries are "crimes of opportunity". In these cases, crooks simply walk in through an unlocked door or open garage when the homeowner leaves for a short period of time. Even if you'll be gone for five minutes, lock all doors and keep your garage door closed.

Have a security system

As technology evolves, the ways we can defend our homes against burglary become more convenient and accessible. Modern security systems are wireless, inexpensive and monitored 24/7. Not only that - they connect directly to your smartphone. This way, you always know the status of your home and can take action if something happens, no matter where you are.

Lock the interior garage door

Thieves sometimes try to pry open garage doors and have been known to use universal remotes to open them. Remember to lock the door on the inside of your garage.

Say it loud and proud

Display your security sign in the front yard and use small but noticeable window decals to alert potential burglars that your home is armed.

Keep it clean

Overgrown shrubs and trees in your yard can provide cover for burglars looking to take their time in privacy. No need to chop down all plant life, but definitely keep your home visible from the street.

Let nothing slide

Sliding doors are a favorite of burglars. At night and when you leave the house, place a long piece of wood like a broom handle on the length of the bottom track so the sliding door is more difficult to force open.

Light the night

Keeping the exterior of your home illuminated at night will make it less appealing to a wandering crook. Double cone lights on the corner of a house will brighten windows and create less shadow for concealment.

Beware the overshare

There have been documented cases of burglars using social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to learn when a homeowner isn't home. "Checking in" publicly at airports or posting things like, "On my way to the beach for the weekend!" can alert thieves to your absence. Be aware of how much information you're sharing and who can see your profile. Keep in mind: even if your profile is private, strangers may be able to see it if one of your friends "likes" or comments on it.

Remember, while burglary is a threat, it is a manageable threat. This booklet was designed to inform, not to create fear. Be proactive! Just as you would design a fire escape plan, create a plan for your home and family so that you're properly safeguarded. Take comfort in knowing you've addressed the issue.

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