Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Knowledge Repository @ IUP

Theses and Dissertations (All)

7-25-2013

An Analysis of the Factors Affecting the Target Choices of Residential Burglars

Jeffrey J. Roth
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Follow this and additional works at: http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd

Recommended Citation
Roth, Jeffrey J., "An Analysis of the Factors Affecting the Target Choices of Residential Burglars" (2013). *Theses and Dissertations (All)*. 285.
http://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd/285

This Dissertation is brought to you for free and open access by Knowledge Repository @ IUP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations (All) by an authorized administrator of Knowledge Repository @ IUP. For more information, please contact cclouser@iup.edu, sara.parme@iup.edu.

STUDENT HAS RESTRICTED ACCESS TO FULL TEXT OF THE DISSERTATION.

ONLY COVER PAGES AND ABSTRACT ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE TARGET CHOICES OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARS

A Dissertation

Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research

in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

Jeffrey J. Roth

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

May 2013

© 2013 by Jeffrey J. Roth
All Rights Reserved

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
School of Graduate Studies and Research
Department of Criminology

We hereby approve the dissertation of

Jeffrey J. Roth

Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

March 15, 2013 — Signature on File
Jennifer J. Roberts, Ph.D., Chair
Professor of Criminology

March 15, 2013 — Signature on File
W. Timothy Austin, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminology

March 15, 2013 — Signature on File
Christoph Maier, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Mathematics

March 15, 2013 — Signature on File
Jamie S. Martin, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminology

ACCEPTED

Timothy P. Mack, Ph.D.
Dean
School of Graduate Studies and Research

Title: An Analysis of the Factors Affecting the Target Choices of Residential Burglars

Author: Jeffrey J. Roth

Dissertation Chair: Jennifer J. Roberts, Ph.D.

Dissertation Committee Members: W. Timothy Austin, Ph.D.
Christoph Maier, Ph.D.
Jamie S. Martin, Ph.D.

This study is based on hour-long interviews that were conducted with 102 inmates in three rural county jails in western Pennsylvania. The sample included 52 inmates who committed burglary, and a comparison group of 50 inmates who had no history of burglary. During each interview, inmates were shown photographs of houses and indicated which ones were suitable for burglary. Hierarchical Generalized Linear Modeling (HGLM) was used to examine the influence of personal characteristics (e.g., low self-control) and home features (e.g., newspapers on the porch) on the target choices of both burglars and non-burglars. Additionally, the results of the photographic method were compared to the results of a more traditional survey to evaluate the possible existence of methodological effects. Notable features of this study include a dependent variable that distinguished between immediate and delayed burglary, examination of the effect of empathy cues, and consideration of whether survey methods about individual home features produce different findings than photographic methods.