

Property criminality and its prevention

Bicycle theft in the context of general property criminality

Abstract

Property criminality is a very serious social pathological phenomenon. In the long run, it accounts for the largest share of total crime by far. Property offenses are the most numerous and also represent the largest amount of police work. Bicycle theft is a common property offense.

This diploma thesis deals with both of these phenomena, considering the thefts of bicycles in the context of general property crime. Both phenomena are defined and evaluated in terms of statistical indicators. Here it mainly examines the state and dynamics of both phenomena. In the area of bicycle theft, there are additionally evaluated other statistical data such as theft detection, data on prosecuted persons and the proportion of repeat offenders in committing this type of offense.

Subsequently, the causes of property crime are investigated and the causes of bicycle theft are evaluated. The socio-historical context is outlined and then the motives of the perpetrators to commit property offenses and specifically theft of bicycles are analyzed.

Much of this thesis is aimed to criminal prevention. Firstly, the thesis describes the theoretical bases, which divide crime prevention in terms of content into social, situational and victimological, and according to the group of addressees to primary, secondary and tertiary. Subsequently, the methods of bicycle theft prevention are discussed in detail. Here, security systems, non-technical security measures and accompanying measures, which do not prevent theft by themselves, but facilitate easier tracing of the bicycle or minimize damages caused by the theft, are discussed in detail.

The empirical part of the thesis analyzes, whether the preventive methods mentioned in the theoretical part of the thesis are actually used in practice, by using two different research methods, questionnaire survey and controlled interview. Respondents to the questionnaire are cyclists or bicycle owners. Research shows that there are large deficits in terms of theft prevention. A guided interview with a representative of the bikesharing company points to the specifics of preventing theft of a large number of bicycles.

Key words: Property crime, theft, bicycle, prevention