

DEFINITION: Bicycle theft is defined as the illegal removal of a non-motorized pedal cycle. This refers both to thefts *of* bicycles and thefts *from* bicycles. Thefts of bicycles include thefts for transportation, thefts in which stolen cycles are traded in for cash or drugs, thefts of specific bikes to order and thefts to facilitate further crimes. Thefts from bicycles refer to the removal of cycle components such as seats and wheels as well as the theft of cycling accessories such as lights, pumps and helmets. Awareness of the different offence types is important: different types of bicycle theft often require different responses.

Bicycle theft is a high-volume crime, yet has been the subject of limited academic attention. Research findings that are available suggest that opportunity plays a major role in explaining cycle theft patterns. Levels of cycle theft are positively correlated with bicycle ownership levels and cycle thefts tend to concentrate at locations where bikes are bound

PLACE: Like all crimes, bicycle theft is found to concentrate at certain locations. Contrary to popular opinion, crime victim surveys indicate that around two thirds of cycle thefts in England and Wales [& i a æ a æ[~ } å @ çã q home.

Problem areas include gardens, passageways between houses and outbuildings (such as sheds

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to the local context and grounded in analysis of the presenting problem. Previous efforts to reduce
cycle theft have usually taken one of four forms:

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the intention of catching offenders stealing the bike and/or gathering intelligence as to where
stolen bicycles are disposed of. This type of intervention is often implemented in the hope of
catching prolific offenders believed to be operating in an area.



GENERAL RESOURCES

UK based . POLKA library run by the National Policing Improvement Agency
<http://polka.pnn.police.uk/>

Clarke, R. V. and Eck, J. (2003). Become a Problem Solving Crime Analyst in 55 Small Steps