

Gender, Burglary and Disparity: Looking into Property Crime Through a Female Lens

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Author's Purpose, Methods, and Results

Purpose: To examine how gender shapes the process of residential burglary, especially how women navigate male-dominated criminal networks and patriarchal expectations during co-offending.

Methods: Data came from 105 active residential burglars in St. Louis (early 1990s).

Final sample: 18 women and 36 men.

Researchers analyzed offenders' perceptions of co-offenders, gendered roles, and crime processes (initiation, information gathering, commission, desistance).

Results: Residential burglary is a gender-stratified offense.

- Gender plays the strongest role in opportunity creation, especially information gathering.
- Women face more barriers entering burglary networks and must negotiate male control.
- Once inside these networks, women's burglary strategies resemble those of men.
- Women must also consider responsibilities within female-dominated domestic networks.

How This Source Relates to My Research and How It Will Inform My Decisions Moving Forward

My research focuses on recidivism and the gender disparity among individuals convicted of burglary.

- This study helps explain the gendered pathways that lead people, especially women, into burglary.
- Understanding gender differences provides a foundation for further research and highlight why certain men and women might struggle differently with reentry, skill building, and access to legitimate work to keep them out of the system.

I will consider how gender-specific social networks, access to opportunities, and stereotypes influence both:

- The criminal patterns of offenders
- Gender-specific needs of offenders

This source highlights the importance of designing gender-responsive employment, studies, and rehabilitation programs.

It will help me frame my research around how structural inequalities in streetlife (and later in reentry) affect long-term outcomes for formerly incarcerated men and women.

Works Cited

Mullins, C. W., & Wright, R. (2003). *Gender, social networks, and residential burglary*. *Criminology*, 41(3), 813–840. ([Office of Justice Programs](#))