

# Asset forfeitures surpass burglaries

By Christopher Ingraham, Washington Post

Here's an interesting factoid about contemporary policing: In 2014, for the first time ever, law enforcement officers took more property from American citizens than burglars did. Martin Armstrong pointed this out at his blog, *Armstrong Economics*, last month.

Officers can take cash and property from people without convicting or even charging them with a crime – yes, really! – through the highly controversial practice known as civil asset forfeiture.

Last year, according to the Institute for Justice, the Treasury and Justice departments deposited more than \$5 billion into their respective asset forfeiture funds. That same year, the FBI reports that burglary losses topped out at \$3.5 billion.

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