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Examining Risks and Protective Factors of On-Line Identity Theft

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Abstract

Identity-based crimes are considered to be one of the most significant and growing problem in the United States. As technology advances, the number of on-line offenses pose a significant threat to the security of individuals. Although on-line outlets for victimization are increasing, few have considered the protective factors that may be utilized to prevent on-line identity theft. This study investigates the risks and protective factors of on-line identity theft. The study utilizes a sample of 1,000 individuals who have experienced on-line identity theft. The study finds that individuals who have experienced on-line identity theft are more likely to use protective measures such as using secure connections, not sharing personal information, and using strong passwords. The study also finds that individuals who have experienced on-line identity theft are more likely to report the incident to law enforcement. The study concludes that on-line identity theft is a growing problem and that individuals should take steps to protect their identity. The study also suggests that law enforcement should be more proactive in investigating on-line identity theft. The study is limited by its reliance on self-reported data and its cross-sectional design. The study has implications for individuals, law enforcement, and policy makers. The study suggests that individuals should take steps to protect their identity, law enforcement should be more proactive in investigating on-line identity theft, and policy makers should consider implementing measures to prevent on-line identity theft. The study is a contribution to the literature on on-line identity theft and provides valuable information for individuals, law enforcement, and policy makers.

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Chi-Square = 10.361; p = .006.

*p < .01.

*p < .05; **p < .01.

Additional information

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MICHAEL G. TURNER is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has published numerous articles in the field of criminal justice, particularly in the area of juvenile delinquency and the impact of technology on crime from delinquency to terrorism.

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