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The Consequences of Identity Theft Victimization: An Examination of Emotional and Physical Health Outcomes

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ABSTRACT

Identity theft—one of the fastest growing crimes—results in considerable financial losses as well as time spent to restore credit and prevent future attacks. While scholars have begun to devote more attention to identifying the factors that increase risk of identity theft, little is known about the aftermath for victims. Using data from the Identity Theft Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, we address this gap in the literature. Results indicate that, in addition to financial losses and loss of time, victims also experience emotional (e.g., depression) and physical (e.g., poor health) symptoms. The implications of these findings for theory, research, and policy are discussed.

KEYWORDS:

health consequences identity theft victimization

Notes

1. We are aware that the sample used here is whittled down significantly from those originally included in the household-level NCVS. This raises possible concerns about bias in our estimates—namely, that respondents who completed the ITS are unique from those who completed other portions of the interview or who did not complete the study at all. These concerns are lessened by the knowledge that the original researchers found little or no bias stemming from nonresponse in the ITS estimates (Harrell & Langton, 2013).

2. The NCVS measures income as a categorical variable rather than a continuous variable.

3. Analyses run prior to imputation produced results identical to the analyses run following imputation; therefore, biased results as a product of imputation are unlikely.

Related Research Data

National Crime Victimization Survey: Identity Theft Supplement, 2012
Source: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
Identity Theft in Cyberspace: Crime Control Methods and Their Effectiveness in Combating Phishing Attacks
Source: Unknown Repository
ADOLESCENT VICTIMIZATION AND INCOME DEFICITS IN ADULTHOOD: RETHINKING THE COSTS OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE FROM A LIFE-COURSE PERSPECTIVE*
Source: Criminology
Regression Diagnostics
Source: Unknown Repository
A Simple Test for Heteroscedasticity and Random Coefficient Variation
Source: Econometrica
Stress, Coping, and Social Support Processes: Where Are We? What Next?
Source: Journal of Health and Social Behavior

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