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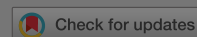
Original Articles

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

Katelyn Golladay ✉ & Kristy Holtfreter

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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, there is a need for more research on the factors that increase risk of identity theft.

Identity theft is a growing problem, and the gap in the literature on the emotional and physical health outcomes of identity theft victims is significant. This study examines the gap in the literature on the emotional and physical health outcomes of identity theft victims. The study finds that identity theft victims experience significant emotional and physical health outcomes, including increased anxiety, depression, and physical health problems. The study also finds that identity theft victims experience significant financial losses, including increased credit card debt, increased medical bills, and increased out-of-pocket expenses. The study concludes that identity theft victims need more support and resources to help them cope with the emotional and physical health outcomes of identity theft.

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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.

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