

Comparing the impact of cybercrime and traditional crime victimization

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Victims of crime can experience serious and long-lasting consequences. Thus far, studies on the impact of victimization mostly focus on 'traditional crime' such as violent offences and theft. Also, the severity of a crime is traditionally determined through the extent of physical violation of the victim. While society and the techniques criminals use are digitizing, it is unclear if the impact of crime on victims remained the same. Studies on cybercrime victimization mostly solely address prevalence, financial costs and victim characteristics. Moreover, a comprehensive comparison with the impact of traditional crime has never been made. Therefore, it is important to expand the scientific knowledge base on the impact of crime, and to compare the impact of cybercrime to that of traditional crime on their respective victims. Because the impact of crime partly determines the role of police, it is also practically important to study the impact of cybercrimes on victims. Part of this study is determining if existing measurement methods and theoretical models can be applied to study the victimization impact of cybercrime. The emotional, financial, physical and social victimization impact of cybercrime and traditional crime can be determined, as well as its implications for the role of the police.