

The impact of online crime: needs and consequences following victimization

Raoul Notté

Introduction

Little is known about the consequences of victimization and the needs of victims following victimization. In this presentation, we will provide an overview of these needs and consequences reported by victims and experts.

Methods

We interviewed 22 experts (police officers and public prosecutors engaged in the investigation and prosecution of online crime on a daily basis, employees of victim support agencies and scientific researchers) and 22 victims in order to understand the impact of online crimes and the needs victims have in terms of help and support.

Results and conclusions

The study clearly shows that online crimes can have a high impact on victims. The consequences of online crime do not necessarily differ from offline crime, but the impact on victim's lives can be even higher. Because of the characteristics and possibilities of the internet, victimization can be borderless in time, space and audience. Some victims never feel safe again and can be confronted with the offender anytime and anywhere. The police often has insufficient knowledge and means to successfully detect and prosecute offenders, and victims are often confronted with victim blaming.