Week 3 Journal Entry

Visit PrivacyRights.org to see the types of publicly available information about data breaches. How might researchers use this information to study breaches?

The site has a good amount of statistical information available to the public alongside a searchable data breach database (Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, 2024). The statistical information can inform a researcher on what kinds of entities are more likely to be targeted in a breach, such as a medical facility, government organization, financial institution, etc. A chart is available indicating breaches with the highest number of records compromised. The map provided shows the number of breaches that occurred by state, and this information is helpful when processing geographical data in relation to the breaches. The breaches can also be organized and searched by state. This could help inform where data privacy laws may need to be stronger if information in one state is more likely to be targeted than in another state or if more breaches occur in one state over another for a prolonged period of time. The map also shows the need for more data privacy regulation at the federal level. The information desired can be narrowed down by date using a timeline tool and the map also pinpoints the number of locations impacted in total across the country. Researchers can also search by category when investigating the types of organizations that experienced a breach and desiring to look at those breaches specifically when narrowing their research. The breach database also includes PDF reports on the breach in some cases. One downside to the tool would include the fact that the data breach numbers displayed only include the breaches they are aware of.

References

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. (2024). *Data Breach Chronology*. Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. https://privacyrights.org/data-breaches