

Article Review 2: The Profile of the International Cyber Offender in the U.S.

Introduction

Cybercrime is becoming an increasingly more important issue, especially internationally. Offenders exploit security flaws in networks and computer systems to commit crimes across borders. This study analyzes the behaviors and demographics of international cybercriminals that were prosecuted in the United States, as well as their sentencing patterns.

Design

This study used data from the U.S. Department of Justice gathered from 2009-2017. This data was mostly from press releases related to international cyber offenders. This data was analyzed to determine the average characteristics of cyber offenders, the characteristics of international offenders, and patterns in their sentencing in the U.S.

Participants

The participants in this study were 225 cyber offenders of varying nationalities that were featured in U.S. Department of Justice press releases from 2009 to 2017.

Procedure

Information about the different types of crimes committed was cross tabulated with the countries of origin of the offenders. T-tests were performed to see if the average age of offenders were significant when compared to their gender. This same test was repeated for prison sentence length by gender, sentence length by location, and sentence length by offense type.

Results

The results of this study determined that the minimum age of offenders is 19, while the maximum age is 73, and the average age is 34. Males were the most predominant offenders, making up 94% of all offenders in the study. The most frequently represented country is China, followed by Romania, then by Russia. The average amount of offenders involved in cybercrimes was 4.91, and more than two-thirds of offenders were working in groups. The most predominant offense was cyber fraud, followed by hacking, then by counterfeiting. The average age of males sentenced was 34, while the average age of females sentenced was 44. Citizens of African countries received the longest sentences out of any of the countries in the study. The longest sentences overall were given for identity theft.

Conclusion

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November 17, 2024

In this study, quantitative and qualitative data was used to determine the characteristics of international cybercriminals that were prosecuted in the United States, as well as their characteristics of their sentences. The data that was collected included the countries of origin, crimes committed, gender, age, and sentencing outcomes. This data was used to determine the averages for each category and to determine any possible relations between groups of data. This study used archival research because it analyzed data from the U.S. Justice Department from 2009-2017. The overall contribution of this study was to determine the characteristics of different international cybercriminals as well as their sentences. The research conducted was kept objective by ignoring the past of the individuals that were studied and other crimes they may have committed. Parsimony was used to keep this study very short and easy to understand. This study showed the struggles of marginalized groups because offenders of African origin were given the longest sentences, even if they didn't commit crimes that got the longest sentences overall.

Article Used:

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1012&context=ijcic>