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Firearm-related violence in Sweden – A systematic review

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The
Stockholm Criminology
Symposium

Program & Abstracts

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2021

The Stockholm Criminology Symposium **2021**

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Session: TUE13 Time: 14.00–14.45

Theme: Gun violence: sound knowledge and countermeasures

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Firearm-related violence in Sweden – A systematic review**

SPEAKER:

Ardavan Khoshnood
(Lund University, Sweden)

Recent reports state that firearm-related violence is increasing in Sweden. In order to understand the trend of firearm-related violence in Sweden with regard to rate, modus operandi (MO) and homicide typology, and for which injuries and causes of death firearm-related violence is responsible, a systematic literature review was conducted. After a thorough search in different databases, a total of 25 studies published in Swedish and English peer-review journals were identified and thus analyzed.

The results show that even though knives/sharp weapons continue to be the most common MO in a violent crime in Sweden, firearm-related violence is significantly increasing in the country and foremost when discussing gang-related crimes. Moreover, firearm-related homicides and attempted homicides are increasing in the country.

The studies also show that a firearm is much more lethal than a knife/sharp weapon, and that the head, thorax and the abdomen are the most lethal and serious anatomical locations in which to be hit. It is principally the three largest cities of Sweden which are affected by the many shootings in recent years.

The police have severe difficulties in solving firearm-related crimes such as homicide and attempted homicide, which is why the confidence and trust for the Swedish judicial system may be decreasing among the citizens. Several reforms have taken place in Sweden in the last few years, but their effect on firearm-related violence remains to be studied.

Session: TUE13 Time: 14.00–14.45

STUDIES ON CYBERCRIME

Theme: Contemporary Criminology

CHAIR: **Inês Guedes**

PRESENTATION TITLE: **Exploring the determinants of victimization and fear of online identity theft: an empirical study**

SPEAKER:

Inês Guedes
(University of Porto, Portugal)

Online identity theft is considered one of the fastest growing crimes, resulting in relevant financial losses to victims. The present study aims at understanding what factors contribute to the explanation of online identity theft (OIT) victimization, fear and risk perception of OIT using Routine Activities Theory (RAT). Additionally, it tries to uncover the influence of factors such as sociodemographic variables, general fear of crime, and computer perception skills.

Data for the present study were collected from a self-reported online survey administered to a sample of university students and staff. In total, 832 individuals participated, 66.1% were female, and 20.1% reported to have been victim of OIT at least once in their lives. Concerning the OIT victimization, results showed that those who do not use credit card had lower odds of becoming an OIT victim, and those who reported to visit risky contents have higher odds of becoming an OIT victim.

Moreover, males were less likely than females of being OIT victims. In turn, fear of OIT was explained by socio-economic status (negatively associated), education (positively associated) and by fear of crime in general (positively associated). In addition, subjects who reported more interaction with strangers are less fearful, and those who reported to adopt more avoiding behaviors reported higher levels of fear of OIT.

Finally subjects with higher computer skills are less fearful. Concerning risk perception of OIT, females, older subjects, those with higher levels of education and low socio-economic status perceived more risk of being victims of OIT.

Moreover, it is observed that financial routines, open dubious links, and avoiding behaviors are variables positively related with perceived risk. Inversely, computer skills are negatively correlated with risk, following the same direction observed in fear of OIT. These results will be discussed and implications will be outlined.