

### **Reasons for Why Repeat Victimization Occurs: Recidivism**

This brief postulates the different types of crimes that regularly experience higher rates of recidivism (repeat offenses); but more so, analyzes the patterns and theories surrounding why repeat criminal acts are carried out. The varying types of variables heavily affecting recidivism are: present opportunities to offend, apparent risks versus rewards of committing offense, presence of authoritative figure, offender with ill-intent to carry-out criminal act, low-risk of being detected or caught, criminological theories affecting victims and offenders, etc.

#### **Findings:**

- One evidentiary reason for recidivism seems to fall under the realm of Rational Choice Theory
- Repeat credit card fraud acts as well as repeat shoplifting crimes rely heavily on the apparent gains and risks of each party involved- the higher the reward and lower the risk, the more likely for recidivism
- Recidivism takes into account the mentality and ideology of opportunities gathered from the potential or exact offender when carrying out criminal acts
  - Lower security measures, such as security personnel on site or security cameras, tend to heighten offenders' likelihood to commit a criminal act
- There is a strong negative correlation between repeat victimization occurrences in relation to areas of higher crime
- Rational Choice Theory and Routine Activities Theory directly affect offenders' behaviors for recidivism rates
- Routine Activities Theory allows criteria on which offenders can be judged as a 'rational' person at time in which the criminal act was committed
- There appears to be three main variables when considering higher-recidivism rates: Lack of potential guardian interference, ease of access to victim or place of offense, criminal intent to commit crime.

#### **Implications:**

- Offenders typically try and victimize places or individuals that possess certain traits and characterizations which deem them more likely to be offended
- 'Risk Heterogeneity' is best understood as the foundation for which recidivism principles regarding benefit denial, risks, rewards, all interact- more levels of aggregate victimization are made more apparent than general places of criminal acts that occur
- Less effort, fewer risks, higher reward- recidivism rates are more likely to be higher when these three principles are in affect

#### **Considerations for Future Focus:**

- Empirically, more psychological-based focus needs to ask the offender why they decided to repeat same offense
- Which factor (risk, reward, security personnel present, etc.) seems to have most effect on offenders before they commit criminal act? why they chose to offend the same location- which was weighted more heavily in their decision-making process: the risks the rewards etc.

\*Sources and information gathered using: FARRELL, G., PHILLIPS, C. and PEASE, K., 1995. Like taking candy: why does repeat victimization occur? British Journal of Criminology, 35(3), pp. 384-399.