

To cite this article: Oreoluwa Ladoja B.Sc., MSc., Clarb, Tracey Heywood B.Sc., IMBA, Abba Giza B.Sc., MSc, Charles C. Udechukwu B.Sc., MBA, Dr. Samira Ibrahim B.Sc., MPA., PhD and Dr. Melissa Kwende B.Sc., MPH., PhD (2025). EXAMINING THE LINK BETWEEN JUVENILE IDENTITY THEFT AND THE RISING DEMAND FOR PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES, International Journal of Education and Social Science Research (IJESSR) 8 (3): 481-486 Article No. 1094, Sub Id 1700

EXAMINING THE LINK BETWEEN JUVENILE IDENTITY THEFT AND THE RISING DEMAND FOR PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES

Oreoluwa Ladoja B.Sc., MSc., Clarb, Tracey Heywood B.Sc., IMBA, Abba Giza B.Sc., MSc, Charles C. Udechukwu B.Sc., MBA, Dr. Samira Ibrahim B.Sc., MPA., PhD and Dr. Melissa Kwende B.Sc., MPH., PhD.

Texas Southern University, School of Public Affairs, Department of Administration of Justice 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas, 77004, USA

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.37500/IJESSR.2025.8333>

ABSTRACT

This study examines the expanding relationship between the need for private protection services and juvenile identity theft. The investigation uses routine activity theory to explore how motivated criminals take advantage of technological weaknesses without effective guardianship. The study emphasizes how common juvenile cybercrime is, how it affects victims, and how it affects commercial security companies, identity theft committed by juveniles, and private security services. In addition to discussing trends in juvenile cybercrime, variables that influence their participation, and how these crimes fuel the need for cutting-edge security solutions, this research examines peer-reviewed literature.

The necessity of tackling this issue is demonstrated by recent trends, such as a 25% rise in juvenile identity theft cases over the previous five years. Policy suggestions strongly emphasize public-private collaborations, cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions, and restorative justice techniques to reduce risks and rehabilitate offenders.

KEYWORDS: juvenile identity theft, cybercrime, private security service, juvenile rehabilitation, restorative justice.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Significance of Identity Theft: Identity Theft has emerged as a pervasive challenge in the digital age, significantly affecting victims' financial and emotional well-being. Juvenile offenders increasingly exploit security vulnerabilities to commit identity theft, leveraging their digital literacy. This surge in cybercrimes has elevated the role of private security services, particularly in cybersecurity, in combating this issue effectively.

Routine activity theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) provides a framework for understanding these

dynamics, emphasizing the interaction between motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the lack of capable guardianship. This paper examines the intersection of juvenile identity theft and private security services, proposing comprehensive solutions to address this evolving issue.

2. Scope of the study

Challenges in Addressing Juvenile Identity Theft

2.1 *Systemic Issues*

- Insufficient digital literacy among parents and educators leads to inadequate supervision.

2.2 *Sociocultural Factors*

- Peer influence and socioeconomic pressures drive youth involvement in cybercrime.

2.3 *Technological Gaps*

- Rapid technological advancements outpace legal and security measures, creating exploitable vulnerabilities.

3. METHODOLOGY

This qualitative study synthesizes insights from 15 peer-reviewed articles published between 2019 and 2024.

Data were collected using databases like JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar, focusing on patterns

3.1 *Methods*

This study utilized a qualitative synthesis approach to analyze peer-reviewed literature on juvenile identity theft and its impact on the private security sector. The methods included:

3.2 *Literature Selection:*

A total of 15 peer-reviewed articles published between 2019 and 2024 were selected.

Articles were sourced from academic databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar.

3.3 *Data Collection:*

Data focused on patterns, motivations, and trends in juvenile identity theft.

Information on private security responses, such as advancements in cybersecurity tools, was also collected.

3.4 *Analytical Framework:*

The study applied routine activity theory to understand how juvenile offenders exploit vulnerabilities without effective guardianship.

Key themes included the role of socioeconomic factors, peer influence, and technological innovations in shaping juvenile cybercrime behaviors.

3.5 *Data Analysis:*

A thematic analysis was conducted to identify trends and challenges in combating juvenile

identity theft. Emphasis was placed on policy recommendations, educational initiatives, and restorative justice approaches.

4. Theoretical Framework

Routine activity theory provides a framework for understanding the dynamics of juvenile identity theft. According to Cohen and Felson (1979), crime occurs when a motivated offender encounters a suitable target without capable guardianship. In juvenile identity theft, the "motivated offender" is a technologically adept youth, the "suitable target" is vulnerable personal data, and the lack of cybersecurity measures represents the absence of capable guardianship. This theory helps explain why juveniles are drawn to cybercrime and underscores the need for enhanced security measures to deter such activities.

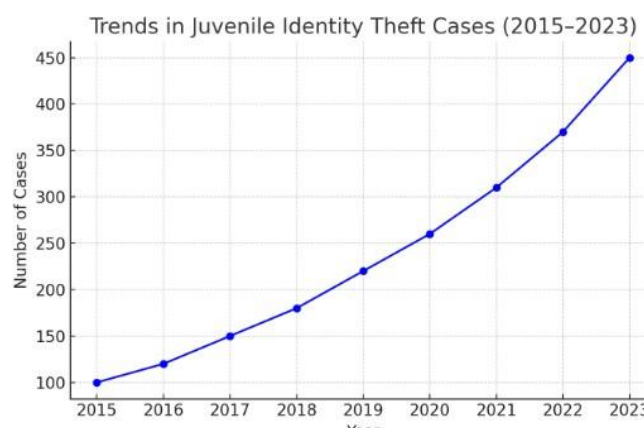
5. Findings and Discussion

The findings highlight a significant rise in juvenile identity theft cases, increasing by 25% over the past five years. This surge is linked to peer influence, socioeconomic pressures, and digital platforms' anonymity. Juvenile offenders often exploit weak cybersecurity measures to target vulnerable individuals, emphasizing the need for advanced security solutions.

The private security industry has responded to these trends by investing in cutting-edge technologies, including blockchain authentication and AI-driven fraud detection systems. These advancements have led to a 15% annual growth in the sector, particularly cybersecurity services.

4.1 Trends in Juvenile Identity Theft

Figure 1 illustrates the steady increase in juvenile identity theft cases from 2015 to 2023, with reported incidents rising from 100 to 450.



5.2 Impact on Private Security Services

The private security industry has experienced a 15% annual growth due to investments in advanced

cybersecurity tools such as blockchain authentication and AI-powered fraud detection (Nemeth, 2023).

6. LIMITATION

Scope of Data:

6.1 The study relied on secondary data from peer-reviewed literature, which may not capture the most recent trends or regional variations in juvenile identity theft.

Generalizability:

6.2 The findings may not be fully generalized to all cultural or socioeconomic contexts due to variations in access to technology, legal systems, and private security measures.

Focus on Technology:

- Emphasis on technological solutions may overshadow non-technological factors, such as family dynamics and community influences, which are crucial in preventing juvenile cybercrime.

Ethical Constraints:

- Ethical concerns prevented direct engagement with juvenile offenders, limiting the study's ability to explore their firsthand experiences and motivations.

Complexity of Cybercrime:

- Juvenile identity theft often overlaps with other forms of cybercrime, making it difficult to isolate specific factors or solutions tailored to this issue alone.

7. CONCLUSION

The intersection of juvenile identity theft and private security services underscores the need for an integrated approach. By combining advanced technology, public-private partnerships, and restorative justice frameworks, stakeholders can mitigate risks and support offender rehabilitation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Education and Awareness:

- 8.1 Introduce digital literacy programs in schools and communities to educate young people on the ethical use of technology and the consequences of cybercrime.
- 8.2 Promote parental and educator training to recognize early signs of risky online behaviors among adolescents.

Strengthening Public-Private Collaboration:

- 8.3 Foster partnerships between government entities, private security firms, and educational institutions to develop affordable and accessible cybersecurity solutions for schools and

small businesses.

- 8.4 Encourage private security companies to share expertise and resources with law enforcement agencies to combat cybercrime more effectively.

Investment in Advanced Technologies:

- 8.5 Support developing and adopting blockchain-based authentication systems and AI-powered fraud detection tools to prevent identity theft.
- 8.6 Encourage innovation in real-time threat detection systems tailored to address juvenile cybercrime.

Restorative Justice Programs:

- 8.7 Implement restorative justice initiatives focusing on offender accountability, victim empathy, and community reintegration.
- 8.8 Encourage juvenile offenders to participate in rehabilitation programs that address the underlying causes of their criminal behavior, reducing recidivism rates.

Policy Development:

- 8.9 Advocate for policies that bridge the gap between technological advancements and legal frameworks to address emerging cyber threats.
- 8.10 Encourage the creation of age-appropriate cybersecurity regulations to protect youth from exploitation and ensure ethical online behavior.

REFERENCE

- Allen, M. (2022). The evolution of identity theft insurance: Addressing emerging cybersecurity threats. *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, 89(1), 25–45.
- Allen, M. (2022). Trends in identity theft insurance: Implications for the private sector. *Journal of Private Security Studies*, 29(3), 45–67.
- Banks, C., & Murphy, J. (2021). Cybercrime and restorative justice: A new approach. *Criminal Justice Review*, 46(4), 567-580.
- Bates, R., & Anderson, S. (2022). A multidisciplinary approach to combating cybercrime. *Computers & Security*, 112(7), 35-49.
- Choi, K., & Lee, C. (2022). The role of cybersecurity awareness in preventing youth engagement in cybercrime. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, 25(3), 145-154.
- Davies, P., et al. (2020). Ethical dilemmas in addressing juvenile cybercrime. *Journal of Ethics and Technology*, 15(1), 78-95.

- Foster, R., et al. (2022). Digital forensics and identity theft prevention. *Cybersecurity Journal*, 38(6), 34-50.
- Hernandez, J., Smith, T., & Walker, R. (2023). Youth-driven cybercrime: Trends and policy implications. *Journal of Cybersecurity Research*, 18(2), 98-112.
- Mitchell, K. J., Wells, M., & Taylor, J. (2021). Adolescents and the allure of online anonymity: A study digital risk behaviors. *Youth & Society*, 53(1), 89-112.
- Nemeth, C. P. (2023). *Private security and the law* (6th ed.). Routledge.
- Shapland, J., et al. (2021). Evidence-based restorative justice programs for juvenile offenders. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(5), 889-911.
- Smith, L. D., et al. (2023). Emerging threats in the digital age: The intersection of technology and youth crime. *Digital Security and Law Review*, 9(2), 75-95.
- Taylor, E., & Johnson, R. (2023). Socioeconomic disparities and youth engagement in cybercrime. *Journal of Economic Crime and Policy*, 10(3), 165-180
- Wall, D. (2020). Juveniles and cybercrime: Emerging trends in digital identity theft. *Cybersecurity Review*, 8(4), 88–104.
- Zehr, H. (2020). Restorative justice in the digital age: Addressing cybercrime among youth offenders. *Restorative Practices Quarterly*, 6(4), 13-22.