



White Collar Crime: Utah's Growing Problem

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Introduction

- ▶ White Collar Crimes are committed by deceit and motivated by financial gain
- ▶ Credit Card Fraud
- ▶ Identity Fraud
- ▶ Internet Fraud
- ▶ Mail Fraud
- ▶ Phone Scam Fraud
- ▶ Insurance Fraud
- ▶ Medical Fraud



Figure 1: Philipsmithlaw.com (n.d.).

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- ▶ Purpose- Learn how serious white-collar crime is in our community
 - ▶ Theory- The majority of the participants will not be aware of the resources for white-collar crime
 - ▶ Hypothesis- A higher level of education about white-collar crime will result in lower victimization rates

Research Questions

- ▶ Determine if participants believe white-collar crime is a problem in our society.
- ▶ Determine how educated they are about white-collar crime
- ▶ Determine how white-collar crime compares to street crimes
- ▶ Determine how many times they have been a victim of white-collar crime
- ▶ Determine if they believe being educated about white-collar crime would have prevented them from becoming a victim
- ▶ What type of white-collar crime they were a victim of
- ▶ How many know someone who has been a victim of WCC
- ▶ Identify purchasing habits



Figure 2: Fbi.gov (n.d.)

Justification for our research

- ▶ Beneficial to the participants
- ▶ This survey educated people about white-collar crime
- ▶ Reduce their chance of becoming a victim by increasing their preventative measures



Figure 3: St.depositphotos.com
(n.d.)

Benefits of the study

- ▶ Results will show how serious white-collar crime is in our community
- ▶ We can show that awareness about white-collar crime can reduce victimization
- ▶ This may help police organizations to become more willing to provide training and education for citizens in their communities



Figure 4:
Seansidney.co.uk (n.d.)

Literature Review 1

- ▶ Similar study that indicates how fraud awareness can be beneficial within organizations because it can reduce the chance of becoming a victim (Rozmita & Ariandi, 2017). The purpose of our study is to make advancements to what has already been done, but we want to provide fraud awareness to citizens in a community. We want to determine if the results can be the same for an entire community, rather than just an organization.

Literature Review 2

- ▶ Scammers' tactics are successful because they instill “a reactive emotional state of heightened fear and anxiety that short-circuits logical thinking,” (How to avoid, 2018, p.1).
- ▶ Awareness and preparation will safeguard an individual from entering this vulnerable, emotional state and prevent the individual from becoming a victim.

Literature Review 3

- ▶ White collar crime costs America almost one trillion dollars each year.
- ▶ White collar offenders are typically:
 - ▶ Older Caucasians
 - ▶ Males
 - ▶ Have higher education
- ▶ White collar offenders are more likely to be outgoing and controlling

Literature Review 4

- ▶ Utah's legislature passed a law that requires individuals convicted of white collar crimes to register just like sex offenders. This registry is available online and open to the public.
- ▶ It describes the crimes each individual committed and provides a photograph of each suspect (Matthews, 2016).

Literature Review 5

- ▶ If suspects do not receive harsh punishments, then they will not be deterred from committing these crimes again in the future.
- ▶ The community is now considering that white-collar crimes may be as serious as street crimes.
- ▶ Suspects are becoming likely to receive serious punishments.
- ▶ This is important because white-collar crime offenders still receive less severe punishments than those who commit street crimes (Michel, 2016).

Literature Review 6

- ▶ Title 76 Chapter 6 of the Utah Criminal Code covers the different types of fraud.
- ▶ Crimes under these sections usually range from Class B Misdemeanors to Second Degree Felonies (Utah.gov, n.d.).
- ▶ Suspects can obtain billions of dollars from illegal fraud activities and put it in a bank out of the country. They can serve their minimal prison sentence if convicted; then, when they get out of prison, they can obtain their money they have hidden.

Statistics

Do you believe white collar crime is a serious problem in our society?

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	4	2.16	0.84	0.92	55	55

Which is more serious, street crimes (burglary, robbery) or white collar crimes?

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	3	2.40	0.80	0.89	55	55

Do you believe the penalties for white collar crime convicts is severe enough to deter others from engaging in white collar crimes?

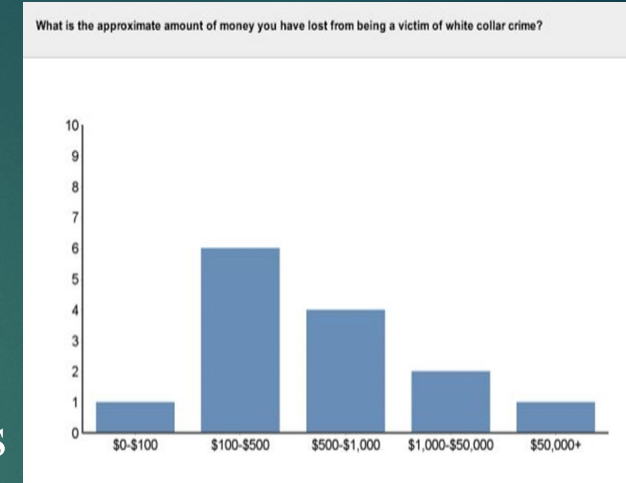
Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
2	5	3.45	0.63	0.79	49	49

Survey

- ▶ Random selection process includes participants with different backgrounds including race, gender, education, financial, religion and age.
- ▶ Qualtrics
- ▶ Anonymous
- ▶ 500 participants
- ▶ 34 questions
- ▶ UVU students

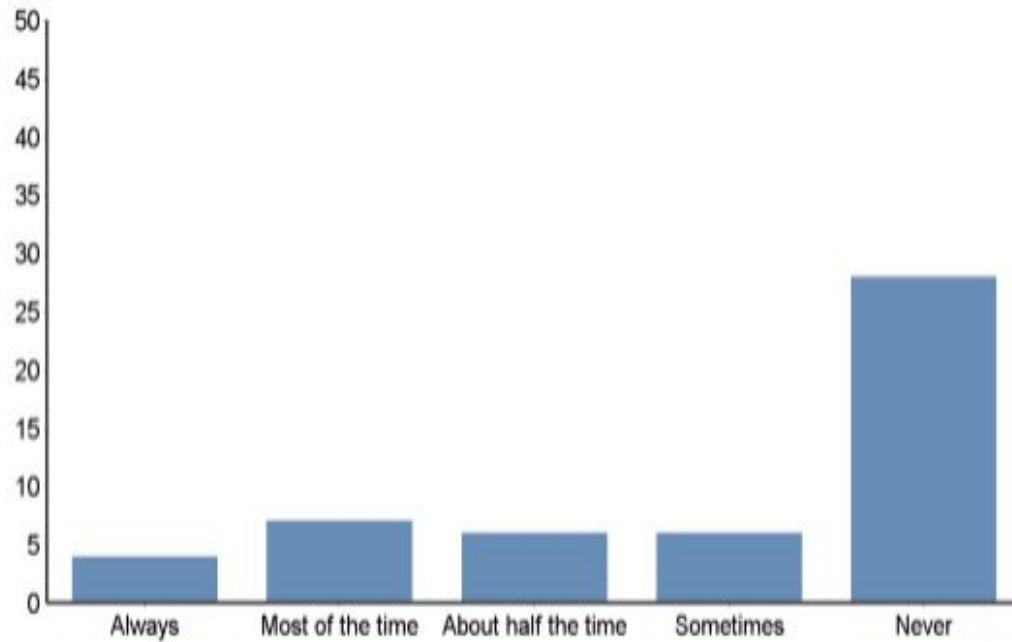
Survey

- ▶ 57 completed surveys
- ▶ Improved response rates by sending reminder emails
- ▶ Day 1 (15), Day 3 (6), Day 7 (9) and Day 14 (Problem encountered- Low results/Thanksgiving)
- ▶ Positive results- Days with email reminders had highest completion rates
- ▶ Response rate: 11.42%
- ▶ Completion rate: 91.86 %
- ▶ Confidence level: 95 %
- ▶ Confidence interval: With 95% confidence the population mean is between \$323 and \$683 money lost by being a victim of WCC

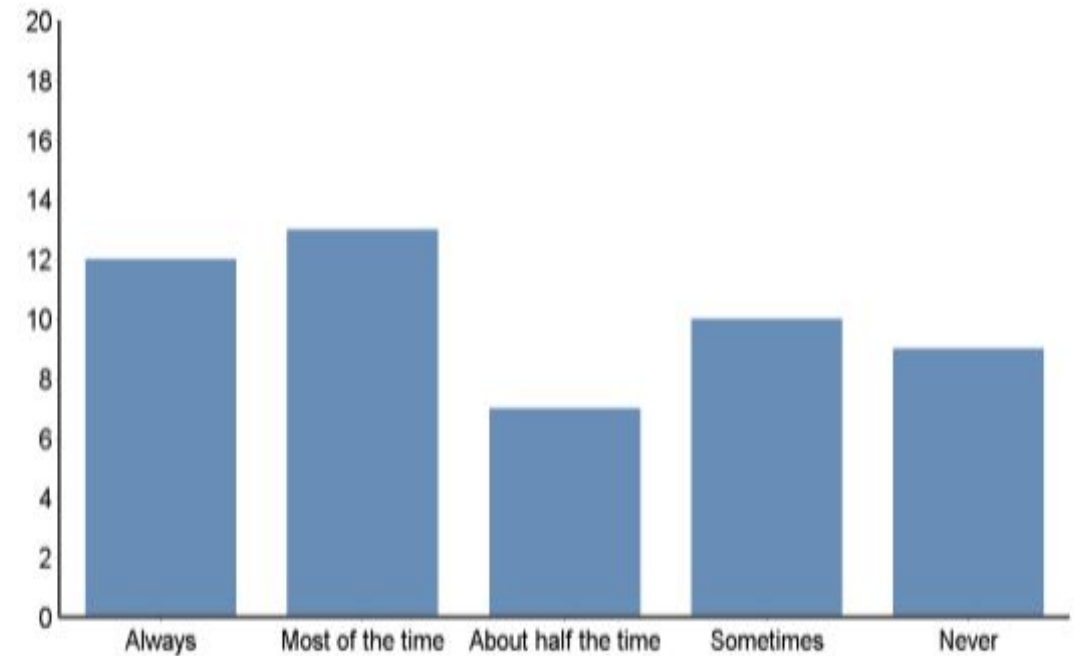


Prevention

How often do you check for skimming devices at a gas pump before using your debit or credit card?

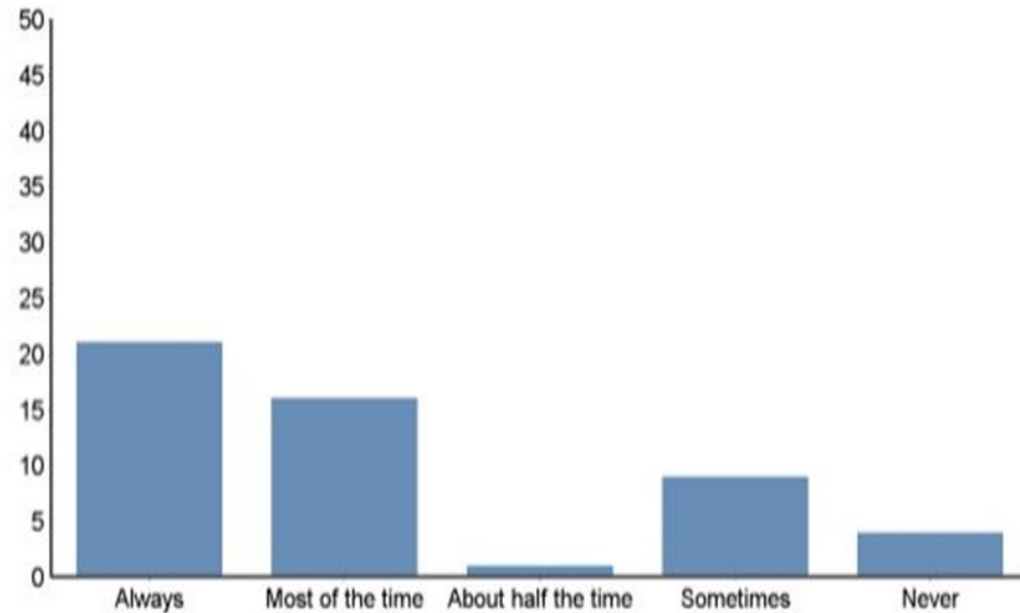


How often do you shred sensitive information that you no longer need?

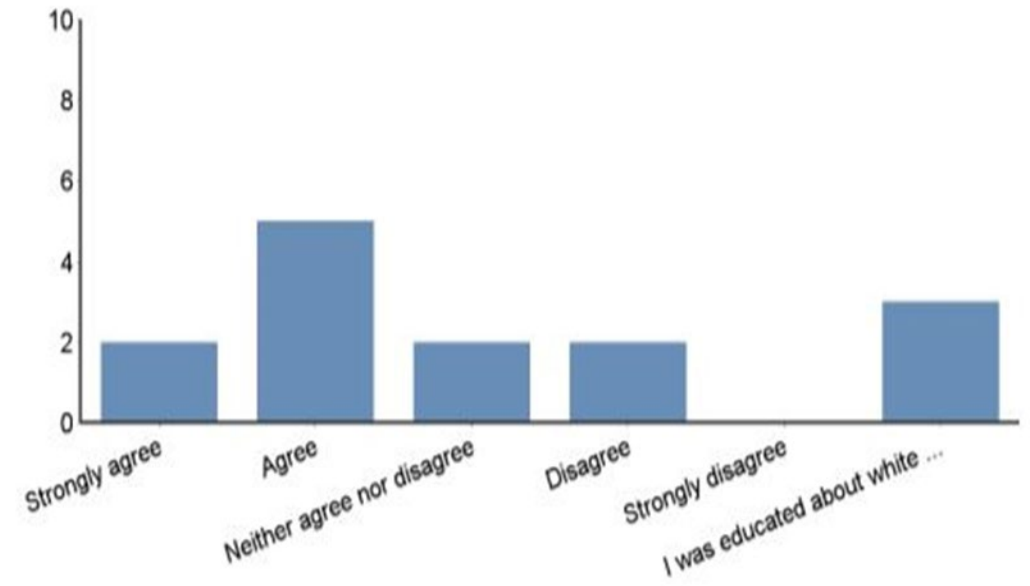


Prevention

How often do you make sure websites are secure before making a purchase online?

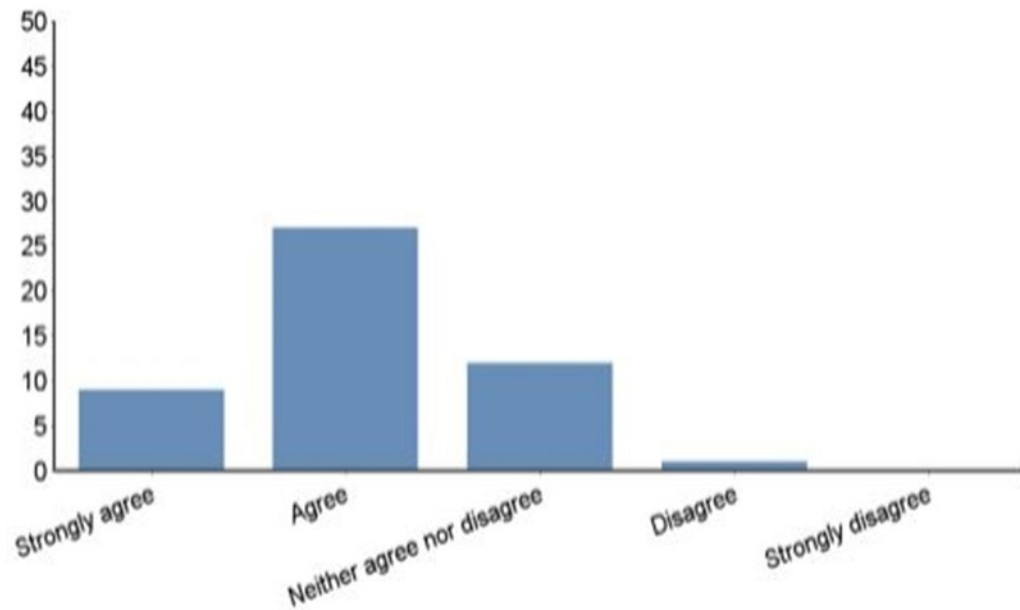


Do you believe being educated about white collar crime would have prevented you from becoming a victim?

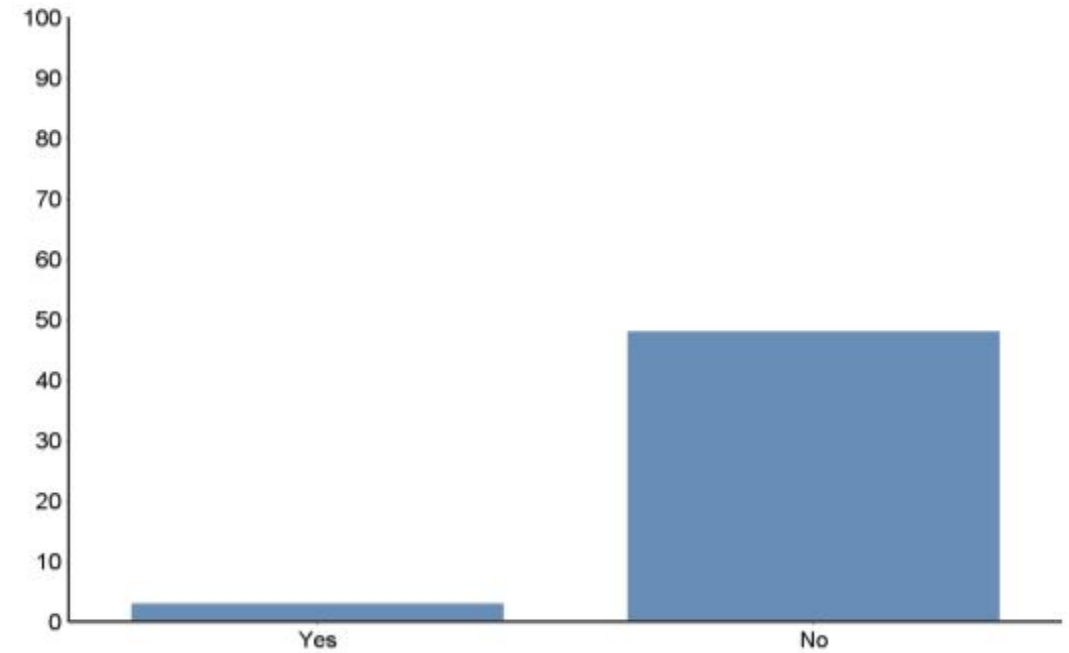


Resources

Do you believe law enforcement should use more resources to investigate white collar crimes?



Do you know what the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov) is?



Utah White Collar Crime Registry

- ▶ The Utah White Collar Offender Registry is a database of individuals convicted of various financial crimes. Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes states the registry, “*will further equip citizens to protect themselves from financial fraud by making information much more accessible in this digital age. A simple search could curtail a fraudulent investment and save an entire nest egg.*” (utfraud.com)
- ▶ The registry is maintained by the Utah Attorney Generals Office.

What is IC3?

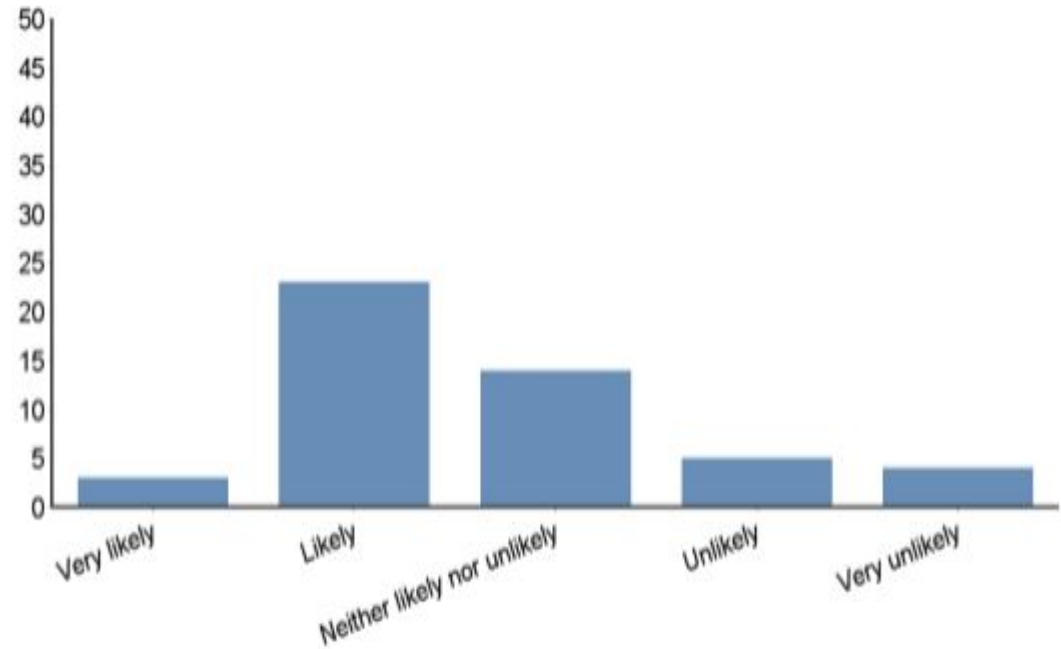
Internet Crime Complaint Center

- ▶ “The mission of the Internet Crime Complaint Center is to provide the public with a reliable and convenient reporting mechanism to submit information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning suspected Internet-facilitated criminal activity and to develop effective alliances with law enforcement and industry partners. Information is analyzed and disseminated for investigative and intelligence purposes to law enforcement and for public awareness” (www.IC3.gov)
- ▶ Crimes that can be reported to IC3.gov: Computer intrusions, economic espionage, online extortion, identity theft, money laundering, and any other internet facilitated crimes.

Prevention

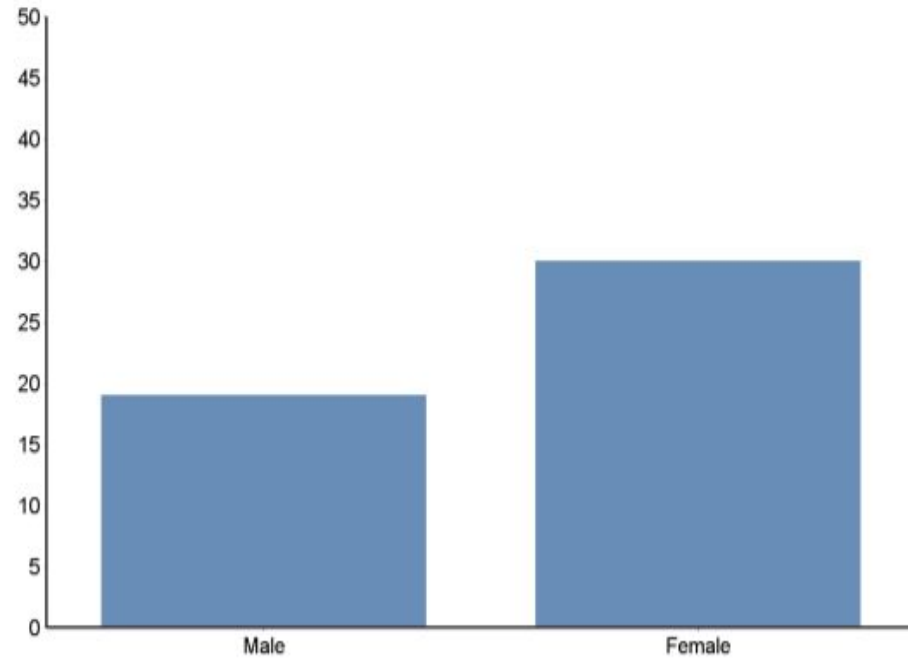
- ▶ Know who you're dealing with.
- ▶ Pay the safest way.
- ▶ Guard your personal information.
- ▶ Be cautious of unsolicited emails.
- ▶ Stay safe online.

How interested would you be in learning more about white collar crime?

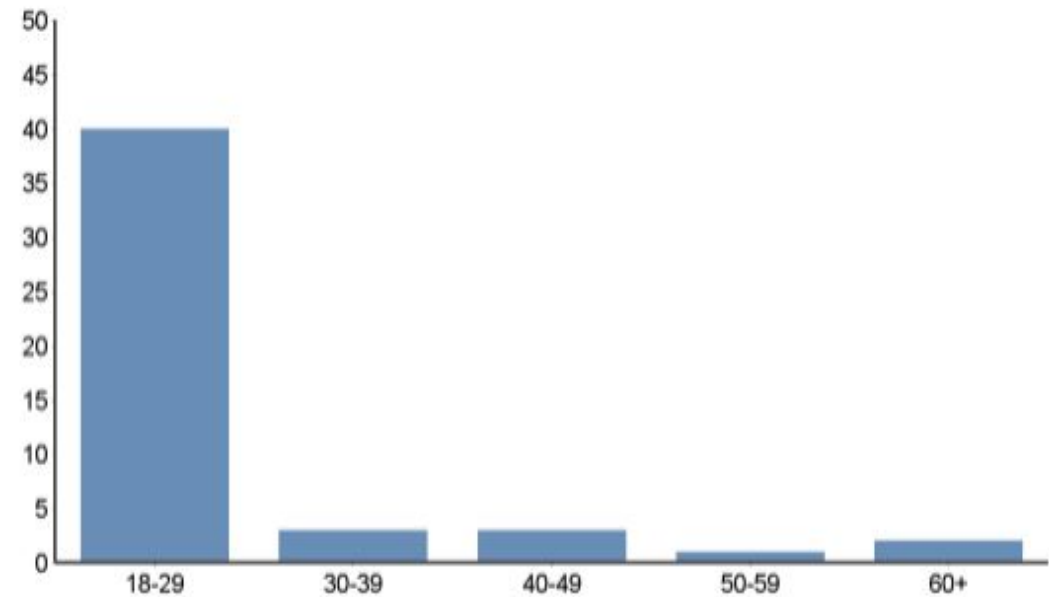


Data

What is your sex?

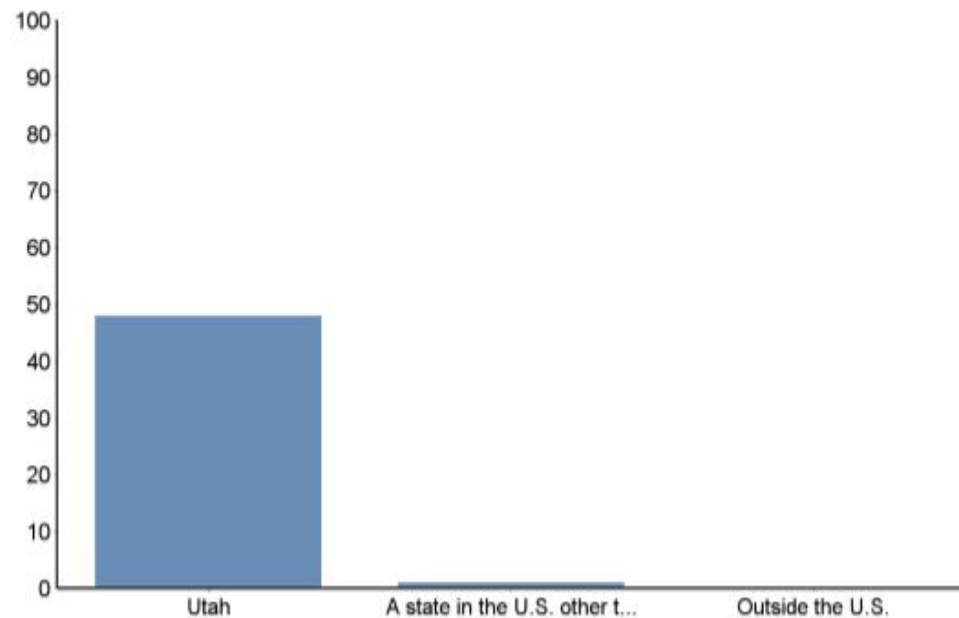


What is your age?

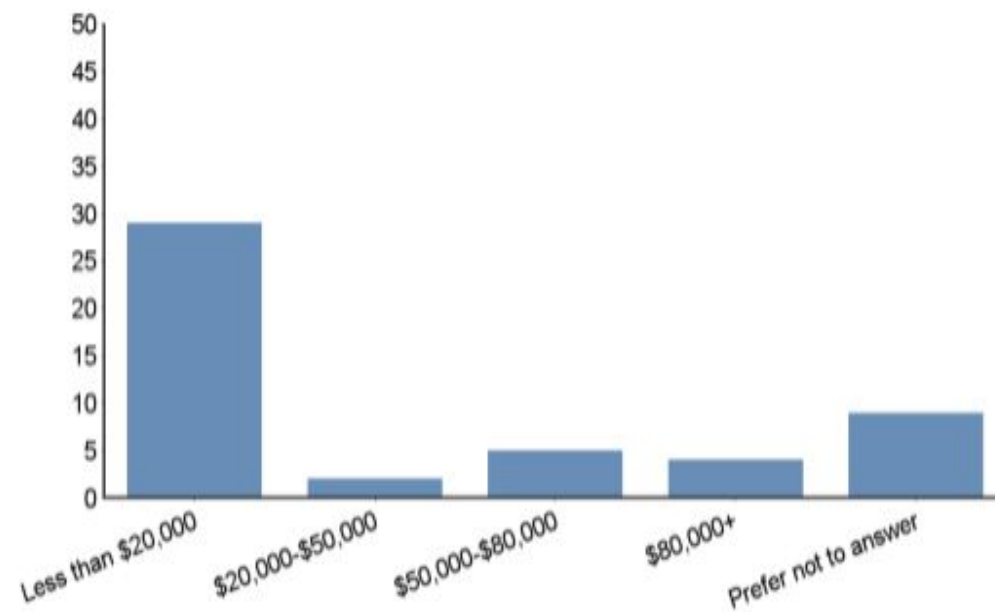


Data

Where do you reside?

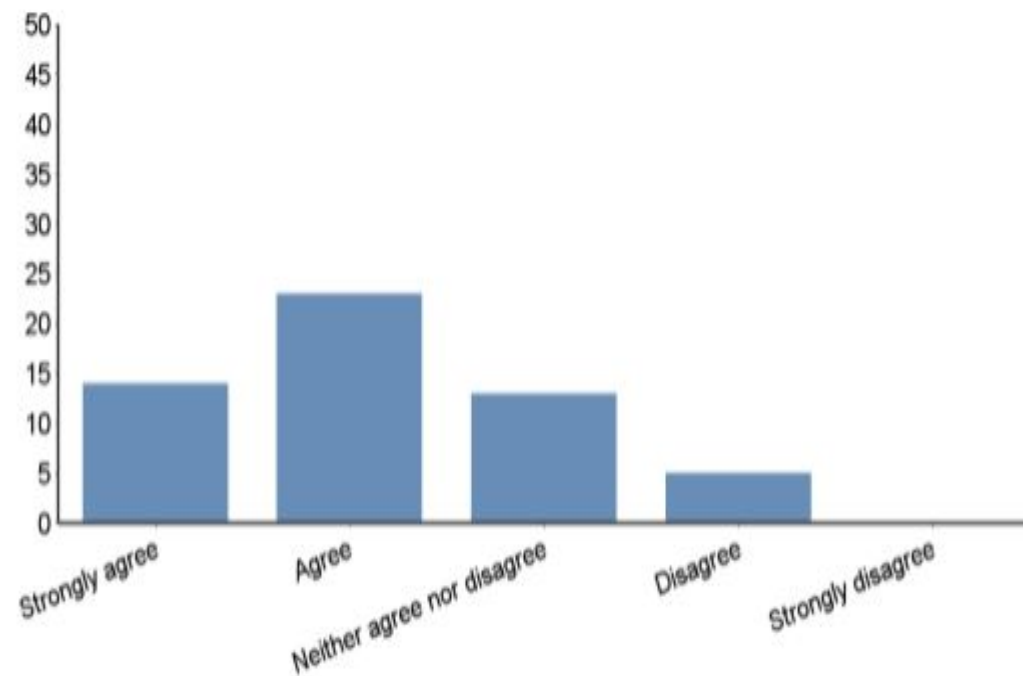


What is your annual income?

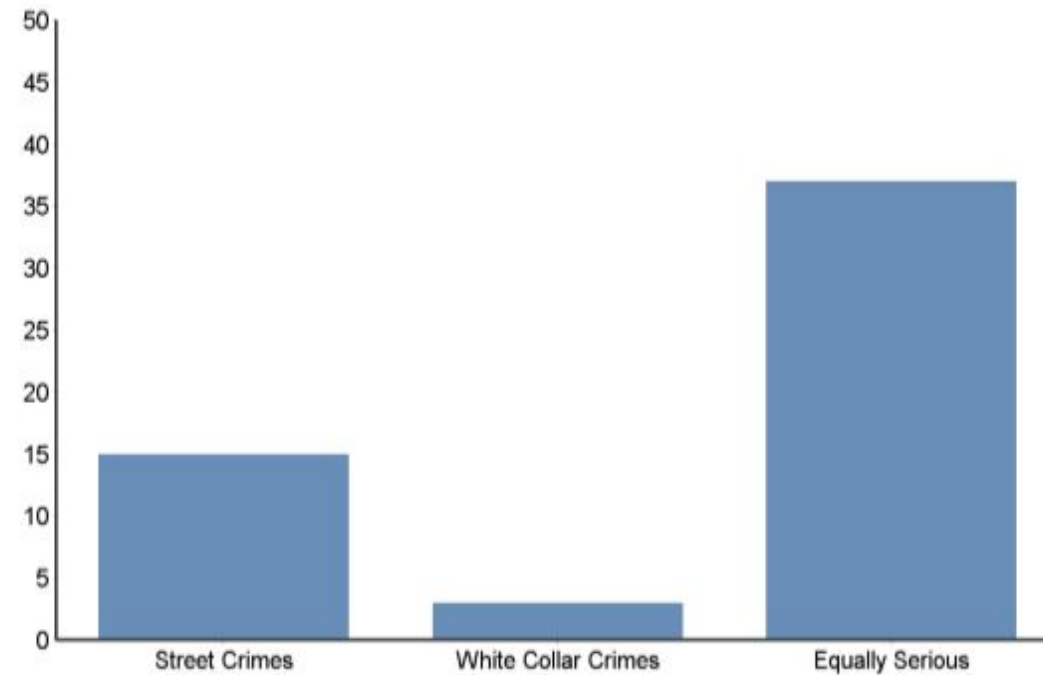


Data

Do you believe white collar crime is a serious problem in our society?

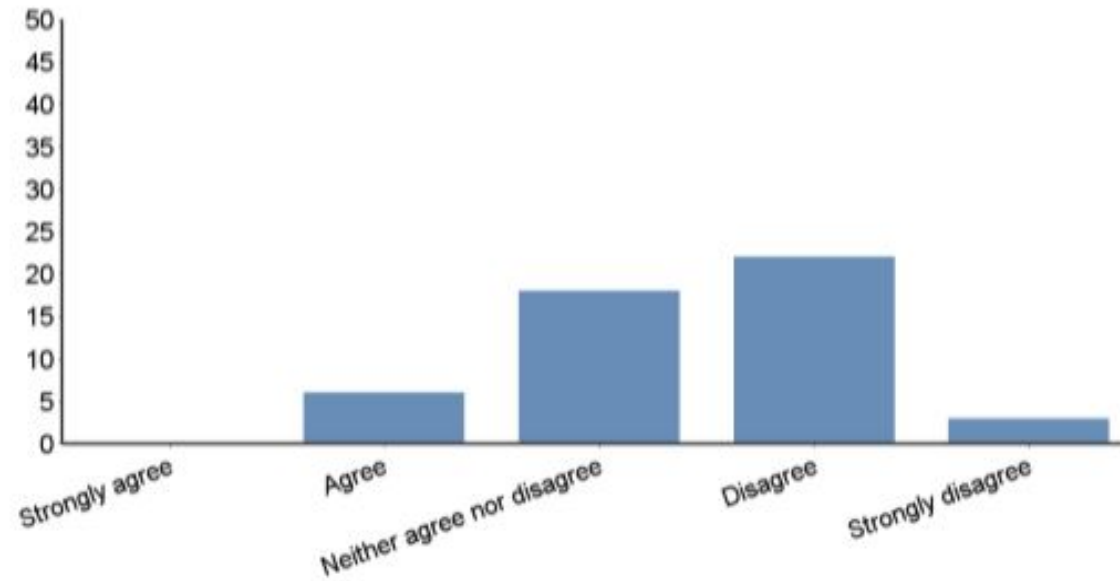


Which is more serious, street crimes (burglary, robbery) or white collar crimes?



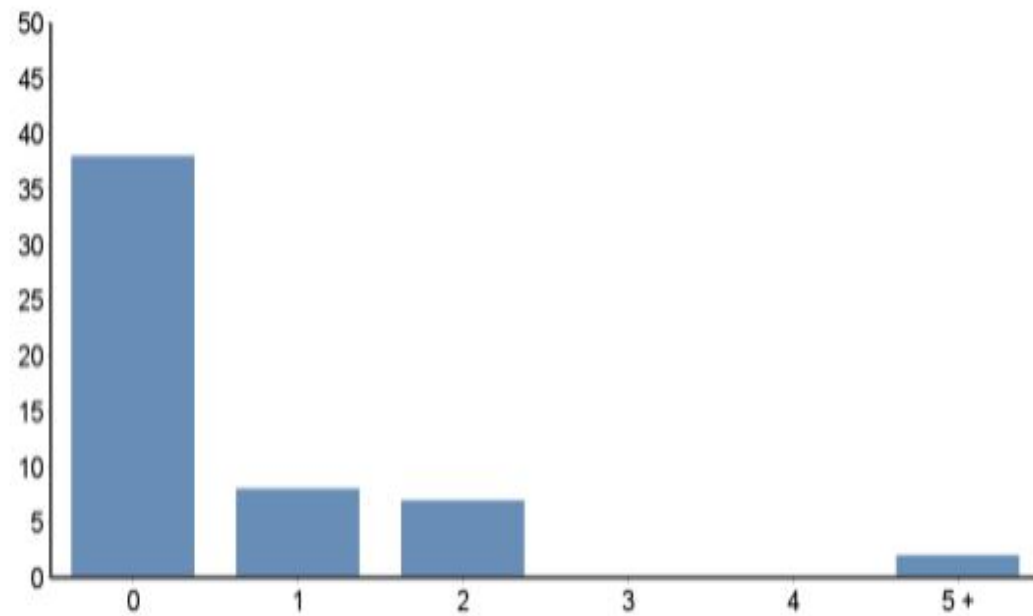
Data

Do you believe the penalties for white collar crime convicts is severe enough to deter others from engaging in white collar crimes?

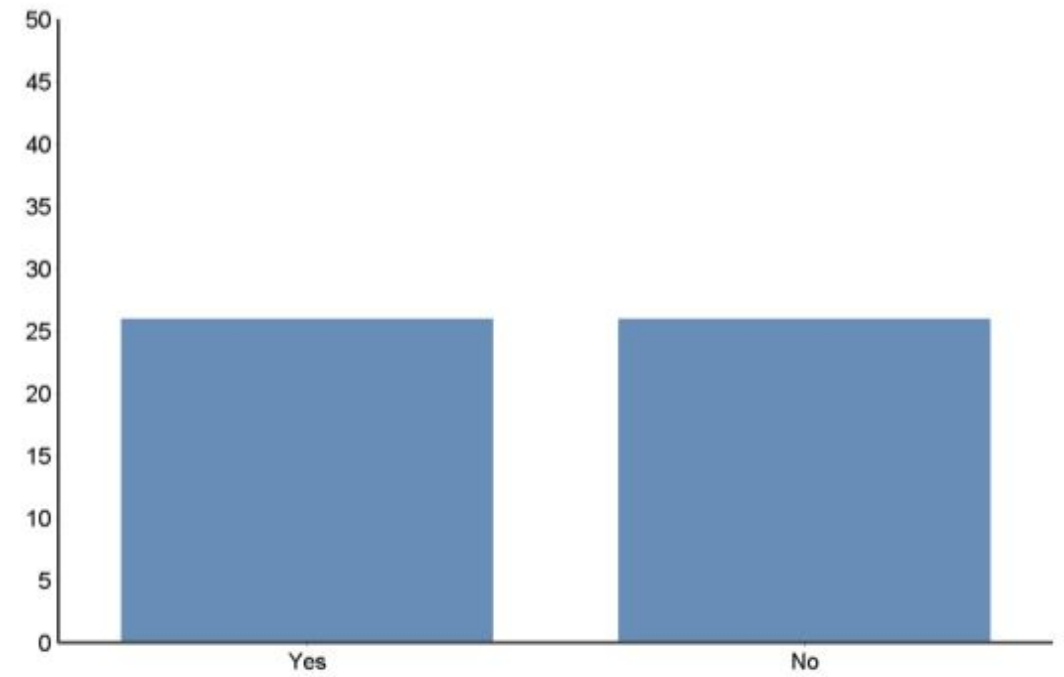


Data

How many times have you been a victim of white collar crime?

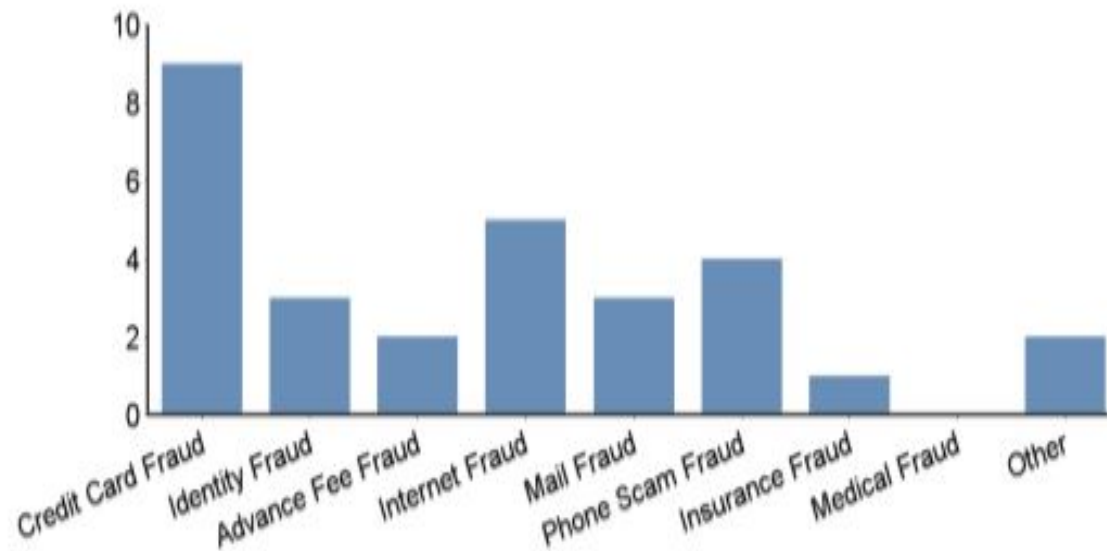


Do you know anybody who has been a victim of white collar crime?



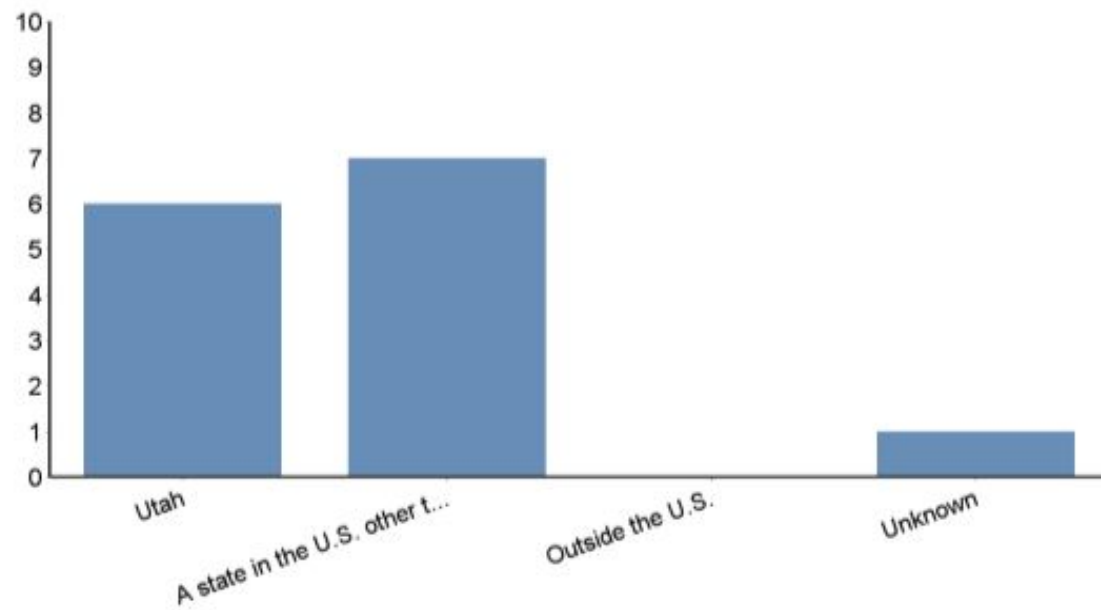
Data

White collar crimes are committed by deceit and motivated by financial gain. What type of white collar crime have you been a victim of? Select all that apply.

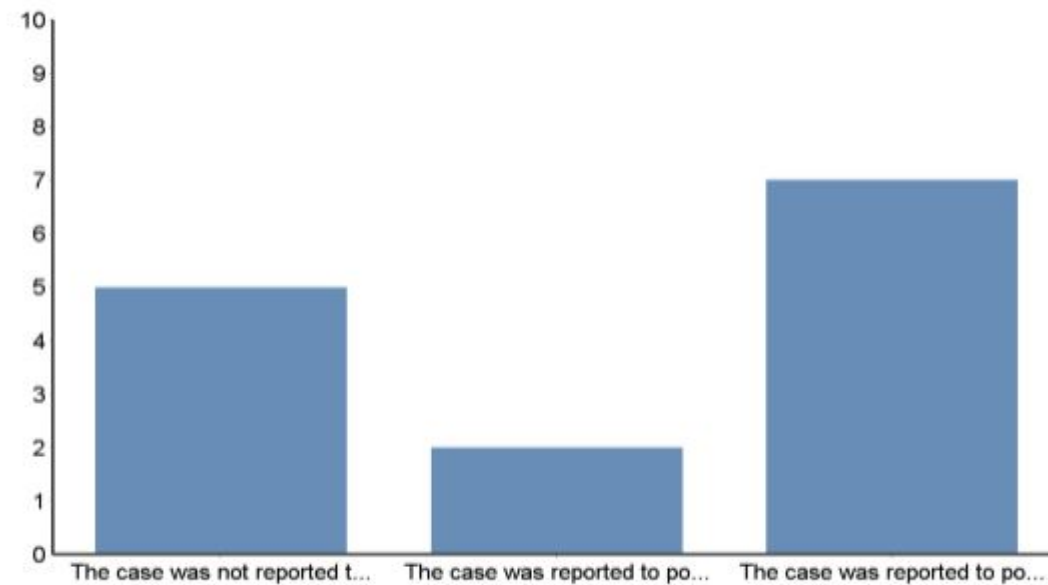


Data

Where did the crime occur?



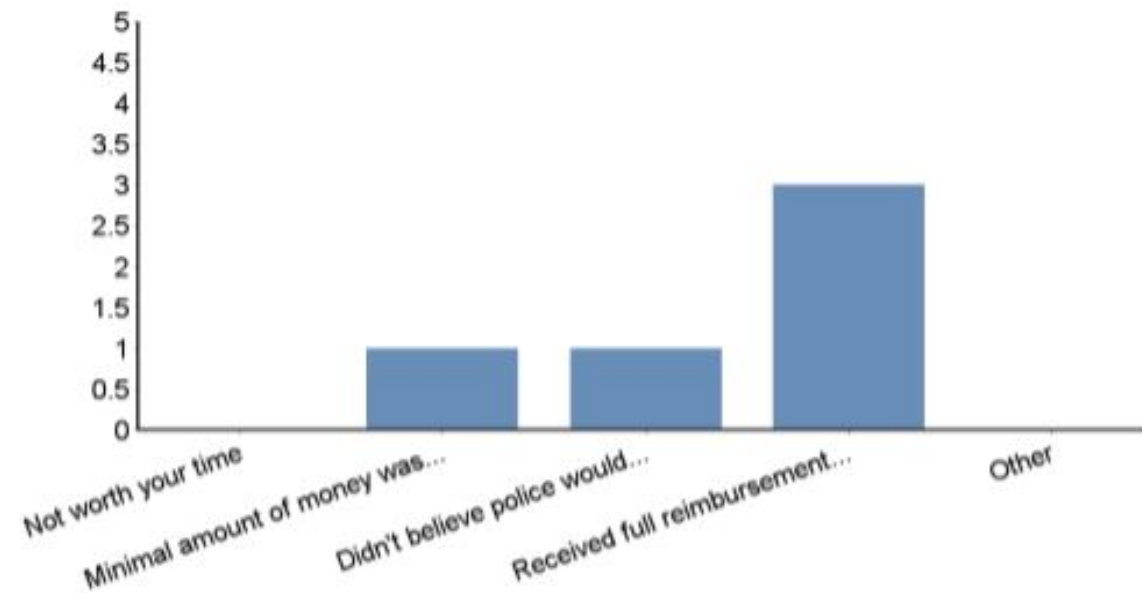
What was the outcome of your white collar crime case?



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	The case was not reported to police	<div></div>	5	35.71%
2	The case was reported to police and a suspect was arrested	<div></div>	2	14.29%
3	The case was reported to police but a suspect was not arrested	<div></div>	7	50.00%

Data

Why didn't you report the crime to police?



Conclusions

- ▶ Most of the participants were in their 20's with low income.
- ▶ Credit card numbers are stolen and sold on the black market. They cost more based on credit limit and higher credit limits are more valuable.
- ▶ Many didn't report their crime because they were reimbursed. This continues the cycle. No arrest allows suspects to continue to victimize others.
- ▶ Low arrest rate because of jurisdiction issues and technology makes it difficult to identify suspect.
- ▶ We educated students about WCC.
- ▶ Majority of participants believe WCC is a serious problem in our society.
- ▶ Majority were unaware of resources and believe there should be more resources.
- ▶ Majority of the participants want to learn more about WCC.
- ▶ Majority believe more education would have prevented victimization.
- ▶ Proves society needs more education about the topic.

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Questions?