Stop the Victim. Stop the Fraud.

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Abstract

Advance fee fraud is a growing crime creating serious economic and emotional impact on its victims. There is a lack of research regarding the legal, community policing, and resource challenges of dealing with advance fee fraud which would aid in reducing this crime. The purpose of this qualitative study was to determine through interviewing fraud investigators who have dealt with advance fee fraud, based on their experiences the answer to these challenges and gain insight based on the theoretical foundation of the study. Upon analyzing the data, multiple themes emerged regarding the legal, community policing, and resource challenges of dealing with advance fee fraud. The main themes that emerged were (a) jurisdiction, (b) resources, (c) awareness, (d) lack of cooperation, (e) law enforcement, and (f) businesses, individuals and communities are needed for fusion centers to be effective. The subthemes are (a) difficult to prosecute, (b) extradition, (c) complexity, (d) police, and (e) time.