The Impact of Work-Related Crime on the Work Environment

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Abstract : Work-related crime has severe consequences for individual employees and society, and the problem has received widespread attention. For those who work where this type of criminality occurs, it can deteriorate the work environment. The purpose of the systematic literature review is to collate and enhance knowledge about work-related crime and its consequences for the work environment, primarily from an employee perspective. A comprehensive literature search was conducted in three databases, with the final search in May 2024. Grey literature was searched for on relevant websites. Only literature conducted in the EU, Norway, and Canada between 2013 and 2024 was included. Industries represented are land-based industry, hotel and restaurant, health and welfare/domestic work, construction, vehicles and transport, and cleaning. The literature review includes 39 publications, of which 33 are scientific studies. The results show that both men and women work in a work-related crime setting, most from Central and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. The results demonstrate that, regardless of workers' gender or industry, workers are being exploited. Their work environment is characterized by high demand, low influence and low support. It is also common for the work environment to involve different risks, such as safety problems and risks of harassment and discrimination. This systematic literature review is one of few that focuses on the employee perspective on the work environment in workplaces where work-related crime occurs and collates existing research within the field.