

Consumer Statistics On Identity Crime

Better Business Bureau

"New Research Shows Identity Fraud Growth Is Contained and Consumers Have More Control Than They Think"

January 31, 2006, Press Release

- Most data compromise – 90 percent – takes place through traditional offline channels and not via the Internet, when the victim can identify the source of data compromise (47 percent of victims).
- Data compromise through the Internet is statistically unchanged from last year (11 percent to nine percent today).
- Internet use can lead to lower damages from identity fraud. Electronic account monitoring is the fastest way to detect fraud and leads to lower losses (22 days and \$3,806).
- The 35-44 demographic age group has the highest average fraud amount (\$9,435), but victims' age was not found to be statistically related to Internet usage as compared to traditional types of fraud.
- Generation X (ages 25-34) has the highest rate of identity fraud at 5.4 percent. The average fraud amount for this demographic is \$6,270 as compared to the average fraud amount for the 65+ segment which is \$2,665.
- The number of adult victims of I.D. fraud has declined marginally between 2003 and 2006, from 10.1 million people to 8.9 million people, in the U.S.

Federal Trade Commission

"FTC Releases Top 10 Consumer Fraud Complaint Categories" January 25, 2006, Press Release

- Identity theft complaints represented 37 percent (the highest percentage) of the 686,683 complaints filed to the FTC in 2005.
- Internet-related complaints accounted for 46 percent of all fraud complaints.
- The percent of Internet-related fraud complaints with "wire transfer" as the reported payment method more than tripled between 2003 and 2005.
- The most frequently reported type of identity theft bank fraud was electronic funds transfers.

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