

Facts and statistics

- Identity theft cost U.S. businesses and consumers \$56.6 billion in 2005.
- According to the FTC almost 10 million Americans reported being victimized last year.
- ID theft is America's fastest-growing white-collar crime. Prior to 1998 there were no laws concerning identity theft.
- Identity Theft can be punishable with up to ten years in prison.
- The average fraud amount is \$6,383 per victim, with an out-of-pocket expense of \$422 to consumers, and takes an average of 40 hours to resolve (according to the IFCR).
- The top states in terms of victims per capita are: New York, California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, and Texas.
- More than half of identity theft victims had their current credit cards taken over by identity theft criminals.
- Nearly 8.9 million Americans, or 4 percent of the population, will become victims of identity fraud, according to this year's Identity Fraud Consumer Report (IFCR).
- 47 percent of cases are detected by the victim and the most common way identity theft happens is through lost or stolen wallets, checkbooks and credit / debit cards (according to the IFCR).
- It is believed that at least 100,000 cases go unreported each year.
- The FTC received about 250,000 ID theft complaints in 2005.
- Metropolitan areas with the highest rates of consumer fraud were Washington DC, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida and Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Washington.
- The average dollar amount fraudulently charged or stolen in each identity theft is approximately \$92,983.