

Common Scams & Frauds

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SCAMS: STATISTICS

CONSUMER SENTINEL NETWORK DATA BOOK 2022 SNAPSHOT

5.2 MILLION REPORTS

TOP THREE CATEGORIES

- 1 Identity Theft
- 2 Imposter Scams
- 3 Credit Bureaus, Info Furnishers and Report Users

2.4 million fraud reports

26% reported a loss

\$8.8 billion total fraud losses | \$650 median loss

FTC Data Book - 2022

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SCAMS: STATISTICS - FTC DATA BOOK - 2022

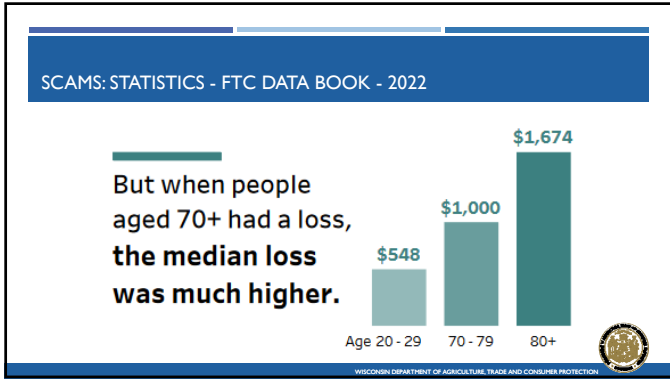
Younger people reported losing money to fraud more often than older people.

43% Age 20-29

23% Age 70-79

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PAYMENT METHODS

Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments.

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CRYPTOCURRENCY

What do you know about Crypto?

- Cryptocurrency is a computer-based digital currency
- Block chain
- Crypto scams
- Available through a crypto exchange such as Coinbase or Binance.
- 2FA vs SIM Swapping

Once cryptocurrency transfers are confirmed on the block chain, they are permanent.

"Cryptocurrency investments may sound like exciting opportunities, but they can also pose significant risks. Consumers should use caution and do their research if considering investing in cryptocurrency."

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SCAMS: STATISTICS - FTC DATA BOOK - 2022


Number of Reports and Amount Lost by Contact Method

Contact Method	# of Reports	Total \$ Lost	Median \$ Lost
Text	321,374	\$326M	\$1,000
Phone call	294,659	\$798M	\$1,400
Email	270,895	\$413M	\$816
Website or Apps	179,560	\$900M	\$333
Social Media	162,863	\$1,228M	\$528
Other	139,236	\$1,139M	\$800
Mail	36,758	\$75M	\$800
Online Ad or Pop-up	36,079	\$181M	\$229

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SCAM TRENDS: PHONE



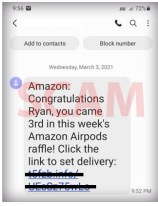
Phone

- Caller ID
- Spoofing
- Robocalls
- Don't press any buttons
- Do Not Call List
- "Can you hear me?"

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SCAM TRENDS: TEXT/EMAIL



Text/Email

- Malicious Links
- Hidden Sender
- Hacked Accounts
- Fake Phone Numbers

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SCAM TRENDS: SOCIAL MEDIA

Hey friends, I got a \$1000 Gift Card from WALMART as a Christmas Gift. Get it right away -> <http://bit.ly/12Q59w> with [Sallyann](#) and 39 others.

Get a FREE \$500 Gift Card **amazon.com**

Facebook and Walmart invite you to get a \$1000 Gift Card this Christmas

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GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS

Social Security

Transcription Beta
 "This call is from the Department of Social Security administration the reason you have _____ call from our department is to inform you that we just suspend your Social Security number because we found some suspicious activity so if you want to know about this case just press one thank you..."

Was this transcription useful or not useful?

0:00 -0:22
 Speaker Call Back Delete

IRS

- Unpaid taxes
- Threaten arrest
- Demand immediate payment

Law Enforcement/FBI

- Warrant for arrest
- Demand payment for fines

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UTILITY IMPOSTER SCAMS



Water, gas & electric, Telecommunications

- Threaten to cut off service
 - "Crew is on the way"
- Ask you to "verify" account information
- Demand payment often by unusual methods
 - prepaid debit card, a gift card, or even cryptocurrency.
- May request your bank information

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TECH SUPPORT

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TECH SUPPORT

Microsoft, Apple, Google, Etc...

- Computer is infected with a virus
- Request remote access to your computer
 - Send you a link to click
 - Install Malware, Ransomware, Etc...
- Offer fake anti-virus coverage
 - \$500+/year






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ROMANCE / RELATIONSHIP / SWEETHEART SCAMS

- Meet online: social media, dating sites
- Profess their love for you early in the "relationship"
- Refuse to meet face to face
 - Travel expenses needed to meet
 - Serving overseas
- Encounter Major Problem, needs money
 - Medical/Family emergency

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LOTTERY, CONTESTS & SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS

- Film crew, giant check, and brand-new car arriving tomorrow
- Request payment prior to prize
 - Shipping
 - Taxes
 - Processing fees
- Illegal to play foreign lotteries

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GRANDPARENT SCAM

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GRANDPARENT SCAM

- Grandchild has been arrested or involved in a crash
 - "crash" often involves a broken nose, why?
- Trick you into saying a name
- Trip details from social media
- "Shhhh" don't tell mom and dad
- May impersonate a law enforcement or lawyer
- Family password

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CHECK OVERPAYMENT SCAMS



Pays by check


- Personal
- Cashiers
- Corporate

Check is written for more than asking
Asks you to wire the difference
Check is Fake!




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AUTO WARRANTY SCAM




"We're trying to reach you about your car's warranty"

- Often a robocall or a mailing
- Urgent - only available for a limited time
- Offers no actual coverage



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CHARITY SCAMS



Charities are non-profit

- Not covered by the "Do Not Call List"
- Often say they support local fire and police services
- Impossible to tell a real call from a fake call
- www.Charitynavigator.org



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STUDENT LOAN SCAMS

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF SCAMS!

Student loan debt relief scammers promise to defer, freeze, consolidate, or eliminate federal student loans, but they end up costing you more money and may not reduce your federal student loan debt, or at all.

WATCH FOR RED FLAGS

- UPFRONT FEES** - If a company charges you an upfront fee to reduce your debt, it is a scam.

PROMISES OF FORGIVENESS

Loan forgiveness takes time; avoid promises of immediate loan forgiveness or cancellation.

FSA-ID REQUESTS

Companies that Request your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID are scammers. Your ID is a private number; do not give it to anyone.

GOVERNMENT PARTNER CLAIMS

Claims that a program has a special relationship with the government or Department of Education (ED) can be false. Research approved lenders on the ED website.

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INVESTMENT SCAMS

Types of Investment Fraud

- Binary options
- Cryptocurrency offerings
- Ponzi schemes
- Private placements
- Promissory Notes
- Pump and Dump schemes
- Precious Metals & Collectibles
- Social Media & Internet Fraud

Contact the Division of Securities at (608) 266-2139 or <https://wdfi.org/>



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WARNING SIGNS OF A SCAM


- Demand to Wire Money
- Demand to pay by Gift Card or Money Cards
- Need to Verify Information
- Urgent, Immediate, Intimidate, Threaten
- Keep it a Secret – shhh, don't tell anyone
- Unsolicited phone calls
- Government doesn't make phone calls
- Payment to Claim a Prize
- Need to Click Links to "confirm information"
- Second & third payments required

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PROTECT YOURSELF

- Don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number
- Contact your phone's service provider and request scam call blocking
- Apps/built in services to block scam calls on smartphones
- Never "verify" information over the phone when you receive the call
- Never pay for anything over the phone with gift cards or by wiring money
- Treat your personal information like cash





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VICTIM OF A SCAM

- Don't be ashamed to report falling for a scam
- Report to law enforcement
- Notify financial institution
- WI Bureau of Consumer Protection

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