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01/26/98

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TITLE 42 - THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

CHAPTER 46 - JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

SUBCHAPTER III - BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

-HEAD-

Sec. 3732. Bureau of Justice Statistics

-STATUTE-

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Department of Justice, under the general authority of the Attorney General, a Bureau of Justice Statistics (hereinafter referred to in this subchapter as "Bureau").

(b) Appointment of Director; experience; authority; restrictions

The Bureau shall be headed by a Director appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director shall have had experience in statistical programs. The Director shall have final authority for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the Bureau. The Director shall report to the Attorney General through the Assistant Attorney General. The Director shall not engage in any other employment than that of serving as Director; nor shall the Director hold any office in, or act in any capacity for, any organization, agency, or institution with which the Bureau makes any contract or other arrangement under this Act.

(c) Duties and functions of Bureau

The Bureau is authorized to -

(1) make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with public agencies, institutions of higher education, private organizations, or private individuals for purposes related to this subchapter; grants shall be made subject to continuing compliance with standards for gathering justice statistics set forth in rules and regulations promulgated by the Director;

(2) collect and analyze information concerning criminal victimization, including crimes against the elderly, and civil disputes;

(3) collect and analyze data that will serve as a continuous and comparable national social indication of the prevalence, incidence, rates, extent, distribution, and attributes of crime, juvenile delinquency, civil disputes, and other statistical factors related to crime, civil disputes, and juvenile delinquency, in support of national, State, and local justice policy and decisionmaking;

(4) collect and analyze statistical information, concerning the operations of the criminal justice system at the Federal, State, and local levels;

(5) collect and analyze statistical information concerning the prevalence, incidence, rates, extent, distribution, and attributes of crime, and juvenile delinquency, at the Federal, State, and local levels;

(6) analyze the correlates of crime, civil disputes and juvenile delinquency, by the use of statistical information,

about criminal and civil justice systems at the Federal, State, and local levels, and about the extent, distribution and attributes of crime, and juvenile delinquency, in the Nation and at the Federal, State, and local levels;

(7) compile, collate, analyze, publish, and disseminate uniform national statistics concerning all aspects of criminal justice and related aspects of civil justice, crime, including crimes against the elderly, juvenile delinquency, criminal offenders, juvenile delinquents, and civil disputes in the various States;

(8) recommend national standards for justice statistics and for insuring the reliability and validity of justice statistics supplied pursuant to this chapter;

(9) maintain liaison with the judicial branches of the Federal and State Governments in matters relating to justice statistics, and cooperate with the judicial branch in assuring as much uniformity as feasible in statistical systems of the executive and judicial branches;

(10) provide information to the President, the Congress, the judiciary, State and local governments, and the general public on justice statistics;

(11) establish or assist in the establishment of a system to provide State and local governments with access to Federal informational resources useful in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs under this Act;

(12) conduct or support research relating to methods of gathering or analyzing justice statistics;

(13) provide for the development of justice information systems programs and assistance to the States and units of local government relating to collection, analysis, or dissemination of justice statistics;

(14) develop and maintain a data processing capability to support the collection, aggregation, analysis and dissemination of information on the incidence of crime and the operation of the criminal justice system;

(15) collect, analyze and disseminate comprehensive Federal justice transaction statistics (including statistics on issues of Federal justice interest such as public fraud and high technology crime) and to provide technical assistance to and work jointly with other Federal agencies to improve the availability and quality of Federal justice data;

(16) provide for the collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of information and statistics about the prevalence, incidence, rates, extent, distribution and attributes of drug offenses, drug related offenses and drug dependent offenders and further provide for the establishment of a national clearinghouse to maintain and update a comprehensive and timely data base on all criminal justice aspects of the drug crisis and to disseminate such information;

(17) provide for the collection, analysis, dissemination and publication of statistics on the condition and progress of drug control activities at the Federal, State and local levels with particular attention to programs and intervention efforts demonstrated to be of value in the overall national anti-drug strategy and to provide for the establishment of a national clearinghouse for the gathering of data generated by Federal, State, and local criminal justice agencies on their drug enforcement activities;

(18) provide for the development and enhancement of State and local criminal justice information systems, and the standardization of data reporting relating to the collection, analysis or dissemination of data and statistics about drug offenses, drug related offenses, or drug dependent offenders;

(19) provide for research and improvements in the accuracy, completeness, and inclusiveness of criminal history record information, information systems, arrest warrant, and stolen vehicle record information and information systems and support research concerning the accuracy, completeness, and inclusiveness of other criminal justice record information;

(20) maintain liaison with State and local governments and governments of other nations concerning justice statistics;

(21) cooperate in and participate with national and international organizations in the development of uniform justice statistics;

(22) ensure conformance with security and privacy requirement of section 3789g of this title and identify, analyze, and participate in the development and implementation of privacy, security and information policies which impact on Federal and State criminal justice operations and related statistical activities; and

(23) exercise the powers and functions set out in subchapter

VIII of this chapter.

(d) Justice statistical collection, analysis, and dissemination to insure that all justice statistical collection, analysis, and dissemination is carried out in a coordinated manner, the Director is authorized to -

(1) utilize, with their consent, the services, equipment, records, personnel, information, and facilities of other Federal, State, local, and private agencies and instrumentalities with or without reimbursement therefor, and to enter into agreements with such agencies and instrumentalities for purposes of data collection and analysis;

(2) confer and cooperate with State, municipal, and other local agencies;

(3) request such information, data, and reports from any Federal agency as may be required to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(4) seek the cooperation of the judicial branch of the Federal Government in gathering data from criminal justice records; and

(5) encourage replication, coordination and sharing among justice agencies regarding information systems, information policy, and data.

(e) Furnishing of information, data, or reports by Federal agencies Federal agencies requested to furnish information, data, or reports pursuant to subsection (d)(3) of this section shall provide such information to the Bureau as is required to carry out the purposes of this section.

(f) Consultation with representatives of State and local government and judiciary In recommending standards for gathering justice statistics under this section, the Director shall consult with representatives of State and local government, including, where appropriate, representatives of the judiciary.

-SOURCE-

(Pub. L. 90-351, title I, Sec. 302, as added Pub. L. 96-157, Sec. 2, Dec. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 1176; amended Pub. L. 98-473, title II, Sec. 605(b), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2079; Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, Sec. 6092(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4339; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, Sec. 330001(h)(2), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2139.)

-REFTEXT-

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c)(11), is Pub. L. 90-351, June 19, 1968, 82 Stat. 197, as amended, known as the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3711 of this title and Tables.

-MISC2-

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3732, Pub. L. 90-351, title I, Sec. 302, June 19, 1968, 82 Stat. 200; Pub. L. 93-83, Sec. 2, Aug. 6, 1973, 87 Stat. 201; Pub. L. 94-503, title I, Sec. 110, Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2412, related to establishment of State planning agencies to develop comprehensive State plans for grants for law enforcement and criminal justice purposes, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-157.

AMENDMENTS

1994 - Subsec. (c)(19). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted a semicolon for period at end.

1988 - Subsec. (c)(16) to (23). Pub. L. 100-690 added pars. (16) to (19) and redesignated former pars. (16) to (19) as (20) to (23), respectively.

1984 - Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(1), inserted provision requiring Director to report to Attorney General through Assistant Attorney General.

Subsec. (c)(13). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(A), (C), added par. (13) and struck out former par. (13) relating to provision of financial and technical assistance to States and units of local government relating to collection, analysis, or dissemination of justice statistics.

Subsec. (c)(14), (15). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(C), added pars. (14) and (15). Former pars. (14) and (15) redesignated (16) and (17), respectively.

Subsec. (c)(16). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(A), (B), redesignated par. (14) as (16) and struck out former par. (16) relating to insuring conformance with security and privacy regulations issued under section 3789g of this title.

Subsec. (c)(17). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(B), redesignated par. (15) as (17). Former par. (17) redesignated (19).

Subsec. (c)(18). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(D), added par. (18).

Subsec. (c)(19). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(2)(B), redesignated former par. (17) as (19).

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(3)(A), inserted ", and to enter into agreements with such agencies and instrumentalities for purposes of data collection and analysis".

Subsec. (d)(5). Pub. L. 98-473, Sec. 605(b)(3)(B)-(D), added par. (5).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-473 effective Oct. 12, 1984, see section 609AA(a) of Pub. L. 98-473, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3711 of this title.

-SECRET-

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 5603 of this title.



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Special Report

December 2010, NCJ 231680

National Crime Victimization Survey Supplement

Victims of Identity Theft, 2008

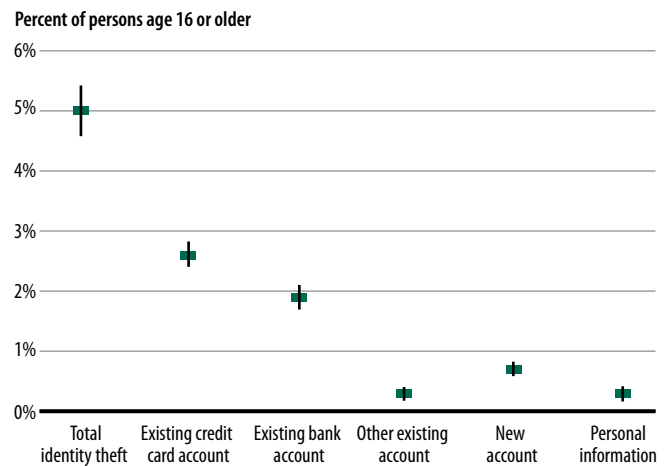
Lynn Langton and Michael Planty, Ph.D., *BJS Statisticians*

Approximately 11.7 million persons, representing 5% of all persons age 16 or older in the United States,¹ were victims of one or more types of identity theft within a 2-year period (figure 1). The most common type of identity theft, experienced by 6.2 million people during the 2-year reporting period, was the unauthorized use of an existing credit card account.

This report is based on data from the 2008 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). From January to June of 2008, the NCVS-ITS collected data from persons who had experienced one or more attempted or successful incidents of identity theft during the 2 years preceding their interviews.

¹In this publication, the term “persons” refers to persons age 16 or older in the United States.

FIGURE 1
Percentage of persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the past 2 years, 2008



Note: Details do not sum to total because persons may report more than one type of identity theft. Estimate is presented with 95%-confidence intervals shown by the lines.

Highlights

- An estimated 11.7 million persons, representing 5% of all persons age 16 or older in the United States, experienced at least one type of identity theft in a 2-year period.
- The unauthorized misuse or attempted misuse of an existing credit card was the most prevalent type of identity theft (53% of all victims).
- Among the 39% of identity theft victims who knew how their identifying information was obtained, nearly 30% believed the theft occurred while making a purchase.
- Although the total financial cost of identity theft was nearly \$17.3 billion over a 2-year period, less than a quarter (23%) of identity theft victims suffered an out-of-pocket financial loss from the victimization.
- About 42% of victims spent 1 day or less working to resolve the financial and credit problems associated with the identity theft; however, 3% continued to experience problems related to the theft more than 6 months after discovering it.
- About 15% of all victims of identity theft contacted a credit bureau about the incident. Of those who contacted a credit bureau, more than three quarters (76%) placed a fraud alert on their credit report.
- About 17% of all victims of identity theft contacted a law enforcement agency to report the incident. Nearly half (48%) of the victims who did not report the theft to law enforcement reported it to a credit card company or bank instead.
- Two in 10 victims of identity theft rated the experience as severely distressing.

In the NCVS-ITS and this report, identity theft victims include persons who experienced one or more of the following incidents:

- Unauthorized use or attempted use of an existing account, such as a credit/debit card, checking, savings, telephone, online, or insurance account.
- Unauthorized use or attempted use of personal information to open a new account, such as a credit/debit card, telephone, checking, savings, loan, or mortgage account.
- Misuse of personal information for a fraudulent purpose, such as getting medical care, a job, or government benefits; renting an apartment or house; or providing false information to law enforcement when charged with a crime or traffic violation.

This report focuses on the overall number, percentage, and demographic characteristics of victims who reported at least one type of identity theft during a 2-year period ending in 2008. It details the victims' direct and indirect financial losses; the time spent resolving problems related to the identity theft; the percentage of victims who reported the theft to credit card companies, credit bureaus, and law enforcement agencies; and the level of distress felt by identity theft victims.

This report on personal identity theft differs from previous BJS publications on identity theft that provided household-based estimates. For additional information, see *Identity Theft, 2005*, NCJ 219411, BJS website, November 2007 and *Identity Theft Reported by Households, 2007—Statistical Tables*, NCJ 230742, BJS website, June 2010.

Prevalence and type of identity theft

More than half (53%) of identity theft victims experienced the unauthorized use of an existing credit card

In the NCVS-ITS, the unauthorized misuse or attempted misuse of an existing account was the most prevalent type of identity theft, experienced by 10.1 million persons age 16 or older (4% of all persons) over the 2-year period (appendix table 1). The majority of victims experienced the fraudulent use of their existing credit cards (6.2 million victims or 3% of all persons) or bank accounts (4.4 million victims or 2% of all persons). Another 811,900 victims (0.3% of all persons) experienced other types of existing account theft, such as the misuse

or attempted misuse of an existing telephone, online, or insurance account.

An estimated 1.7 million victims (0.7% of all persons) reported the fraudulent misuse of their information to open a new account, such as a credit card or telephone account. Another 618,900 victims (0.3% of all persons) reported the misuse of their personal information to commit other crimes, such as fraudulently obtaining medical care or government benefits or providing false information to law enforcement during a crime or traffic stop.

Many victims experienced multiple types of identity theft. About 16% of all victims (1.8 million victims) experienced multiple types of identity theft during the 2-year period (table 1). For the majority of victims of multiple types of identity theft (65%), the thefts involved unauthorized use of a combination of existing accounts, such as credit card, checking, savings, telephone, or online accounts. For the remainder of this report, victims are placed into mutually exclusive identity theft categories, with victims of multiple types of theft placed in the “multiple types” category rather than counted multiple times.

TABLE 1
Number and percentage of persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident in a 2-year period, 2008

Type	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Identity theft	11,694,600	5.0%
Existing account	8,339,500	3.5%
Credit card	4,840,600	2.0
Banking	3,047,400	1.3
Other	451,500	0.2
New account	1,118,600	0.5%
Personal information	414,500	0.2%
Multiple types	1,822,000	0.8%
Existing accounts ^a	1,190,900	0.5
Other ^b	631,200	0.3

Note: Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages based on persons age 16 or older living in households in the United States (235,125,600). In 2008, 473,200 persons (0.2%) did not know or did not report whether they were victims of identity theft during the prior 2 years. An estimated 223 million persons (94.8%) had not experienced identity theft within the 2-year period.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, banking account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

Victim demographics

A greater percentage of identity theft victims lived in higher income households than in lower income households

A similar percentage of men and women (5%) experienced identity theft during the 2-year period (table 2). The percentages of victims, when categorized by type of theft (e.g., unauthorized use of existing account information, misuse of information to open a new account, misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes), did not vary by gender (appendix table 2). A greater percentage of persons ages 16 to 24 (6%) were victims of at least one type of identity theft than persons age 65 or older (4%). A greater percentage of persons living in households with an income of \$75,000 or more experienced at least one type of identity theft than persons living in households with lower incomes.

Differences were observed among demographic groups in the percentage of respondents who experienced the unauthorized use of an existing account, such as a credit card or bank account. A greater percentage of persons living in households with an income of \$75,000 or more (5%) experienced fraud involving an existing account than persons living in households with an income below \$75,000. A greater percentage of whites (4%) than blacks (2%) experienced theft of an existing account in the 2-year period. Differences across income and race categories may be related to the prevalence and use of credit cards and bank accounts.

Recognizing identity theft

About 3 in 10 victims who knew how their identity was stolen believed the information was obtained during a purchase or other transaction

In 2008, 11.7 million persons had experienced one type or one incident of identity theft during the prior 2 years. Of these victims, about 40% had some idea as to how the identity theft occurred (appendix table 3). A greater percentage of victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft in a single incident (50%) knew how the theft had occurred, compared to victims of all other types.

Of the 4.5 million victims who knew how their identifying information had been obtained, nearly 30% believed their identity was stolen during a purchase or other transaction. Another

20% believed the information was lost or stolen from a wallet or checkbook, followed by 14% who thought the information was stolen from personnel or other files at an office. Eight percent thought family or friends stole their information. However, among identity theft victims who had their personal information used for fraudulent purposes and knew how their information was obtained, about 4 in 10 (39%) thought that family or friends were responsible (figure 2).

TABLE 2

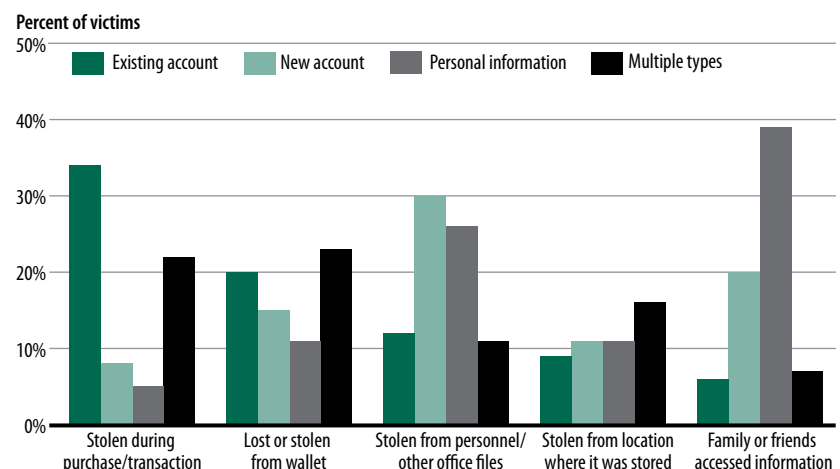
Percentage of persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the past 2 years, by victim characteristics, 2008

Characteristic	Number of victims	Percent of persons*
Total	11,694,600	5.0%
Gender		
Female	6,210,000	5.1
Male	5,484,600	4.8
Age		
16-24	883,100	6.0
25-34	2,173,300	5.9
35-49	3,981,800	5.1
50-64	3,161,200	4.8
65 or older	1,495,100	3.7
Race/Hispanic origin		
White, non-Hispanic	8,711,600	5.1
Hispanic	1,040,400	4.1
Black, non-Hispanic	1,160,400	4.4
Other race, non-Hispanic	553,400	5.0
More than one race	228,900	10.4
Household income		
Less than \$25,000	1,176,600	3.6
\$25,000-\$49,999	2,269,300	4.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	1,711,600	5.1
\$75,000 or more	4,073,100	7.0
Unknown	2,464,000	3.8

*Percentage based on all persons age 16 or older in reference category.

FIGURE 2

Most common ways offenders obtained personal information from the 4.5 million identity theft victims who knew how the theft occurred, by type of theft, 2008



Note: Percentages based on the 4.5 million identity theft victims who had some idea about how their personal information was obtained.

Financial impact

The total financial cost of identity theft was nearly \$17.3 billion over 2 years

The economic impact of identity theft can be broken down into direct and indirect financial loss. Direct financial loss refers to the monetary amount the offender obtained from misusing the victim's account or personal information, including the estimated value of goods, services, or cash obtained. Indirect loss includes any other costs accrued because of the identity theft, such as legal fees, bounced checks, and other miscellaneous expenses (postage, phone calls, or notary fees).

In 2008, 62% of identity theft victims reported a direct or indirect financial loss associated with the theft during the prior 2 years. Victims of identity theft reported a cumulative financial loss of nearly \$17.3 billion during the 2-year period. Across all types of identity theft, victims suffering a financial loss of at least \$1 lost an average of \$2,400, with a median loss of \$430 (appendix table 4).²

The percentage of victims who suffered any financial loss varied by the type of identity theft. Approximately 61% of victims of credit card fraud, 70% of victims of bank card fraud, 48% of new account fraud, and 24% of personal information fraud experienced a financial loss during the previous 2 years. Of those victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft, about 70% reported a financial loss. Victims of new account fraud incurred an average financial loss of \$7,250, with a median loss of \$802.

In some instances, a company, such as a credit card or insurance company, may reimburse some or all of the financial loss, reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket losses. In 2008, 23% of identity theft victims reported suffering a personal out-of-pocket loss (direct loss, indirect loss, or both) of at least \$1. Among the victims who experienced some out-of-pocket financial loss as a result of the theft, 36% lost less than \$100, and 22% lost \$1,000 or more (figure 3).

²Victims who reported in screener questions that the offender was not successful in obtaining any money, goods, or services from their account were not asked to report a direct financial loss. Further review of the survey responses to follow-up questions revealed that a small percentage of these victims may have experienced a direct financial loss. It is not possible to verify or reliably estimate these losses. Consequently, any direct losses related to these cases may underestimate the financial impact of identity theft. See *Methodology* for more information on the distinction between attempted and successful identity theft.

Direct financial loss. In 2008, about 59% of the 11.7 million victims of identity theft reported direct financial losses during the previous 2 years totaling \$16.6 billion (appendix table 4). The percentage of victims who suffered a direct financial loss varied by the type of identity theft. Approximately 59% of credit card fraud victims, 68% of bank card fraud victims, 42% of new account fraud victims, and 18% of personal information fraud victims experienced a direct financial loss during the previous 2 years. Of those victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft, about 69% reported a direct financial loss.

Of the victims who reported a direct financial loss, victims of new account fraud incurred an average direct financial loss of \$8,110, with a median loss of \$1,000. Victims who experienced the misuse of their personal information reported an average direct loss of \$2,829 and a median direct loss of \$2,500. Victims of credit card fraud (9%) had an average direct loss of \$1,105 (median direct loss \$400). Victims who experienced multiple types of fraud reported an average direct loss of \$4,680, with a median direct loss of \$600.

Approximately 16% of all victims reported direct out-of-pocket personal losses, which totaled \$4.1 billion over the 2-year period. The 16% of victims who suffered a direct personal loss of at least \$1 lost an average of \$2,228, with a median loss of \$300. A greater percentage of victims of multiple types of identity theft (26%) and victims of bank account theft (25%) experienced personal direct losses, compared with victims of credit card fraud (9%), new account fraud (5%), and the misuse of personal information (10%).

Indirect losses. In addition to any direct financial loss, approximately 11% of all identity theft victims reported indirect losses which totalled \$1.04 billion over the 2-year period. The 11% of victims who suffered an indirect loss of at least \$1 reported an average indirect loss of \$788, with a median of \$50, from dealing with the identity theft over the 2 years. With the exception of victims of fraud involving an existing account other than a credit card or bank account, victims of each type of identity theft who reported an indirect financial loss had a median indirect loss of \$100 or less. Victims who experienced the fraudulent misuse of their personal information reported the largest average indirect loss of \$3,955, with a \$100 median loss.

About 42% of victims spent 1 day or less resolving financial and credit problems associated with identity theft; 3% took more than 6 months

At the time of the interview, 42% of victims who experienced identity theft within the prior 2 years reported spending a day or less to resolve financial or credit problems associated with the theft (appendix table 5). For each type of identity theft, the greatest percentage of victims resolved the problem in a day or less (figure 4). About 20% of reporting victims spent more than a month from the discovery of the theft trying to clear up the problems.

Victim notification of credit bureau and consumer agencies

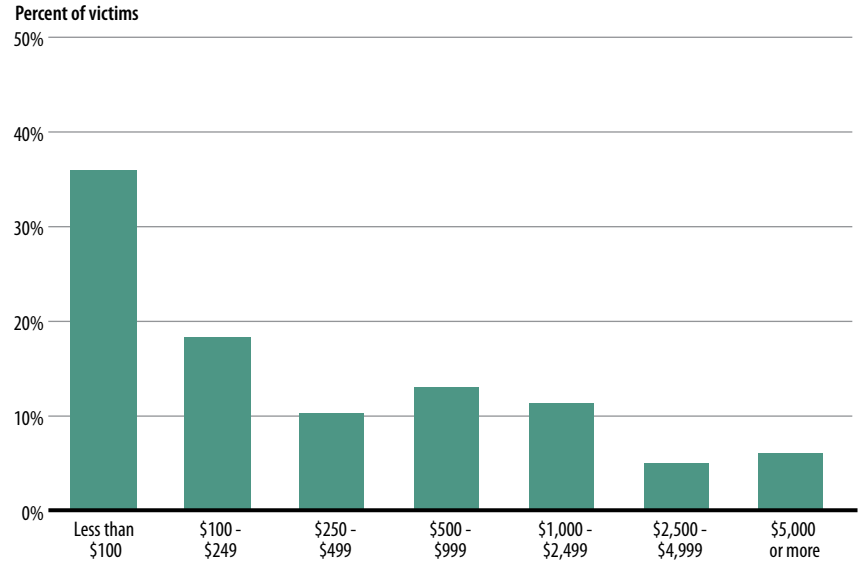
Of the 15% of victims who contacted a credit bureau about an identity theft incident, about 3 in 4 placed a fraud alert on their credit report or requested a credit report

The majority of victims who experienced at least one type of identity theft during the prior 2 years (68%) contacted a credit card company or bank to report the misuse or attempted misuse of an account or personal information (appendix table 6). About 15% contacted a credit bureau, and 7% of all victims contacted a credit monitoring service about the incident. One percent of victims reported contacting the Federal Trade Commission, 3% contacted a government consumer affairs agency or other consumer protection organization, such as the Better Business Bureau, and 4% contacted an agency that issues identity documentation, such as the Social Security Administration or an agency that issues drivers' licenses.

The largest percentage of victims who contacted a credit bureau were those whose identifying information was fraudulently used to open a new account (39%), followed by victims of multiple types of theft (24%) and victims whose personal information was used for other fraudulent purposes (22%).

FIGURE 3

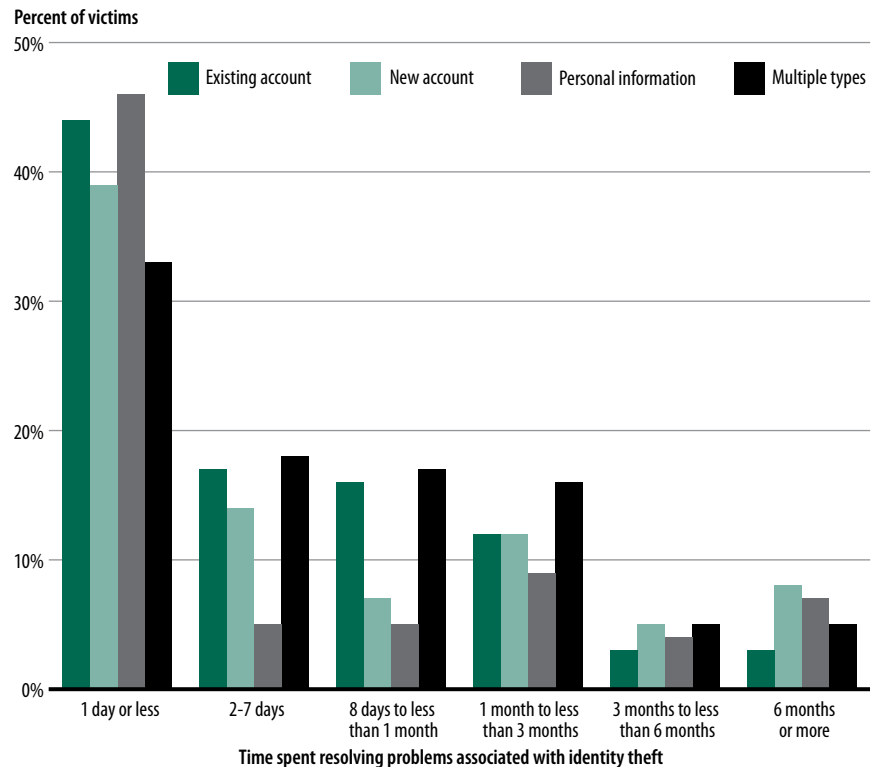
Total out-of-pocket loss for identity theft victims who experienced a direct or indirect financial loss from identity theft during a 2-year period, 2008



Note: Financial loss is computed from the 23% of identity theft victims who experienced a personal loss of at least \$1.

FIGURE 4

Length of time spent clearing up problems associated with identity theft, by type of theft, 2008



Victims of any type of identity theft who contacted a credit bureau could take several different actions. Of the 15% of victims who contacted a credit bureau, about three-quarters placed a fraud alert on their credit report (76%) or requested a credit report (72%); about half requested corrections to their credit report (50%) or provided a police report to the credit bureau (45%); and 30% placed a freeze on their credit report (figure 5).

Victim notification of law enforcement

About 17% of all identity theft victims contacted a law enforcement agency to report the incident

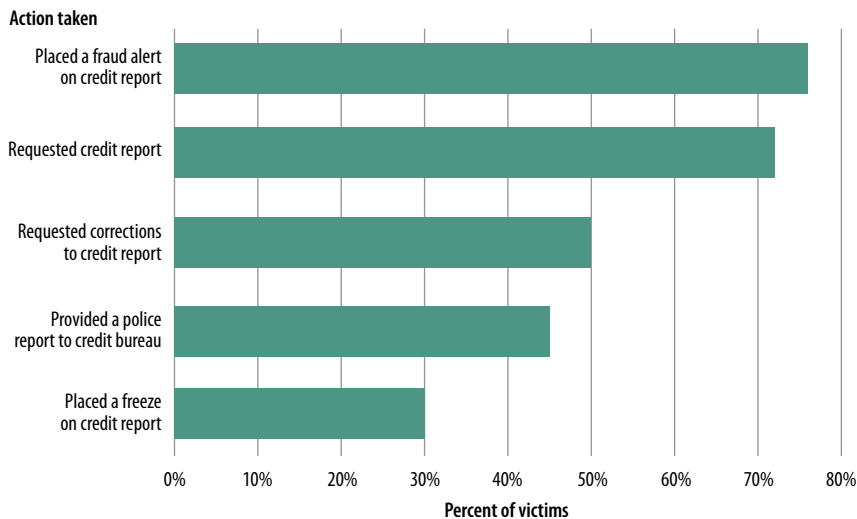
In 2008, about 17% of all victims of identity theft during the 2-year period contacted a law enforcement agency to report the theft (figure 6). More than a quarter of victims of new account fraud (28%), multiple types of identity theft (26%), and the misuse of personal information (26%) reported the incident to the police, compared to

13% of victims who experienced the unauthorized use or attempted use of an existing account (appendix table 7).

The 80% of identity theft victims who did not report an incident to the police offered a variety of reasons for the lack of contact. Across all types of identity theft, the most common reason for not contacting the police, reported by nearly half (48%) of all victims, was that the victim handled it another way, such as reporting the theft to a credit card company, bank, or other organization. About 2 in 10 victims did not report the incident to the police because they did not suffer any monetary loss (22%) or because they did not think the police could help (19%). Another 15% of victims did not know that they could report the incident to law enforcement, and 7% chose not to report because they were afraid, embarrassed, or thought reporting would be an inconvenience. Less than 1% of victims did not report the identity theft incident to the police because the perpetrator was a friend or family member.

FIGURE 5

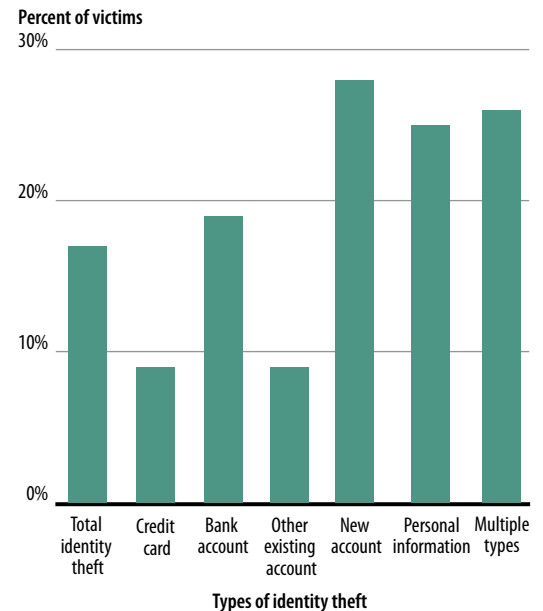
Percentage of identity theft victims who contacted a credit bureau about an identity theft incident during the past 2 years, by action taken, 2008



Note: Percentages based on the 15% of identity theft victims who contacted a credit bureau regarding an incident of identity theft within the previous 2 years. Details sum to more than 100% because some victims took multiple actions with the credit bureau.

FIGURE 6

Percentage of identity theft victims during the past 2 years who reported an identity theft incident to a law enforcement agency, by type of identity theft, 2008



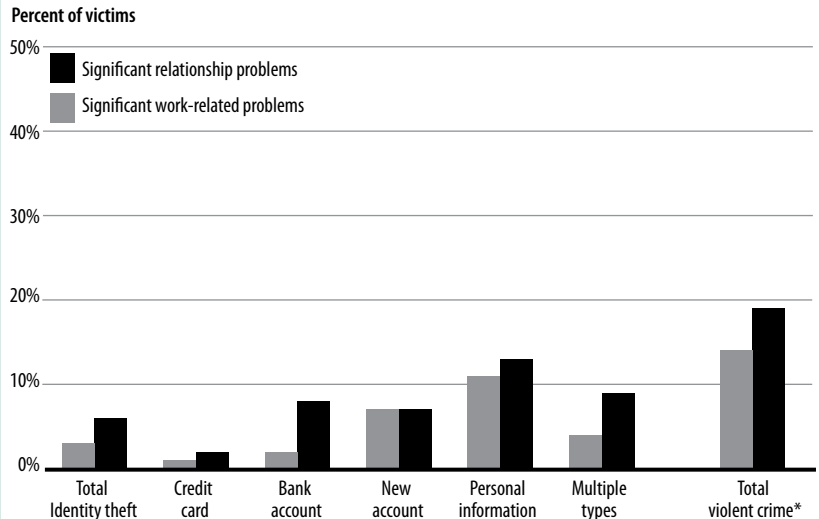
Comparing Victim Impact of Identity Theft and Violent Crime

The 2009 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) asked victims of violent crimes, including rape and sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault, to rate the impact of the offense on work, school, personal relationships, and emotional distress. Compared to the identity theft victims surveyed in 2008, a greater percentage of violent crime victims reported significant work, school, or relationship problems due to the incident (appendix table 8). About 3% of identity theft victims, compared with 14% of violent crime victims, reported significant problems at work or school as a result of the incident (figure 7).

The same pattern held for victims who reported significant problems with relationships between family members or friends. About 6% of identity theft victims reported getting into more arguments with family or friends, not being able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them after the incident, compared with 19% of victims of violent crime who experienced these feelings. In addition, a greater percentage of violent crime victims (29%) than identity theft victims (20%) reported that the incident was severely distressing (figure 8).

The level of emotional distress on victims varied by type of identity theft. About 11% of victims of credit card misuse and about 30% of victims who experienced the fraudulent misuse of their personal information described their experience as severely distressing.

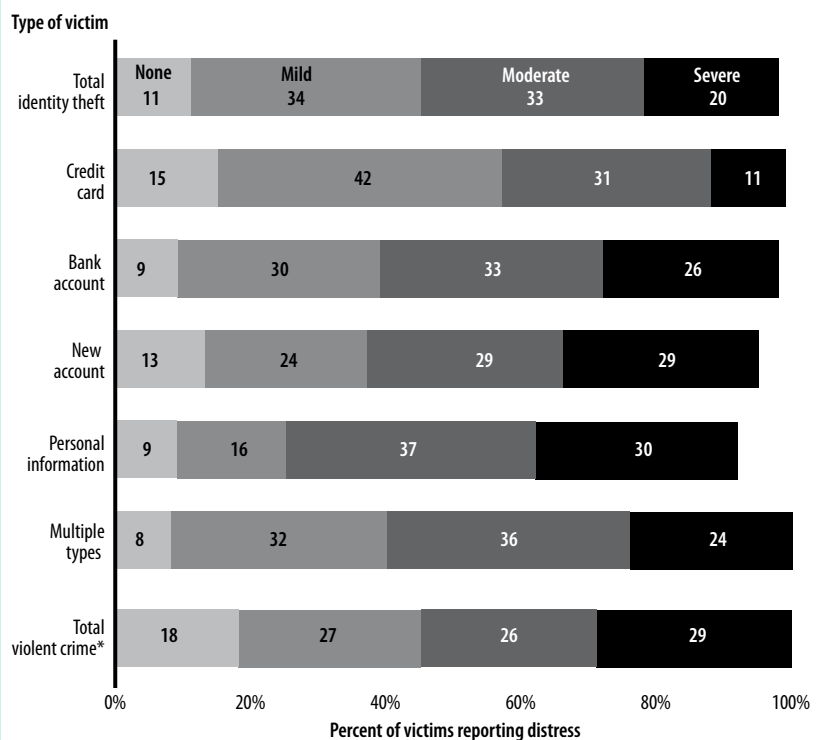
FIGURE 7
Percentage of identity theft victims and victims of violent offenses who reported experiencing work or relationship problems as a result of the victimization, 2008 and 2009



Note: Victims reported their perceptions of whether the victimization experience led to significant work- or school-related problems and problems with family and friends.

*Total violent crime includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Data on victims of violent crime were taken from the 2009 National Crime Victimization Survey.

FIGURE 8
Level of emotional distress reported by victims of identity theft and victims of violent crimes, 2008 and 2009



Note: Victims reported whether they found the victimization to be not at all distressing, mildly distressing, moderately distressing, or severely distressing. Details may not sum to 100% due to missing data.

*Total violent crime includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Data on victims of violent crime were taken from the 2009 National Crime Victimization Survey.

Victim distress and other nonfinancial impact

Two in 10 victims of identity theft rated the experience as severely distressing

Victims who experienced a direct financial loss were asked how the identity theft affected their lives.³ Approximately 3% of these victims reported that the identity theft caused significant problems with their job or schoolwork, or trouble with a supervisor, coworkers, or peers (appendix table 8). Additionally, about 6% of victims attributed significant problems with family members or friends to the identity theft victimization, including getting into more arguments or fights, not feeling that they could trust family or friends as much, or not feeling as close to family or friends as before the theft.

Victims were also asked to rate how distressing the identity theft was for them. About 11% did not find the theft distressing at all, 34% found

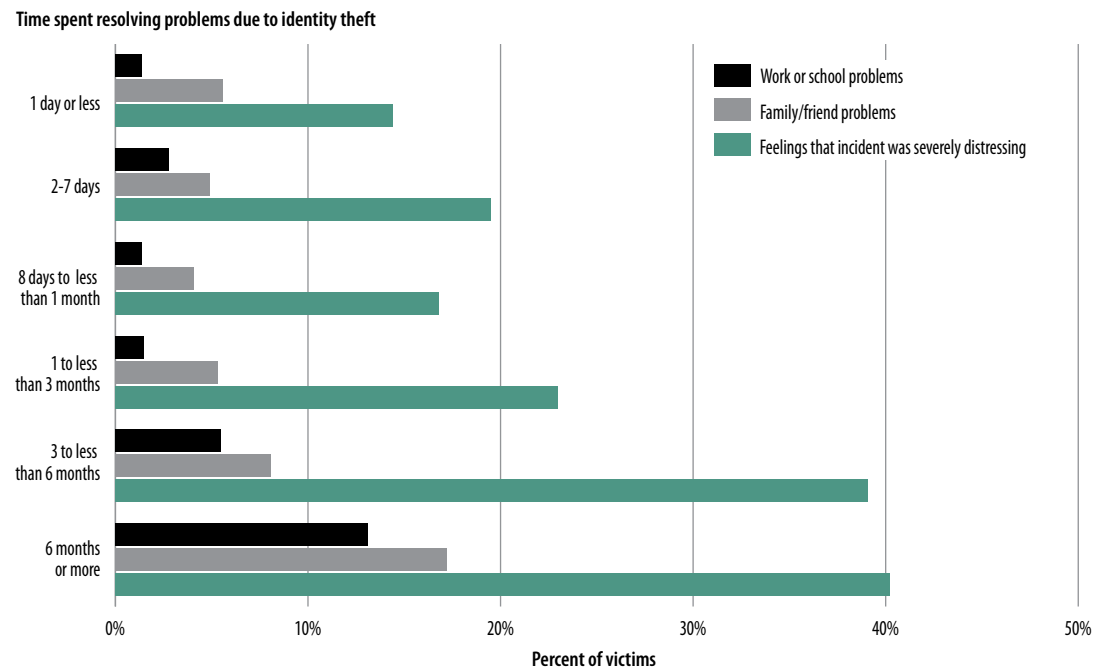
it mildly distressing, 33% found it moderately distressing, and 20% found it severely distressing.

The impact of identity theft on the victim's work, school, and family relationships, as well as the level of distress, varied by the type of identity theft. A greater percentage of victims who experienced personal information fraud reported a direct negative impact on work or school (11%) and family relationships (13%), compared with victims who experienced the unauthorized use of a credit card (2% or less). Additionally, 30% of victims of personal information fraud reported the incident as severely distressing, compared with 11% of victims of credit card fraud.

Victims who spent more time resolving financial and credit problems resulting from the identity theft were more likely to experience severe distress than victims who cleared up the problems more quickly (figure 9). Among victims who spent more than 6 months resolving problems resulting from the theft, over 40% felt the identity theft was severely distressing; less than 15% of victims who spent a day or less resolving problems found the incident severely distressing.

³Only victims of identity theft who reported that an offender had successfully obtained money, goods, or services, or successfully used their information for other fraudulent purposes, were asked questions about how the incident affected their lives. See *Methodology* for more information on the distinction between attempted and successful identity theft.

FIGURE 9
Percentage of victims reporting work/school or relationship problems or distress resulting from identity theft, by length of time spent resolving financial and credit problems associated with the theft, 2008



Note: Victims who reported an attempted identity theft were not asked about victim impact. See *Methodology* for more details.

Methodology

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS collects information on nonfatal crimes, reported and not reported to the police, against persons age 12 or older in a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. Survey results are based on data gathered from residents living throughout the United States, including persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. The survey excludes personnel living in military barracks and persons living in an institutional setting, such as a correctional or hospital facility. For more detail, see *Survey Methodology for Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2007* at <<http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbse&sid=58>>.

The 2008 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) was the first supplement to the annual NCVS to collect nationwide, individual data on the prevalence of and victim response to the attempted or successful unauthorized use of an existing account, use of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes. The 2008 ITS focused on measuring the prevalence of identity theft, its economic and emotional costs, and the victim response to this type of offense. The ITS also collected data on the characteristics of identity theft victims, how victims discovered the identity theft, the time spent resolving problems associated with the theft, victims' interactions with law enforcement and credit bureaus, and measures taken to avoid or minimize the risk of becoming an identity theft victim.

Between January and June 2008, the ITS was administered to persons age 16 or older, asking about any experience with identity theft in the previous 2-year period. Thus, all identity theft incidents occurred between January 2006 and June 2008. ITS interviews were conducted only after the respondent successfully completed the regular NCVS interview. All NCVS and ITS interviews were conducted in a computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) environment. Interviews were conducted by telephone or by personal visit. A final sample size of 56,480 out of the original 73,071 NCVS-eligible respondents completed the ITS questionnaire, resulting in an ITS response rate of 77.3%. The combined overall NCVS-ITS unit response rate for NCVS

households, NCVS persons, and ITS persons was 69.7%. Because of the level of nonresponse, a bias analysis was conducted. To the extent that those who responded to the survey and those who did not differ in important ways, there is a potential for biases in estimates from the survey data. The results of the analysis suggest that there is little or no bias of substantive importance due to nonresponse in the ITS estimates.

Attempted versus successful identity theft

The ITS was originally designed to distinguish victims of attempted identity theft from victims who experienced a direct loss or the actual misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes. However, the survey instrument could not fully distinguish attempts from successes.

About 800 respondents (28%) stated at the survey outset that the offender was not successful in obtaining any money, products, or services from their account or was not successful in using their identity for a fraudulent purpose. These respondents were then directed into the "Attempted but failed" module and were asked slightly different questions from the approximately 2,000 respondents (72%) who reported being victims of a successful incident of identity theft.

Respondents in the "Attempted but failed" module were not asked questions pertaining to direct financial loss or victim impact. A subsequent review of responses to follow-up questions in the "Attempted but failed" module revealed that a small percentage of these victims may have experienced some direct loss. It is not possible to verify or reliably estimate these losses. Consequently, the inability to include the direct losses related to these cases may lead the survey to underestimate the financial impact of identity theft.

Other limitations

Estimates from the ITS were based on respondents' self-reports of any identity theft victimization that occurred during the previous 2 years. As with any self-report survey, respondents may not recall past events accurately or at all. Given the nature of identity theft, respondents may not have been aware that they were being or had been victimized.

The ITS asked respondents about the types of identity theft experienced, not the number of occurrences. Because the instrument did not capture the number of times a type of identity theft

occurred during the 2-year period, a prevalence rate rather than an incidence rate was computed.

Limitations due to skip patterns. The ITS contained a number of skip patterns that resulted in different base counts of victims for several sections of the analysis. For instance, victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft from separate incidents (0.1%) were not asked questions pertaining to how their identity was stolen. Likewise, victims who were directed to answer questions in the “Attempted but failed” module were not asked about direct financial loss or about any distress or relationship or work problems resulting from the incident.

Possible overreporting of losses from jointly held accounts. Persons may have experienced the unauthorized use of a jointly held account. Joint accounts present a difficulty with counting financial harm or loss because of the potential for double-counting the same loss (e.g., both account holders report the same \$500 loss). Moreover, because financial loss was not attributed to a particular type of identity theft, victims of multiple types of identity theft may have experienced some financial loss from a joint account and some financial loss from an independently held account. Thus, it was not possible to correct for any potential overreporting due to joint account holders who may have been double-counted.

Lack of data on risk of identity theft. Data

needed to estimate the likelihood of a person with an existing account (such as a credit card, savings, or checking account) becoming a victim of identity theft are currently not available. The NCVS did not ask respondents about the number and types of financial accounts they hold, and such estimates are not available from other sources.

Standard error computations

Comparisons between the percentages and rates for this report are tested to determine if observed differences were statistically significant. Differences described as greater than, higher, lower, or different passed a test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95%-confidence level). Values described as slightly, marginally, or somewhat different passed a test at the 0.10 level of statistical significance (90%-confidence level). Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this special report.

APPENDIX TABLE 1**Number and percentage of persons age 16 and older who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years, 2008**

Type	Identity theft reported ^a		Type of identity theft victim ^b	
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Identity theft	11,694,600	5.0%	11,694,600	5.0%
Existing account	10,080,600	4.3%	8,339,500	3.5%
Credit card	6,224,500	2.6	4,840,600	2.0
Banking	4,374,500	1.9	3,047,400	1.3
Other	811,900	0.3	451,500	0.2
New account	1,666,400	0.7%	1,118,600	0.5%
Personal information	618,900	0.3%	414,500	0.2%
Multiple types	~	~	1,822,000	0.8%
Existing accounts ^c	~	~	1,190,900	0.5
Other ^d	~	~	631,200	0.3

Note: Numbers rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages based on persons age 16 or older living in households in the United States (235,125,600). In 2008, 473,200 persons (0.2%) did not know or did not report whether they were victims of identity theft during the prior 2 years. An estimated 223 million persons (94.8%) had not experienced identity theft within the 2-year period. The survey was not able to fully distinguish attempts from successes. See *Methodology* for more detail. See standard error table 1 below.

~Not applicable.

^aAllows for multiple responses. Subcategories may not sum to totals because some victims reported more than one type of identity theft.

^bIdentity theft classified as a single type.

^cIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^dIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 1**Standard errors for the number and percentage of persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years, 2008**

Type	Identity theft reported		Type of identity theft victim	
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Identity theft	310,941	0.12	310,941	0.12
Existing account	284,989	0.11	242,332	0.10
Credit card	207,132	0.08	173,412	0.07
Banking	165,677	0.07	129,800	0.05
Other	63,547	0.03	44,845	0.02
New account	87,701	0.04	67,974	0.03
Personal information	60,655	0.03	49,143	0.02
Multiple types	~	~	107,661	0.04
Existing accounts	~	~	82,046	0.03
Other	~	~	60,829	0.03

~Not applicable.

APPENDIX TABLE 2**Percentage of persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the past 2 years, by victim characteristics, 2008**

Characteristic	Total identity theft	Existing account	New account	Personal information	Multiple types*
Total	5.0%	3.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.8%
Gender					
Female	5.1%	3.7	0.5	0.2	0.8
Male	4.8%	3.4	0.4	0.2	0.8
Age					
16-24	6.0%	3.5	0.8	0.4 [^]	1.3
25-34	5.9%	3.8	0.6	0.3	1.1
35-49	5.1%	3.6	0.5	0.1	0.9
50-64	4.8%	3.7	0.4	0.2	0.6
65 or older	3.7%	2.9	0.2	0.1	0.4
Race/Hispanic origin					
White, non-Hispanic	5.1%	3.9	0.4	0.1	0.8
Hispanic	4.1%	2.3	0.7	0.4	0.7
Black, non-Hispanic	4.4%	2.5	0.8	0.4	0.7
Other race, non-Hispanic	5.0%	3.5	0.6	0.1 [^]	0.7
More than one race	10.4%	6.9	0.9 [^]	0.8 [^]	1.8 [^]
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	3.6%	2.2	0.4	0.3	0.7
\$25,000-49,999	4.9%	3.4	0.5	0.2	0.8
\$50,000-74,999	5.1%	3.6	0.6	0.2	0.8
\$75,000 or more	7.0%	5.4	0.4	0.1	1.0
Unknown	3.8%	3.5	0.5	0.2	0.6

Note: See standard error table 2 below.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

*Includes victims who experienced some combination of identity theft types.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 2**Standard errors for the percentage of persons who experienced at least one attempted or successful incident of identity theft during the previous 2 years, by victim characteristics, 2008**

Characteristic	Total identity theft	Existing account	New account	Personal information	Multiple types
Total	0.12	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.04
Gender					
Female	0.15	0.13	0.04	0.03	0.05
Male	0.14	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.06
Age					
16-24	0.55	0.41	0.16	0.16 [^]	0.22
25-34	0.29	0.25	0.08	0.07	0.13
35-49	0.19	0.15	0.06	0.03	0.08
50-64	0.19	0.16	0.05	0.03	0.06
65 or older	0.20	0.16	0.05	0.03	0.07
Race/Hispanic origin					
White, non-Hispanic	0.15	0.12	0.03	0.02	0.05
Hispanic	0.29	0.21	0.11	0.10	0.12
Black, non-Hispanic	0.30	0.23	0.14	0.09	0.11
Other race, non-Hispanic	0.41	0.38	0.17	0.06 [^]	0.18
More than one race	1.44	1.33	0.44 [^]	0.43 [^]	0.56 [^]
Household income					
Less than \$25,000	0.26	0.19	0.08	0.05	0.11
25,000-49,999	0.23	0.20	0.74	0.04	0.08
\$50,000-74,999	0.30	0.23	0.09	0.05	0.11
\$75,000 or more	0.24	0.21	0.06	0.03	0.09
Unknown	0.18	0.15	0.06	0.04	0.06

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Percentage of victims who experienced an attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years and knew how their information was stolen, by type of identity theft and offender method of obtaining identifying information, 2008

Offender method	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing accounts ^a	Other ^b
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200
Victim knew how personal information was obtained										
No	58%	59%	64%	52%	63% ^	57%	61%	48%	46%	53%
Yes	39	38	34	47	28^	36	27	50	53	44
Method by which information was obtained										
Stolen during a purchase or other transaction	29%	34%	46%	24%	3% ^	8% ^	5% ^	22%	25%	15% ^
Lost or stolen from wallet	20	20	16	26	--^	15	11^	23	29	8^
Stolen from personnel files or other files maintained by an office	14	12	11	12	34^	30	26^	11	7^	23
Stolen from storage location ^c	10	9	8	10	12^	11^	10^	16	14	23
Family or friends accessed information	8	6	3	7	23^	20	39^	7	5^	14^
Computer was hacked	4	5	4	5	10^	--^	3^	7	8^	6^
Responded to spam email or phone call	4	5	2^	7	10^	2^	--^	2^	3^	--^
Data exposed on Internet	4	4	4	3^	7^	3^	6^	5^	6^	--^
Stolen from mailbox or garbage	3	3	2^	4	--^	8^	--^	3^	2^	5^
Other ^d	3	3	3	3^	--^	4^	--^	4^	3^	5^

Note: Table population includes victims who experienced a single type or incident of identity theft over the 2-year period. Victims who suffered multiple types of identity theft from separate incidents (0.1%) are excluded. Details percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding and to the inability of some respondents to provide a response. See standard error table 3 below.

^Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Less than 0.5%.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account in one identity theft incident.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes information stolen from a home, car, or office where it was stored.

^dIncludes such methods as address changed at the post office; data breach; clerical mistake; and theft by acquaintance, employee, or contractor.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 3

Standard errors for the percentage of victims who experienced an attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years and knew how their information was stolen, by type of identity theft and offender method of obtaining identifying information, 2008

Offender method	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing accounts	Other
Victim knew how personal information was obtained										
No	1.0	1.2	1.4	2.1	4.9^	3.3	4.7	2.6	3.2	4.4
Yes	1.0	1.2	1.3	2.0	4.4^	3.3	4.4	2.6	3.1	4.2
Stolen during a purchase or other transaction	1.6	2.0	2.7	2.6	3.0^	3.1^	4.4^	3.6	4.4	5.1^
Lost or stolen from wallet	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.9	~^	4.0	6.4^	2.8	3.6	3.7^
Stolen from personnel files or other files maintained by an office	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.9	9.4^	5.4	8.3^	2.2	2.2^	5.7
Stolen from storage location	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.6	5.8^	4.0^	7.7^	2.8	2.7	6.5
Family or friends accessed information	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.6	7.8^	4.0	10.7^	2.0	1.8^	5.3^
Computer was hacked	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.2	5.5^	~^	3.2^	1.9	2.5^	3.1^
Responded to spam email or phone call	0.6	0.8	0.7^	1.5	5.5^	1.3^	~^	1.1^	1.6^	~^
Data exposed on internet	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9^	4.6^	1.7^	4.6^	2.0^	2.8^	~^
Stolen from mailbox or garbage	0.6	0.7	0.8^	1.3	~^	2.7^	~^	1.6^	1.8^	3.6^
Other	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.0^	~^	2.2^	~^	1.6^	1.7^	3.6^

^Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

~Not applicable.

APPENDIX TABLE 4
Financial loss from identity theft among victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years, by type of theft and type of loss, 2008

Financial loss	Total identity theft	Existing account					New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other	Total			Existing account ^a	Other ^b	
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200	
Combined direct and indirect loss	\$17,291,882,200	7,086,915,800	3,209,788,700	3,024,667,300	852,458,800	3,852,239,700	377,530,900	5,975,196,800	1,997,280,900	3,977,915,900	
Mean	2,400	1,340	1,086	1,409	4,511	7,250	3,764	4,661	2,292	9,684	
Median	430	400	400	400	300	802	200	500	402	1,100	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	62%	63%	61%	70%	42%	48%	24%	70%	73%	65%	
Direct loss^c	\$16,563,564,500	6,666,963,300	3,163,550,600	2,715,874,500	787,538,200	3,848,796,500	209,875,500	5,837,929,200	1,960,541,600	3,877,387,600	
Mean	2,394	1,301	1,105	1,304	4,446	8,110	2,829	4,680	2,293	9,879	
Median	500	400	400	400	300	1,000	2,500	600	500	1,200	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	59%	61%	59%	68%	39%	42%	18%	69%	72%	62%	
Direct out-of-pocket loss	\$4,082,018,300	2,073,007,600	591,163,500	1,160,759,800	321,084,300	261,784,600	138,377,000 [^]	1,608,849,100	641,258,800	967,590,300	
Mean	2,228	1,633	1,355	1,515	4,798	4,577	3,445 [^]	3,457	2,129	5,896	
Median	300	300	200	400	300	1,000	2,500 [^]	400	300	600	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	16%	15%	9%	25%	15%	5%	10% [^]	26%	25%	27%	
Indirect loss^d	\$1,044,301,600	546,220,700	96,667,500	384,632,500	64,920,600 [^]	61,694,400	249,107,200	1,872,793,00	48,979,400	138,299,900	
Mean	788	662	292	830	2,169 [^]	378	3,955	684	390	932	
Median	50	30	10	60	200 [^]	50	100	80	30	100	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	11%	10%	7%	15%	7% [^]	15%	15%	15%	11%	24%	
Total out-of-pocket loss^e	\$5,126,319,800	2,619,228,200	687,831,000	1,545,392,300	386,004,900	323,479,100	387,484,100	1,796,128,400	690,238,200	1,105,890,200	
Mean	1,870	1,458	988	1,531	4,200	1,518	4,175	2,811	1,792	4,356	
Median	200	200	100	300	300	100	800	300	200	500	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	23%	21%	14%	33%	19%	19%	22%	35%	32%	40%	

Note: Number of victims and total loss amounts rounded to the nearest hundred. Mean and median losses based on victims who experienced a loss of \$1 or more. Twenty-eight percent of victims were not asked about direct losses from identity theft. See *Methodology* for more detail. Of the victims who were asked about direct losses, 5% did not provide information on the amount of the loss. Details may not sum to totals due to unknown or undisclosed loss amounts. See standard error table 4 below.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cDirect loss includes the value of goods, services, credit, loans, cash, and anything else a person obtained while misusing personal information.

^dIndirect loss includes any additional costs incurred in the course of addressing the identity theft, such as legal fees, bounced check fees, and any miscellaneous expenses like postage, phone calls, or notary fees.

^eIncludes direct out-of-pocket loss, indirect loss, or both.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 4
Standard errors for financial loss from identity theft among victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years, by type of theft and type of loss, 2008

Financial loss	Total identity theft	Existing account					New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other	Total			Existing account	Other	
Combined direct and indirect loss											
Mean	391	172	91	232	3,562	3,988	1,772	964	786	2,433	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.7	5.1	3.1	4.9	2.4	2.9	3.9	
Direct loss											
Mean	396	161	87	202	3,562	4,409	785	956	764	2,464	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.7	5.0	3.2	4.6	2.6	3.1	4.0	
Direct out-of-pocket loss											
Mean	447	401	475	462	4,175	3,392	1,089 [^]	1,048	1,100	2,130	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.8	3.6	1.4	2.6 [^]	2.1	2.6	3.4	
Indirect loss											
Mean	192	201	110	328	1,202 [^]	131	1,976	309	281	514	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.4	2.5 [^]	2.9	4.7	1.5	1.6	3.3	
Total out-of-pocket loss											
Mean	343	339	340	429	3,508	946	1,539	817	934	1,461	
Percent of victims experiencing a loss	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.9	4.0	3.0	4.8	2.1	2.7	3.8	

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Length of time victims spent resolving problems associated with any attempted or successful identity theft incident that occurred during the past 2 years, 2008

Time to resolve	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account ^a	Other ^b
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200
1 day or less	42%	44%	50%	35%	47%	39%	46%	33%	35%	29%
2 to 7 days	16	17	16	19	12	14	5 [^]	18	18	18
8 days to less than 1 month	15	16	14	20	18	7	5 [^]	17	20	10
1 month to less than 3 months	13	12	10	16	8 [^]	12	9 [^]	16	15	17
3 months to less than 6 months	4	3	3	4	4 [^]	5	4 [^]	5	4	8
6 months or more	3	2	2	2	1 [^]	8	7 [^]	5	3 [^]	9
Unknown	7	5	5	4	10	14	23	7	5	10

Note: Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See standard error table 5 below.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 5

Standard errors for the length of time victims spent resolving problems associated with any attempted or successful identity theft incident that occurred during the previous 2 years, 2008

Time to resolve	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
1 day or less	0.98	1.1	1.5	1.8	5.5	3.2	4.9	2.4	3.2	3.6
2-7 days	0.75	0.9	1.2	1.5	3.5	2.2	2.2 [^]	2.2	2.7	3.2
8 days to less than 1 month	0.72	0.9	0.9	1.7	3.8	1.6	2.4 [^]	2.0	2.8	2.3
1 month to less than 3 months	0.71	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.5 [^]	2.1	3.2 [^]	2.2	2.5	3.3
3 months to less than 6 months	0.36	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.9 [^]	1.0	2.1 [^]	1.2	1.3	2.4
6 months or more	0.35	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.0 [^]	2.0	3.1 [^]	1.0	1.0 [^]	2.2
Unknown	0.49	0.5	0.6	0.8	3.0	2.2	4.2	1.4	1.3	2.6

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 6
Percentage of victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the past 2 years and contacted an organization about the theft, by type of theft, type of organization, and credit bureau action, 2008

Organization	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account ^a	Other ^b
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200
Credit card company or bank	68%	69%	64%	77%	67%	53%	38%	78%	77%	78%
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	1	1	-- [^]	1 [^]	-- [^]	3 [^]	5 [^]	2 [^]	-- [^]	5 [^]
Consumer agency ^c	3	1	1	2	-- [^]	10	6 [^]	4	2 [^]	7
Document issuing agency ^d	4	2	2	3	4 [^]	9	13	10	8	12
Credit monitoring service	7	5	6	4	5 [^]	14	11 [^]	9	6	16
Credit bureau ^e	15	10	10	9	7 [^]	39	22	24	17	37
Placed a fraud alert on credit report	76	72	70	77	49 [^]	78	72	83	75	89
Requested credit report	72	63	60	66	100 [^]	84	81	72	58	85
Requested corrections to credit report	50	35	31	38	66 [^]	71	57	57	41	72
Provided a police report to credit bureau	30	39	21	34	12 [^]	29	38 [^]	34	30	38
Placed a freeze on credit report	45	25	36	45	49 [^]	44	39 [^]	57	54	59

Note: See standard error table 6 below.

--Less than 0.5%.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes government consumer affairs agencies and agencies such as the Better Business Bureau.

^dIncludes agencies that issue drivers' licenses or Social Security cards.

^ePercentage of victims who took actions with a credit bureau, based on the number of victims who contacted a credit bureau. Percentages may sum to more than 100% due to respondents taking multiple actions with the credit bureau and unknown responses.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 6
Standard errors for the percentage of victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years and contacted an organization about the theft, by type of theft, type of organization, and credit bureau action, 2008

Organization	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Credit card company or bank	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.8	4.5	3.9	5.2	2.2	2.8	3.5
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	0.2	0.2	0.1 [^]	0.4 [^]	~ [^]	1.1 [^]	2.2 [^]	0.7 [^]	~ [^]	1.8 [^]
Consumer agency	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	~ [^]	2.3	2.4 [^]	0.9	0.9 [^]	2.0
Document issuing agency	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	2.3 [^]	1.8	4.5	1.5	1.7	2.8
Credit monitoring service	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	2.1 [^]	2.3	3.6 [^]	1.5	1.4	3.2
Credit bureau	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	2.7 [^]	3.3	5.0	2.2	2.4	4.1
Place a fraud alert on credit report	2.2	3.2	4.1	5.9	19.9 [^]	4.2	10.2	3.9	6.6	4.2
Request credit report	2.3	3.3	4.0	6.1	~ [^]	3.3	8.3	4.4	7.2	5.5
Request corrections to credit report	2.8	3.5	4.3	5.5	17.6 [^]	5.4	12.5	5.2	7.2	6.1
Provide a police report to credit bureau	2.4	3.2	3.6	6.4	11.6 [^]	5.3	9.4 [^]	5.0	6.9	6.3
Place a freeze on credit report	2.5	3.4	4.2	6.5	19.9 [^]	5.3	12.0 [^]	4.9	7.9	6.6

~Not applicable.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 7
Percentage of victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the past 2 years and reported the incident to a law enforcement agency, by type of identity theft and reasons for not reporting, 2008

Victim response	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account ^a	Other ^b
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200
Victimization reported to law enforcement	17%	13%	9%	19%	9%	28%	26%	26%	23%	33%
Victimization not reported	80	85	88	80	82	67	60	72	75	65
Reasons for not reporting ^c										
Did not know to report ^d	15	15	15	14	16	21	18	14	12	20
No monetary loss	22	24	27	20	22	15	18 [^]	17	22	6
Handled it another way ^e	48	51	53	49	43	35	28	42	47	32
Did not think the police could help ^f	19	17	15	18	24	24	34	23	21	29
Offender was a family member or friend	1	-- [^]	-- [^]	-- [^]	1 [^]	1 [^]	1 [^]	1 [^]	1 [^]	1
Personal reasons ^g	7	7	5	11	4 [^]	7	5 [^]	6	6	5

Note: Percentage of victims reporting and not reporting to police do not sum to 100% because approximately 3% of victims did not provide responses. See standard error table 7 below.

--Less than 0.05%.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cPercentages computed from the number of victims who did not report the identity theft to a law enforcement agency. Percentages may sum to more than 100% because some victims gave multiple reasons for not reporting.

^dIncludes victims who did not know they could report to the police and victims who did not know which agency was responsible for identity theft crimes.

^eIncludes victims who reported the theft to a credit card company, bank, or other organization instead and victims who took care of the theft independently.

^fIncludes victims who did not think the police would do anything, did not want to bother the police, thought they discovered the crime too late for the police to help, and could not identify the offender or provide information to assist the police.

^gIncludes victims who were afraid to report, too embarrassed to report, or thought reporting would be an inconvenience.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 7
Standard errors for the percent of victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 2 years and reported the incident to a law enforcement agency, by type of identity theft and reasons for not reporting, 2008

Victim response	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Victimization reported to law enforcement	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.8	3.0	5.5	2.2	2.7	3.8
Victimization not reported	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.6	4.0	3.2	5.7	2.1	2.7	3.9
Reasons for not reporting										
Did not know to report	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.5	4.1	3.1	4.9	1.8	2.2	3.9
No monetary loss	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.7	4.5	2.6	5.3 [^]	2.4	3.2	2.8
Handled it another way	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.6	5.0	4.1	6.0	3.2	3.6	5.6
Did not think the police could help	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.7	4.3	3.3	7.5	2.4	2.8	4.8
Offender was a family member or friend	0.2	~ [^]	~ [^]	~ [^]	0.9 [^]	0.7 [^]	1.2 [^]	0.5 [^]	0.6 [^]	0.7
Personal reasons	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.5	2.1 [^]	1.9	2.6 [^]	1.3	1.6	2.5

~Not applicable.

[^]Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Percentage of victims who experienced at least one identity theft incident during the past 2 years or a violent crime incident during the prior year and experienced emotional or physical problems as a result of the incident, by type of identity theft or violent crime, 2008 and 2009

Victim impact	Identity theft										Violent victimizations (2008-2009)				
	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types			Total	Rape or sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other					
Total number of victims	11,694,600	8,339,500	4,840,600	3,047,400	451,500	1,118,600	414,500	1,822,000	1,190,900	631,200	5,006,800	198,100	556,300	949,700	3,302,700
Significant work-related problems ^c	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%^	7%^	11%^	4%	2%^	8%^	14%	28%	19%	16%	11%
Significant relationship problems ^d	6%	5%	2%	8%	9%^	7%	13%^	9%	4%^	19%	19%	40%	24%	20%	17%
Overall, how distressing was the identity theft ^e															
Not at all	11%	12%	15%	9%	6%^	13%	9%^	8%	7%	10%	18%	12%^	11%	15%	20%
Mildly	34	37	42	30	36	24	16^	32	36	24	27	16^	18	25	30
Moderately	33	32	31	33	32	29	37	36	37	32	26	28	26	23	27
Severely	20	17	11	26	15^	29	30	24	18	34	29	43	45	37	23

Note: Data on victims of violent crime are from the 2008-2009 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). On the Identity Theft Supplement (ITS), victims who reported an attempted identity theft did not respond to victim impact items. See *Methodology* for more detail. See standard error table 8 below.

^ Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, banking account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced some combination of two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes victims reporting significant problems with job or schoolwork or trouble with boss, coworker, or peers.

^dIncludes victims reporting significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than before, not feeling able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as before the identity theft.

^eSubcategories may not sum to 100% because 2.3% of total responding victims were unable to provide information on distress.

STANDARD ERROR TABLE 8

Standard errors for the percent of victims who experienced at least one incident of identity theft during the previous two years and experienced emotional or physical problems as a result of the incident, by type of identity theft or violent crime, 2008 and 2009

Victim impact	Identity theft										Violent victimizations (2008-2009)				
	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types			Total	Rape or sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other					
Significant work-related problems	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	2.9^	2.6^	4.9^	1.2	1.3^	2.4^	1.2	7.0	3.6	2.7	1.3
Significant relationship problems	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.4	3.5^	2.0	4.7^	1.5	1.3^	3.1	1.3	7.1	4.0	2.4	1.5
Overall, how distressing was the identity theft?															
Not at all	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.3	3.0^	2.5	3.2^	1.6	1.7	3.3	1.3	4.3^	2.6	2.5	1.7
Mildly	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.9	5.9	2.9	5.3^	2.6	3.7	3.8	1.4	5.3^	3.1	3.3	1.9
Moderately	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.0	6.5	3.5	7.0	2.8	3.6	4.7	1.4	7.6	3.7	2.7	1.8
Severely	0.9	1.0	1.1	2.1	4.3^	3.3	6.7	2.3	2.6	4.5	1.5	6.9	4.6	3.5	1.7

^Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

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This Special Report was written by Lynn Langton and Michael Planty, Ph.D.. Donald Farole, Jr., Ph.D. verified the report. Katrina Baum, Ph.D., coordinated the initial efforts for the development of the identity theft survey, including instrument design, cognitive testing, and collaboration with sponsoring agencies.

Catherine Bird and Jill Duncan edited the report, Barbara Quinn produced the report, and Jayne Robinson prepared the report for final printing under the supervision of Doris J. James.

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This report in portable document format and in ASCII and its related statistical data and tables are available at the BJS website: <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2222>.



Victims of Identity Theft, 2012

Erika Harrell, Ph.D. and Lynn Langton, Ph.D., *BJS Statisticians*

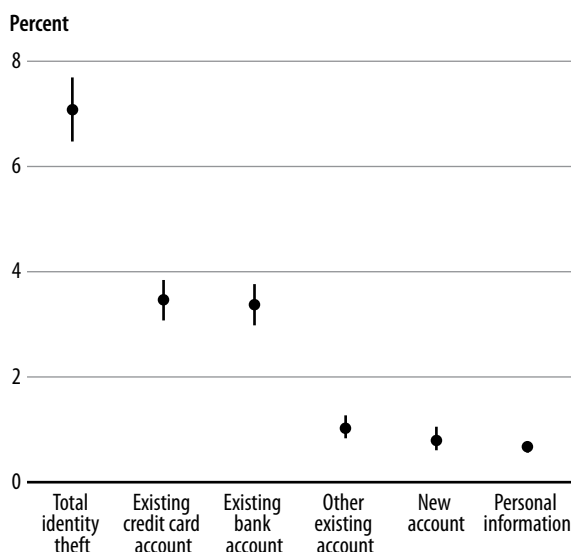
Approximately 16.6 million persons or 7% of all U.S. residents age 16 or older, were victims of one or more incidents of identity theft on 2012 (figure 1). Among identity theft victims, existing bank (37%) or credit card accounts (40%) were the most common types of misused information.

This report uses data from the 2012 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). From January to June 2012, the ITS collected data from persons who experienced one or more attempted or successful incidents of identity theft during the 12 months preceding their interview.

Identity theft victims are defined as persons age 16 or older who experienced one or more of the following incidents:

- unauthorized use or attempted use of an existing account, such as a credit or debit card, checking, savings, telephone, online, or insurance account (referred to as fraud or misuse of an existing account).

FIGURE 1
Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident during the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2012



Note: See table 1 for estimates and appendix table 1 for standard errors. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

Highlights

The purpose of this report is to describe the prevalence of identity theft, its victims, and the characteristics and effects of this crime. The 2012 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) provided the data for this report.

- About 7% of persons age 16 or older were victims of identity theft in 2012.
- The majority of identity theft incidents (85%) involved the fraudulent use of existing account information, such as credit card or bank account information.
- Victims who had personal information used to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes were more likely than victims of existing account fraud to experience financial, credit, and relationship problems and severe emotional distress.
- About 14% of identity theft victims experienced out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more. Of these victims, about half suffered losses of less than \$100.
- Over half of identity theft victims who were able to resolve any associated problems did so in a day or less; among victims who had personal information used for fraudulent purposes, 29% spent a month or more resolving problems.
- About 36% of identity theft victims reported moderate or severe emotional distress as a result of the incident.
- Direct and indirect losses from identity theft totaled \$24.7 billion in 2012.

- unauthorized use or attempted use of personal information to open a new account, such as a credit or debit card, telephone, checking, savings, loan, or mortgage account (referred to as fraud or misuse of a new account).
- misuse of personal information for a fraudulent purpose, such as getting medical care, a job, or government benefits; renting an apartment or house; or providing false information to law enforcement when charged with a crime or traffic violation (referred to as fraud or misuse of personal information).

This report details the number, percentage, and demographic characteristics of victims who reported one or more incidents of identity theft during a 12-month period. It focuses on the most recent incident experienced to describe victim characteristics and victim responses to identity theft. It describes how the victim discovered the crime; financial losses and other consequences of identity theft, including the amount of time victims spent resolving associated problems; reporting of the incident to credit card companies, credit bureaus, and law enforcement agencies; and the level of distress identity theft victims experienced.

For 85% of identity theft victims, the most recent incident involved the unauthorized use of an existing account

In 2012, the unauthorized misuse or attempted misuse of an existing account was the most common type of identity theft, experienced by 15.3 million persons age 16 or older (6% of

all persons) (table 1). The majority of victims experienced the fraudulent use of their credit cards (7.7 million or 3% of all persons) or bank accounts (7.5 million or 3% of all persons). Another 1.7 million victims (0.7% of all persons) experienced other types of existing account theft, such as misuse or attempted misuse of an existing telephone, online, or insurance account.

An estimated 1.1 million victims (less than 1% of all persons) reported the fraudulent misuse of their information to open a new account, such as a credit card. Another 833,600 victims reported the misuse of their personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

In 2012, 22% of victims experienced multiple incidents of identity theft, while 77% experienced a single incident (not shown).¹ During the single or most recent identity theft incident experienced in 2012, 8% or 1.2 million victims experienced multiple types of identity theft during a single incident. For 66% of victims of multiple types of identity theft, the incident involved the unauthorized use of a combination of existing accounts, such as credit card, checking, savings, telephone, or online accounts. The remaining 34% who experienced multiple types of identity theft during a single incident (less than 3% of all victims) reported some combination of misuse of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, and personal information used for other fraudulent purposes.

¹About 1% of victims did not know whether they experienced one or more than one incident.

TABLE 1
Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident in the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2012

Type of identity theft	Anytime during the past 12 months ^a		Most recent incident ^b		
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of all victims
Total	16,580,500	6.7%	16,580,500	6.7%	100%
Existing account	15,323,500	6.2%	14,022,100	5.7%	84.6%
Credit card	7,698,500	3.1	6,676,300	2.7	40.3
Bank	7,470,700	3.0	6,191,500	2.5	37.3
Other	1,696,400	0.7	1,154,300	0.5	7.0
New account	1,125,100	0.5%	683,400	0.3%	4.1%
Personal information	833,600	0.3%	622,900	0.3%	3.8%
Multiple types	~	~	1,252,000	0.5%	7.6%
Existing account ^b	~	~	824,700	0.3	5.0
Other ^c	~	~	427,400	0.2	2.6

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to victims who reported multiple incidents of identity theft and rounding. See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

~Not applicable.

^aIdentity theft classified as a single type.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^cIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

Persons in households with higher annual incomes were more likely to experience identity theft than persons in lower-income households

A similar percentage of males and females (7%) experienced identity theft in 2012 (table 2). Across all types of identity theft, prevalence rates did not vary significantly by sex. After accounting for whether a person owned a credit card and bank account, prevalence rates for existing credit card and existing banking account misuse did not vary by sex.

Persons ages 16 to 17 (less than 1%) were the least likely to experience identity theft, followed by persons ages 18 to 24 (5%) and 65 or older (5%). After accounting for credit card ownership, persons ages 16 to 24 were the least likely to experience the misuse of an existing account, while persons age 65 or older had a similar prevalence rate as persons ages 25 to 34. Among those who had a bank account, persons ages 16 to 17 and 65 or older were the least likely to experience banking account fraud.

A greater percentage of white non-Hispanics (7%) experienced identity theft in 2012 than black non-Hispanics (5%) and Hispanics (5%). This relationship also held true for the misuse of an existing credit card account among persons who had a credit card. However, among persons who had a bank account, there were no significant differences in the prevalence of bank account misuse among whites, blacks, and Hispanics.

Overall, persons in the highest income category (those with an annual household income of \$75,000 or more) had a higher prevalence of identity theft than persons in other income brackets. After accounting for credit card ownership, persons in the highest income bracket had the highest rate of existing credit card account misuse. Among persons who had a bank account, there were no significant differences in the prevalence of identity theft across income categories, with the exception of the unknown category.

TABLE 2
Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident during the past 12 months, by victim characteristics, 2012

Characteristic	Any identity theft		Misuse of existing credit card			Misuse of existing bank account			New account or personal information ^a	
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of persons with credit card	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of persons with bank account	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Total	16,580,500	6.7%	7,698,500	3.1%	4.5%	7,470,700	3.0%	3.5%	1,864,100	0.8%
Sex										
Male	7,902,800	6.6%	3,932,000	3.3%	4.8%	3,320,100	2.8%	3.3%	851,200	0.7%
Female	8,677,700	6.9	3,766,400	3.0	4.3	4,150,600	3.3	3.8	1,012,900	0.8
Age										
16-17	35,200!	0.4%!	4,300!	0.1%!	0.7%!	16,300!	0.2%!	0.6%!	5,800!	0.1%!
18-24	1,466,400	4.8	331,400	1.1	2.6	937,400	3.1	4.1	182,400	0.6
25-34	3,293,500	7.8	1,177,500	2.8	4.1	1,718,100	4.1	4.7	406,700	1.0
35-49	4,914,800	8.0	2,222,100	3.6	4.8	2,344,600	3.8	4.3	531,900	0.9
50-64	4,739,400	7.8	2,590,400	4.2	5.4	1,853,300	3.0	3.3	501,500	0.8
65 or older	2,131,100	5.0	1,372,800	3.2	4.1	601,100	1.4	1.6	235,800	0.6
Race/Hispanic origin										
White ^b	12,417,600	7.3%	6,258,500	3.7%	4.9%	5,295,000	3.1%	3.4%	1,146,400	0.7%
Black ^b	1,494,100	5.0	301,400	1.0	2.1	896,300	3.0	4.2	361,500	1.2
Hispanic/Latino	1,544,100	5.2	509,100	1.7	3.1	834,300	2.8	3.8	254,000	0.8
Other race ^{b,c}	841,400	6.4	523,900	4.0	5.4	302,700	2.3	2.7	54,000	0.4
Two or more races ^b	270,700	9.0	102,000	3.4	5.9	133,400	4.4	5.3	48,200	1.6
Household income										
\$24,999 or less	1,888,000	4.9%	413,200	1.1%	2.6%	1,068,800	2.8%	3.9%	419,400	1.1%
\$25,000-\$49,999	2,809,100	5.4	1,026,100	2.0	3.0	1,490,200	2.9	3.4	443,500	0.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	2,598,500	7.7	1,084,600	3.2	4.1	1,305,800	3.8	4.2	259,000	0.8
\$75,000 or more	6,274,800	10.0	3,668,900	5.9	6.8	2,389,800	3.8	4.0	426,100	0.7
Unknown	3,010,100	5.1	1,505,700	2.6	3.7	1,216,200	2.1	2.4	316,100	0.5

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. Includes successful and attempted identity theft in which the victim experienced no loss. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

! Interpret with caution; estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes the misuse of personal information to open a new account or to commit other fraud.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin.

^cIncludes persons identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander.

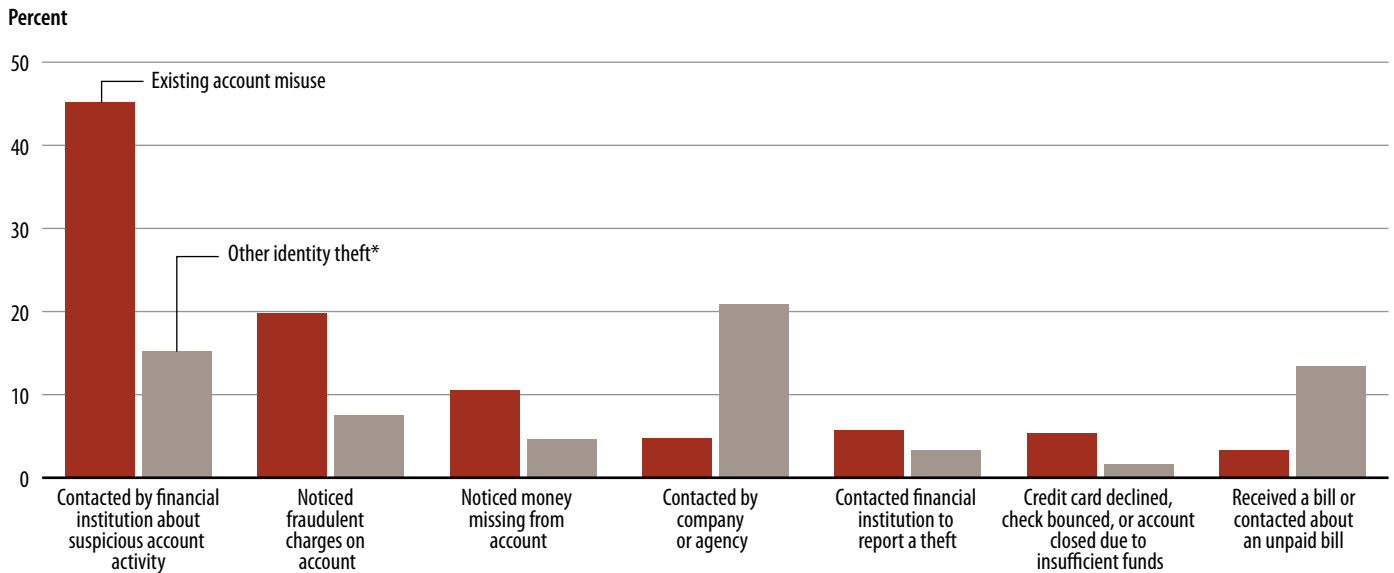
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

The most common way victims discovered the identity theft was from contact by a financial institution about a problem

The way victims discovered that their identifying information was misused varied by the type of identity theft. Among victims who experienced the unauthorized use of an existing account, 45% discovered the identity theft when a financial institution contacted them about suspicious activity on their account (figure 2). In comparison, 15% of victims who

experienced the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes discovered the incident when a financial institution contacted them. Victims of these other types of identity theft were more likely than victims of existing account misuse to discover the incident when another type of company or agency contacted them (21%) or after they received an unpaid bill (13%). Twenty percent of victims of existing account misuse discovered the incident because of fraudulent charges on their account, compared to 8% of victims of other types of identity theft.

FIGURE 2
Most common ways victims discovered identity theft, by type of theft, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 3 for estimates and standard errors for all ways that victims discovered the identity theft.

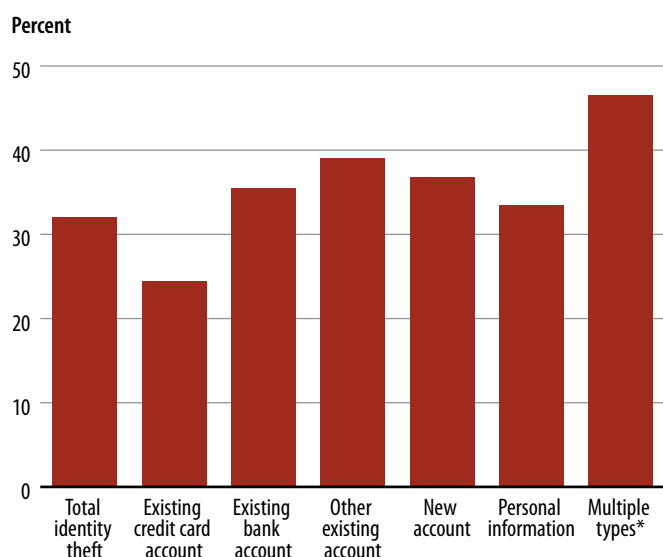
*Includes identity theft incidents involving the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

The majority of identity theft victims did not know how the offender obtained their information

About 32% of identity theft victims knew how the offender obtained their information (figure 3). Victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft during a single incident (47%) were among the most likely victims to know how the offender obtained the information. Victims who had an existing credit card account misused (24%) were among the least likely to know how the offender obtained the account information. Of the 5.3 million victims who knew how the identity theft occurred, the most common way offenders obtained information (43%) was to steal it during a purchase or other transaction (not shown).

FIGURE 3
Identity theft victims who knew how their personal information was obtained, by type of theft, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 4 for estimates and standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

9 in 10 identity theft victims did not know anything about the offender

Overall, most identity theft victims (91%) in 2012 did not know anything about the identity of the offender (table 3). However, the percentage of victims who knew something about offender varied depending on the type of identity theft. Victims who had personal information used to open a new account (25%) or for other fraudulent purposes (23%) were more likely than victims of existing account misuse (7%) to know something about the offender. Across all types of identity theft, victims who experienced the misuse of an existing credit card (3%) were the least likely to know something about the offender.

TABLE 3
Identity theft victims who knew something about the offender, by type of theft, 2012

Type of identity theft	Victim knew something about the offender
Total	8.6%
Existing account	6.6
Credit card	2.7
Bank	9.2
Other	15.9
New account	24.6
Personal information	22.9
Multiple types	15.1
Existing account ^a	11.0
Other ^b	23.1

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

^aIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

Two-thirds of identity theft victims reported a direct financial loss

The economic impact of identity theft is comprised of direct and indirect financial loss. Direct financial loss, the majority of the total loss associated with identity theft, refers to the monetary amount the offender obtained from misusing the victim's account or personal information, including the estimated value of goods, services, or cash obtained. Indirect loss includes any other costs caused by the identity theft, such as legal fees, bounced checks, and other miscellaneous expenses (e.g., postage, phone calls, or notary fees). Direct and indirect losses do not necessarily reflect personal losses to victims, as victims may be reimbursed for some or all of the direct and indirect losses.

In 2012, 68% of identity theft victims reported a combined direct and indirect financial loss associated with the most recent incident (appendix table 8). Overall, victims who experienced a direct and indirect financial loss of at least \$1 lost an average of \$1,769 with a median loss of \$300.

The amount of financial loss varied by the type of identity theft. Approximately 69% of credit card fraud, 74% of bank fraud, 46% of new account fraud, and 38% of personal information fraud victims experienced a financial loss during the past 12 months. Of those victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft, 69% reported a financial loss.

In 2012, 66% of the 16.6 million victims of identity theft reported a direct financial loss as a result of the identity theft incident. About 68% of credit card fraud victims, 74% of bank fraud victims, 42% of new account fraud victims, and 32% of personal information fraud victims reported that the offender obtained money, goods, or services. Of those victims who experienced multiple types of identity theft, 67% reported a direct financial loss associated with the incident.

Of those who reported a direct financial loss, victims who experienced the misuse of their personal information reported a mean direct loss of \$9,650 and a median direct loss of \$1,900. Victims of new account fraud incurred an average loss per incident of \$7,135 and a median loss of \$600. Victims of multiple types of fraud reported an average direct loss of \$2,140 with a median direct loss of \$400, while victims of existing account misuse had an average loss of \$1,003 per incident with a median direct loss of \$200.

In addition to any direct financial loss, 6% of all identity theft victims reported indirect losses associated with the most recent incident of identity theft. Victims who suffered an indirect loss of at least \$1 reported an average indirect loss of \$4,168, with a median of \$30. With the exception of victims of personal information fraud, identity theft victims who reported indirect financial loss had a median indirect loss of \$100 or less.

Direct and indirect identity theft losses totaled \$24.7 billion in 2012

Identity theft victims reported a total of \$24.7 billion in direct and indirect losses attributed to all incidents of identity theft experienced in 2012 (table 4).² These losses exceeded the \$14 billion victims lost from all other property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft) measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey in 2012. Identity theft losses were over 4 times greater than losses due to stolen money and property in burglaries (\$5.2 billion) and theft (\$5.7 billion), and eight times the total losses associated with motor vehicle theft (\$3.1 billion).

²For victims who experienced multiple incidents of identity theft, the total includes losses from all incidents experienced during the past 12 months.

TABLE 4
Mean, median, and total losses attributed to identity theft and property crime, 2012

	Mean	Median	Total (in thousands)
Identity theft ^a	\$2,183	\$300	\$24,696,300
Property crime ^b	\$915	\$150	\$13,991,700
Burglary	2,378	600	5,234,800
Motor vehicle theft	7,963	4,000	3,079,900
Theft	447	100	5,677,000

Note: See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

^aBased on 11.3 million persons 16 or older who experienced one or more incidents of identity theft with known losses of \$1 or more.

^bBased on 15.3 million household property crimes, 2.2 million burglaries, 400,000 motor vehicle thefts, and 12.7 million household thefts with known losses of \$1 or more. In 2012, 19% of completed burglaries had unknown loss amounts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012, and National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

In 2012, 14% of identity theft victims suffered an out-of-pocket financial loss

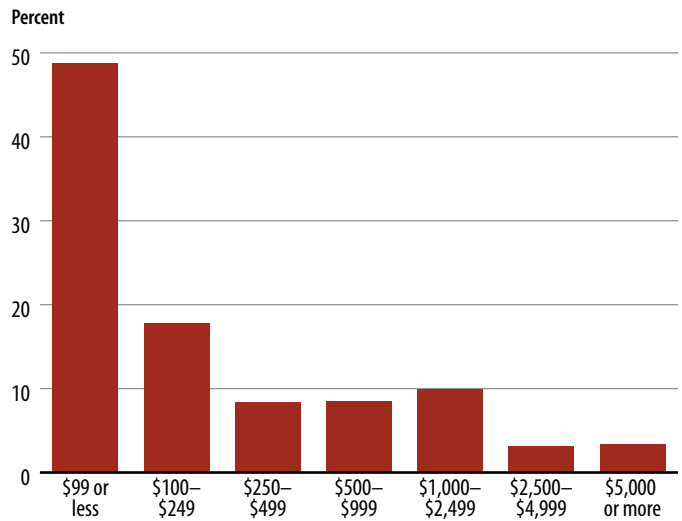
In some instances, a company (e.g., credit card or insurance company) may reimburse some or all of the financial loss, reducing or eliminating the out-of-pocket losses for victims. At the time of the interview, 14% of victims of identity theft had experienced personal out-of-pocket financial losses of \$1 or more. Of these victims who suffered an out-of-pocket financial loss, 49% had total losses of \$99 or less (figure 4). About 18% of victims reported out-of-pocket expenses of \$100 to \$249. An additional 16% of identity theft victims reported that out-of-pocket expenses of \$1,000 or more.

Victims of identity theft who experienced existing account misuse were the least likely to have credit-related problems

In addition to suffering monetary losses, some identity theft victims experienced other financial and legal problems. They paid higher interest rates on credit cards, they were turned down for loans or other credit, their utilities were turned off, or they were the subject of criminal proceedings. Victims who experienced the misuse of an existing account were generally less likely to experience financial and legal problems as a result of the incident than victims who had other personal information misused. In 2012, 2% of victims of existing account misuse experienced problems with debt collectors, compared to 17% of victims who had personal information misused (figure 5). Two percent of victims of existing account misuse experienced

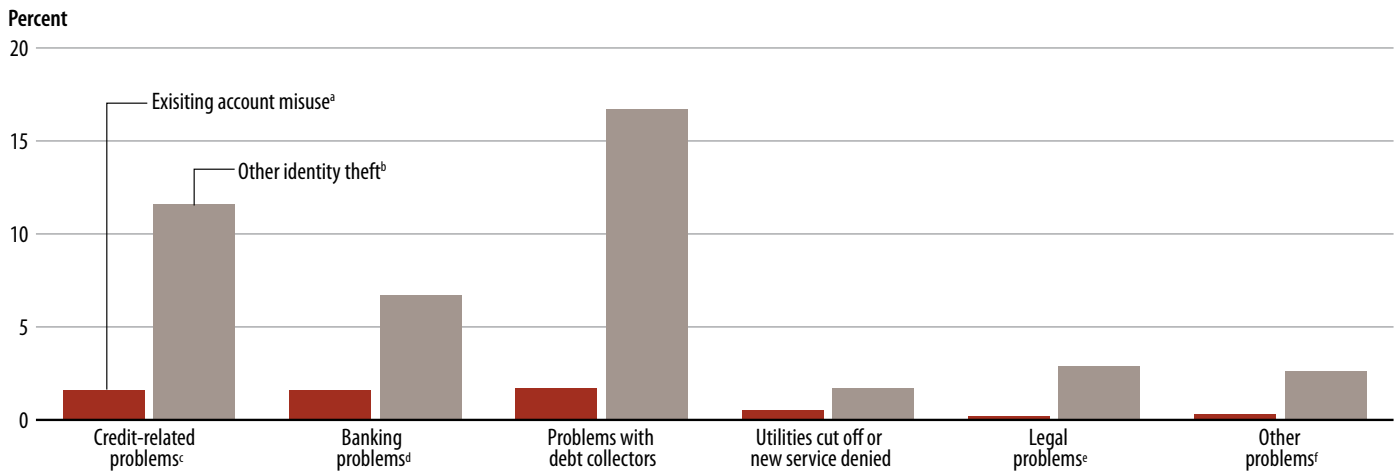
credit-related problems (e.g., higher interest rates or repeatedly having to correct information on a credit report), compared to 12% of victims of other types of identity theft. Less than 1% of victims of existing account misuse and 3% of victims of other types of identity theft had utilities cut off or service denied, legal problems (e.g., being arrested), or other problems (e.g., income tax issues).

FIGURE 4
Total out-of-pocket loss for identity theft victims experiencing a loss of \$1 or more, 2012



Note: Financial loss is computed from the 14% of identity theft victims who experienced a personal loss of at least \$1. Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 7 for estimates and standard errors. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

FIGURE 5
Victims who experienced financial or legal problems as a result identity theft, by type of theft, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. See appendix table 10 for estimates and standard errors.

^aIncludes victims who experienced multiple types of existing account misuse.

^bIncludes identity theft incidents involving the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes problems such as having to correct the same information on a credit report repeatedly, being turned down for credit or loans, or paying higher interest rates.

^dIncludes problems such as being turned down for a checking account or having checks bounce.

^eIncludes being the subject of a lawsuit or other criminal proceedings, or being arrested.

^fIncludes problems such as being turned down for a job, losing a job, or problems with income taxes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

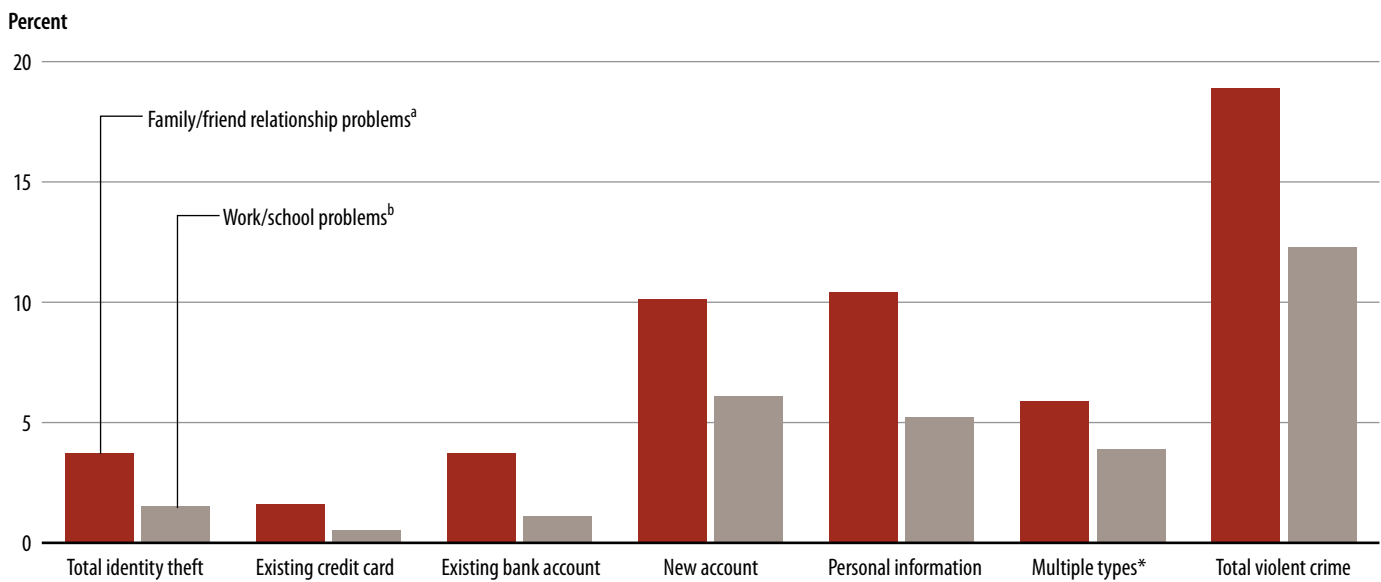
Identity theft victims were less likely than violent crime victims to have significant school, work, or relationship problems as a result of the crime

The 2012 NCVS asked victims of violent crime (including rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) about the impact of the victimization on work, school, and personal relationships, and the amount of emotional distress it caused. Compared to violent crime victims surveyed in 2012, a lower percentage of identity theft victims reported significant problems at work or school or with family members or friends due to the incident (figure 6). About 1% of identity theft victims reported significant problems at work or school, compared to 12% of violent crime victims. Similarly, 4% of

identity theft victims reported significant problems with family members or friends, compared to 19% of violent crime victims.

The percentage of identity theft victims who reported significant problems at work or school as a result of the incident varied by type of identity theft. About 6% of victims who had personal information used to open a new account reported significant problems at work or school, compared to about 1% of victims of existing credit card and bank account misuse (appendix table 11). The largest percentage of identity theft victims who had significant problems with family or friends had their personal information used to create new accounts (10%) or for other fraudulent purposes (10%).

FIGURE 6
Victims of identity theft and violent crime who experienced problems as a result of the victimization, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. Victims reported their perceptions of whether the victimization led to significant problems and problems at work or school with family and friends. Total violent crime includes rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Includes violent crime victims (14%) with missing information on relationship, work, and school problems due to crime. See appendix table 11 for estimates and appendix table 12 for standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

^aIncludes victims reporting significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than before, not feeling able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as before the crime.

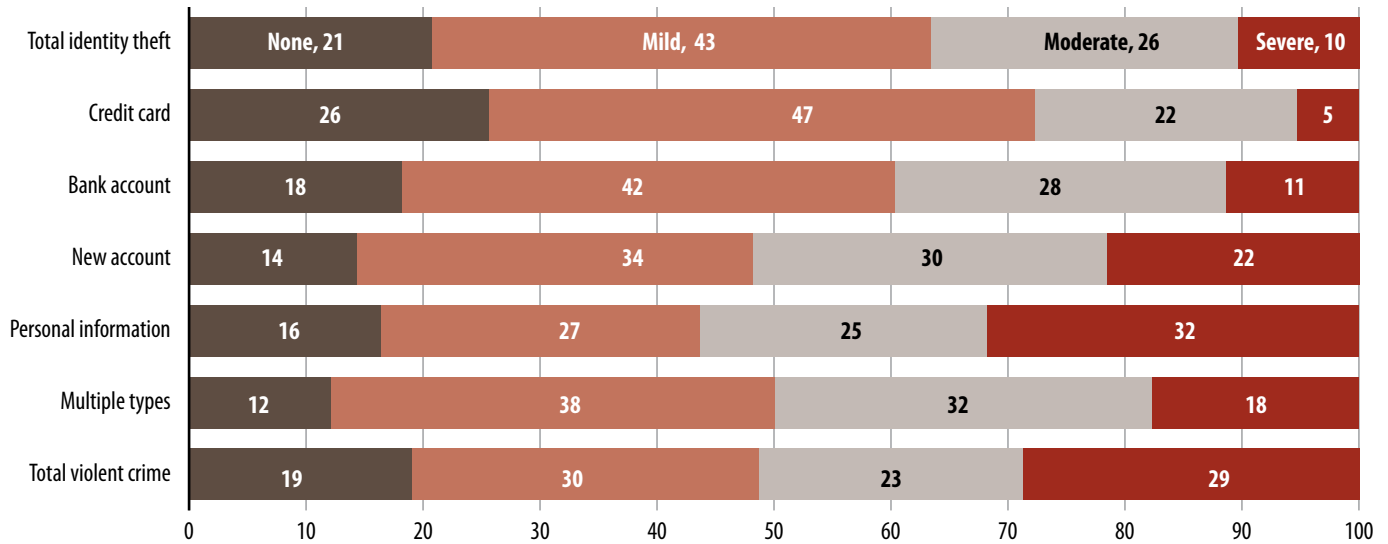
^bIncludes victims reporting significant problems with job or school, such as trouble with boss, coworker, or peers.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012, and National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

Identity theft victims (10%) were also less likely than violent crime victims (29%) to report that the victimization was severely distressing (figure 7). However, the level of emotional distress varied by type of identity theft. Thirty-two percent of

victims of personal information fraud reported that they found the incident severely distressing, compared to 5% of credit card fraud victims. Twenty-two percent of victims of new account fraud reported that the crime was severely distressing.

FIGURE 7
Level of emotional distress reported by identity theft and violent crime victims, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. Victims reported whether they found the victimization to be not at all distressing, mildly distressing, moderately distressing, or severely distressing. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Excludes identity theft victims (less than 1%) and violent crime victims (15%) with missing data on emotional distress. See appendix table 11 for estimates and appendix table 12 for standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012, and National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

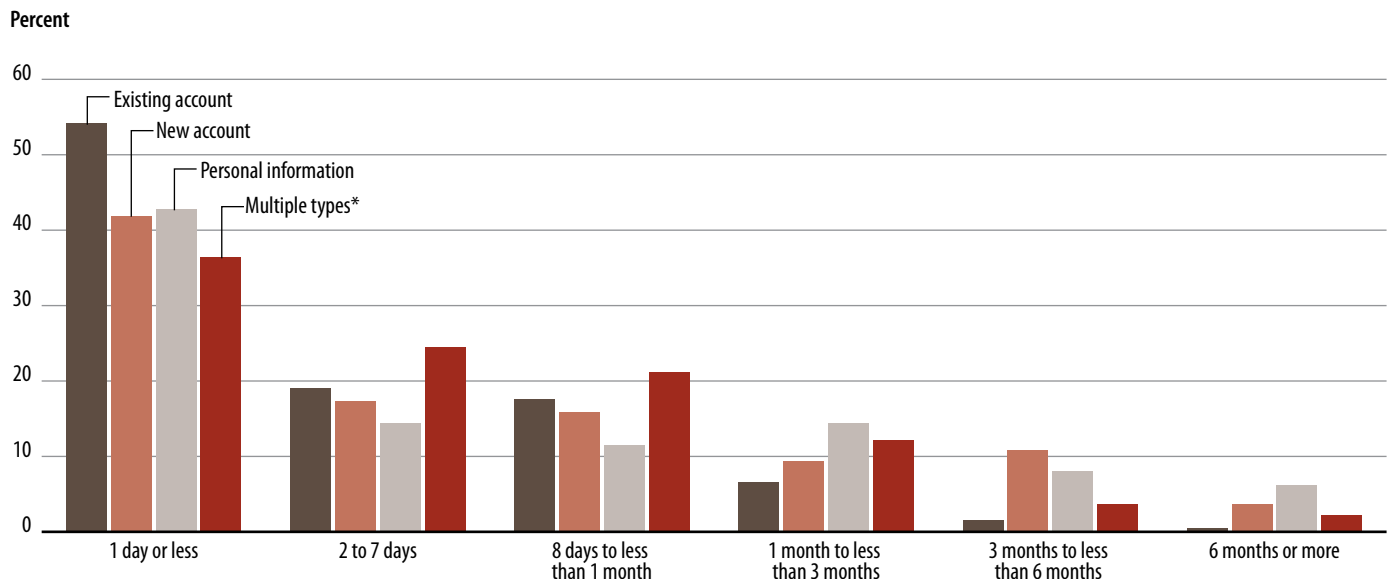
The majority of identity theft victims spent a day or less resolving associated financial and credit problems

At the time of the interview, 86% of identity theft victims had resolved any problems associated with the incident (appendix table 13). Of these, the majority spent a day or less clearing up the problems, while about 10% spent more than a month (figure 8). Victims of the misuse of existing accounts (54%) were more likely to resolve any associated financial and credit problems within a day, compared to victims of new account fraud (42%) and victims of multiple types of identity theft (36%). Among victims who had resolved all problems associated with the identity theft, 29% who experienced the

misuse of personal information for fraudulent purposes spent over a month clearing up the problems, compared to 9% of victims of existing account misuse.

Whether identity theft victims had resolved associated problems or not at the time of the interview, victims reported spending an average of about 9 hours clearing up the issues. Victims of existing credit card account misuse spent an average of 3 hours resolving problems, while victims whose personal information was used to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes spent an average of about 30 hours resolving all problems (not shown).

FIGURE 8
Length of time spent resolving financial and credit problems associated with identity theft, by type of identity theft, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 13 for estimates and appendix table 14 for standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

14% of persons experienced identity theft at some point during their lives

Resolving the problems caused by identity theft may take more than a year for some victims. Of the 20.3 million persons age 16 or older who experienced the misuse of existing accounts or other personal information prior to 2012, 7% were still resolving the problems associated with the identity theft more than a year later (table 5). A greater percentage of persons who experienced the misuse of personal information to open a new account (16%) or for other fraudulent purposes (15%) prior to 2012 had unresolved problems more than a year later, compared to persons who experienced existing account misuse (4%).

Overall, 14% of persons age 16 or older, or 34.2 million persons, experienced one or more incidents of identity theft during their lives. The lifetime prevalence rate for identity theft varied to some degree with age. Younger persons, ages 16 to 17 (1%) and 18 to 24 (7%) and persons ages 65 or older (11%) had the lowest lifetime prevalence rates, while between 15% and 17% of persons ages 25 to 64 experienced identity theft at some point in their lives (not shown in table).

TABLE 5
Persons age 16 or older who experienced identity theft at any point in their lives, type of identity theft they experienced outside of the past year, and ongoing problems from identity theft that occurred outside of the past year, 2012

	Number of persons	Percent of all persons	Percent with unresolved problems resulting from identity theft ^a
Experienced at least one incident of identity theft during lifetime			
No	211,327,500	86.0%	~
Yes	34,237,400	13.9	7.8%
Experienced at least one incident of identity theft outside of past 12 months			
No	225,127,300	91.6%	~
Yes	20,334,600	8.3	7.3%
Type of identity theft experienced			
Existing account	15,311,100	6.2%	4.0%
Credit card	8,860,400	2.3	2.8
Bank account	5,721,700	3.6	5.9
Other account	729,000	0.3	7.7
New account	1,585,100	0.6	16.1
Personal information	1,947,700	0.8	14.9
Multiple types	1,450,300	0.6%	20.6%
Existing accounts ^b	572,800	0.2	11.1
Other ^c	877,500	0.4	26.7

Note: Detail may not sum to same population total due to a small number of victims who did not know whether they experienced identity theft during the lifetime or outside of the past 12 months. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

~Not applicable.

^aBased on number of persons who experienced the identity theft.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^cIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

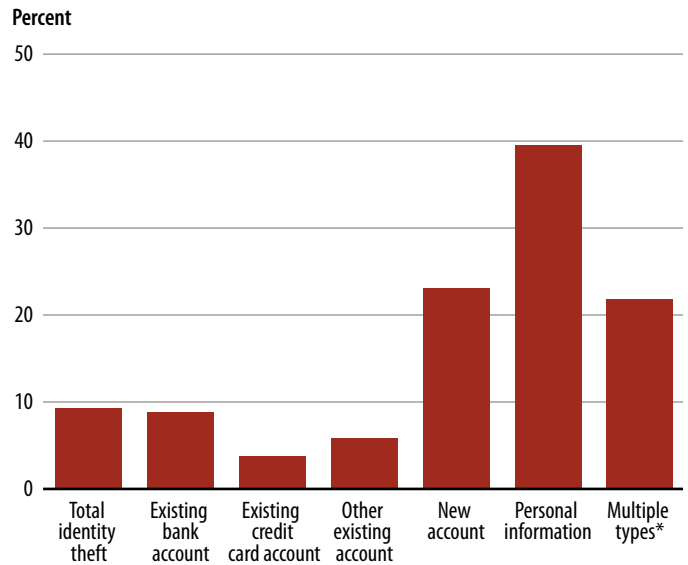
The level of emotional distress victims experienced was related to the length of time they spent resolving problems

Victims who spent more time resolving the financial and credit-related problems associated with the identity theft incident were more likely to experience problems with work and other relationships and severe emotional distress than victims who were able to resolve the problems relatively quickly. Among identity theft victims who spent 6 months or more resolving financial and credit problems due to the theft, 47% experienced severe emotional distress (figure 9). In comparison, 4% of victims who spent a day or less clearing up problems reported that the incident was severely distressing. Similarly, 14% of victims who spent 6 months or more resolving issues related to the identity theft reported having significant problems with family members or friends, compared to about 2% of victims who spent a day or less resolving problems.

Fewer than 1 in 10 identity theft victims reported the incident to police

In 2012, about 9% of identity theft victims reported the incident to police (figure 10). Victims of personal information fraud were the most likely to report the incident to police (40%), followed new account fraud victims (23%) and victims of multiple types of identity theft (22%). Fewer than 10% of victims of existing credit card (4%), existing bank account (9%), and other existing account misuse (6%) reported the incident to police.

FIGURE 10
Identity theft victims who reported the incident to police, by type of identity theft, 2012

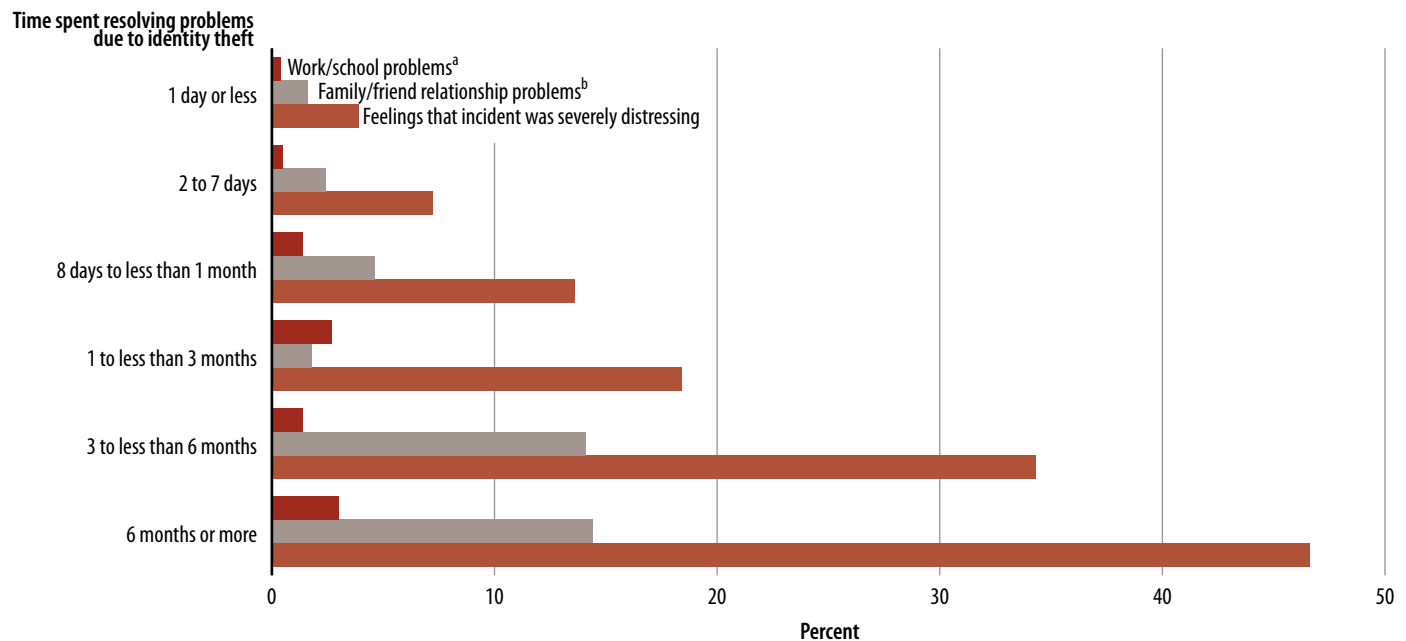


Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. See appendix table 17 for estimates and reasons victims did not report to police. See appendix table 18 for standard errors.

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

FIGURE 9
Identity theft victims who reported work/school or family/friend problems or distress, by length of time spent resolving associated financial and credit problems, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. See appendix table 16 for estimates and standard errors.

^aIncludes victims reporting significant problems with job or school, such as trouble with boss, coworker, or peers.

^bIncludes victims reporting significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than before, not feeling able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as before the crime.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

The 91% of identity theft victims who did not report an incident to police offered a variety of reasons for not reporting (appendix table 17). Among all victims who did not report the incident to police, the most common reason was that the victim handled it another way (58%). About a third (29%) of nonreporting victims did not contact police because they suffered no monetary loss. One in five nonreporting victims did not think that the police could help and another 15% did not know how to report the incident to law enforcement.

Of the 9% of identity theft victims who contacted a credit bureau, 7 in 10 placed a fraud alert on their credit report

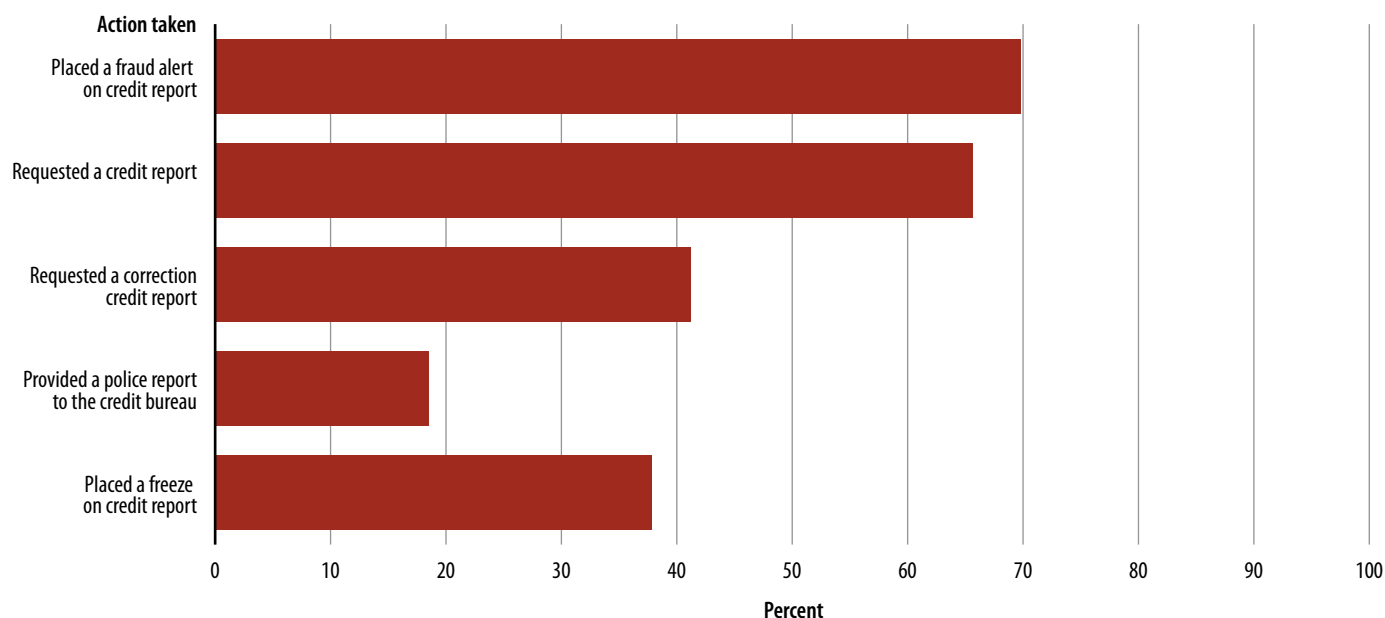
In 2012, 88% of all victims of identity theft reported the incident to one or more nonlaw enforcement agencies, either government or commercial (not shown). About 86% of identity theft victims contacted a credit card company or bank to report misuse or attempted misuse of an account or personal information (appendix table 19). Six percent of all identity theft victims contacted a credit monitoring service, 3% contacted an agency that issues identity documentation, (e.g., Social Security

Administration or an agency that issues drivers' licenses), 1% contacted the Federal Trade Commission, and 1% contacted a government consumer affairs agency or other consumer protection organization, (e.g., Better Business Bureau).

Nine percent of identity theft victims contacted a credit bureau to report the incident. Victims whose identifying information was fraudulently used to open a new account (30%) were most likely to contact a credit bureau, followed by victims of multiple types of theft (20%) and victims whose personal information was used for other fraudulent purposes (19%).

Victims of any type of identity theft who contacted a credit bureau could take several different actions. About 70% of victims who contacted a credit bureau placed a fraud alert on their credit report (figure 11). Two-thirds (66%) of victims who contacted a credit bureau requested a credit report, 41% requested corrections to their credit report, 38% placed a freeze on their credit report, and 19% provided a police report to the credit bureau.

FIGURE 11
Identity theft victims who contacted a credit bureau, by action taken, 2012



Note: Estimates are based on victims who contacted a credit bureau regarding the most recent incident of identity theft experienced within the past 12 months. Details sum to more than 100% because some victims took multiple actions with the credit bureau. See appendix table 19 for estimates and appendix table 20 for standard errors. Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

About 85% of persons took some action to prevent identity theft victimization

The ITS asked persons about actions they took during the prior 12 months to prevent identity theft, such as checking credit reports, shredding documents with personal information, and changing passwords on financial accounts. In 2012, 85% of persons engaged in one or more of the preventative actions asked about in the survey (table 6). A greater percentage of victims (96%) than nonvictims (84%) engaged in at least one preventative action. However, about 12% of victims who took preventative action did so in response to experiencing identity theft in the past year.

Overall, the two most common preventative actions in 2012 were checking bank or credit statements (75%) and shredding or destroying documents with personal information (67%). A higher percentage of victims than nonvictims engaged in both of these preventative actions. However, about 13% of victims

began shredding or destroying documents with personal information as a result of experiencing identity theft during the prior 12 months and 26% began checking bank or credit statements as a result of the victimization.

Less than 10% of victims purchased identity theft protection (4%) or insurance (6%) or used an identity theft security program on the computer (6%) after experiencing identity theft, while about a quarter of victims checked financial accounts or changed passwords on these accounts as a result of the victimization.

Among persons who did not experience identity theft in 2012, 37% checked their credit report; 27% changed passwords on financial accounts; 16% used identity theft security programs on their computer; 5% purchased identity theft insurance or used a credit monitoring service; and 3% purchased identity theft protection.

TABLE 6
Actions victims and nonvictims took during the past 12 months to reduce the risk of identity theft, by whether the action was taken in response to the theft, 2012

Type of action	Percent of persons age 16 or older				
	Total	Nonvictims	Victim during prior 12 months		
			Total	Action taken in response to identity theft	Action taken independently of identity theft in past year
Any	84.5%	83.7%	96.4%	11.8%	84.6%
Checked credit report	37.9	36.8	53.1	15.0	38.1
Changed passwords on financial accounts	28.6	26.6	56.1	24.4	31.7
Purchased identity theft insurance/credit monitoring service	5.3	4.9	11.8	5.7	6.1
Shredded/destroyed documents with personal information	67.4	66.5	79.8	13.0	66.8
Checked bank or credit statements	74.8	73.6	91.8	25.6	66.2
Used identity theft security program on computer	16.6	16.1	24.5	5.7	18.8
Purchased identity theft protection	3.5	3.2	6.8	3.9	3.0

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent incident of identity theft. About 1% of victims and nonvictims did not know or did not report whether actions were taken. See appendix table 21 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

Methodology

Data collection

The Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) was administered as a supplement to the Bureau of Justice Statistics's (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS collects data on crime reported and not reported to the police against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The sample includes persons living in group quarters (such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings) and excludes persons living in military barracks and institutional settings (such as correctional or hospital facilities) and the homeless. (For more information, see the *Survey Methodology in Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008*, NCJ 231173, BJS website, May 2011.)

From January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2012, persons age 16 or older in sampled NCVS households received the ITS at the end of the NCVS interview. Proxy responders and those who complete the NCVS interview in a language other than English did not receive the ITS. All NCVS and ITS interviews were conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). Interviews were conducted by telephone or by personal visit. A final sample size of 69,814 of the original NCVS-eligible respondents completed the ITS questionnaire, resulting in a response rate of 91.9%.

The combined overall NCVS-ITS unit response rate for NCVS households, NCVS persons, and ITS persons was 68.2%. Because of the level of nonresponse, a bias analysis was conducted. To the extent that those who responded to the survey and those who did not differ in important ways, there is potential for bias in estimates from the survey data. However, the result of the nonresponse bias analysis suggested that there was little or no bias of substantive importance due to nonresponse in the ITS estimates.

The ITS collected individual data on the prevalence of and victim response to the attempted or successful misuse of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes. Respondents were asked whether they experienced any of these types of misuse during the 12 months prior to the interview. For example, persons interviewed in July 2012 were asked about identity theft incidents that occurred between July 2011 and June 2012. To simplify the discussion of the findings, this report refers to all identity theft experienced during the 12 months prior to the interviews as occurring in 2012.

Persons who reported one or more incidents of identity theft during 2012 were asked more detailed questions about the incident and response to the incident, such as how they discovered the identity theft; financial, credit, and other problems resulting from the incident; time spent resolving associated problems; and reporting to police and credit

bureaus. For most sections of the survey instrument, the ITS asked victims who experienced more than one incident during the 12-month reference period to describe only the most recent incident when answering questions. The ITS asked victims who experienced multiple incidents of identity theft during the year to report on the total financial losses suffered as a result of all incidents. The ITS asked both victims and nonvictims a series of questions about identity theft they experienced outside of the 12-month reference period and about measures they took to avoid or minimize the risk of becoming an identity theft victim.

Comparison of 2012 findings to prior BJS identity theft statistics

This report uses data that differ from previous BJS statistical collections on the topic of identity theft. Due to the differences, it was not possible to compare the identity theft estimates presented in this report to previously reported estimates.

Initial BJS reports on identity theft used household-level data from the core NCVS. Data were reported for the household as a whole rather than for individual respondents, and the questions were more limited, providing less detail on the characteristics of the incident and the victim response. For additional information, see *Identity Theft, 2005*, NCJ 219411, BJS website, November 2007, *Identity Theft Reported by Households, 2007 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 230742, BJS website, June 2010, and *Identity Theft Reported by Households, 2005 - 2010*, NCJ 236245, BJS website, December 2010.

In 2008, BJS conducted the first Identity Theft Supplement to the NCVS. Like the 2012 ITS, the 2008 ITS collected detailed information on victim experiences with identity theft from persons age 16 or older. For more information, see *Victims of Identity Theft, 2008*, NCJ 231680, BJS website, December 2010. Following the administration of the first ITS, BJS made substantial changes to the survey instrument, making it difficult to compare across the 2008 and 2012 datasets. Some of the major changes to the survey from 2008 to 2012 included—

- Changing from a 2-year to 1-year reference period. The 2008 ITS asked about identity theft experienced in the 2 years prior to the interview. The 2-year reference period was intended to capture incidents of identity theft that were discovered more than 12 months prior to the interview but were still causing problems for the victim. The 2012 ITS used a 12-month reference period to be more consistent with the NCVS and other NCVS supplements. The 2012 ITS added a special section about identity theft experienced outside of the 1-year reference period to capture identity theft incidents with long-term consequences.
- Integrating of successful and attempted identity theft incidents. The 2008 ITS tried to distinguish attempted identity theft from successfully completed identity theft. It asked slightly different questions depending on whether respondents screened into the attempted or successful module. However, the distinction between an attempted

and successful incident of identity theft was not clear, and the two types were combined for reporting purposes to the extent possible. The 2012 ITS defined identity theft as attempted or completed misuse of personal information and collected the same information from all victims.

- Focusing on the most recent incident of identity theft for detailed follow-up questions. In the 2008 ITS, victims were asked one set of questions about the characteristics of identity theft and the response to identity theft, regardless of the number of incidents they experienced during the 2-year reference period. This made it impossible to attribute the incident characteristics or monetary loss to one specific type of identity theft. The 2012 ITS asked victims to identify whether they experienced one or more than one incidents of identity theft during the year.³ Victims who experienced more than one incident were asked to describe only the most recent incident when responding to detailed questions about the nature of and experiences with identity theft victimization.

Possible over-reporting of losses from jointly held accounts

Persons may have experienced the unauthorized use of a jointly held account. Joint accounts present a difficulty with counting financial harm or loss because of the potential for double-counting loss (e.g., both account holders report the same \$500 loss). Because financial loss was not attributed to a particular type of identity theft, victims of multiple types of identity theft may have experienced some financial loss from a joint account and some financial loss from an independently held account. Therefore, it was not possible to correct for any potential over-reporting due to joint account holders who may have been double counted.

Standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as is the case with the ITS, caution must be taken when comparing one estimate to another. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses, the size of the sample, and the size of the subgroup for which the estimate is computed. When the sampling error around the estimates is taken into consideration, the estimates that appear different may, not be statistically different.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error can vary from one estimate to the next. In general, for a given metric, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable

³Victims received the following definition of an identity theft incident: “An incident of identity theft occurs when your identity is stolen. A stolen credit card or debit card may be used multiple times, but this should be considered a single incident. Also, if multiple credit card numbers and a social security number were obtained at the same time, this should be considered a single incident.”

approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors are associated with less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

In order to generate standard errors around estimates from the ITS, the Census Bureau produces generalized variance function (GVF) parameters for BJS. The GVFs take into account aspects of the NCVS complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors based on the Jackknife Repeated Replication technique. The GVF parameters were used to generate standard errors for each point estimate (i.e., numbers or percentages) in the report.

In this report, BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated numbers and percentages were statistically significant once sampling error was taken into account. Using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS, all comparisons in the text were tested for significance. The primary test procedure used was Student’s t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. To ensure that the observed differences between estimates were larger than might be expected due to sampling variation, the significance level was set at the 95% confidence level.

Data users can use the estimates and the standard errors of the estimates provided in this report to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors can be used to generate confidence intervals:

According to the ITS, in 2012, an estimated 6.7% of persons age 16 or older experienced identity theft (see table 1). Using the GVFs, BJS determined that the estimate has a standard error of 0.3 (see appendix table 1). A confidence interval around the estimate was generated by multiplying the standard errors by ± 1.96 (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the confidence interval around the estimate is $6.7 \pm (0.3 \times 1.96)$ or 6.1 to 7.3. In other words, if different samples using the same procedures were taken from the U.S. population in 2012, 95% of the time the percentage of persons who experienced identity theft would be between 6.1% and 7.3%.

In this report, BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, representing the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs provide a measure of reliability and a means to compare the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics. In cases where the CV was greater than 50%, or the unweighted sample had 10 or fewer cases, the estimate was noted with a “!” symbol (interpret data with caution; estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation exceeds 50%).

Many of the variables examined in this report may be related to one another and to other variables not included in the analyses. Complex relationships among variables were not fully

explored in this report and warrant more extensive analysis. Readers are cautioned not to draw causal inferences based on the results presented.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Standard errors for figure 1: Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident in the past 12 months by type of theft, 2012 and table 1: Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident in the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2012

Type of identity theft	Anytime during the past 12 months		Most recent incident		
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of all victims
Total	750,223	0.3%	750,223	0.3%	~
Existing account	713,433	0.3	673,954	0.3	1.4
Credit card	455,777	0.2	414,852	0.2	1.7
Bank	446,837	0.2	394,659	0.2	1.7
Other	167,153	0.1	129,787	0.1	0.7
New account	127,633	0.1	92,348	--	0.5
Personal information	104,992	--	87,000	--	0.5
Multiple types	~	~	136,881	0.1	0.8
Existing account	~	~	104,263	--	0.6
Other	~	~	68,425	--	0.4

~Not applicable.

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Standard errors for table 2: Persons age 16 or older who experienced at least one identity theft incident during the past 12 months, by victim characteristics, 2012

Characteristic	Any identity theft		Misuse of existing credit card			Misuse of existing bank account			New account or personal information	
	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of persons with credit card	Number of victims	Percent of all persons	Percent of persons with bank account	Number of victims	Percent of all persons
Total	750,223	0.3%	455,777	0.2%	0.3%	446,837	0.2%	0.2%	177,890	0.1%
Sex										
Male	463,715	0.4	291,937	0.2	0.3	260,879	0.2	0.2	106,429	0.1
Female	493,153	0.4	283,702	0.2	0.3	302,628	0.2	0.3	119,168	0.1
Age										
16-17	15,317	0.2	4,831	0.1	0.8	9,955	0.1	0.3	5,680	0.1
18-24	151,852	0.5	58,300	0.2	0.4	113,304	0.4	0.5	40,300	0.1
25-34	259,485	0.6	131,486	0.3	0.4	168,559	0.4	0.4	66,310	0.2
35-49	338,604	0.5	199,821	0.3	0.4	207,061	0.3	0.4	78,638	0.1
50-64	330,527	0.5	221,219	0.3	0.4	177,204	0.3	0.3	75,739	0.1
65 or older	194,365	0.4	145,410	0.3	0.4	85,034	0.2	0.2	47,176	0.1
Race/Hispanic origin										
White	623,114	0.4	397,484	0.2	0.3	355,777	0.2	0.2	129,204	0.1
Black	153,735	0.5	54,934	0.2	0.4	110,054	0.4	0.5	61,572	0.2
Hispanic/Latino	157,099	0.5	76,471	0.2	0.4	105,050	0.3	0.4	49,389	0.2
Other race	105,629	0.7	77,875	0.6	0.7	55,086	0.4	0.5	19,568	0.1
Two or more races	51,382	1.5	28,387	0.9	1.5	33,337	1.0	1.2	18,313	0.6
Household income										
\$24,999 or less	179,393	0.4	66,983	0.2	0.4	123,421	0.3	0.4	67,615	0.2
\$25,000-\$49,999	233,453	0.4	120,182	0.2	0.3	153,467	0.3	0.3	70,047	0.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	221,677	0.6	124,607	0.4	0.4	140,705	0.4	0.4	49,998	0.1
\$75,000 or more	398,169	0.6	278,794	0.4	0.5	209,698	0.3	0.3	68,294	0.1
Unknown	244,419	0.4	154,516	0.3	0.4	134,298	0.2	0.3	56,601	0.1

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Ways that victims discovered identity theft, by type of theft, 2012

	Any identity theft		Existing account misuse		Other identity theft ^a	
	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error	Percent	Standard error
Contacted by financial institution about suspicious activity	42.1%	1.7%	45.2%	1.8%	15.2%	2.5%
Noticed fraudulent charges on account	18.6	1.2	19.8	1.3	7.5	1.8
Noticed money missing from account	9.9	0.9	10.5	0.9	4.6	1.3
Notified by a company or agency	6.4	0.7	4.7	0.6	20.9	2.9
Contacted financial institution to report a theft	5.5	0.6	5.7	0.7	3.3	1.1
Credit card declined, check bounced, or account closed due to insufficient funds	5.0	0.6	5.4	0.6	1.6	0.7
Received a bill or contacted about an unpaid bill	4.3	0.5	3.3	0.5	13.4	2.4
Notified by a known person	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.2	4.5	1.3
Discovered through credit report or credit monitoring service	1.3	0.3	0.9	0.2	4.8	1.4
Problems applying for a loan, government benefits or with income taxes	1.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	10.7	2.1
Notified by police	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	5.7	1.5
Received merchandise or a card that the victim did not order or did not receive a product the victim had ordered	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.9!	0.8
Another way ^b	2.8	0.4	2.4	0.4	5.9	1.5

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident.

! Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes incidents involving the use of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes.

^bVictim noticed suspicious phishing activity, hacked computer, account information missing or stolen, or discovered the theft by accident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Identity theft victims who knew how their personal information was obtained, by type of theft, 2012

Type of identity theft	Estimate	Standard error
Total	32.0%	1.6%
Existing credit card account	24.4	1.9
Existing bank account	35.4	2.3
Other existing account	39.0	4.3
New account	36.7	5.2
Personal information	33.4	5.2
Multiple types*	46.5	4.3

*Includes victims who experienced more than one type of identity theft in a single incident.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Standard errors for table 3: Identity theft victims who knew something about the offender, by type of theft, 2012

Type of identity theft	Victim knew something about the offender
Total	0.8%
Existing account	0.7
Credit card	0.6
Bank	1.2
Other	3.0
New account	4.5
Personal information	4.6
Multiple types	2.8
Existing account	2.9
Other	5.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for table 4: Mean losses attributed to identity theft and property crime, 2012

	Mean
Identity theft	\$3,404
Property crime	\$1,621
Burglary	2,630
Motor vehicle theft	4,881
Theft	1,129

Note: Standard errors for median and total losses were not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012, and National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 7

Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Total out-of-pocket loss for identity theft victims experiencing a loss of \$1 or more, 2012

Total out-of-pocket loss	Percent of victims	
	Estimate	Standard error
\$99 or less	48.8%	3.5%
\$100-\$249	17.9	2.5
\$250-\$499	8.4	1.7
\$500-\$999	8.5	1.7
\$1,000-\$2,499	9.9	1.8
\$2,500-\$4,999	3.1	1.0
\$5,000 or more	3.4	1.0

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Financial loss among victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 12 months, by type of theft and type of loss, 2012

	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Total number of victims	16,580,500	14,022,100	6,676,300	6,191,500	1,154,300	683,400	622,900	1,252,000	824,700	427,400
Combined direct and indirect loss										
Mean	\$1,769	\$1,008	\$1,435	\$580	\$1,027	\$6,510	\$21,804	\$3,187	\$2,772	\$3,974
Median	\$300	\$200	\$300	\$200	\$200	\$500	\$1,500	\$400	\$350	\$600
Percent experiencing a loss	67.5	69.7	68.7	74.3	50.9	46.2	37.9	68.8	68.4	69.5
Direct loss										
Mean	\$1,409	\$1,003	\$1,448	\$551	\$1,057	\$7,135	\$9,650	\$2,140	\$1,161	\$4,119
Median	\$300	\$200	\$300	\$200	\$200	\$600	\$1,900	\$400	\$300	\$600
Percent experiencing a loss	66.4	69.0	68.1	73.7	48.6	42.2	32.5	67.3	68.3	65.2
Direct out-of-pocket loss										
Mean	\$4,313	\$2,188	\$4,176	\$1,754	\$1,600	\$1,598	\$19,463	\$8,464	\$3,691	\$14,335
Median	\$200	\$100	\$200	\$100	\$100	\$1,000	\$1,800	\$200	\$100	\$300
Percent experiencing a loss	9.0	7.7	3.1	11.5	14.4	8.9	15.0	20.0	16.8	26.3
Indirect loss										
Mean	\$4,168	\$257	\$39	\$434	\$133	\$75	\$37,797	\$5,901	\$14,327	\$338
Median	\$30	\$10	\$10	\$20	\$10	\$40	\$400	\$90	\$50	\$100
Percent experiencing a loss	6.3	5.2	4.0	6.2	6.7	10.1	13.6	12.9	7.8	22.8
Total out-of-pocket loss										
Mean	\$4,804	\$1,565	\$1,991	\$1,444	\$1,264	\$863	\$34,352	\$9,001	\$8,572	\$9,409
Median	\$100	\$80	\$40	\$90	\$70	\$300	\$700	\$200	\$60	\$200
Percent experiencing a loss	13.5	11.6	6.5	15.8	19.0	17.4	23.4	27.3	20.2	40.9

Note: See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 9

Standard errors for appendix table 8: Financial loss among victims who experienced at least one attempted or successful identity theft incident during the previous 12 months, by type of theft and type of loss, 2012

	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Total number of victims	750,223	673,954	414,852	394,659	129,787	92,348	87,000	136,881	104,263	68,425
Combined direct and indirect loss										
Mean	\$3,051	\$2,281	\$2,737	\$1,718	\$2,303	\$6,057	\$11,700	\$4,149	\$3,856	\$4,660
Percent experiencing a loss	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.2	4.5	5.4	5.4	4.1	4.8	6.2
Direct loss										
Mean	\$2,712	\$2,275	\$2,750	\$1,674	\$2,338	\$6,361	\$7,484	\$3,369	\$2,454	\$4,749
Percent experiencing a loss	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.2	4.5	5.4	5.2	4.1	4.8	6.4
Direct out-of-pocket loss										
Mean	\$4,866	\$3,408	\$4,784	\$3,037	\$2,896	\$2,894	\$10,985	\$6,973	\$4,482	\$9,283
Percent experiencing a loss	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.3	2.9	2.8	3.8	3.2	3.5	5.6
Indirect loss										
Mean	\$4,779	\$1,134	\$438	\$1,482	\$814	\$606	\$15,942	\$5,747	\$9,280	\$1,304
Percent experiencing a loss	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	2.0	3.0	3.6	2.6	2.4	5.3
Total out-of-pocket loss										
Mean	\$5,152	\$2,863	\$3,244	\$2,745	\$2,563	\$2,106	\$15,101	\$7,208	\$7,021	\$7,382
Percent experiencing a loss	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	3.3	3.9	4.6	3.7	3.9	6.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 10

Estimates and standard errors for figure 5: Victims who experienced financial or legal problems as a result of identity theft, by type of theft, 2012

Type of problems experienced	Estimates			Standard errors		
	Any identity theft	Existing account misuse	Other identity theft ^a	Any identity theft	Existing account misuse	Other identity theft ^a
Credit-related problems ^b	2.6%	1.6%	11.6%	0.4%	0.3%	2.2%
Banking problems ^c	2.1	1.6	6.7	0.4	0.3	1.6
Problems with debt collectors	3.3	1.7	16.7	0.5	0.3	2.6
Utilities cut off or new service denied	0.6	0.5	1.7!	0.2	0.2	0.8
Legal problems ^d	0.5	0.2!	2.9	0.2	0.1	1.1
Other problems ^e	0.5	0.3	2.6	0.2	0.1	1.0

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident.

! Interpret estimate with caution; estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes identity theft incidents involving the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for other fraudulent purposes.

^bIncludes problems such as having to correct the same information on a credit report repeatedly, being turned down for credit or loans, or paying higher interest rates.

^cIncludes problems such as being turned down for a checking account or having checks bounce.

^dIncludes being the subject of a lawsuit or other criminal proceedings, or being arrested.

^eIncludes problems such as being turned down for or losing a job or problems with income taxes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 11
Identity theft and violent crime victims who experienced emotional distress, by type of identity theft or violent crime, 2012

	Total number of victims	Significant work- or school-related problems ^a	Significant family or friend relationship problems ^b	Distress related to crime			
				None	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Total identity theft	16,580,500	1.5%	3.7%	20.7%	42.7%	26.2%	10.5%
Existing account misuse	14,022,100	0.9	2.9	21.9	44.2	25.5	8.3
Credit card	6,676,300	0.5	1.6	25.6	46.7	22.4	5.3
Bank	6,191,500	1.1	3.7	18.2	42.1	28.3	11.4
Other	1,154,300	1.8!	5.9	21.1	41.6	28.4	8.9
New account	683,400	6.1!	10.1	14.3	33.9	30.2	21.7
Personal information	622,900	5.2!	10.4	16.4	27.2	24.6	31.8
Multiple types	1,252,000	3.9	5.9	12.1	38.0	32.2	17.7
Existing account ^c	824,666	3.7!	5.5	16.2	41.2	31.3	11.3
Other ^d	427,371	4.3!	6.6!	4.3!	31.8	33.8	30.1
Total violent victimization	5,901,100	12.3%	18.9%	19.0%	29.7%	22.6%	28.8%
Rape/sexual assault	316,700	27.5	28.8	24.2!	16.4	17.5	41.9
Robbery	695,400	14.0	27.0	13.0	20.8	26.0	40.1
Aggravated assault	892,900	9.8	12.8	19.2	24.0	30.3	26.5
Simple assault	3,996,100	11.4	18.1	19.5	33.7	20.7	26.0

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

! Interpret with caution; estimates based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes victims reporting significant problems with job or school, such as trouble with boss, coworker, or peers.

^bIncludes victims reporting significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than before, not feeling able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as before the crime.

^cIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of a credit card, banking account, or other existing account.

^dIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information of other fraudulent purposes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2012 and National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 12
Standard errors for appendix table 11: Identity theft and violent crime victims who experienced emotional distress, by type of identity theft or violent crime, 2012

	Total number of victims	Significant work- or school-related problems	Significant family or friend relationship problems	Distress related to crime			
				None	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Total identity theft	750,223	0.3%	0.5%	1.3%	1.7%	1.5%	0.9%
Existing account misuse	673,954	0.2	0.5	1.4	1.8	1.5	0.8
Credit card	414,852	0.2	0.4	1.9	2.4	1.8	0.8
Bank	394,659	0.4	0.7	1.7	2.4	2.1	1.3
Other	129,787	1.0	1.8	3.4	4.3	3.9	2.3
New account	92,348	2.3	3.0	3.6	5.1	4.9	4.3
Personal information	87,000	2.2	3.2	3.9	4.9	4.7	5.2
Multiple types	136,881	1.4	1.8	2.6	4.1	3.9	3.1
Existing account	104,263	1.6	2.0	3.5	4.9	4.6	2.9
Other	68,425	2.4	3.0	2.4	6.0	6.1	5.9
Total violent victimization	355,502	1.3%	1.6%	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%
Rape/sexual assault	51,953	5.9	6.0	5.6	4.8	4.9	6.7
Robbery	85,975	3.2	4.2	3.1	3.8	4.2	4.8
Aggravated assault	101,200	2.4	2.7	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.8
Simple assault	273,940	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 13

Identity theft victims who resolved associated problems and length of time spent resolving problems, 2012

Time to resolve	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Victim resolved problems associated with theft										
No	8.8%	6.4%	4.7%	7.0%	13.2%	25.7%	34.2%	13.5%	9.7%	20.8%
Yes	86.2	89.7	91.7	89.4	79.6	57.0	45.7	83.3	88.5	73.3
Length of time to resolve problems										
1 day or less	52.3	54.2	60.9	46.1	57.7	41.9	42.8	36.4	42.4	22.6
2 to 7 days	19.3	19.0	17.7	20.7	17.6	17.3	14.4	24.4	24.2	25.1
8 days to less than 1 month	17.7	17.6	12.5	23.9	13.4	15.9	11.5	21.2	22.4	18.6
1 month to less than 3 months	7.3	6.6	6.2	7.0	7.4	9.4	14.4	12.1	7.5	22.9
3 months to less than 6 months	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.3	2.7	10.8	8.0	3.6	3.1!	4.9!
6 months or more	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.6	1.2	3.7	6.1	2.2	0.5!	4.9!
Unknown length of time	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3	--	1.0	2.8	--!	--!	--!
Do not know	5.0%	3.9%	3.6%	3.6%	7.2%	17.3%	20.1%	3.2%	1.8%!	5.9%!

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

--Less than 0.05%.

! Interpret estimate with caution; estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation greater than 50%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 14

Standard errors for appendix table 13: Identity theft victims who resolved associated problems and length of time spent resolving problems, 2012

Time to resolve	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Victim resolved problems associated with theft										
No	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%	2.8%	4.6%	5.3%	2.7%	2.7%	5.1%
Yes	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	3.7	5.5	5.6	3.3	3.4	6.0
Length of time to resolve problems										
1 day or less	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.5	4.9	6.7	7.7	4.4	5.2	6.1
2 to 7 days	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.9	3.5	4.9	5.2	3.8	4.4	6.3
8 days to less than 1 month	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.0	3.0	4.8	4.7	3.6	4.2	5.6
1 month to less than 3 months	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	2.3	3.7	5.2	2.8	2.5	6.1
3 months to less than 6 months	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	1.3	4.0	3.9	1.5	1.6	2.9
6 months or more	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.9	2.3	3.4	1.1	0.6	2.9
Unknown length of time	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	--	1.2	2.3	--	--	--
Do not know	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	2.0	3.9	4.3	1.3	1.1	2.8

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 15

Standard errors for table 5: Persons age 16 or older who experienced identity theft at any point in their lives, type of identity theft they experienced outside of the past year, and ongoing problems from identity theft that occurred outside of the past year, 2012

	Number of persons	Percent of all persons	Percent with unresolved problems resulting from identity theft
Experienced at least one incident of identity theft during lifetime			
No	1,538,646	0.6%	~
Yes	1,170,040	0.5	0.6%
Experienced at least one incident of identity theft outside of past 12 months			
No	1,247,612	0.5%	0.1%
Yes	853,299	0.3	0.7
Type of identity theft experienced			
Existing account			
Credit card	713,065	0.3	0.5
Bank account	499,949	0.2	0.5
Other account	374,551	0.2	1.0
New account			
Personal information	96,275	--	2.5
Multiple types	159,840	0.1	2.7
Existing accounts	183,122	0.1	2.4
Other	150,748	0.1	3.1
Existing accounts	82,447	--	3.4
Other	108,544	--	4.2

~Not applicable.

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 16

Estimates and standard errors for figure 9: Identity theft victims who reported work/school or relationship problems or distress, by length of time spent resolving associated financial and credit problems, 2012

Time spent resolving problems due to identity theft	Work/school problems ^a		Family/friend relationship problems ^b		Feelings that incident was severely distressing	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
1 day or less	0.4%	0.2%	1.6%	0.4%	3.9%	0.7%
2 to 7 days	0.5	0.3	2.4	0.8	7.2	1.4
8 days to less than 1 month	1.4	0.6	4.6	1.1	13.6	2.0
1 to less than 3 months	2.7	1.3	1.8	1.0	18.4	3.4
3 to less than 6 months	1.4	1.6	14.1	5.1	34.3	7.2
6 months or more	3.0	3.6	14.4	7.7	46.6	11.4

^aIncludes victims reporting significant problems with job or school, such as trouble with boss, coworker, or peers.

^bIncludes victims reporting significant problems with family members or friends, including getting into more arguments or fights than before, not feeling able to trust them as much, or not feeling as close to them as before the crime.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 17

Victims who did and did not report identity theft to police, by type of theft and reason for not reporting, 2012

Victim response	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account ^a	Other ^b
Reported to police	9.3%	6.2%	3.7%	8.8%	5.8%	23.0%	39.5%	21.8%	17.0%	31.1%
Did not report to police	90.5	93.7	96.1	90.9	94.2	76.5	59.9	77.6	82.5	68.0
Reasons for not reporting										
Did not know to report ^c	15.2	15.0	14.4	15.4	16.5	14.1	23.2	15.0	15.8	13.2
No monetary loss	28.9	29.9	32.6	26.6	30.4	21.4	20.4	23.4	23.4	23.3
Handled it another way ^d	57.9	59.2	59.8	59.8	52.1	47.0	34.0	55.8	59.0	48.4
Did not think the police could help ^e	20.2	19.5	18.4	18.9	29.3	25.2	21.2	25.9	23.5	31.6
Offender was a family member or friend	1.5	1.2	0.3!	1.5	4.1!	6.6!	2.6!	2.5!	2.6!	2.2!
Personal reasons ^f	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1!	4.7!	10.3!	4.9	2.9!	9.8!
Location of the theft ^g	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0	2.0!	0.9!	--!	1.0!	0.9!	1.2!
Other ^h	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1!	5.0!	12.7	2.5!	1.3!	5.5!

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. Detail may not sum to total due to victims who reported multiple reasons for not contacting police. See appendix table 18 for standard errors.

--Less than 0.05%.

! Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes victims who did not know they could report the incident and victims who did not know what agency was responsible for identity theft crimes.

^dIncludes victims who reported the incident to another organization, such as a credit card company; victims who took care of it themselves; victims who reported that the credit card company, bank, or other organization took care of the problem; victims who reported a family member took care of the problem; and victims who thought the credit card company, bank, or other organization would handle the problem.

^eIncludes victims who didn't think the police would do anything, victims who didn't want to bother the police, victims who thought it was too late for the police to help, and victims who couldn't identify the offender or provide much information to the police.

^fIncludes victims who were afraid to report the incident, victims who were embarrassed, victims who thought it was too inconvenient, and victims who didn't want to think about the incident.

^gIncludes victims of identity theft that occurred out of state or outside of the United States.

^hIncludes victims who reported that the identity theft just occurred or is still ongoing and plan to report soon, victims who were not sure it was a crime, victims who were contacted by law enforcement, and victims who did not report for other reasons.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 18

Standard errors for table 17: Victims who did and did not report identity theft to police, by type of theft and reason for not reporting, 2012

Victim response	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Banking	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Reported to police	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	1.2%	1.8%	4.4%	5.5%	3.4%	3.6%	6.0%
Did not report to police	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.2	4.8	5.6	3.7	4.0	6.3
Reasons for not reporting										
Did not know to report	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.6	3.1	4.0	5.7	3.1	3.7	5.0
No monetary loss	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.1	4.1	4.8	5.4	3.8	4.4	6.4
Handled it another way	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.5	4.6	6.1	6.5	4.8	5.4	7.8
Did not think the police could help	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	4.0	5.1	5.5	4.0	4.4	7.1
Offender was a family member or friend	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.5	2.7	2.0	1.2	1.5	2.0
Personal reasons	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.3	2.3	3.9	1.8	1.6	4.3
Location of the theft	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.0	1.0	--	0.8	0.9	1.5
Other	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	2.4	4.4	1.3	1.0	3.2

--Less than 0.05%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 19

Identity theft victims who contacted an organization, by type of theft, type of organization, and credit bureau action, 2012

Organization	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account ^a	Other ^b
Percent organization										
Credit card company or bank	86.0%	89.6%	93.8%	93.0%	46.7%	64.8%	26.4%	86.9%	92.0%	77.2%
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	1.0	0.4	0.4!	0.1!	1.6!	4.9!	5.0!	4.4	1.6!	9.7!
Consumer agency ^c	0.9	0.6	0.3!	0.6	2.0!	3.8!	1.7!	1.8!	1.3!	2.6!
Document issuing agency ^d	2.7	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0!	5.2!	21.3	8.8	8.9	8.4!
Credit monitoring service	5.8	4.2	4.5	3.7	4.3	16.0	11.8	15.4	12.9	20.4
Credit bureau ^e	8.7	6.2	6.4	5.7	7.6	30.0	19.3	20.2	11.0	38.0
Percent credit bureau										
Placed a fraud alert on their credit report	69.8	63.5	57.7	71.9	57.6	81.6	81.4	76.1	82.6	72.5
Requested a credit report	65.6	59.8	52.9	63.8	77.0	79.7	80.5	66.9	59.1	71.2
Requested corrections to their credit report	41.2	36.9	35.1	39.7	33.9!	63.7	26.9!	44.5	41.8!	46.0
Provided a police report to the credit bureau	18.5	12.0	9.7	15.5	9.6!	27.6	30.3!	27.3	25.7!	28.2
Placed a freeze on their credit report	37.8	35.1	27.4	45.2	32.2!	45.4	28.9!	45.2	53.4	40.6

Note: Estimates are based on the most recent identity theft incident. See appendix table 20 for standard errors.

^aIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of a credit card, bank account, or other existing account.

^bIncludes victims who experienced two or more of the following: the unauthorized use of an existing account, misuse of personal information to open a new account, or misuse of personal information for other fraudulent purposes.

^cIncludes government consumer affairs agencies and agencies such as the Better Business Bureau.

^dIncludes agencies that issue drivers' licenses or Social Security cards.

^ePercent of victims who took actions with a credit bureau, based on the number of victims who contacted a credit bureau. Details may sum to more than 100% because some respondents took multiple actions with the credit bureau.

! Interpret with caution; estimates based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 20

Standard errors for appendix table 19: Identity theft victims who contacted an organization, by type of theft, type of organization, and credit bureau action, 2012

Organization	Total identity theft	Existing account				New account	Personal information	Multiple types		
		Total	Credit card	Bank	Other			Total	Existing account	Other
Percent organization										
Credit card company or bank	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	4.4%	5.3%	4.8%	3.0%	2.9%	5.7%
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.9	2.1	2.2	1.5	1.1	3.6
Consumer agency	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.0	1.8	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.8
Document issuing agency	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	2.1	4.4	2.2	2.6	3.4
Credit monitoring service	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.5	3.8	3.4	2.9	3.1	5.1
Credit bureau	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	2.1	4.9	4.2	3.3	2.9	6.3
Percent credit bureau										
Placed a fraud alert on their credit report	3.9	4.9	6.6	6.6	13.0	7.1	9.0	7.2	9.9	9.0
Requested a credit report	4.0	5.0	6.6	7.0	11.2	7.4	9.2	7.9	12.8	9.2
Requested corrections to their credit report	4.0	4.7	6.2	7.0	12.3	8.8	9.9	8.2	12.7	9.9
Provided a police report to the credit bureau	3.0	3.0	3.6	4.9	7.4	7.9	10.3	7.2	11.1	8.8
Placed a freeze on their credit report	3.9	4.7	5.7	7.1	12.1	8.9	10.2	8.2	12.9	9.7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.

APPENDIX TABLE 21

Standard errors for table 6: Actions victims and nonvictims took during the past 12 months to reduce the risk of identity theft, by whether the action was taken in response to the theft, 2012

Type of action	Percent of persons age 16 or older				
	Total	Nonvictims	Victim during prior 12 months		
			Total	Action taken in response to identity theft	Action taken independently of identity theft in past year
Any	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	1.0%	1.4%
Checked credit report	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.1	1.7
Changed passwords on financial accounts	0.7	0.7	1.8	1.4	1.6
Purchased identity theft insurance/credit monitoring service	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.7
Shredded/destroyed documents with personal information	0.8	0.8	1.5	1.0	1.7
Checked bank or credit statements	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.7
Used identity theft security program on computer	0.5	0.5	1.4	0.6	1.2
Purchased identity theft protection	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2012.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics, located in the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, collects, analyses, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. William J. Sabol is acting director.

This report was written by Erika Harrell, Ph.D. and Lynn Langton, Ph.D. Shannan Catalano, Ph.D. verified the report. Agency partners for the Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) included Office for Victims of Crime, National Institute of Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission.

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Identity Theft Supplement

An Overview of Issues and Problems in 2008 and the Resulting Changes for 2012 and Beyond

Problem 1. Inability to distinguish attempted from successful incidents of identity theft.

Cause

Instrument dichotomy- Successes versus Attempts

The household NCVS identity theft questions measure whether a household was victimized by the *use or attempted use* of personal information for fraudulent purposes. The supplement, however, was designed to differentiate episodes of id theft as either successes (meaning some monetary loss, new account opened, or personal information was used to complete a fraudulent act) or attempts. Attempts were directed to a separate 'Attempted but failed module' and therefore, were skipped out of questions pertaining to the most recent date of the identity theft (items 7d1 and 7d2), victim impact, and direct financial loss. The attempt module included modified questions pertaining to victim response, police response, and relationship to the offender. The survey instrument blurs the distinction between the two modules. For example, a victim of credit card theft should be in the attempt module if the offender was not successful in charging anything to the credit card. However, in the first question of the attempt module, one response option is that the victim discovered the attempted identity theft after he/she 'contacted the credit card company to report a theft and was told that fraudulent charges had already been made.'

H. ATTEMPTED BUT FAILED MODULE	
INTRO 2: Now, I would like to ask you some questions about the attempted misuse of your personal information to commit identity theft during the last 2 years.	
43. How did you FIRST find out someone had attempted to misuse your personal information? When answering this question, please think only about when you found out about the attempted misuse.	<p>DISCOVERED BY RESPONDENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a. I contacted the credit card company or bank to report a theft and was told that fraudulent charges had already been made.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> b. I applied for credit, a bank account or loan, telephone service, employment, or government benefits, etc. and had problems.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> c. I checked my credit report</p> <p>NOTIFIED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> d. I received a bill that I did not owe.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> e. Credit card company or bank contacted me about suspicious activity on my account.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> f. My credit monitoring service contacted me.</p> <p>NOTIFIED BY OTHER PARTY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> g. A law enforcement agency notified me.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> h. A company or agency notified me.</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> i. Had something else happen - Specify</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Solution

Single instrument with identification of successes and attempts during the data analysis

Rather than attempt to separate successes from attempts in the instrument, all victims and attempted victims will be asked the same questions. The identification of attempted versus successful identity theft victimizations will be done during the analysis on the basis of whether the victim suffered any direct loss as a result of the theft. If the direct losses are zero and the offender did not obtain any money or services using the victim's identity, this is an attempted theft. If the offender obtained any money or services, regardless of whether the victim was reimbursed, this will be classified as a successful incident of identity theft. The single module approach will significantly simplify the instrument and provides a clearer means of distinguishing between attempted and successful incidents of identity theft.

Problem 2. Inability to report a 1-year prevalence of the number and percentage of identity theft victims.

Cause

Missing date information

Asking respondents to remember incidents during a two-year reference period and then ask them to pinpoint the year and month in which the incident occurred was challenging

for respondents. For 148 cases (success only), the month of the last incident of id theft was missing so it is not known whether the id theft occurred in the past year or the past two years. The date of last incident was not asked of those respondents in the attempted module at all, so it was not possible to attribute attempts to a one- or two- year reference period. Therefore, all 2008 data had to be reported for a two-year reference period, which is more complicated for data uses who are generally conditioned to expect annual rates and frequencies.

Solution

One-year reference period

In order to simplify the instrument and ensure the ability to report on the annual prevalence of identity theft victimization, the reference period was reduced from two years to one year. An analysis of the 2008 cases that could be classified as within a one- or two- year reference period, revealed a disproportionate number of incidents occurring during the most recent 12-months, compared to the number occurring in months 13-24. This is in line with other research that suggests that a 12-month reference period results in less recall error than a longer reference period. Thus, the one year reference period not only simplifies the instrument but also eliminates some of the error associated with a respondent's inability to recall information that happened more than 12-months earlier.

Long-term consequences

OVC raised concerns that identity theft victimization can take years to resolve. The reduction in reference period would exclude victims who experienced identity theft more than 12-month prior to the interview but were still experiencing the consequences of the identity theft. In order to include these victims and ensure that these potentially serious cases were being picked up, a new section on the long-term consequences of identity theft was added to the instrument. The new section targets respondents who experienced the identity theft more than one-year previously and would have been excluded from the majority of questions about the consequences of identity theft victimizations, but who are still working to resolve the problems associated with the theft.

Problem 3. Inability to attribute the consequences of identity theft victimization to a single type or incident of identity theft.

Cause

Lack of specification following the screener

In the 2008 ITS, identity theft victims did not specify whether they experienced one or more incidents of identity theft. Regardless of the number of incidents experienced, victims moved forward from the screener to the follow-up questions without any specification of the particular incident to which they referred with their responses. Therefore, the response to the detailed questions cannot be attributed to a particular type or incident of identity theft. For the victims who reported multiple types of identity theft, it was unknown whether the multiple types occurred at the same time or separate times, yet the follow-up questions do not ask the respondent to consider one particular incident

in his or her responses. A victim that experienced multiple incidents may have responded one way one time and another way another time, but these responses are all melded into one. Similarly, a victim may have experienced more than one incident of the same type of theft (for example, the victim experienced two separate situations in which an existing credit card account number was misused) but again, the follow-up questions assume that the response and consequences are associated with a single incident.

Solution

Focus on most recent incident

The revised instrument provides the respondent with instructions on how to define an incident (i.e. please count a series of related misuses or transactions as a single incident or occasion) and then asks if they experienced one or more incident during the prior 12-months. For those who experienced more than one incident, the field representative instructs them to consider only the most recent incident in their response to the follow-up questions. While this approach may introduce some error among respondents who have difficulty discerning whether misuses should be attributed to the same incident, it provides substantial clarification to the 2008 approach.

Problem 4. Inability to adjust for possible double counting of monetary losses due to individuals with joint accounts.

Cause

The complexity of ascertaining how to treat joint accounts

Ascertaining whether the respondent is reporting the misuse of a joint account that has already been noted by another respondent is difficult. A victim could be a joint account holder with someone under the age of 16, someone outside of the household, or have experienced the misuse of more than one account with only one being a joint account and in all these scenarios the victim's responses would not be examples of a potential double counting of the same victimization.

The 2008 ITS contained a series of questions pertaining to joint account. However, for several reasons the 2008 data was ultimately not adjusted to account for these joint accounts. First, joint accounts were only defined for successes and not attempts. Therefore, we could only adjust for direct loss in successes and not indirect loss for attempts with joint accounts. Joint accounts with persons outside of the survey age range (under the age of 16) could only be identified for accounts with persons within the household and not for accounts with persons outside the household. Additionally, victims of multiple types of identity theft only reported if one of the accounts used was a joint account but did not specify the number of used accounts that were jointly held or if any of the used accounts were not joint accounts. Therefore, it was not clear how much of the reported 2-year financial loss should be adjusted for joint accounts.

Solution

Removal of joint account questions

It was determined that the joint account questions were unnecessarily burdensome and complicated for respondents without having much practical use. These questions were removed in the revised instrument. In terms of the prevalence of identity theft, the argument can be made that each holder of a joint account that is misused is a victim of a crime and may suffer personal consequences as a result of this victimization. The direct financial losses may be somewhat overestimated because of the double counting of loss coming from a small number of misused joint accounts. The readers will be made known of this potential error and also of the areas in which the direct financial losses associated with identity theft may be underestimated (for example, the losses suffered by child identity theft victims).

Problem 5: Inability to report on victim impact for all victims

Cause

Attempt versus success modules

In 2008, the victim impact items were only asked for successes. However, it is quite likely that even if nothing was successfully taken or used, a person will still need to go through the process of acquiring new cards, information, credit checks/alerts, etc. and this could have a similar impact on the victim's life, stress and relationships as a successful crime. The inability to report on the emotional and physiological impact of identity theft for all victims may have been confusing for the reader. It can also be seen as diminishing the potential seriousness of having someone attempt to use one's personal information.

Solution

Single module approach

The elimination of the attempted versus successful modules will solve this problem. All victims will be asked questions about the emotional and physiological impact of victimization.

Problem 6: Offender data not collected for the majority of victims

Cause

Skip patterns

First, the skip process for "success" did not function properly. The skip pattern inadvertently skipped out single types of successful/completed thefts. Only successes from multiple types with a single theft and all attempts were given the offender questions. Only 276 cases out of the 1970 successful cases received the offender questions.

Second, offender questions were only asked if the victim experienced one type of identity theft(s) or if multiple types of theft occurred during a single episode. If the victim experienced more than one incident of the same type of id theft (e.g. multiple credit card thefts during the course of two years) the offender information would only be provided for one incident. If the victim experienced multiple types of id theft resulting from separate incidents (86 cases), the offender questions were not asked.

Solution

Simplification and checking of CAPI instrument

The revised instrument has been simplified to reduce the number of skip patterns and check items. This will reduce error on the part of the field representatives and the programmers of the CAPI instrument. BJS has also requested a review copy of the CAPI instrument prior to administration to ensure that it functions properly and the skip patterns were programmed correctly.

Problem 7: Inability to adjust for victim risk and exposure

Cause

The 2008 ITS did not ask respondents questions about credit card or banking account ownership and use. Thus the prevalence of respondents who experienced the misuse of an existing credit card or banking account is based on the total population, rather than on the population of those respondents who had these types of existing accounts in the first place. Without this baseline information there was no way to assess individual risk or exposure which severely limited our ability to establish demographic estimates and to understand patterns of victimization.

Solution

The revised instrument contains questions in the screener about whether the respondent had a credit card and banking account during the prior 12-months. Respondents who did not have an existing credit card are skipped out of the question about the misuse of an existing credit card account and the same with banking accounts. This change will allow for the calculation of a rate of credit card account misuse among those who had a credit card which is a more accurate calculation.

Problem 8: Inability to establish causal ordering of risk avoidance behaviors and victimization

Cause

The 2008 ITS asked all respondents, victims and non-victims, to report on whether they had engaged in risk avoidance behaviors, such as shredding documents and getting regular credit reports during the past year. However, the 2008 ITS did not ask whether these behaviors occurred prior to or as the result of an identity theft victimization. Thus, the analysis could not speak to the effectiveness of these behaviors in preventing identity theft or to the percentage of respondents that engaged in these behaviors proactively versus the percentage that engaged in these behaviors to prevent further victimization.

Solution

In the revised ITS, a respondent who reports ‘yes’ to any of the risk avoidance behavior questions is immediately asked “Did you do this in response to the most recent or any prior misuse of your personal information?” This addition will not increase the respondent’s burden significantly but will provide important context for when the

behavior began in relation to any identity theft victimization that the respondent experienced.

**NCVS-572(L) BOSTON
(5-2008)**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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US CENSUS BUREAU
P.O. BOX 9108
BOSTON MA 02117-9108

Telephone: 1-800-562-5721

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

www.census.gov

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395 HUDSON ST STE 800
NEW YORK NY 10014-7451

Telephone: 1-800-991-2520

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OAK BROOK IL 60523-1918

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KANSAS CITY KS 66101-2129

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
US CENSUS BUREAU
601 UNION ST STE 3800
SEATTLE WA 98101-1074

Telephone: 1-800-233-3308

Thank you for your cooperation. The Census Bureau appreciates your help.

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Steve H. Murdock

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US CENSUS BUREAU
901 CENTER PARK DR STE 106
CHARLOTTE NC 28217-2935

Telephone: 1-800-331-7360

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NCVS-572(L) ATLANTA
(5-2008)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
US CENSUS BUREAU
101 MARIETTA ST NW STE 3200
ATLANTA GA 30303-2711

Telephone: 1-800-424-6974, EXT. 53943

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve H. Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Steve H. Murdock

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

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8585 N STEMMONS FRWY STE 800 S
DALLAS TX 75247-3836

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DENVER CO 80235-2032

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BOSTON MA 02117-9108

Telephone: 1-800-562-5721

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US CENSUS BUREAU
395 HUDSON ST STE 800
NEW YORK NY 10014-7451

Telephone: 1-800-991-2520

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Sincerely,

Steve H. Murdock

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833 CHESTNUT ST STE 504
PHILADELPHIA PA 19107-4405

Telephone: 1-800-262-4236

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DETROIT MI 48207-2635

Telephone: 1-800-432-1495

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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
US CENSUS BUREAU
101 MARIETTA ST NW STE 3200
ATLANTA GA 30303-2711

Telephone: 1-800-424-6974, EXT. 53943

Thank you for your cooperation. The Census Bureau appreciates your help.

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Steve H. Murdock

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Telephone: 1-800-835-9752

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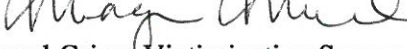
MEMORANDUM FOR

Michael Planty
Chief, Victimization Statistics
Bureau of Justice Statistics

From:

Ruth Ann Killion 
Chief, Demographic Statistical Methods Division

Through:

Meagan Meuchel 
Survey Director, National Crime Victimization Survey

Prepared By:

KeTrena Farnham 
Demographic Statistical Methods Division

Subject:

Evaluating Nonresponse Bias in the 2014 Identity Theft
Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the report on the analysis of various nonresponse estimates computed for the 2014 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

If you have any questions about this document, please contact KeTrena Farnham at 301.763.5931 or KeTrena.Farnham@census.gov or contact Timothy Kennel at 301.763.6795 or Timothy.L.Kennel@census.gov.

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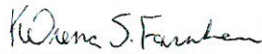


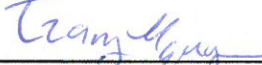


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FOR TK

National Crime Victimization Survey

Demographic Statistical Methods Division

U.S. Census Bureau

Evaluating Nonresponse Bias in the 2014
Identity Theft Supplement to the
National Crime Victimization Survey

KeTrena Farnham

February 27, 2015

Evaluating Nonresponse Bias in the 2014 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS)

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1. Executive Summary

This report presents results of an analysis of various nonresponse estimates computed for the 2014 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The ITS was collected over a six-month period, January – June 2014, immediately following the NCVS interview. Interviews were collected using the Census Bureau’s Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) instrument. The sample included all persons 16 and older who completed an NCVS interview by self-response. The purpose of the ITS was to measure different aspects of identity theft. A nonresponse bias analysis was conducted to determine whether nonresponse among different groups (determined by demographic characteristics) biased estimates. In addition to overall response rates, response rates, respondent and non-respondent distribution estimates, and nonresponse bias estimates for various subgroups were computed.

Our key findings are:

- The NCVS household response rate for January through June 2014 was 83.1 percent. The NCVS person response rate for persons age 16 and older was 87.8 percent. The percentage of NCVS person respondents that also responded to the ITS was 90.6 percent. The percentage of household respondents that responded to the ITS was 79.6 percent. Thus, out of the entire ITS sample, 66.1 percent responded to the ITS.
- Given the low, although significant, estimates of nonresponse bias (compared to past supplements) for the ITS persons, we are not concerned about nonresponse bias being associated with the ITS persons.
- In supplements, we normally see a potential nonresponse bias problem associated with Hispanic origin, but there are no signs of high nonresponse bias for Hispanic origin in this study. However, there is a statistically significant difference between nonresponse bias of the Hispanic and Non-Hispanic groups.

We observed a wide range of differences in the response rate of age subgroups for NCVS persons, as was seen in the 2012 ITS. The most concerning results were for the Age 16-29 group and the age 60+ group. When computing the person noninterview adjustment for non-reference persons in the NCVS weighting, cells are created using age 50+ as the highest age category. Given that results in this report suggest nonresponse bias for age 60+, we can consider researching the creation of an additional age category when computing the NCVS person noninterview adjustment. Research is currently underway to evaluate propensity

nonresponse adjustments which will hopefully mitigate nonresponse bias associated with more age groups.

- Important questions from the questionnaire had 100 percent or nearly 100 percent response, so item nonresponse was not a problem for this supplement.

2. Introduction

This document provides results from our evaluation of nonresponse in the 2014 ITS. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides guidelines for conducting a nonresponse bias study when the expected unit response rate of a survey is below 80 percent. See the guidelines in [1]. Based on the response rates from past supplemental studies, we needed to be prepared for the ITS response rate to potentially fall below 80 percent so we devised a nonresponse bias plan. Description of the nonresponse bias plan can be found in [3] and the Methods section of this report.

The purpose of this analysis is to determine the existence and magnitude of nonresponse bias in the 2014 ITS.

3. Overview of 2014 ITS

The 2014 ITS was a supplement to the 2014 NCVS and was conducted immediately following the NCVS interview. The primary purpose of the ITS was to measure the prevalence of identity theft (percentage of people 16 or older who were victims of identity theft or attempted identity theft in the past year) and its overall economic cost to victims. Secondly, the ITS was designed to collect many important characteristics of identity theft, such as the physical and emotional impact on victims, the consequences of identity theft on victims, victims interaction with law enforcement, and the measures people take to avoid or minimize their risk of becoming identity theft victims.

Eligible respondents for ITS include all civilian, non-institutional persons in the U.S. aged 16 years and older who successfully completed their NCVS interview by self-response. (Once respondents finished their NCVS interview, they were interviewed for the ITS). All NCVS and ITS interviews were conducted using the U.S. Census Bureau's computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) instrument.

The 2014 ITS was sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau from January through June of 2014.

There were three ways that a person could be a non-respondent to the ITS:

- The entire household did not respond to NCVS.
- The household responded to NCVS, but a person within the household (that would be in scope for ITS) did not respond to the NCVS interview. This is also known as a Type Z noninterview.
- An ITS-eligible person responded to NCVS, but did not respond to ITS.

There were different types of nonresponse to the ITS as well:

- Refusal
- Person is not available
- Person was not a self-respondent to NCVS
- Other.

To account for these types of nonresponse, noninterview weighting adjustments were applied as follows:

- NCVS household noninterview adjustment – Weighting cells were formed by urbanicity, race, and whether or not the household was inside a Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA). A CBSA is a geographic entity that has an urban core of at least 10,000 persons and surrounding counties with a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core.
- NCVS person noninterview adjustment – Weighting cells were formed by region, age, race, and sex.
- ITS noninterview adjustment – Weighting cells were formed by region, age, race, and sex.

We defined the demographic cells for our noninterview adjustments so that cases within a cell shared similar demographic characteristics. We expect people with similar demographic characteristics to also be similar in their likelihood to respond or to be victims of identity theft.

4. Methods

Because we cannot provide identity theft estimates for nonrespondents, we focused on comparing the characteristics available for both respondents and nonrespondents

such as sex, race, ethnicity, urbanicity, region, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) crime, and median income.

This study involved the calculation of response rates, respondent and non-respondent distributions, and nonresponse bias estimates for several different subgroups of ITS and NCVS data. The response rates tell us the percentage of a particular subgroup that responded to the ITS or the NCVS. It is useful to compare response rates for different subgroups to detect biases.

Respondent and non-respondent distributions show the relative number of respondents or non-respondents within the different levels of a subgroup variable. These are different from response rates. A response rate will show how many males responded whereas the respondent distribution will show how many respondents were male. We then used Chi-Square tests to determine if the respondent and nonrespondent distributions differed.

We used the “% of total” numbers and the respondent distributions to calculate the nonresponse bias estimate. The nonresponse bias estimates show the impact of nonresponse on the estimates. We calculated the person nonresponse bias estimates at the NCVS level and at the ITS level. We also computed estimates related to item nonresponse.

We produced estimates for different subgroups (such as male/female, black/non-black, different regions, etc.) to try to find variables that make groups of persons that are homogeneous within the group and heterogeneous between groups with respect to nonresponse. The characteristics must be available for both respondents and non-respondents.

Race and Hispanic origin are two variables for NCVS and ITS. OMB Guidelines state, “When data on race and ethnicity are collected separately, provision shall be made to report the number of respondents in each racial category who are Hispanic or Latino” [2]. For this particular report however, we computed separate estimates for race cells and Hispanic origin cells. Our sample lacked enough cases to make reliable estimates for combined race and Hispanic origin categories. Thus, for statistical testing we decided to focus on larger, collapsed subgroups.

We looked at subgroups of UCR data to see if there was a relationship between ITS nonresponse and the amount of crime in a county. In a similar fashion, we wondered if there was a relationship between ITS nonresponse and income level, so we also produced estimates for subgroups of median county income.

Obtaining Descriptive Variables for Non-respondents

For ITS noninterviews, we first tried to get values for the chosen demographic variables from the corresponding NCVS interviews in the first half of 2014. If values could not be found there, we went to NCVS data from past interviews (if they exist) to try to get the values. Given the maximum of seven NCVS interviews, we looked back as far as 3.5 years to get these values. Similarly, for NCVS person noninterviews in the first half of 2014, we tried to get values from NCVS data from past interviews.

In NCVS production, some variables that are still blank after looking at past data are imputed using the hot deck imputation method. Hot deck imputation assigns a value collected for a person with similar characteristics to the missing value. However, allocated or imputed values are not used in this study because we thought it would be better to use actual values for the nonrespondents when comparing respondents to nonrespondents.

Obtaining and Using County-Level Statistics

The variables for UCR crime and median income did not have obvious subgroups/levels like the other variables. To create the categories, we sorted the counties that contained sample by UCR crime or income, respectively. Then we classified each county into one of three categories (high, medium, and low) by doing a roughly even division of sample persons. In other words, we put all of the sample persons of a particular county into the same category based on high, medium, or low crime (or income) of the county.

We computed the county-level UCR crimes per person using the 2012 UCR data provided by the University of Michigan. Each year the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) obtains crime reports from each state at the county level, but the data can be missing or incomplete. The University of Michigan takes these files and imputes values for the missing data. Historically the state of Illinois has not provided crime reports to the FBI and so the entire state must be imputed by the University of Michigan. However, Illinois provides this information on their state website. Thus, we obtained the crime reports from the state of Illinois and replaced the imputed data from the Michigan files for that state.

We obtained county-level median income from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey dataset and formed three categories in the same way as the UCR data.

Weights

In the detailed weighting process for NCVS, baseweights were adjusted with several different factors:

- weighting control factor
- new permit factor
- weighting factor cap
- within-household noninterview factor
- household noninterview factor
- first-stage ratio-estimate factor
- second-stage ratio estimate factor.

For ITS, person weights were calculated using the NCVS final person weight. Since the noninterview adjustment components of the final NCVS weights were created so that respondents represented the non-respondents, the NCVS non-respondents did not have NCVS final person weights. Therefore, for this study we used base weights instead of the NCVS final weights when computing weighted data. The base weight is the inverse of the probability of selection for a unit or person. When computing estimates for NCVS persons, we used NCVS base weights. When computing estimates for ITS persons, we used ITS base weights (NCVS final person weights).

Universes for the Estimates

Many of the estimates shown in this report were computed for two different universes:

- All persons in scope for ITS
- All NCVS persons aged 16 and over

Persons in scope for ITS include all NCVS persons age 16 and over who responded to the NCVS interview except for NCVS proxy interviews.

For tables based on the NCVS universe, we examined NCVS nonresponse. For the tables based on the ITS universe, we examined ITS nonresponse. We include both sets of estimates because it gives us a more complete picture of ITS nonresponse. Not responding to NCVS was one reason why a person did not respond to ITS.

Estimates

The response rates reported in this document are simply the weighted percentage of a certain group that responded. For example, the percentage of males that responded. For respondent distributions, the estimate for males is the weighted percentage of respondents that were male. To examine the association between nonresponse and available demographic variables, we computed chi-square tests.

To estimate nonresponse bias, we used the following formula:

$$\widehat{Bias}(\bar{y}_r) = (\bar{y}_r - \bar{y}_t) \times 100 = \left(\frac{\sum_{k \in R} W_k Y_k}{\sum_{k \in R} W_k} - \frac{\sum_{k \in T} W_k Y_k}{\sum_{k \in T} W_k} \right) \times 100$$

where

- \bar{y}_t = the mean based on all sample cases
- \bar{y}_r = the mean based only on respondent cases
- R = total respondents in sample
- T = total persons in sample
- Y_k = one person with characteristic of interest
- W_k = base weight of a person

The weight, W_k , is the ITS base weight (NCVS final person weight) for ITS persons and the NCVS base weight for NCVS persons.

For example, we estimated the nonresponse bias for males as

$$\widehat{Nonresponse\ Bias} = \left(\frac{\text{Weighted Total Male Respondents}}{\text{Weighted Total Respondents}} - \frac{\text{Weighted Total Males}}{\text{Weighted Total Persons}} \right) \times 100$$

Ideally, nonresponse bias estimates should be based on rates of identity theft. We cannot compute our nonresponse bias estimates based on identity theft because we do not know the identity theft rates for non-respondents.

Each case was assigned to be an NCVS interview or an ITS interview based on the following definitions:

- NCVS interviews – Age 16+, and we received a completed NCVS interview or a proxy interview for the person.

- NCVS non-interviews – Age 16+, in NCVS sample, and we did not receive a completed NCVS interview for the person.
- ITS interviews – Age 16+, we received a completed NCVS interview from the person, and we received a completed ITS interview as well.
- ITS non-interviews – Age 16+, we received a completed NCVS interview from the person, but we did not receive a completed ITS interview.

Further information about our nonresponse bias plan can be found in [3].

5. Overall Response Rates

Table 1 shows that the percentage of households where at least one person responded to NCVS is 83.1 percent. From those responding households, 87.8 percent of the persons responded to NCVS and were eligible for the ITS. Of those eligible NCVS respondents, 90.6 percent also responded to ITS. Thus 79.6 percent of persons in the responding NCVS households responded to the ITS. Thus, out of the entire eligible ITS sample, we estimate that 66.1 percent of persons responded to the ITS.

Note that the household response rate was based on all households because we do not know which nonresponding households contained persons in the ITS universe. The NCVS person response rate used person non-interviews for age 16 and older, so the overall response rate is an approximation of the persons that would have been in the ITS universe.

Table 1: Overall Unit Response Rates

Type of Rate	Response Rate		
NCVS Household	83.1%		
Person	79.6%*	NCVS (16+)	87.8%
		ITS	90.6%
Overall	66.1%		

*Combined NCVS and ITS person response rate

Table 2 shows the unweighted total sample counts, total eligible units, and total completed interviews for the different types of sample units in the first half of 2014. The person universe only included persons that were age 16 and older.

Table 2: Overall Unweighted Sample Counts for January - June 2014

Sample Unit	Original Sample (Eligible & Ineligible)	Eligible Units	Completed Interviews
NCVS Households	64,559	54,040	44,898
NCVS Persons 16+	N/A	84,823	74,481
ITS Persons	N/A	70,945	64,287

6. Obtaining Values of Variables for Person Non-respondents

Tables 3 and 4 show the number of noninterviews / missing values (for ITS and NCVS respectively) that received values for subgroup variables from post-interviewing sources as well as the counts by source.

Table 3: Values of Variables for ITS Person Non-interviews

Variable	Total Non-interviews	Obtained from Current or Past NCVS Data	Still Blank
Age	6,658	5,931	727
Sex	6,658	6,654	4
Race	6,658	6,576	82
Hispanic Origin	6,658	6,603	55

Table 4: Values of Variables for NCVS Person Non-interviews

Variable	Total Non-interviews	Obtained from Current or Past NCVS Data	Still Blank
Age	10,342	9,546	796
Sex	10,342	10,326	16
Race	10,342	10,175	167
Hispanic Origin	10,342	10,236	106

As shown in tables 3 and 4, we were able to obtain values of the subgroup variables from current or past NCVS data for the large majority of person non-interviews. Therefore, we generally expect the subgroup estimates presented in this document to be reliable in terms of the characteristics of interviews versus non-interviews. The only possible exception is the age variable, where almost eight percent of persons did not report their age. We can still make comparisons for respondents and non-respondents for which we were able to obtain age.

7. Person Nonresponse Estimates

This section examines response rates, respondent and non-respondent distributions, and nonresponse bias estimates for persons, and includes a discussion of person nonresponse

estimates. For each type of estimates, we present one table for NCVS persons and one table for ITS persons. Due to the small number of blank values for the subgroup variables (as shown in Section 6), we generally do not provide the “blank” categories in the following tables. However, we do show blank values in the tables of distributions, where it is informative to see the percentage of cases that have blank values.

Response Rates

Table 5 shows response rates for all NCVS persons, age 16+, by subgroup variable.

Table 5: Person Response Rates for NCVS Persons

Characteristic	% of Total	Response Rate (%)
Sex		
Male	47.7%	86.3%
Female	52.3%	89.2%
Age		
16-29	20.0%	79.2%
30-39	15.3%	88.6%
40-49	15.9%	88.3%
50-59	18.2%	89.6%
60+	26.7%	94.1%
Race		
White Only	81.2%	88.2%
Black Only	10.8%	88.4%
Asian Only	5.0%	85.1%
All Others	2.6%	84.3%
Hispanic Origin		
Hispanic	14.5%	85.4%
Non-Hispanic	85.2%	88.3%
Urbanicity		
Urban	30.5%	87.8%
Suburban	46.1%	86.7%
Rural	23.4%	90.0%
Region		
Northeast	17.6%	85.4%
Midwest	22.7%	88.5%
South	36.8%	90.2%
West	22.9%	85.1%
UCR Crime Rate		
Low	32.8%	87.4%
Medium	33.3%	86.9%
High	33.9%	89.1%
County Median Income		
Low	33.1%	90.0%
Medium	33.4%	87.2%
High	33.4%	86.2%
Overall	100%	87.8%

Table 6 shows the response rates for ITS persons, by subgroup variable.

Table 6: Person Response Rates for ITS Persons (Conditional on NCVS Response)

Characteristic	% of Total	Response Rate (%)
Sex		
Male	48.2%	90.6%
Female	51.8%	90.7%
Age		
16-29	23.4%	92.1%
30-39	15.9%	91.5%
40-49	16.0%	90.9%
50-59	17.2%	91.0%
60+	24.3%	91.2%
Race		
White Only	79.9%	90.9%
Black Only	12.3%	90.7%
Asian Only	5.0%	87.7%
All Others	2.6%	91.1%
Hispanic Origin		
Hispanic	15.0%	88.2%
Non-Hispanic	84.9%	91.1%
Urbanicity		
Urban	31.5%	90.8%
Suburban	46.0%	90.6%
Rural	22.5%	90.5%
Region		
Northeast	18.1%	89.4%
Midwest	22.2%	90.1%
South	36.6%	91.5%
West	23.2%	90.8%
UCR Crime Rate		
Low	32.1%	91.4%
Medium	33.2%	90.3%
High	34.7%	90.3%
County Median Income		
Low	33.0%	90.4%
Medium	33.0%	89.4%
High	34.0%	92.0%
Overall	100%	90.6%

The response rates shown here are not surprising. The response rates are very similar to those from the 2012 ITS. For the NCVS person estimates, females have a higher response rate than males, non-Hispanics have a higher response rate than Hispanics, the south region has the highest response rate among the four regions. We see a higher response rate for NCVS persons in low income areas than we do in medium or high income areas. The largest differences in response rates for any of the NCVS person

subgroups is seen for the age variable, where the rates range from 79 percent for age 16-29 to 94 percent for age 60+.

For ITS persons, the differences are less noticeable. The response rates are 88 to 92 percent for almost all ITS person subgroups.

Respondent and Non-respondent Distributions

Table 7 shows comparisons of respondent and non-respondent distributions for NCVS persons in different subgroups along with the results of chi-square tests. Chi-square tests are used to test for significant differences in the distributions of respondents and non-respondents.

Table 7: Person Respondent and Non-respondent Distributions for NCVS Persons

Characteristic	Person Respondent %	Person Non-respondent %	Chi-Square Statistic (df)	P-value
Sex				
Male	46.9%	53.6%	573.20 (2)	< 0.0001
Female	53.1%	46.3%		
Blank	0.01%	0.15%		
Age				
16-29	18.1%	34.3%	8247.37 (5)	< 0.0001
30-39	15.5%	14.3%		
40-49	16.0%	15.2%		
50-59	18.5%	15.4%		
60+	28.6%	13.0%		
Blank	3.3%	7.7%		
Race				
White Only	81.5%	78.9%	880.28 (4)	< 0.0001
Black Only	10.9%	10.3%		
Asian Only	4.9%	6.1%		
All Others	2.5%	3.4%		
Blank	0.2%	1.3%		
Hispanic Origin				
Hispanic	14.1%	17.4%	754.85 (2)	< 0.0001
Non-Hispanic	85.8%	81.6%		
Blank	0.1%	1.0%		
Urbanicity				
Urban	30.5%	30.5%	77.45 (2)	< 0.0001
Suburban	45.6%	50.2%		
Rural	24.0%	19.3%		
Region				
Northeast	17.1%	21.2%	235.27 (3)	< 0.0001
Midwest	22.9%	21.5%		
South	37.8%	29.4%		
West	22.2%	27.9%		
UCR Crime Rate				
Low	32.7%	34.1%	55.29 (2)	< 0.0001
Medium	32.9%	35.6%		
High	34.4%	30.3%		
County Median Income				
Low	34.0%	27.1%	141.62 (2)	< 0.0001
Medium	33.2%	35.0%		
High	32.8%	38.0%		
Overall	100%	100%		

Table 8 shows comparisons of respondent and non-respondent distributions for ITS persons in different subgroups along with the results of chi-square tests.

Table 8: Person Respondent and Non-respondent Distributions for ITS Persons

Characteristic	Person Respondent %	Person Non-respondent %	Chi-Square Statistic (df)	P-value
Sex				
Male	48.2%	48.3%	N/A (2)	N/A
Female	51.8%	51.6%		
Blank	0.00%	0.06%		
Age				
16-29	23.8%	19.9%	3746.36 (5)	< 0.0001
30-39	16.0%	14.4%		
40-49	16.1%	15.5%		
50-59	17.3%	16.5%		
60+	24.4%	22.9%		
Blank	2.4%	10.9%		
Race				
White Only	80.1%	77.8%	485.96 (4)	< 0.0001
Black Only	12.3%	12.2%		
Asian Only	4.9%	6.6%		
All Others	2.6%	2.5%		
Blank	0.1%	0.9%		
Hispanic Origin				
Hispanic	14.6%	18.9%	354.51 (2)	< 0.0001
Non-Hispanic	85.4%	80.3%		
Blank	0.1%	0.8%		
Urbanicity				
Urban	31.6%	31.0%	0.23 (2)	0.89
Suburban	46.0%	46.4%		
Rural	22.4%	22.7%		
Region				
Northeast	17.8%	20.5%	23.61 (3)	< 0.0001
Midwest	22.0%	23.3%		
South	36.9%	33.3%		
West	23.2%	22.8%		
UCR Crime Rate				
Low	32.4%	29.6%	10.56 (2)	0.0051
Medium	33.0%	34.5%		
High	34.6%	35.9%		
County Median Income				
Low	32.9%	33.7%	43.51 (2)	< 0.0001
Medium	32.6%	37.3%		
High	34.5%	29.0%		
Overall	100%	100%		

Note: The chi-square test for sex could not be calculated due to a frequency of 0 within the row for Blank. By excluding the row for Blank, the Chi-Square Statistic (df) is 0.29 (1) with P-value 0.59.

The chi-square tests for all NCVS persons and ITS persons showed significant differences (at the $\alpha=0.10$ level) for the distributions of all variables, with the exception of urbanicity for ITS persons. The chi-square tests only indicate that the distributions of respondents and non-respondents differ, but do not necessarily indicate a nonresponse bias problem. These differences will only cause bias if the respondents and nonrespondents report differing rates of identity theft. Furthermore, the amount of bias is also a function of the difference in the magnitude of the response distributions.

We used the nonresponse bias estimates in the next section to determine if any of the significant differences detected by the chi-square tests were of practical importance.

Nonresponse Bias Estimates

Our estimates of nonresponse bias are not based on identity theft estimates. The estimates of nonresponse bias shown in tables 9 and 10 were computed by subtracting the third column (percentage of total persons with the characteristic of interest) from the second column (percentage of respondents with the characteristic of interest) as shown in our formula in section 4. The last three columns of the tables show the estimated nonresponse bias, the bias as a percentage of the total percentage, and the standard error for the estimate of percentage of total. In other words, these columns are the actual change, the relative change, and standard error estimate, respectively.

Table 9 shows the nonresponse bias estimates for different subgroups for NCVS persons.

Table 9: Nonresponse Bias Estimates for NCVS Persons

Characteristic	% of Respondents	% of Total	Nonresponse Bias	Bias As Percent of “%of Total”	SE of “% of Total” Est.
Sex					
Male	46.91%	47.72%	-0.81	1.7%	0.16%
Female	53.09%	52.26%	0.83	1.6%	0.15%
Age					
16-29	18.08%	20.05%	-1.97	9.8%	0.45%
30-39	15.46%	15.33%	0.13	0.8%	0.28%
40-49	15.97%	15.88%	0.09	0.6%	0.30%
50-59	18.54%	18.16%	0.38	2.1%	0.26%
60+	28.64%	26.74%	1.90	7.1%	0.25%
Race					
White Only	81.55%	81.23%	0.32	0.4%	0.10%
Black Only	10.88%	10.81%	0.07	0.6%	0.56%
Asian Only	4.89%	5.04%	-0.15	3.0%	0.86%
All Others	2.51%	2.61%	-0.10	3.8%	1.11%
Hispanic Origin					
Hispanic	14.11%	14.51%	-0.40	2.8%	0.52%
Non-Hispanic	85.76%	85.25%	0.51	0.6%	0.10%
Urbanicity					
Urban	30.47%	30.47%	0.00	0.0%	0.35%
Suburban	45.57%	46.13%	-0.56	1.2%	0.28%
Rural	23.96%	23.39%	0.57	2.4%	0.71%
Region					
Northeast	17.15%	17.64%	-0.49	2.8%	0.52%
Midwest	22.90%	22.73%	0.17	0.7%	0.65%
South	37.77%	36.75%	1.02	2.8%	0.47%
West	22.17%	22.87%	-0.70	3.1%	0.61%
UCR Crime Rate					
Low	32.67%	32.84%	-0.17	0.5%	0.37%
Medium	32.94%	33.27%	-0.33	1.0%	0.43%
High	34.39%	33.89%	0.50	1.5%	0.42%
County Median Income					
Low	33.99%	33.14%	0.85	2.6%	0.44%
Medium	33.22%	33.43%	-0.21	0.6%	0.41%
High	32.80%	33.43%	-0.63	1.9%	0.37%

Ideally, we would like for nonresponse bias to be 0. For the NCVS interview, the nonresponse bias estimate for persons age 16-29 was 9.8 percent of the “% of total” and the estimate for person age 60+ was 7.1 percent. These estimates were significantly higher than the estimates for the other age group categories. We do not know the age for a relatively high percentage of nonrespondents. If we knew the age for these nonrespondents, the nonresponse bias estimates could change.

Additionally, the following differences were found:

- The nonresponse bias estimates of the “% of total” for the Asian Only and All Others categories were higher than those estimates for White Only and Black Only.
- The nonresponse bias estimate of the “% of total” for the Hispanic category was higher than the estimate for Non-Hispanic.
- The nonresponse bias estimate of the “% of total” for the Urban category was lower than the estimates for Suburban and Rural.
- The nonresponse bias estimate of the “% of total” for the Midwest category was lower than the estimates for Northeast, South, and West.
- The nonresponse bias estimate of the “% of total” for the Income Medium category was lower than the estimates for Low and High.

Table 10 shows the nonresponse bias estimates for different subgroups for ITS persons.

Table 10: Nonresponse Bias Estimates for ITS Persons

Characteristic	% of Respondents	% of Total	Nonresponse Bias	Bias As Percent of “%of Total”	SE of “% of Total” Est.
Sex					
Male	48.20%	48.21%	-0.01	0.02%	0.12%
Female	51.80%	51.79%	0.01	0.02%	0.11%
Age					
16-29	23.78%	23.41%	0.37	1.6%	0.26%
30-39	16.01%	15.86%	0.15	0.9%	0.31%
40-49	16.07%	16.02%	0.05	0.3%	0.30%
50-59	17.28%	17.21%	0.07	0.4%	0.31%
60+	24.41%	24.26%	0.15	0.6%	0.26%
Race					
White Only	80.09%	79.88%	0.21	0.3%	0.11%
Black Only	12.31%	12.30%	0.01	0.1%	0.54%
Asian Only	4.88%	5.04%	-0.16	3.2%	0.75%
All Others	2.63%	2.62%	0.01	0.4%	1.06%
Hispanic Origin					
Hispanic	14.57%	14.97%	-0.40	2.7%	0.83%
Non-Hispanic	85.37%	84.90%	0.47	0.6%	0.15%
Urbanicity					
Urban	31.56%	31.51%	0.05	0.2%	0.50%
Suburban	46.01%	46.04%	-0.03	0.1%	0.33%
Rural	22.43%	22.45%	-0.02	0.1%	1.18%
Region					
Northeast	17.82%	18.07%	-0.25	1.4%	0.65%
Midwest	22.03%	22.15%	-0.12	0.5%	0.85%
South	36.92%	36.59%	0.33	0.9%	0.43%
West	23.23%	23.19%	0.04	0.2%	0.62%
UCR Crime Rate					
Low	32.40%	32.14%	0.26	0.8%	0.47%
Medium	33.05%	33.18%	-0.13	0.4%	0.55%
High	34.55%	34.67%	-0.12	0.3%	0.48%
County Median Income					
Low	32.94%	33.02%	-0.08	0.2%	0.60%
Medium	32.56%	33.01%	-0.45	1.4%	0.43%
High	34.49%	33.98%	0.51	1.5%	0.42%

For the ITS interview, all subgroups displayed nonresponse bias estimates of less than 0.51 percent. For the NCVS estimates, all subgroups but three displayed nonresponse bias estimates of one percent or less of the “% of total.” For the most part, the nonresponse bias estimates seem comparable to those reported in the 2012 ITS (see [4]). The nonresponse bias estimate for persons age 16-29 was 1.6 percent of the “% of total.” This estimate is higher than the estimates for the age groups 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. We do not know the age for a relatively high percentage of nonrespondents. If we knew the age for these nonrespondents, the nonresponse bias estimates could change.

Additionally, the following differences were found:

- The nonresponse bias estimates of the “% of total” for the Asian Only category was higher than those estimates for White Only, Black Only, and All Others.
- The nonresponse bias estimate of the “% of total” for the Hispanic category was higher than the estimate for Non-Hispanic.

Person Nonresponse Conclusions

The chi-square results suggest that nonresponse bias is associated with most of our chosen variables. However, looking at the nonresponse bias estimates, we see that the impact of nonresponse is generally low, with a few exceptions.

Based on the chi-square tests and the nonresponse bias estimates, nonresponse bias seemed to be more of a problem for the given subgroups in the NCVS interview than it was for the ITS interview.

The results overall seem consistent with previous supplements (see [4] and [5]).

All of the nonresponse bias estimates for ITS persons are less than four percent of the “% of total” (and most are less than one percent of the “% of total”), which is low compared to past supplements. We are not concerned about nonresponse bias being associated with ITS persons.

The highest potential nonresponse bias is associated with the age 16-29 category and the age 60+ category for NCVS persons. When computing the person noninterview adjustment for non-reference persons in the NCVS weighting, cells are created using age 50+ as the highest age category. Given that results here suggest nonresponse bias for age 60+, we can consider researching the creation of an additional age category when computing the NCVS person noninterview adjustment.

This study shows low income areas as having a higher response rate than other areas for NCVS persons. This was also true for the previous three supplements that have been conducted. We should continue to monitor the response rates for this variable.

8. Item Nonresponse Estimates

We computed nonresponse statistics for the following items:

- Question 1a. – During the past 12 months, has someone, without your permission, used or attempted to use your checking or savings account, including any debit or ATM cards?

- Question 2a. – During the past 12 months, has someone used or attempted to use one or more of your existing credit cards without your permission?
- Question 3 – During the past 12 months, has someone misused or attempted to misuse another type of existing account such as your telephone, utilities, online payment account like Paypal, insurance policies, or something else?
- Question 3a-f – Which of the following types of your existing accounts, other than credit card or banking accounts, did the person run up charges on, take money from, or otherwise misuse? Did they use or attempt to use one or more of your..
 - a) Medical insurance accounts?
 - b) Telephone accounts?
 - c) Utilities accounts?
 - d) Online payment accounts such as Paypal?
 - e) Investment accounts?
 - f) Some other type of accounts?
- Question 4 – During the past 12 months, has someone, without your permission, used or attempted to use your personal information to open any NEW accounts such as wireless telephone accounts, credit card accounts, loans, bank accounts, online payment accounts, or something else?
- Question 4a-h – Which of the following types of new accounts did someone open or attempt to open? Did someone open or attempt to open...
 - a) New telephone accounts?
 - b) New credit card accounts?
 - c) New checking or savings accounts?
 - d) New loans or mortgages?
 - e) New medical insurance policies?
 - f) New automobile insurance policies?
 - g) New online payment accounts such as Paypal?
 - h) Some other type of new account?
- Question 5 – During the past 12 months, has someone used or attempted to use your personal information for some other fraudulent purpose, such as getting medical care, a job, or government benefits; renting an apartment or house; giving your information to the police when they were charged with a crime or traffic violation, or something else?
- Question 5a-g – As far as your know did the person use or attempt to use your personal information in any of the following ways. Did they use or attempt to use your personal information...
 - a) To file a fraudulent tax return?
 - b) To get medical treatment?
 - c) To apply for a job?
 - d) To provide false information to the police?
 - e) To rent an apartment or house?
 - f) To apply for government benefits?
 - g) In some other way we haven't already mentioned?

- Question 53f – During the past 12 months, have you used any type of security software program on your computer to protect it against loss of credit cards/card theft?
- Question 53h – During the past 12 months, have you purchased identity theft protection from a company that offers protection services?

Due to the skip patterns on the ITS questionnaire, the different items apply to different subgroups of the sample persons. For example, when respondents were asked question 3, and the answer was “yes,” they also had to answer questions 3a-3f. If the answer for 3 was “no,” they skipped questions 3a-3f.

Table 11 shows the item response rates for the items listed above.

Table 11: Item Response Rates

Item	Total Persons in Universe	Response Rate
Question #1a	56,615	100.0
Question #2a	46,115	100.0
Question #3	64,287	100.0
Question #3a	369	100.0
Question #3b	369	100.0
Question #3c	369	100.0
Question #3d	369	100.0
Question #3e	369	100.0
Question #3f	369	100.0
Question #4	64,287	100.0
Question #4a	278	97.5
Question #4b	278	96.8
Question #4c	278	97.5
Question #4d	278	97.1
Question #4e	278	97.5
Question #4f	278	97.5
Question #4g	278	97.5
Question #4h	278	97.5
Question #5	64,287	100.0
Question #5a	178	97.8
Question #5b	178	97.2
Question #5c	178	97.2
Question #5d	178	96.1
Question #5e	178	97.2
Question #5f	178	98.3
Question #5g	178	97.8
Question #18	4,660	99.9
Question #24	4,292	99.7
Question #28	4,660	99.5
Question #30a	1,385	99.6
Question #30b	32	87.5
Question #31a	1,691	99.4
Question #31b	1,691	99.4
Question #31c	1,691	99.4
Question #31d	1,691	99.5
Question #31e	1,691	99.5
Question #31f	1,691	99.3
Question #31g	1,691	99.3
Question #31h	1,691	99.5
Question #36	4,660	92.5
Question #37	2,979	99.3
Question #38a	430	95.6
Question #53a	64,287	99.4
Question #53b	64,287	99.2
Question #53c	64,287	99.4
Question #53d	64,287	99.4
Question #53e	64,287	99.4
Question #53f	64,287	99.1
Question #53h	64,287	99.3

Item Nonresponse Conclusions

As shown in the table above, the response rate for all of the items is 100 percent or nearly 100 percent. We do not have evidence that there is an item nonresponse problem.

9. Limitations

1. Using past data to assign subgroup variables to non-respondents – Due to in-movers and out-movers, it is possible for subgroup variables that we get from past data to be out of date. However, we do not believe our results need to be 100% accurate in order to show major differences between respondents and non-respondents. Also, we assume that the demographics of neighborhoods do not change very much in three and one half years.
2. Determining the universe – By defining the overall universe as all persons age 16 and older, we only approximate the persons in the original NCVS sample that would be in scope for ITS. The information that determines whether or not an NCVS interview is in scope for ITS is collected at the beginning of the ITS interview. Therefore, we did not know exactly how many of the NCVS non-interviews would have been in scope for ITS.
3. Dependence in the Data – Housing units were sampled for NCVS, and then persons within the sample housing units were interviewed for NCVS and ITS. This means that the sample persons were clustered within housing units, so the persons were not completely independent. The chi-square test assumes independence, so this clustering should be considered when examining the chi-square test results.
4. Significance Testing – The Chi-squared test is often used to test for homogeneity. The test we used was a standard test that was not adjusted for the complex sample design of the ITS and NCVS. Thus, tests may find more significant findings than there really are.

10. Miscellaneous

This memorandum is stored in the directory “M:\ADC-SDE\VEB\NCVS_Final Memos” with the name “2015-04 NCVS 2014 ITS NR Bias Report v1.0.docx.”

11. References

[1] Guideline 3.2.9, *Standards and Guidelines for Statistical Surveys* (2006), Office of Management and Budget.

[2] Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (1997), Office of Management and Budget.

[3] Memorandum for Meagan M. Meuchel from Ruth Ann Killion, Subject: Nonresponse Bias Plan for the 2014 Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey, September 11, 2014.

[4] Memorandum for Michael Planty from Ruth Ann Killion, Subject: Evaluating Nonresponse Bias in the 2012 Identity Theft Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, August 16, 2013.

[5] Memorandum for Cheryl R. Landman from Ruth Ann Killion, Subject: National Crime Victimization Survey: Evaluating Nonresponse Bias in the 2008 Identity Theft Supplement (Revised), September 20, 2010.

What is the National Crime Victimization Survey all about?

This survey, called the National Crime Victimization Survey, collects data measuring the types and amount of crime involving people 12 years of age and older. Periodically, the survey includes such additional topics as crime in schools, hate crime, contacts with law enforcement, and crime in the workplace.

How was I selected for this survey?

Actually, we selected your living quarters, not you personally for this survey. We scientifically selected approximately 48,000 addresses across the country to represent the entire population. At each selected address, we interview household members age 12 and older. If your household should move away while your address is still in the survey, we would interview the new family that moves in.

Will information I provide be confidential?

We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 8. Section 9 of this law requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential. We may use this information only for statistical purposes. Also, Title 42, Section 3732, U.S.C., authorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, to collect information using this survey. Title 42, Sections 3789g and 3735, U.S.C., also requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential. (OMB Number: 1121-0111; Expiration Date: 07/31/2009.)

Do I have to participate?

The survey is voluntary, and there are no penalties for not participating. We expect the interview to take about 25 minutes. Your interview may be somewhat shorter or longer than this depending on your circumstances. If you have any comments about this survey or have recommendations for reducing its length, send them to the Chief, Victimization Statistics Branch, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC 20531.

How are the data used?

Data from this survey are used to provide information on many topics related to crime and victimization, including crime in schools, trends in violent crime, costs of crime, and the response of law enforcement to reports of victimization. To see examples of reports, tables, and charts that use data from the survey, you can visit the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/.

I thought that the Census Bureau only operated every 10 years, when they counted people. What is the Census Bureau doing now?

In addition to the decennial census, which is conducted every 10 years, the Census Bureau collects many different kinds of statistics. We conduct other censuses required by law on a regular basis, including the censuses of business and manufactures and the census of state and local governments. Additionally, we collect data on a monthly basis to provide current information on such topics as labor force participation, retail and wholesale trade, various manufacturing activities, and trade statistics, as well as yearly surveys of business, manufacturing and governments, family income, and education.