

Identity Theft Web Resource Sites

The Federal Trade Commission says that nearly one in eight U.S. adults fell victim to identity theft in the last five years.

With 9.9 million victims last year alone, the FTC warned the thefts cost businesses \$48 billion and \$5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses to individuals.

Howard Beales, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection says, "For several years we have been seeing anecdotal evidence that identity theft is a significant problem that is on the rise. Now we know. It is affecting millions of consumers and costing billions of dollars."

According to the FTC's figures, ID theft is the most popular form of consumer fraud, in part because it is the most profitable. ID thieves stole nearly \$100 million from financial institutions last year, or an average of \$6,767 per victim.

It cost the average victim more than \$1,000 to cope with the damage from identity theft, according to the FTC.

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

<http://www.privacyrights.org/identity.htm>

Identity Theft and Fraud – Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft.html>

Identity Theft Resource Center

<http://www.idtheftcenter.org/index.shtml>

Federal Trade Commission

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm>

Guide to California Identity Theft and Privacy Laws

<http://www.privacy.ca.gov/>

ID Theft Resource Home

<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>

Identity theft is punishable under California Penal Code § 530.5 - 530.8.