Identity Theft Statistics

Whether you get your news online or offline, you know **Identity Theft** is a white-hot topic in the news media these days. And, with very good reason as illustrated by the sheer volume of **Identity Theft Statistics** just on this page alone. Consider:

- **“Identity Theft is the fastest growing crime in America.”** Trans Union website January 14, 2015.

- According to a 2009 Gallup Poll, virtually two-thirds of adults (66%) worry most about their identities being stolen – far greater than the number (35%) who worry about being a victim of terrorism. – Gallup Poll – October 1-4, 2009

- **“Every two seconds, another American becomes the victim of Identity Theft.”** – CNN/Money website February 6, 2014

- **“Every 79 seconds, a thief steals someone’s identity, opens accounts in the victim’s name, and goes on a buying spree.”** - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

- **“The number of identity fraud victims jumped to 13.1 million in 2013, a new report from Javelin Strategy & Research finds. That's an increase of 500,000 from 2012 and the second highest number of victims since Javelin began conducting its annual study in 2004.”** – CNN/Money website February 6, 2014

- **“The Bureau of Justice Statistics found...in December 2013, over 34.2 million adults, or 14 percent of Americans 16 or older (or 1 in 7), had experienced some form of Identity Theft in the past.”** CBS News website July 1, 2014

- ‘There was a 67% increase in the number of Americans impacted by data breaches compared to 2010. Victims of a data breach are 9.5 times more likely to be a victim of identity fraud than consumers who did not receive a data breach letter. The most common items exposed during a data breach: Credit card number, Debit card number, and, Social Security Number." - 2012 Javelin Strategy & Research, Survey Report Results

- **“Data breaches are the greatest risk factor for identity fraud – In 2013, one in three consumers who received notification of a data breach became a victim of fraud. This is up from one in four in 2012. Forty-six percent of consumers with breached debit cards in 2013 became fraud victims in the same year, compared to only 16 percent of consumers with a Social Security number breached.”** - Javelin Strategy & Research – 2014 Identity Fraud Study
• “Smartphone owners experience greater incidence of fraud. 7% of smartphone owners were victims of identity fraud. This is a 1/3rd higher incidence rate compared to the general public.” - 2012 Javelin Strategy & Research, Survey Report Results

• “Roughly, 85% of victims discovered the crime due to an adverse situation – denied credit or employment, notification by police or collection agencies, receipt of credit cards or bills never ordered, etc.” - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

• “70% of Identity Theft victims have trouble getting rid of (or never get rid of) negative information in their records.” - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

• “66% of Identity Theft victims' personal information is used to open a new credit account in their name.” - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

• “Average financial loss per identity theft incident, $4,930” Statisticbrain.com website – July 8, 2014 – Sources: U.S. Department of Justice, Javelin Strategy & Research

• “Victims spend an average of $851 to $1,378 in expenses related to their case.” - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

• “Victims spend an average of 600 hours (or 15 full 40 hour work weeks – almost 4 calendar months) to recover from Identity Theft. Based on the U.S. Median Household Income in 2014, that’s over $15,000 in lost potential or realized income.” - The Identity Theft Resource Center website, April 28, 2015

• “About 36% of Identity Theft victims reported moderate or severe emotional distress as a result of the incident.” – U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics – Victims of Identity Theft, 2012

The bottom line is the threat of Identity Theft is very real, pervasive, growing rapidly, costly, and, above all, clearly it’s up to you to protect your own identity. Wright USA can help you with that last part with Wright Identity Shield.