

In 2016, an estimated 10% of persons age 16 or older reported that they had been victims of identity theft during the prior 12 months. For continuing counties (those that were in the National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement sample in both 2014 and 2016), the portion of the population that experienced identity theft increased from 7% in 2014 to 10% in 2016. For 85% of identity-theft victims, the most recent incident involved the misuse or attempted misuse of only one type of existing account, such as a credit card or bank account.

An estimated 12% of identity-theft victims had out-of-pocket losses of \$1 or more; 88% either had no out-of-pocket losses or losses of less than \$1. According to the 17.7 million persons age 16 or older who experienced one or more incidents of identity theft with known losses of \$1 or more, total losses across all incidents of identity theft totaled \$17.5 billion in 2016.

Victim characteristics

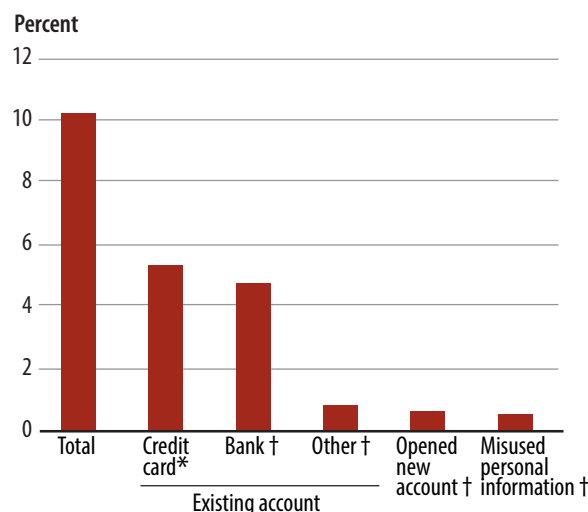
Based on the 2016 survey, more females (13.5 million) experienced identity theft than males (12.5 million). However, males and females had similar identity-theft prevalence rates (10% each). Whites (12%) had a higher prevalence of identity theft than blacks (7%), Hispanics (6%), and persons of other races (8%). Whites and persons of two or more races (12% each) had a similar prevalence of identity theft.

Persons ages 35 to 49 and ages 50 to 64 (12% each) had a higher prevalence of identity theft than all other age groups. Also, persons in the highest income category (those in households with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more, which includes 35% of all persons age 16 or older) had the highest prevalence of identity theft (14% experienced it).

Consequences of identity theft

More than half (55%) of identity-theft victims who resolved associated financial or credit problems did so in one day or less. About 10% of identity-theft victims said they experienced severe emotional distress as a result of

Persons age 16 or older who had experienced at least one identity-theft incident in the past 12 months, by type of theft, 2016



Note: Details do not sum to totals because persons could experience more than one type of identity theft.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Identity Theft Supplement, 2016.

the incident. The level of victims' emotional distress was related to the time spent resolving problems. More than a third (36%) of victims who spent 6 months or more resolving financial and credit problems as a result of the identity theft experienced severe emotional distress. In comparison, 4% of victims who spent one day or less clearing up problems experienced severe distress.

An estimated 7% of identity-theft victims reported the crime to police. Among victims who did not report the incident to police, the most common reason was that the victim handled the incident in another way (68%). About a fifth of victims who did not report the incident to police did not think that it was important enough to report (18%) or either did not know how to report it or did not think about reporting it (17%).

The full report (*Victims of Identity Theft, 2016*, NCJ 251147), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.