FBI
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Knoxville Division
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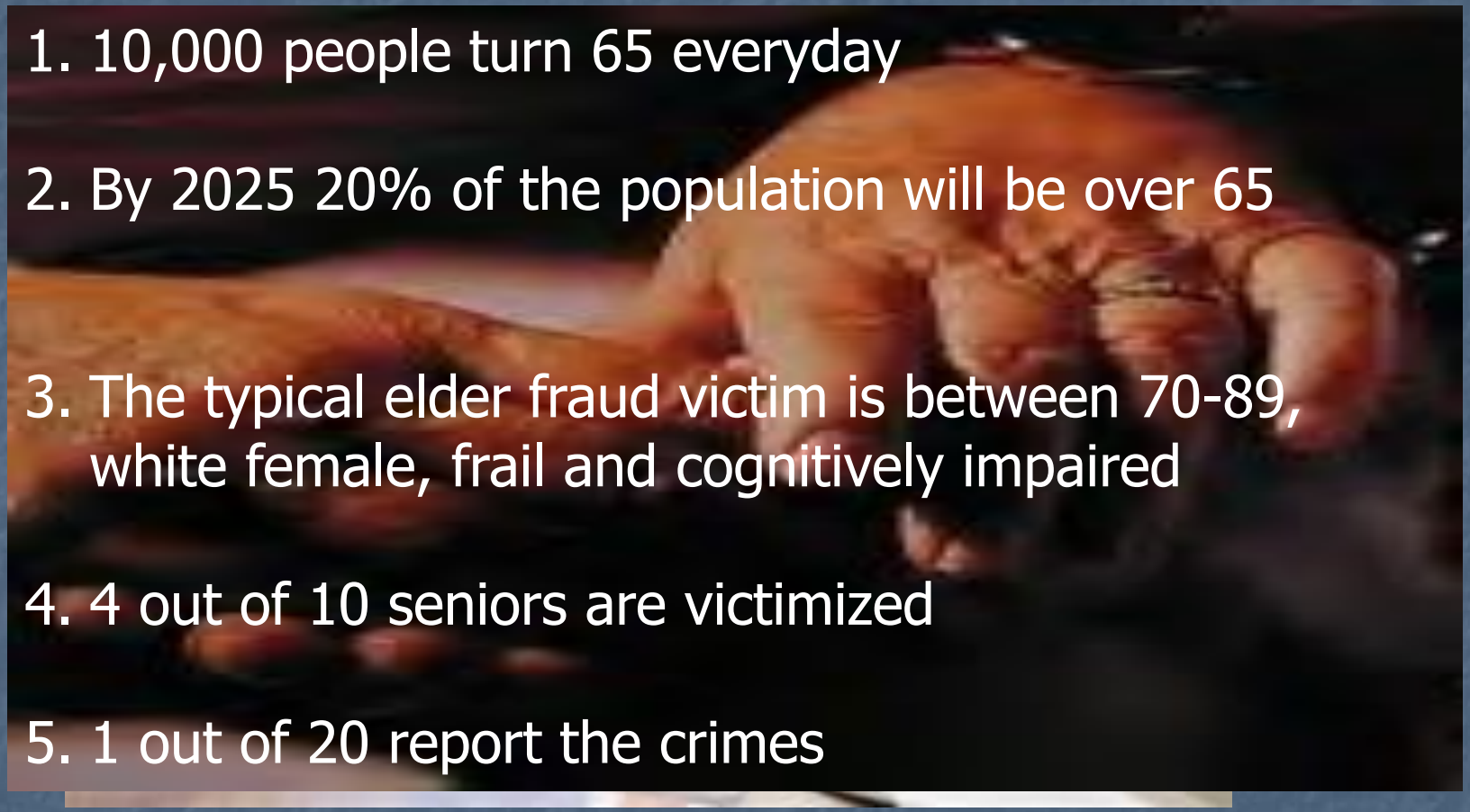
Elder Fraud

“How Bad Is It?”

Who does elder fraud impact?



1. 10,000 people turn 65 everyday
2. By 2025 20% of the population will be over 65
3. The typical elder fraud victim is between 70-89, white female, frail and cognitively impaired
4. 4 out of 10 seniors are victimized
5. 1 out of 20 report the crimes

REPORTING TO THE FBI BY THE NUMBERS FOR VICTIMS OVER 60

BY THE NUMBERS

IC3 Victims Over 60 by the Numbers[1]

2022

88,262	Victims Over 60
$3.1 Billion	Total losses
84 Percent	Increase in losses from 2021
$35,101	Average dollar loss per victim
5,456	Victims losing more than $100K

Reporting of fraud by incidents and loss amounts.

From 2018 to 2022

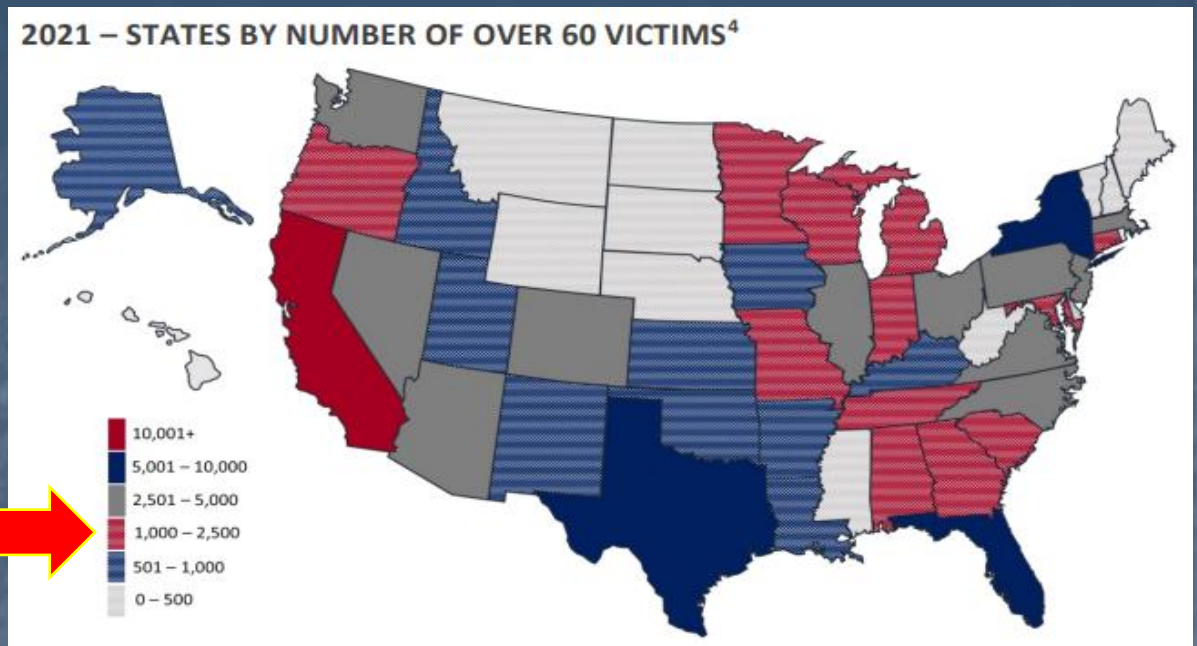
2022 VICTIMS BY AGE GROUP

VICTIMS		
Age Range[2]	Total Count	Total Loss
Under 20	15,782	$210,482,785
20 - 29	57,978	$383,137,848
30 - 39	94,506	$1,277,981,506
40 - 49	87,526	$1,551,296,778
50 - 59	64,551	$1,830,440,552
Over 60	88,262	$3,098,100,121

VICTIMS OVER 60 REPORTING FOR PAST FIVE YEARS[3]

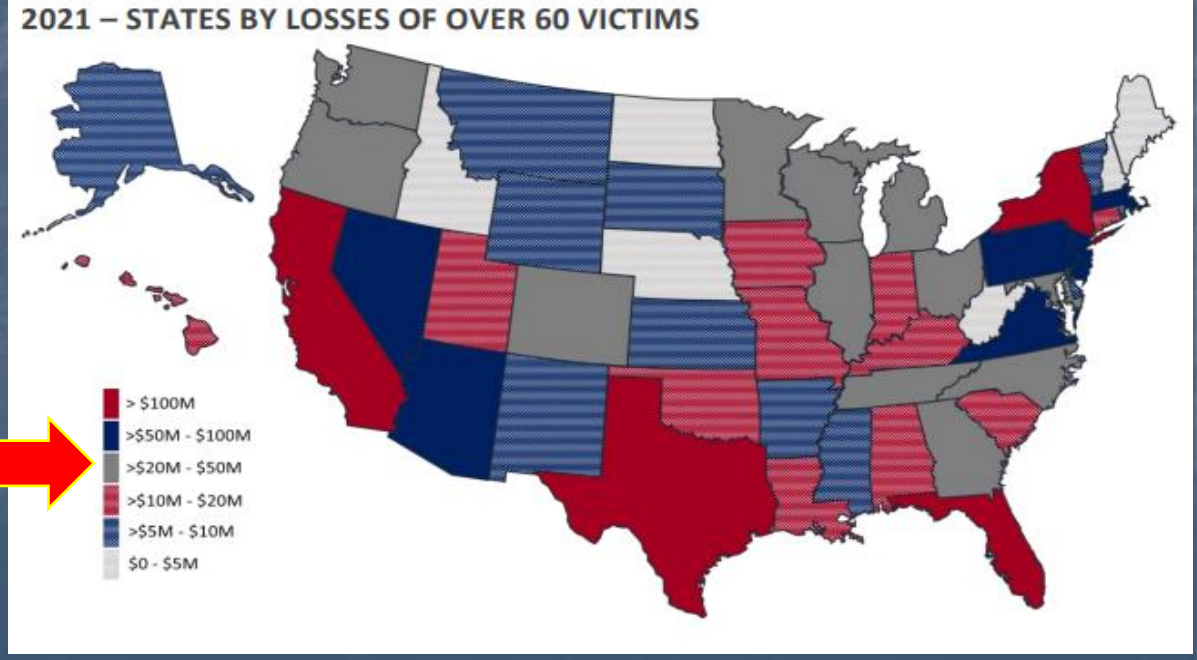
Number of victims over 60 by state

Tennessee



Losses from victims over 60 by state

Tennessee



Types of fraud schemes used by criminals to target our elder community.

2022 CRIME TYPES

VICTIMS OVER 60 COUNTS

Crime Type	Victims	Crime Type	Victims
Tech Support	17,810	Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	2,388
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	7,985	Other	2,016
Personal Data Breach	7,849	Real Estate	1,862
Confidence/Romance	7,166	Employment	1,286
Credit Card/Check Fraud	4,956	Overpayment	1,183
Identity Theft	4,825	Harassment/Stalking	754
Investment	4,661	Data Breach	333
Extortion	4,285	SIM Swap	301
Spoofing	4,201	IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	235
Phishing	4,168	Ransomware	215
BEC*	3,938	Threats of Violence	166
(Reporting a potential business victimization)	*2,552*	Malware	125
(Reporting a personal victimization)	*1,386*	Crimes Against Children	84
Government Impersonation	3,425	Botnet	33
Advanced Fee	3,153		

Descriptors*	
Cryptocurrency	6,854
Cryptocurrency Wallet	3,137

These descriptors relate to the medium or tool used to facilitate the crime and are used by the IC3 for tracking purposes only. They are available only after another crime type has been selected. Please see Appendix B for more information regarding IC3 data.

Reported incidents over the past 3 years

LAST THREE YEARS COMPARISON

OVER 60 VICTIM COUNT

Crime Type	2022	2021	2020
Advanced Fee	3,153	3,029	3,008
BEC	3,938	3,755	3,530
(Reporting a potential business loss)	*2,552*	*2,143*	--
(Reporting a personal loss)	*1,386*	*1,612*	--
Botnet *	33	--	--
Confidence/Romance	7,166	7,658	6,817
Credit Card/Check Fraud	4,956	3,164	3,195
Crimes Against Children	84	42	58
Data Breach	333	158	285
Employment	1,286	1,408	1,867
Extortion	4,285	5,987	23,100
Government Impersonation	3,425	3,319	4,159
Harassment/Stalking *	754	--	--
IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	235	686	552
Identity Theft	4,825	8,902	7,581
Investment	4,661	2,104	1,062
Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	2,388	2,607	3,774
Malware	125	134	287
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	7,985	13,220	14,534
Other	2,016	2,933	3,259
Overpayment	1,183	1,448	2,196
Personal Data Breach	7,849	6,189	6,121
Phishing	4,168	5,831	7,353
Ransomware	215	365	365
Real Estate	1,862	1,764	1,882
SIM Swap *	301	--	--
Spoofing	4,201	3,936	7,279
Tech Support	17,810	13,900	9,429
Threats of Violence *	166	719	1,699
Cryptocurrency/Cryptocurrency Wallet	9,991	5,109	9,447

*New Crime Type added in 2022.

Reported losses of victims over 60 over the past 3 years.

LAST THREE YEARS COMPARISON, *Continued*

OVER 60 VICTIM LOSS

Crime Type	2022	2021	2020
Advanced Fee	$49,322,099	$36,464,491	$33,184,114
BEC	$477,342,728	$355,805,098	$168,793,903
(Reporting a potential business loss)	$369,773,371	$277,547,598	--*
(Reporting a personal loss)	$107,569,357	$78,257,500	--
Botnet *	$120,621	--	--
Confidence/Romance	$419,768,142	$432,081,901	$281,134,006
Credit Card/Check Fraud	$61,649,198	$39,019,072	$20,780,800
Crimes Against Children	$48,373	$550	$411,349
Data Breach	$17,681,749	$7,095,746	$10,148,817
Employment	$6,403,021	$9,610,615	$16,092,611
Extortion	$15,555,047	$19,533,187	$18,503,168
Government Impersonation	$136,500,338	$69,186,858	$45,909,970
Harassment/Stalking *	$254,659	--	--
IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	$203,140	$4,954,221	$479,375
Identity Theft	$42,653,578	$59,022,153	$39,006,465
Investment	$990,235,119	$239,474,635	$98,040,940
Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	$69,845,106	$53,557,330	$38,804,343
Malware	$1,851,421	$1,177,864	$671,667
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	$51,531,615	$52,023,580	$40,377,167
Other	$31,410,237	$22,196,542	$49,689,594
Overpayment	$10,977,231	$9,214,129	$11,212,323
Personal Data Breach	$127,736,607	$103,688,489	$24,641,539
Phishing	$14,453,929	$9,166,217	$18,829,999
Ransomware	$210,052	$424,852	$5,332,312
Real Estate	$135,239,020	$102,071,631	$50,098,565
SIM Swap *	$19,515,629	--	--
Spoofing	$22,261,276	$19,473,060	$40,886,040
Tech Support	$587,831,698	$237,931,278	$116,415,126
Threats of Violence *	$376,458	$361,549	$1,112,825
Cryptocurrency/Cryptocurrency Wallet	$1,088,330,051	$241,143,166	$55,056,901

*New Crime Type added in 2022.

Number of victims by state 2022

- Tennessee is 16th among states in population over 60
- California and Florida have the most victims with four to five times the population of Tennessee.
- Based on population of elders over 60 and number of victims, Texas/New York and Tennessee are about the same.

VICTIMS OVER 60 BY STATE*

Rank	State	Victims	Rank	State	Victims
1	California	11,517	30	Utah	741
2	Florida	8,480	31	New Mexico	728
3	Texas	5,674	32	Louisiana	721
4	New York	4,239	33	Arkansas	649
5	Arizona	3,543	34	Iowa	557
6	Ohio	3,099	35	Kansas	472
7	Colorado	2,925	36	Idaho	466
8	Pennsylvania	2,901	37	Maine	459
9	Illinois	2,495	38	Hawaii	399
10	Virginia	2,447	39	New Hampshire	372
11	New Jersey	2,368	40	Mississippi	356
12	Washington	2,335	41	West Virginia	340
13	Michigan	2,243	42	Nebraska	335
14	Georgia	2,005	43	South Dakota	331
15	North Carolina	1,959	44	Alaska	316
16	Nevada	1,914	45	Delaware	305
17	Maryland	1,724	46	Montana	295
18	Massachusetts	1,653	47	Rhode Island	219
19	Missouri	1,503	48	Wyoming	209
20	Tennessee	1,462	49	District of Columbia	195
21	Oregon	1,314	50	Puerto Rico	190
22	South Carolina	1,312	51	Vermont	188
23	Minnesota	1,185	52	North Dakota	109
24	Indiana	1,172	53	United States Minor Outlying Islands	21
25	Wisconsin	1,029	54	Virgin Islands, U.S.	19
26	Kentucky	937	55	Guam	15
27	Alabama	916	56	American Samoa	8
28	Connecticut	908	57	Northern Mariana Islands	2
29	Oklahoma	790			

Financial impact in losses by state

Based on population of victims over 60 and the loss amount shown here, Tennessee would be ranked 5th just below New York.

2022 OVERALL STATE STATISTICS, *Continued*

VICTIMS OVER 60 LOSSES BY STATE*

Rank	State	Loss	Rank	State	Loss
1	California	$624,509,520	30	Arkansas	$24,314,902
2	Florida	$328,114,489	31	Kentucky	$22,494,352
3	Texas	$243,067,545	32	Oklahoma	$19,455,718
4	New York	$212,045,216	33	Idaho	$18,984,217
5	Washington	$96,213,728	34	Louisiana	$18,374,982
6	New Jersey	$92,712,866	35	Hawaii	$16,334,492
7	Arizona	$82,255,007	36	Nebraska	$16,117,012
8	Pennsylvania	$80,250,904	37	New Hampshire	$14,665,788
9	Georgia	$78,736,227	38	Delaware	$14,023,134
10	Illinois	$75,905,639	39	New Mexico	$13,382,175
11	Massachusetts	$70,100,868	40	Maine	$12,741,072
12	Colorado	$66,826,911	41	Iowa	$12,082,177
13	Maryland	$63,662,134	42	Alaska	$7,646,998
14	North Carolina	$63,464,255	43	Rhode Island	$7,314,666
15	Virginia	$60,641,280	44	Montana	$6,968,157
16	Michigan	$52,520,999	45	Vermont	$5,663,838
17	Ohio	$51,041,223	46	South Dakota	$5,634,355
18	Oregon	$46,324,137	47	Mississippi	$5,459,509
19	Minnesota	$39,211,355	48	Wyoming	$5,265,283
20	Nevada	$38,563,008	49	West Virginia	$4,460,124
21	Tennessee	$36,568,079	50	District of Columbia	$4,399,340
22	South Carolina	$35,610,994	51	North Dakota	$3,054,570
23	Missouri	$34,961,102	52	Puerto Rico	$2,363,832
24	Connecticut	$33,660,316	53	United States Minor Outlying Islands	$564,494
25	Wisconsin	$31,024,115	54	Guam	$163,555
26	Utah	$27,657,757	55	Virgin Islands, U.S.	$142,162
27	Alabama	$26,756,713	56	Northern Mariana Islands	$15,500
28	Indiana	$26,497,603	57	American Samoa	$14,136
29	Kansas	$24,435,433			

*Note: This information is based on the total number of complaints from each state, U.S. Territory, and the District of Columbia when the complainant provided state information. Please see Appendix B for more information regarding IC3 data.

COMMON FRAUDS AFFECTING VICTIMS OVER 60

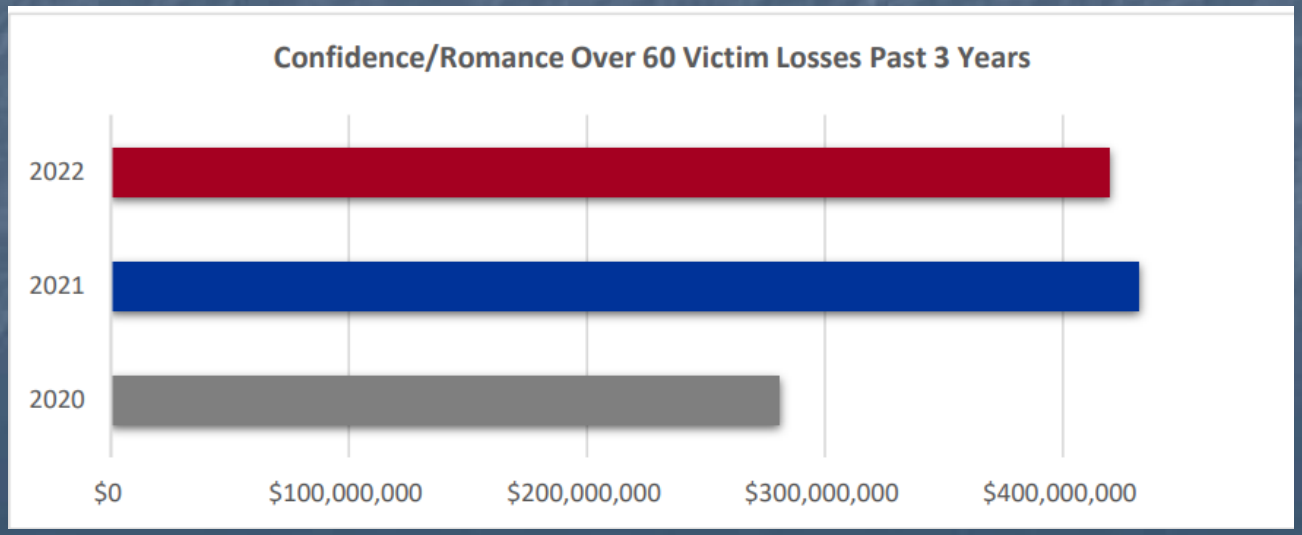
Call Center Fraud: Tech and Customer Support / Government Impersonation

- Illegal call centers defraud thousands of victims each year. Two categories of fraud reported to the IC3, Tech/Customer Support and Government Impersonation, are responsible for over $1 billion in losses to victims.
- Call centers overwhelmingly target the elderly, with devastating effects. Almost half the victims report to be over 60 (46%), and experience 69% of the losses (over $724 million).
- Victims over 60 lost more to these scams than all other age groups combined, and reportedly remortgaged/foreclosed homes, emptied retirement accounts. Almost 100 elderly victims reportedly lost over $1 million to these scams, while the majority lost between $1,000 - $10,000.

	Victims	Losses	Trend
Government Impersonation	3,425	$136,500,338	▲ 97%
Tech and Customer Support	17,810	$587,831,698	▲ 147%
TOTAL	**21,235**	**$724,332,036**	

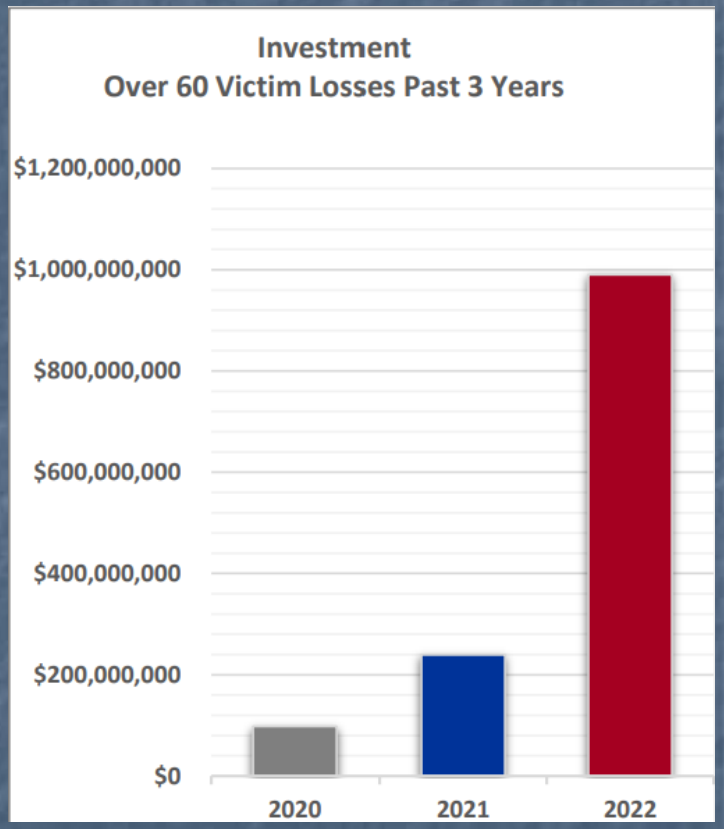
Confidence Fraud/Romance Scams

- Confidence/Romance scams encompass those designed to pull on a victim's "heartstrings". In 2022, the IC3 received reports from 7,166 victims over 60 who experienced almost $419 million in losses to Confidence/Romance scams.



Investment Scams

Investment fraud involves complex financial crimes often characterized as low-risk investments with guaranteed returns. They comprise of advanced fee frauds, Ponzi schemes, pyramid schemes, market manipulation fraud, real estate investing, and trust-based investing such as pig butchering. More than 4,500 victims over 60 reported losses slightly under $1 billion.



Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance

In 2022, the IC3 received over 2,300 reports of elderly victims in Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance scams. Victims lost almost $70 million to these types of fraud.

Unsolicited Home Visits/ Medical Equipment Fraud

Unannounced marketers dressed as medical providers visiting your home or calling to provide genetic or cancer screening if you provide your Medicare identification number.

Calls offering medical equipment at no cost but requiring your Medicare ID.

Unrequested delivery of braces, diabetic test strips or topical creams, many from unknown providers.

Other Types of Scams

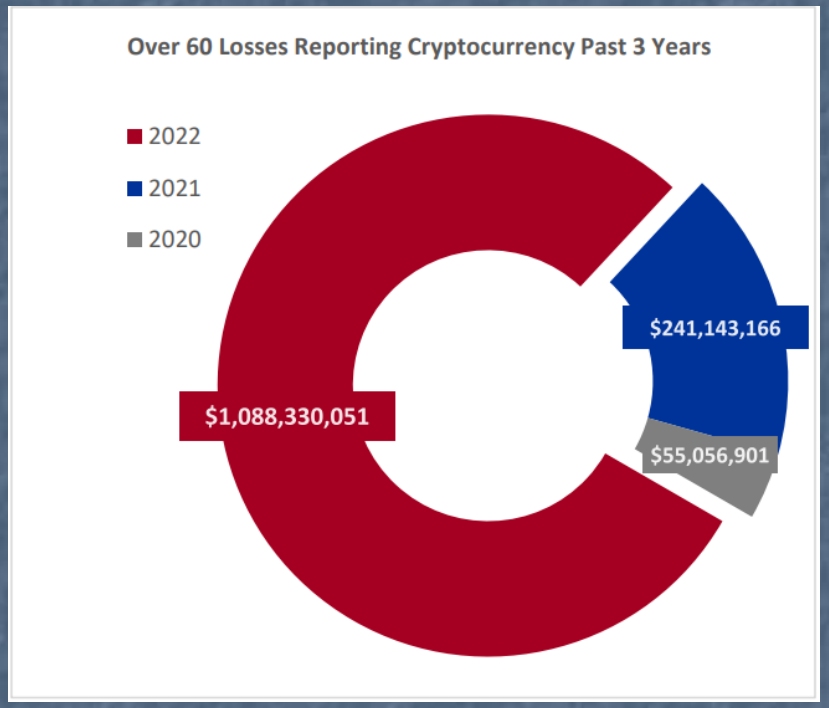
- Grandparent Scams - also fall into this category, where criminals impersonate a panicked loved one, usually a grandchild, nephew, or niece of an elderly person. The loved one claims to be in trouble and needs money immediately. In 2022, almost 400 victims over 60 reported Grandparent scams, with approximate losses of $3.8 million.

- Sextortion - Extortion occurs when a criminal demands something of value from a victim by threatening physical or financial harm or the release of sensitive data. This would include email extortion attacks, hitman schemes, government extortion, and sextortion. In 2022, over 4,200 victims over 60 reported incidences of extortion, with losses over $15.5 million. Almost half of extortion victims over 60 reported to be victims of sextortion. Most believed they were in a relationship with the victim and shared sensitive photos or information which were then later used to sextort them.

Cryptocurrency

In 2022, the IC3 received almost 10,000 complaints from victims over 60 involving the use of some type of cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, or Ripple. Losses of these victims totaled over $1 billion.

Cryptocurrency is becoming a preferred payment method for all types of scams. It is extremely pervasive in Investment scams, where losses can reach into the hundreds of thousands of dollars per victim.



Scams involving Cryptocurrency

VICTIMS OVER 60 WITH A CRYPTOCURRENCY NEXUS			
Crime Type	Victims	Crime Type	Victims
Investment	3,292	Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	57
Tech Support	2,076	Employment	50
Extortion	1,963	Ransomware	36
Confidence/Romance	810	Overpayment	30
Personal Data Breach	792	BEC	16
Government Impersonation	223	Real Estate	15
Spoofing	178	Data Breach	9
Advanced Fee	175	Malware	9
Credit Card/Check Fraud	144	Harassment/Stalking	6
Phishing	140	IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	5
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	134	Threats of Violence	3
SIM Swap	98	Botnet	2
Identity Theft	97	Crimes Against Children	1
Other	71		

VICTIM OVER 60 LOSSES WITH A CRYPTOCURRENCY NEXUS			
Crime Type	Loss	Crime Type	Loss
Investment	$716,466,087	Lottery/Sweepstakes/Inheritance	$3,517,513
Tech Support	$166,138,710	Other	$3,479,107
Confidence/Romance	$93,483,020	Extortion	$3,461,352
Personal Data Breach	$58,734,792	Employment	$956,324
Government Impersonation	$19,955,542	Overpayment	$499,037
SIM Swap	$11,211,168	BEC	$465,534
Phishing	$5,603,806	Malware	$69,963
Spoofing	$5,315,101	Harassment/Stalking	$51,240
Advanced Fee	$4,902,036	Ransomware	$37,500
Real Estate	$4,590,165	Threats of Violence	$21,769
Credit Card/Check Fraud	$4,560,408	IPR/Copyright and Counterfeit	$3,135
Non-payment/Non-Delivery	$4,526,507	Crimes Against Children	$1,300
Identity Theft	$3,816,394	Botnet	$0
Data Breach	$3,622,102		

How to report suspicious activity

Internet Crime Complaint Center

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865-544-0751

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423-282-8090

QUESTIONS?

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