

# The Threat of Identity Theft

We've witnessed firsthand the effects of identity theft on individuals and families. These incidents underscore the need to consider a few proactive measures to help protect against this pervasive threat.

Let's examine some of the signs of identity theft and review some strategies that can help safeguard your personal information.

## The Threat

Identity fraud claimed \$47 billion in 2024, up from the prior year. Recognizing some of the signs of identity theft is crucial in potentially safeguarding personal information. Key indicators include unexpected bills or charges, inaccuracies in credit reports, and unauthorized account openings. Vigilance and proactive measures, such as placing fraud alerts, freezing credit reports, and promptly reporting suspicious activities, may be important in managing risks.<sup>1</sup>

## Statistics

The financial repercussions of identity theft can extend far beyond the actual dollar amount of the loss, which averages \$497 across all types of fraud. Victims often endure prolonged periods of stress and uncertainty. Moreover, the aftermath of identity theft can manifest in various forms, such as denial of new account applications, credit complications, and underreported incidents.<sup>2</sup>



# Identity Fraud Claimed **\$47 billion** in 2024



Sources: [FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov), August 26, 2025. [AARP.org](https://www.aarp.org), March 25, 2025.

## Steps to Take

Identity theft protection services offer valuable insights to combat fraud, including early detection of potential threats. By leveraging technology to monitor online platforms, these services empower individuals to manage their identities and limit fraudulent activities.

### Further Steps Might Include:

- Using security software on all of your digital devices.
- Setting your phone apps to update automatically, potentially protecting against security threats.
- Adopting multi-factor authentication on your devices.
- Backing up all of your data to either an external hard drive or a cloud-based service.

**Security  
Software**

**Auto-update**



While the specter of identity theft looms large in today's digital landscape, adopting a proactive approach to protection is a first step. By staying informed, remaining vigilant, and investing in comprehensive identity theft prevention services, individuals can help fortify their defenses against this pervasive threat in an increasingly interconnected world.

1. AARP.org, March 25, 2025.
2. FTC.gov, August 26, 2025.

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