

## Six Month Trends

- For the first time since 2000, prizes/sweepstakes ranked #1.
- Overall, the average loss is \$2,085, up from \$1,504 in 2003.
- Bank debit as a form of payment is down from 37 percent in 2003 to 31 percent six months into 2004.
- Wire transfer as a form of payment is up from 21 percent to 25 percent.
- Victims ages 60 and over comprise 34 percent of all victims, the same percentage as in 2003.
- People aged 60 and over were victims of prizes/sweepstakes (59 percent), magazine sales (47 percent), lotteries/lottery clubs (42 percent), and travel/vacations (41 percent).
- 57 percent of lotteries/lottery clubs scams were initiated by mail, as were 40 percent of work-at-home plans.



## Telemarketing Scams

January—June 2004

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### Top Ten Scams

Category	% of All Complaints	Average Loss
<b>Prizes/Sweepstakes</b> <i>Request for payment based on promise of cash or valuable prizes that never materialize</i>	<b>32%</b>	<b>\$2,458</b>
<b>Credit Card Offers</b> <i>False promises of credit cards, even if credit is bad, for a fee paid upfront</i>	<b>18%</b>	<b>\$253</b>
<b>Advance Fee Loans</b> <i>False promises of personal or business loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee paid upfront</i>	<b>6%</b>	<b>\$1,560</b>
<b>Lotteries/Lottery Clubs</b> <i>False claims that consumers have won, or can get help to win, a lottery, often in a foreign country</i>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$5,538</b>
<b>Work-at-Home Plans</b> <i>Kits sold on false promises of big profits from working at home</i>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$2,168</b>
<b>Magazine Sales</b> <i>Misrepresent cost of subscriptions or pretend to be publisher calling about renewals</i>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$149</b>
<b>Buyers Clubs</b> <i>Memberships in discount buying clubs consumers never agreed to join or thought were free trial offers</i>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$220</b>
<b>Government Services</b> <i>Phony offers for government grants, loans, documents, and other services</i>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$81</b>
<b>Travel/Vacations</b> <i>Offers of free trips or discount travel that never materialize</i>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$1,754</b>
<b>Office Supply: Toner</b> <i>Crooks pretending to be regular office suppliers but never deliver toner or sell an inferior product</i>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$912</b>



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## Ages of Consumers

<i>Ages</i>	<i>% of Complaints</i>
0-29	16%
30-39	16%
40-49	18%
50-59	16%
60-69	10%
70-79	14%
80+	10%

## Methods of Payment

<i>Category</i>	<i>% of Payments</i>
Bank Debit	31%
Wire	25%
Check	12%
Credit Card	11%
Money Order	9%

## Methods of Contact by Telemarketing Crooks

<i>Category</i>	<i>% of Payments</i>
Phone	68%
Mail	18%
Print	9%
Other	3%
TV/Radio	2%

## Location

### Consumers

<i>Location*</i>
1. Wyoming
2. Alaska
3. Maine
4. Michigan
5. New Hampshire

### Crooks

<i>Location</i>	<i>% of Complaints</i>
New York	16%
Florida	15%
Canada	12%
California	8%
Tie: Nevada and Countries Outside U.S./Canada	7%

\*calculated rank by relative state population