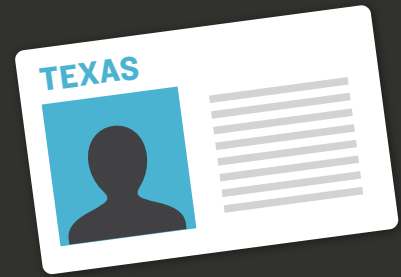
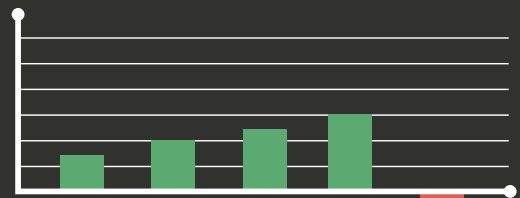


Think Identity Theft won't happen to you?

It's more likely than you think.



12.2 MILLION
U.S. IDENTITY FRAUD VICTIMS



\$5,130 ↓

average financial loss for a victim of identity theft

\$26.4 BILLION

total U.S. financial loss to identity theft in 2014



Texas ranks **4th** in the nation for number of identity theft complaints



130 out of every **100,000** Texans have experienced identity theft

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, 2014

6 Easy Steps to Protect Your Identity TODAY



Use a password manager app to store and organize passwords in an encrypted form only accessed with a strong master password. Learn more at u.tamu.edu/password_genius.



Make copies of wallet content. Carry only one credit card, and avoid spare keys, gift cards and receipts that give thieves clues to where you live, your accounts and your identity.



Don't trust emails or phone calls from financial institutions. Always type a bank's website address into the browser or call them directly. Phishing and spoofing emails appear authentic and attempt to lure account holders into sharing account information.



Set up bank withdrawal alerts to notify you when money is withdrawn from your account. Ask your financial institution how to sign up for these alerts.



Monitor or sign up for a service to help monitor credit transactions. Check your credit report for free (annualcreditreport.com), once every 12 months, from each of the main reporting companies.



Get on the federal Do Not Call List (donotcall.gov) and the No Junk Mail List (optoutprescreen.com)

When Identity Theft Happens to You...

- **Check your credit report for unexpected or unauthorized activity.**
Place fraud alerts to prevent new accounts from being opened without verification.
- **Contact companies, including banks, where you have accounts.**
Close or suspend accounts you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- **File a report with the local police.**
You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.
- **Consider what other information the thief may have accessed.**
For example, if a thief accesses your Social Security number, contact the Social Security Administration. Or if your driver's license or car registration are stolen, contact the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Read more about how to protect yourself at <https://u.tamu.edu/protectmyself>

