# Identity Theft Soars in the U.S. with 15 Million Cases in 2023



### Rise in Identity Theft in the U.S.: 15 Million Reports in 2023

In 2023, identity theft in the United States saw a significant increase with over 15 million individuals reporting their identities had been stolen. The accompanying financial burden was substantial, costing Americans approximately $43 billion to cover legal fees and fraudulent debts not reimbursed by banks or merchants, according to a study by Javelin, a cybersecurity company.

Researchers also noted that the average time spent by affected consumers trying to resolve identity fraud rose to 10 hours, up from six hours in 2022. Suzanne Sando, Javelin's senior analyst in fraud and security, attributed this increase to the growing number of online accounts people maintain.

One of the primary indicators that someone may be trying to steal your identity includes receiving unrequested two-factor authentication (2FA) notifications. Other signs include unusual activity in streaming accounts, unexpected test charges on credit cards, unexplained credit score fluctuations, receiving strange junk mail, missing bank or credit card statements, credit card issues, and tax anomalies.

Experts advise immediate actions such as checking online accounts, credit reports, and contacting financial institutions if any suspicious activities are observed.