

Numbers Now...

Criminal Justice in Oklahoma

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Internet Crime Complaint Center

Jessica Shouse

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) was developed by the National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The center is responsible for collecting and analyzing internet crime complaints from victims located around the world. Once analyzed, IC3 disseminates reports to law enforcement and the public in an effort to increase public awareness, knowledge of trends, and prosecution efforts.

Since its establishment in 2000, IC3 has received over 3 million internet crime complaints. The most common complaints relate to online fraud, money laundering, online extortion, identity theft, child pornography, and computer intrusion. Internet crimes impact victims financially, too; over the past 14 years, victims have reported more than \$2 billion dollars in loss.

Criminals use the internet as a tool to commit criminal acts because of the minimal risk and high reward. Internet crimes are commonly perpetrated from other nations, making it difficult for law enforcement to detect and prosecute criminals. Cyber criminals develop new types of fraud, compounding the problem further for law enforcement agencies.

As mentioned above, IC3 provides public service announcements and annual reports to increase public awareness of trends. Recently, cyber criminals targeted universities across the nation. Using intrusion and phishing techniques, criminals gained access to personal information of both students and university staff. The information was used to file fraudulent tax returns. Students were also sent fake job postings that required they pay fees for employment or provide bank account information for automatic deposits.

IC3 also investigates telephone scams. The "grandparent scam" is a popular telephone scam that preys on the vulnerability of older adults. Using social networking sites and online telephone lists, criminals deceive victims by claiming to be a relative that is in need of financial assistance.

IC3 offers advice to the public on how to protect against emerging scams and fraudulent threats. For more information, visit <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>.

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Fraud Prevention Tips

Nikki Lofftus

Internet crimes continue to increase across the nation; criminals have learned to adapt to enforcement efforts. Because of this, it is important for potential victims to understand ways to prevent becoming a victim of an internet crime. The Federal Trade Commission suggests the following prevention tips:

Identity Theft

- Do not throw away bank statements, credit card statements, or ATM receipts
- Do not provide callers with personal identifying information (e.g., social security number, credit card number) unless you initiated contact with the caller
- Review your credit report annually
- Review your credit card and bank statements. Notify the credit card company immediately of any suspicious activity

Telemarketing Fraud

- Do not pay for services until after you receive them
- Do not provide callers with account information unless you initiated the call
- Do not make contributions to unfamiliar charities until you have done your research
- Do not pay taxes on "free prizes"

Ponzi Schemes

- Research companies before making investments
- Consult an independent third party while making investment decisions
- Be cautious of companies that request you find additional investors
- Be cautious of fast profit promises

For more information and additional fraud prevention tips, please visit <http://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice>.

Reminder

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics can assist with research and statistics. For more information, please visit:

[www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical Analysis Center](http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical_Analysis_Center)

Upcoming Publications

Crime in Oklahoma, 2013

Murder in Oklahoma, 2013

Domestic Violence in Oklahoma, 2013

Baker's Dozen

Angie Baker, SAC Director

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) publishes the *Internet Crime Report* each year. The report provides state-level complaint data and information on emerging internet crime scams. The report is designed to increase awareness of internet crimes for law enforcement and the public. Select statistics from IC3's annual report are provided below.

1. According to the Internet Crime Complaint Center, internet crime is defined as "any illegal activity involving one or more components of the internet, such as websites, chat rooms, and/or e-mail. Internet crimes may include, but are not limited to, advance-fee schemes, non-delivery of goods or services, computer hacking, or employment/business opportunity schemes";
2. In 2013, IC3 received 262,813 internet crime complaints from around the world;
3. Ninety percent of complaints originated in the United States;
4. The most common contact method was through e-mail (71.1%);
5. Forty-one percent of complainants reported a financial loss;
6. The total loss reported by all complainants in 2013 was \$781,841,611, representing a 40% increase since 2009;
7. Romance scams were the most common form of complaints received by IC3;
8. Most victims (85%) were under the age of 60;
9. In 2013, Oklahoma submitted 1,862 internet crime complaints to IC3;
10. Oklahoma ranks 11th in the nation for the average loss per victim for complaints reported to IC3;
11. In 2013, Oklahomans reported a total loss of \$5,199,764 due to internet crimes;
12. In 2010, the most common complaint in Oklahoma was non-delivery of merchandise/payment (26.1%), followed by auction fraud (12.6%)*;
13. For more information, please visit <http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreports.aspx>.

*Most recent statewide data is from 2010

Information adapted from the Internet Crime Complaint Center, 2013, *Internet Crime Report* (National White Collar Crime Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation: 2013)

Mission

To collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice research to educate and assist law enforcement and the citizens of Oklahoma.