

In a project funded by ACCAN, researchers at the Australian National University and IDCARE, Australia's national identity support service, analysed 4000 Australian identity theft cases. Here are some of the findings.

# Identity Theft Detection in Australia

Identity thieves do not want you to know that they have your identity. Some identity thieves are highly proficient at masking their activity.

Percentage of victims who detected their own identity theft:

**84%**



The vast majority of identity theft cases are still detected by the victim alone.

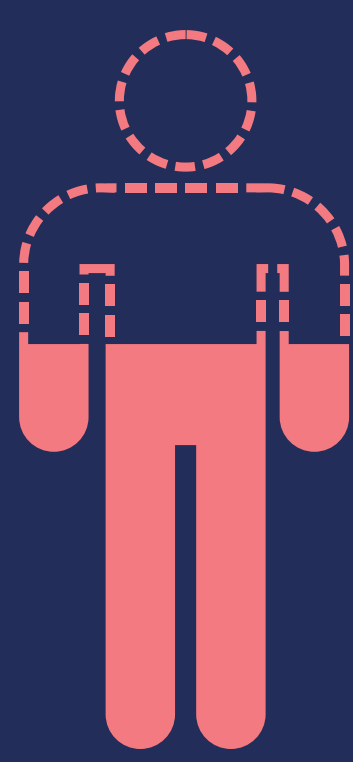
Percentage of victims who were notified by their bank:

**5%**

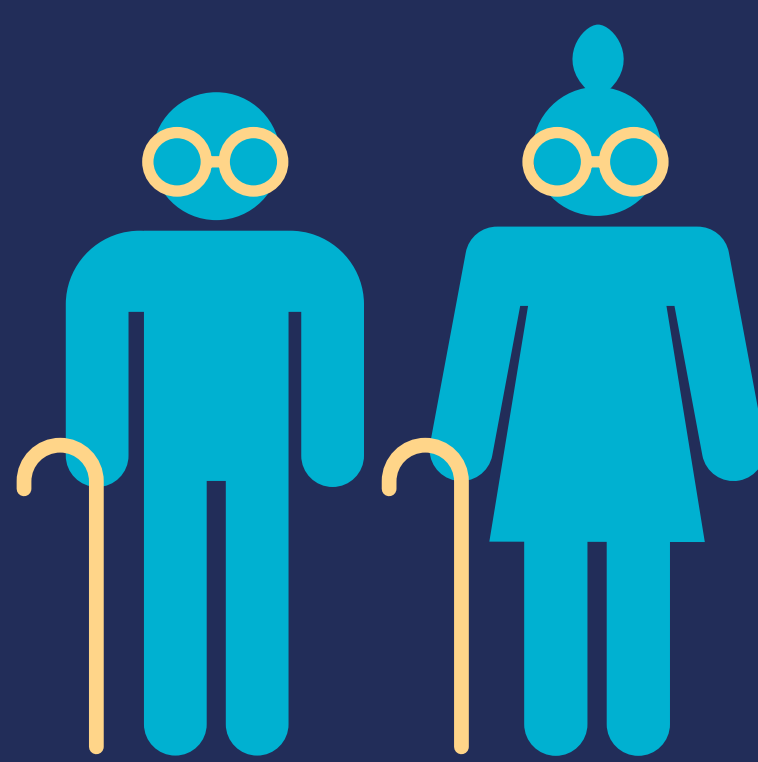


Approximately **Only half**

of all victims reported the identity theft on the same day they discovered it.

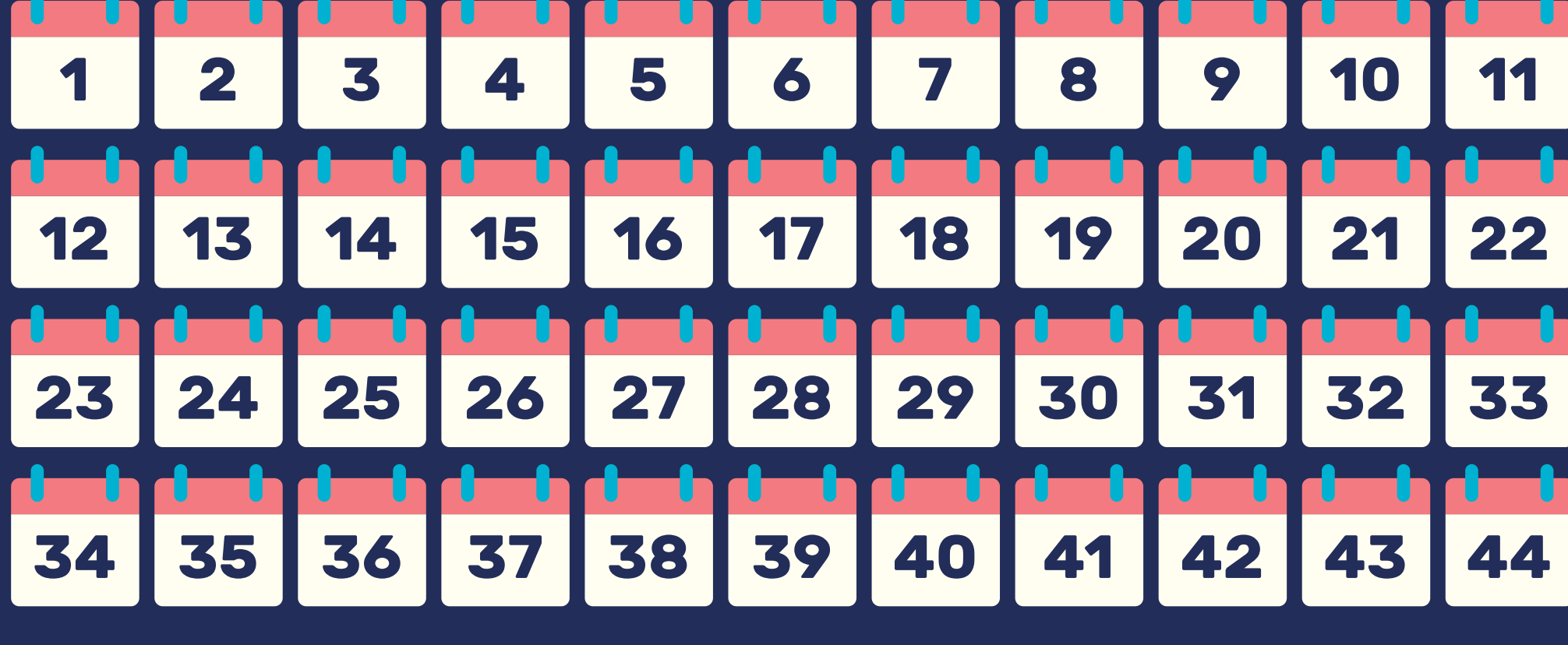


Older individuals are likely to face a greater threat from identity theft than younger individuals. Identity thefts among victims over 65 years of age were almost entirely detected by themselves.



Average amount of time before an identity theft attack is discovered:

**44 days**



Not all identity compromises are used immediately: an identity thief will sometimes wait weeks or months to use their new identity.

Of cases where victims could identify the identity theft perpetrator:

#1: **employer/  
co-worker/  
colleague**



#2: **ex-partner**



**66% of identity theft victims**

who knew their attacker were employed by or with them



Detecting identity theft means paying attention to your finances and communications. The most common targets for identity theft:

1.  Bank Accounts
2.  Credit cards
3.  Mobile devices

Once they had discovered an identity theft, victims were most likely to contact:

**1. A bank**

**2. A tele-communications provider**



If you think you've been a victim of identity theft, you need to act quickly—CALL IDCARE **1300 432 273** or visit [www.idcare.org](http://www.idcare.org) (free community service that provides assistance, advocacy and response plans).

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