

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 and Gender

The available data suggests that gender plays a significant role in identity theft. Males and females experience and report identity theft differently.

Females were **50% more likely**

than males to report an identity theft



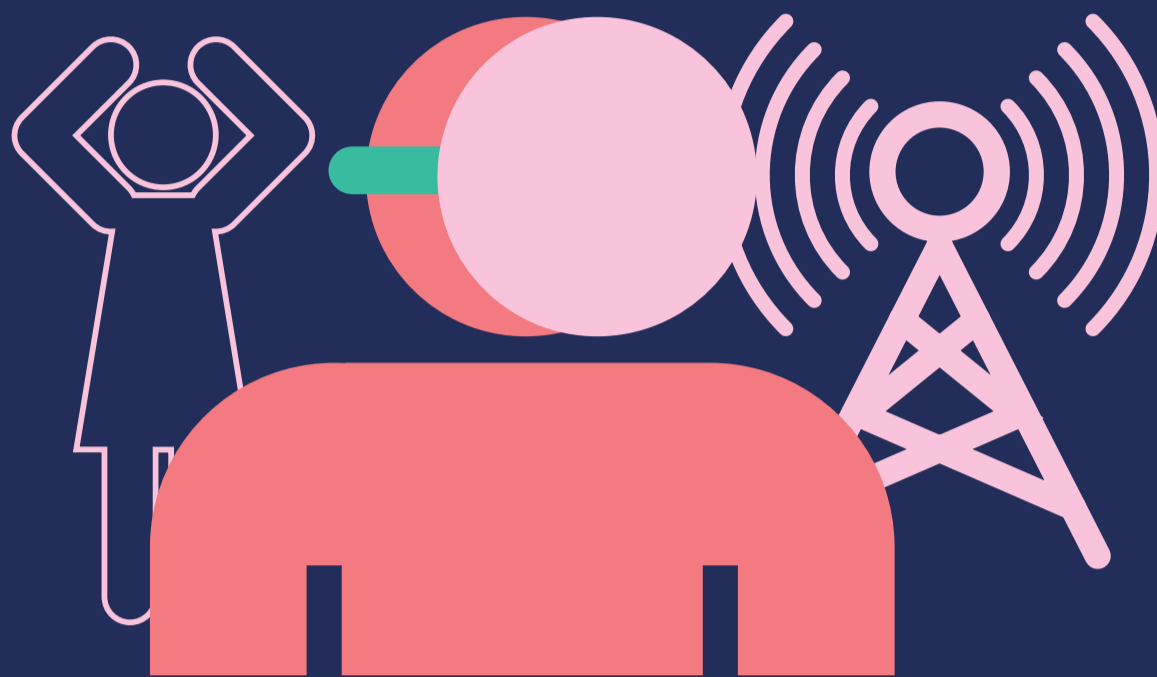
Males may be under-reporting identity theft, or identity thieves may believe female identities are more useful.

Two out of every three

identity theft victims from regional areas were female



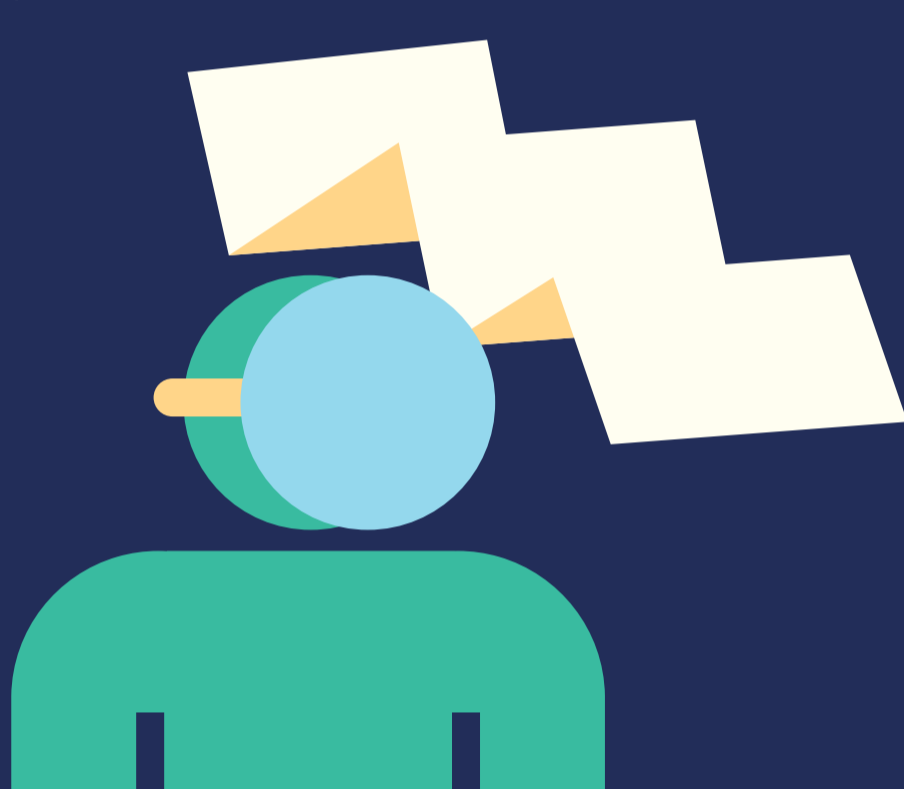
Ex-partners who stole identities usually impersonated their victim to a telecommunications provider



Domestic violence is a rising vector for identity theft because partners and ex-partners can have intimate access to their victim's details. Compromising the victim's telecommunications resources can be a way of controlling the victim's ability to communicate with friends, family and other lines of support.

Male identity theft victims

were significantly more likely to report a fraudulent personal loan opened in their name



Females reported more **Compromised Identity Documents**

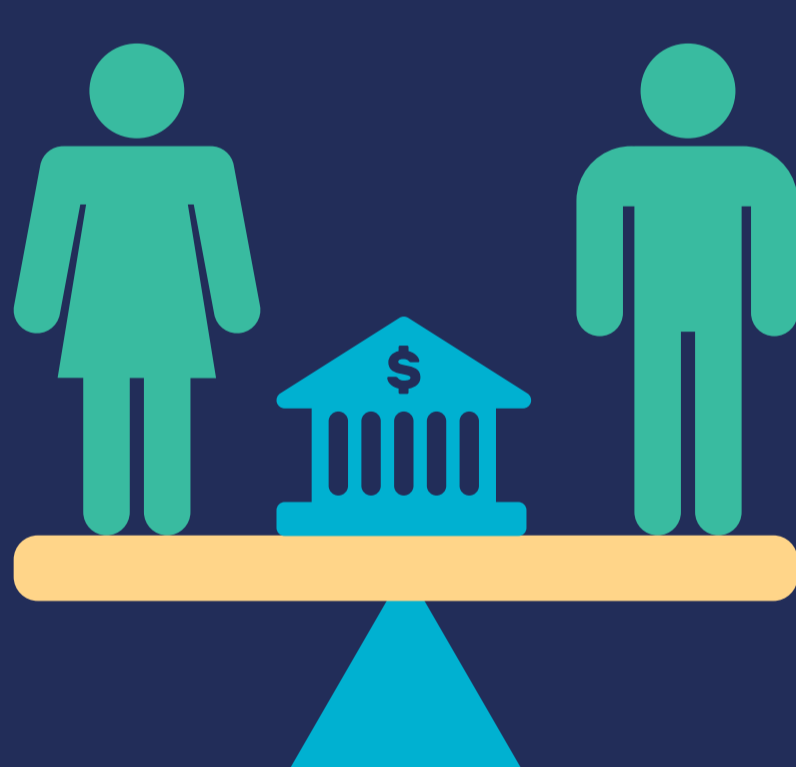
than males



After the identity theft, both male and female victims reported bank account attacks.

Gender was evenly balanced in

Bank account attacks...



but females were more likely to report

Credit card attacks

Males were more likely to be **Impersonated to a bank**



Identity theft victims over 65 years of age

were almost exclusively female



Discuss identity theft with your elderly friends and family.

Females appeared better able to

identify the source

of the identity theft attack than males



Controlling for amount lost, females were

More likely to know the identity thief



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 (free community service that provides assistance, advocacy and response plans).

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