



**IDENTITY THEFT**  
*Data Clearinghouse*



**Identity Theft  
Victim Complaint Data**

**Figures and Trends on Identity Theft**

**January 1- December 31, 2001**

***Federal Trade Commission***

***Washington, DC***

**Figure 1**  
**How Victims' Information Is Misused<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



<sup>1</sup>Approximately 20% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources (FTC Hotline and Internet complaint form, SSA-OIG Fraud Hotline referrals, and a small number from other law enforcement organizations) reported experiencing more than one type of identity theft.

## Figure 2 How Victims' Information Is Misused<sup>1</sup>

**Total Number of Identity Theft Victims = 86,168**

*January 1 – December 31, 2001*

### Credit Card Fraud: 42%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
New Accounts	26.0%
Existing Accounts	10.2
Unspecified	5.6

### Phone or Utilities Fraud: 20%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Wireless - New	9.7%
Telephone - New	5.3
Utilities - New	2.4
Unauthorized Charges to Existing Accounts	0.5
Unspecified	2.3

### Bank Fraud: 13%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Existing Accounts	6.2%
New Accounts	2.7
Electronic Fund Transfer	1.9
Unspecified	2.3

### Employment-Related Fraud: 9%

<i>Theft Subtype</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Employment-Related Fraud	9.0%



### Attempted Identity Theft Fraud: 10%

<i>Theft Subtype</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Attempted Identity Theft Fraud	10.0%

### Loan Fraud: 7%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Personal / Business Loan	3.4%
Auto Loan / Lease	1.8
Real Estate Loan	0.7
Unspecified	0.6

### Government

### Documents/Benefits Fraud: 6%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Driver's License Issued / Forged	2.7%
Fraudulent Tax Return	1.9
Social Security Card Issued / Forged	0.7
Gov't Benefits Applied For / Received	0.4
Other Gov't Docs Issued / Forged	0.3
Unspecified	0.2

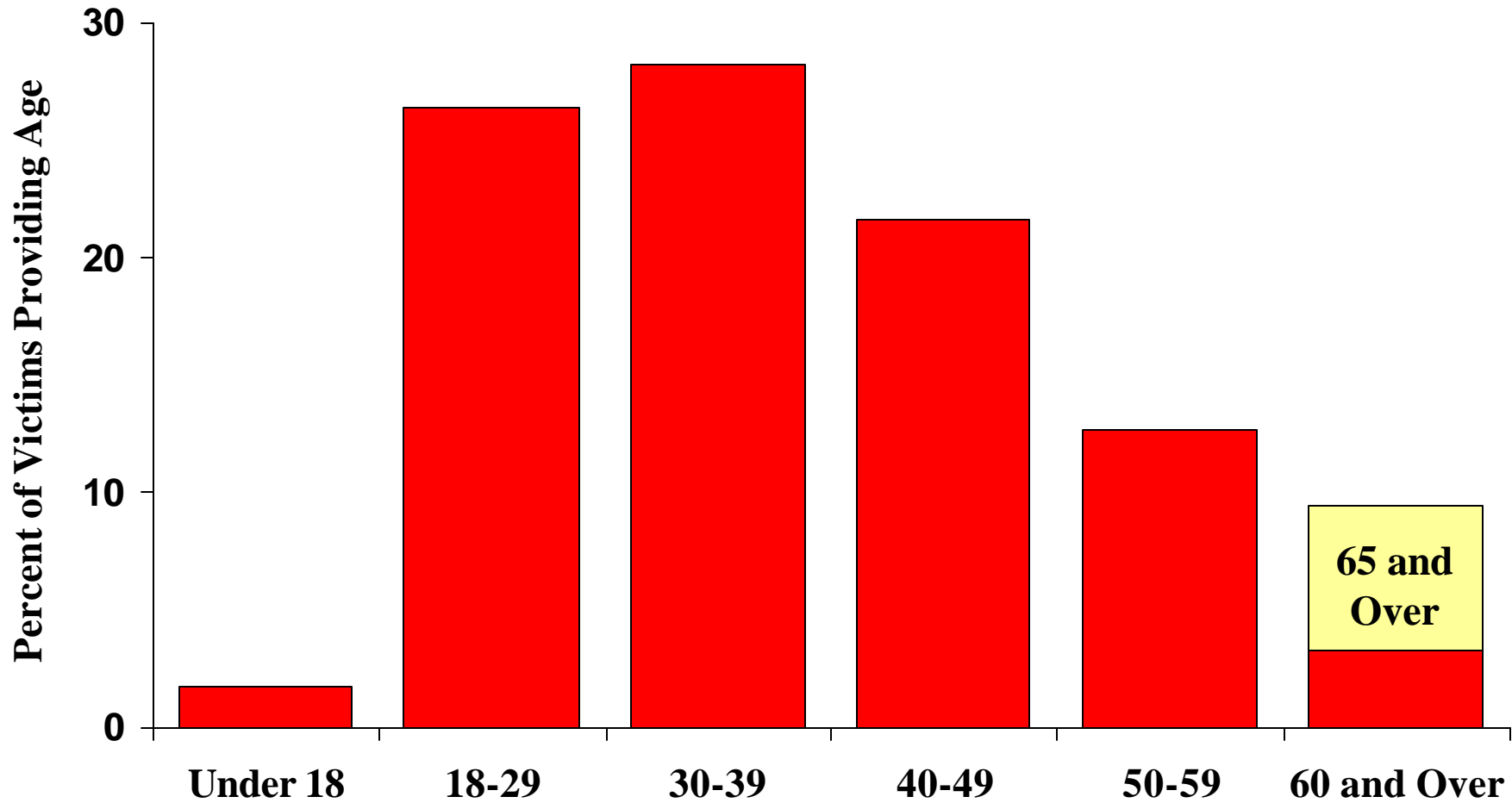
### Other Identity Theft Fraud: 19%

<i>Theft Subtypes</i>	<i>Percent of All Victims</i>
Other	12.9%
Illegal / Criminal	1.7
Medical	1.6
Internet / E-Mail	1.0
Apartment / House Rented	0.9
Bankruptcy	0.4
Securities / Other Investments	0.2

<sup>1</sup>Approximately 20% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources (FTC Hotline and Internet complaint form, SSA-OIG Fraud Hotline referrals, and a small number from other law enforcement organizations) reported experiencing more than one type of identity theft.

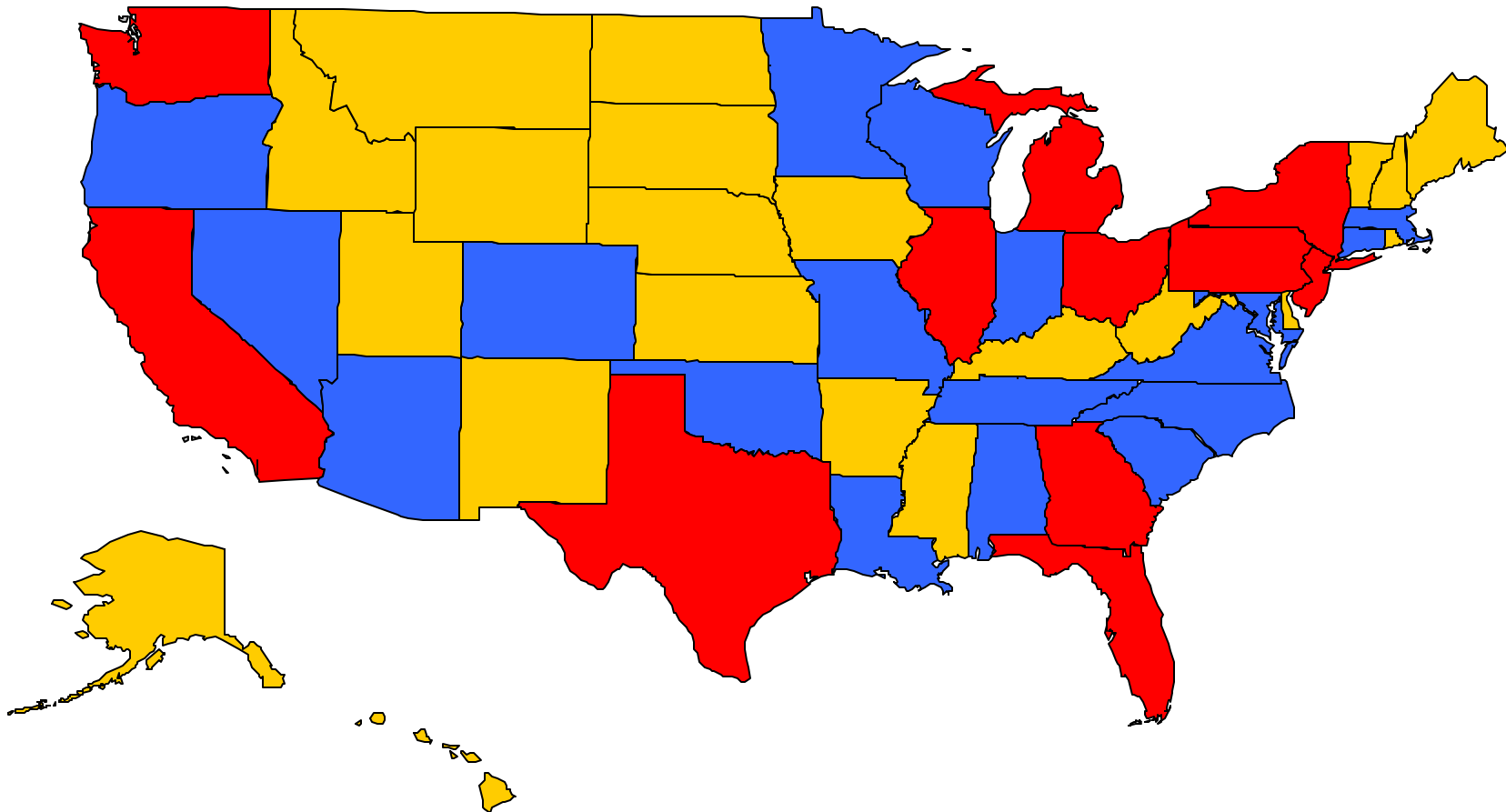


**Figure 3**  
**Victim Age Distribution<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



<sup>1</sup>This chart is based on reports from victims who contacted the FTC directly (70,540 victims) because external data contributors generally do not provide this information. 88% (61,956) of all victims reporting directly to the FTC provided their age.

**Figure 4a**  
**Identity Theft Victims by State (Number of Victims)<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



**Less Than 500**    **500-2,000**    **More Than 2,000**

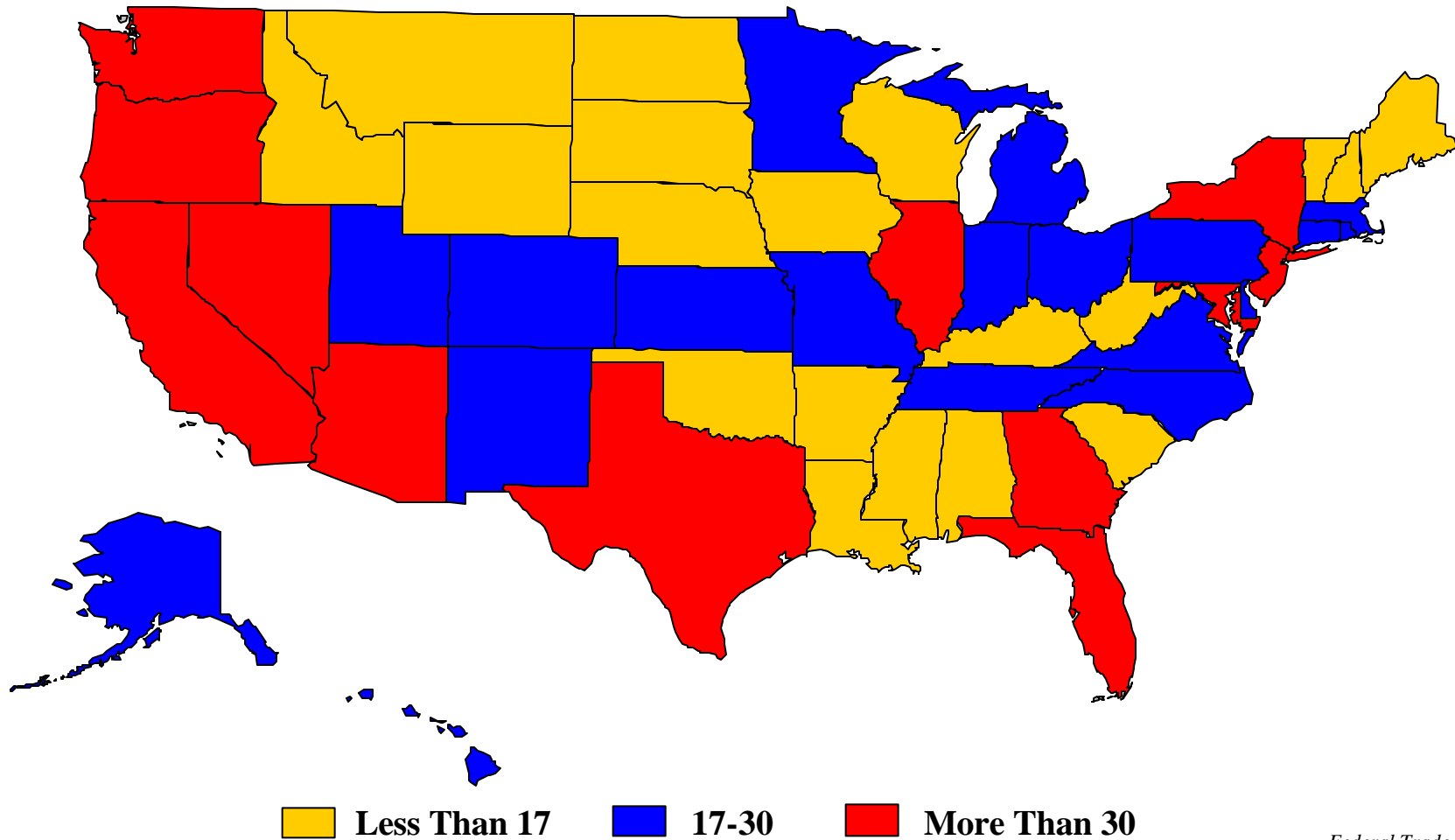
<sup>1</sup> 92% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported their state of residence.

**Figure 4b**  
**Identity Theft Victims Top 10 Locations<sup>1</sup>**  
**(Number of Victims)**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Victims</b>
1. California	15,115
2. New York	7,076
3. Texas	6,496
4. Florida	5,696
5. Illinois	3,784
6. Pennsylvania	2,704
7. Georgia	2,592
8. Michigan	2,589
9. New Jersey	2,575
10. Ohio	2,283

<sup>1</sup> 92% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported their state of residence.

**Figure 5a**  
**Identity Theft Victims by State (Per 100,000)<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



<sup>1</sup> 92% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported their state of residence.

## Figure 5b Identity Theft Victims Top 10 Locations<sup>1</sup> (Per 100,000)

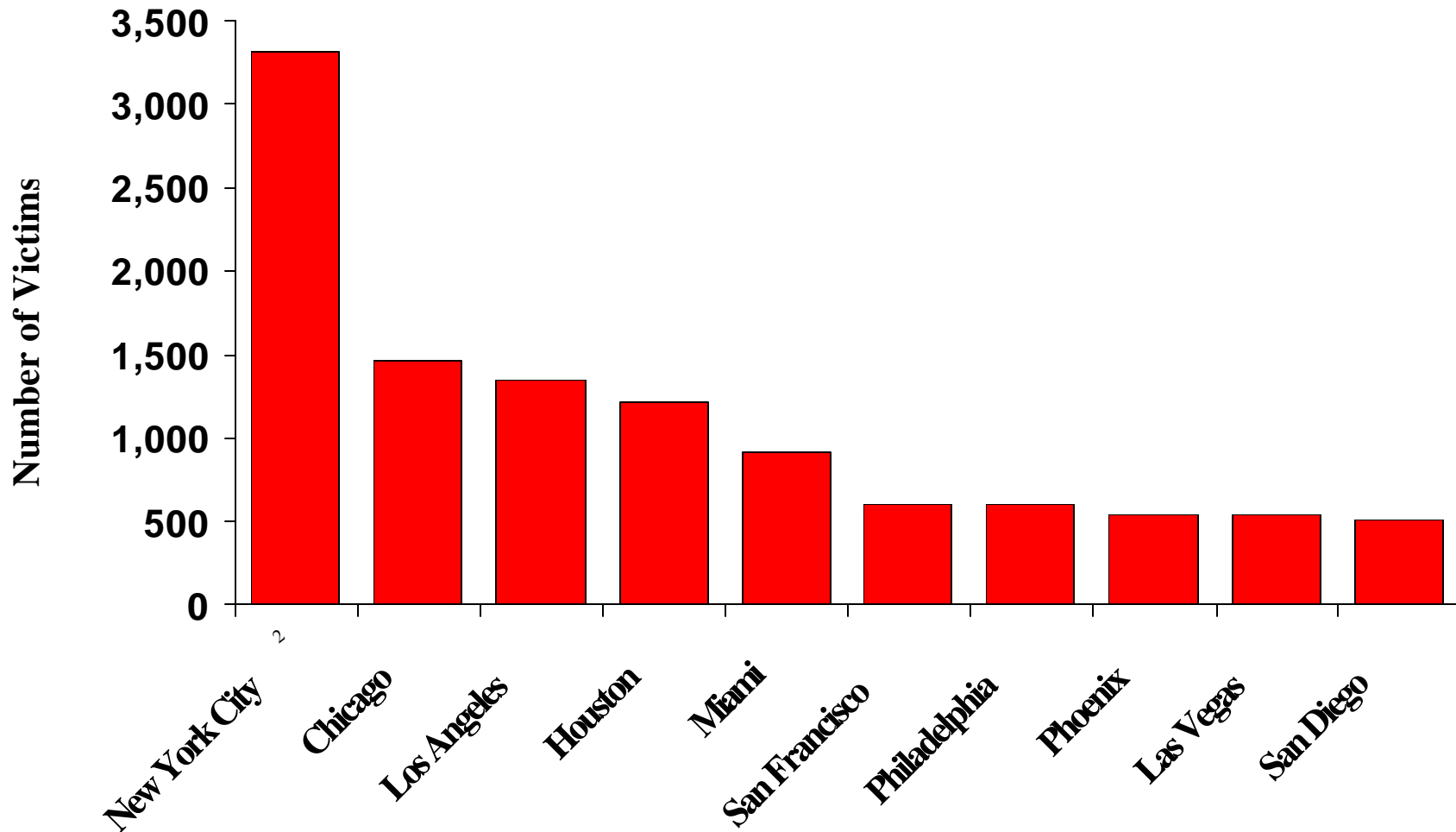
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1. District of Columbia	76.7
2. California	44.6
3. Nevada	40.5
4. Maryland	37.3
5. New York	37.3
6. Arizona	36.9
7. Oregon	36.7
8. Florida	35.6
9. Washington	35.0
10. Georgia	31.7

<sup>1</sup> 92% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported their state of residence.



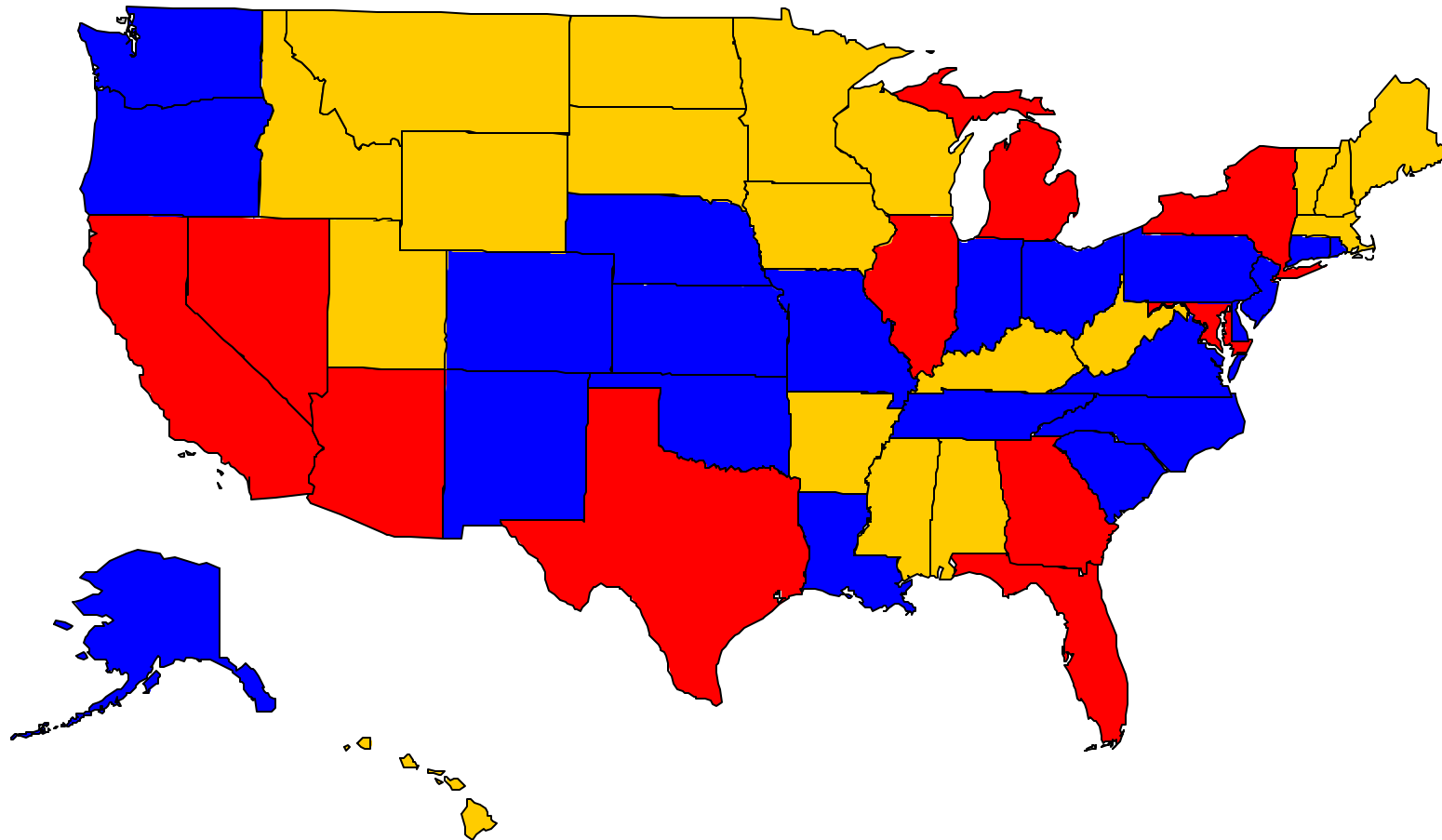
**Figure 6**  
**Cities with Highest Number of Identity Theft Victims<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



<sup>1</sup> 92% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported their city of residence.

<sup>2</sup> "New York City" includes the five boroughs: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

**Figure 7a**  
**Identity Theft Suspects by State (Per 100,000)<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



**Less Than 11**    **11-17**    **More Than 17**

<sup>1</sup>55% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported a state location for at least one identity theft suspect.

**Figure 7b**  
**Identity Theft Suspects Top 10 Locations**  
**(Suspects Per 100,000)<sup>1</sup>**  
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*

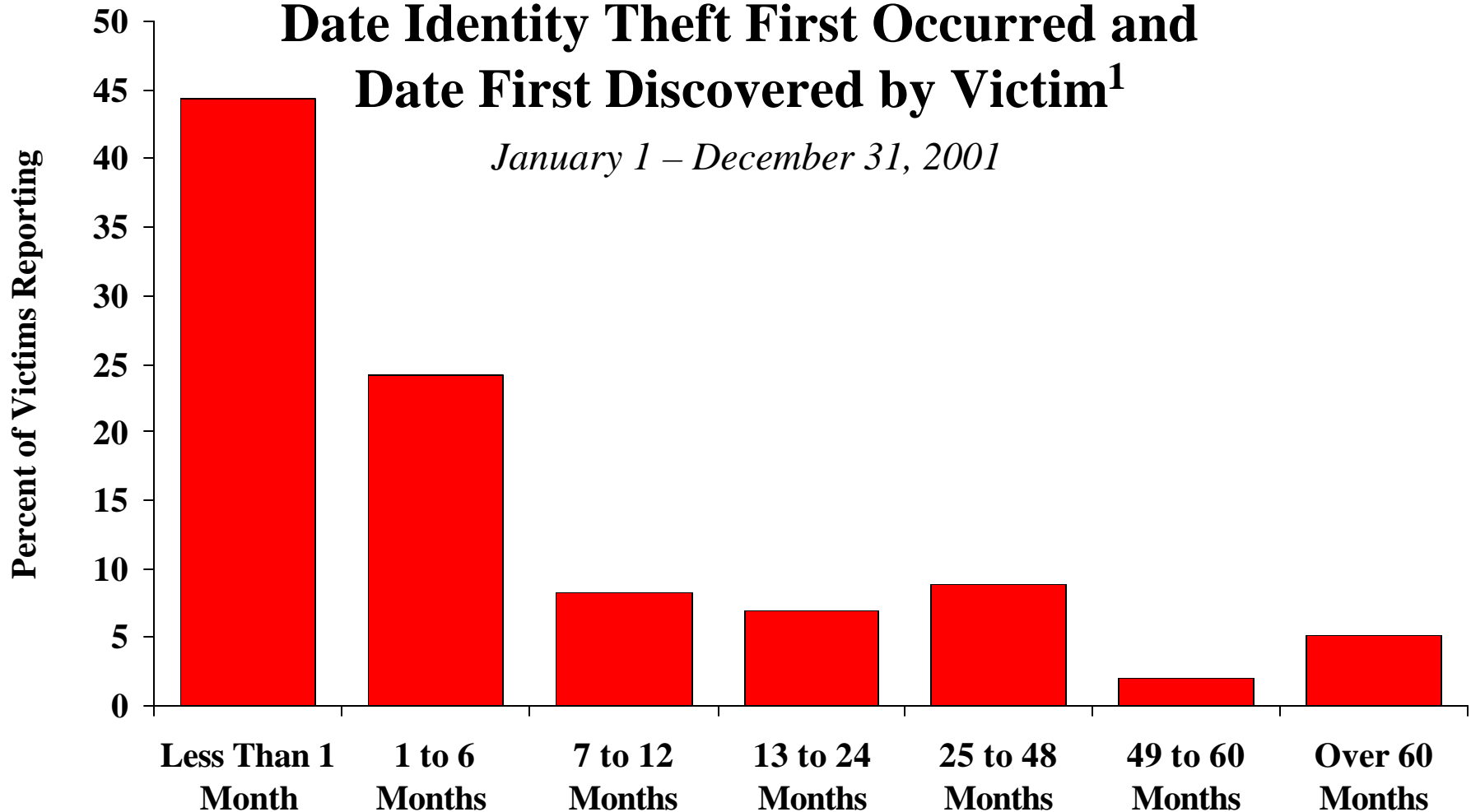
<b>Location</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1. District of Columbia	72.9
2. Nevada	30.5
3. Florida	28.7
4. California	27.3
5. New York	26.7
6. Georgia	23.3
7. Arizona	22.5
8. Maryland	21.7
9. Illinois	19.3
10. Michigan	17.5

<sup>1</sup>55% of the 86,168 victim complaints received from all sources reported a state location for at least one identity theft suspect.

## Figure 8

### Number of Months Between Date Identity Theft First Occurred and Date First Discovered by Victim<sup>1</sup>

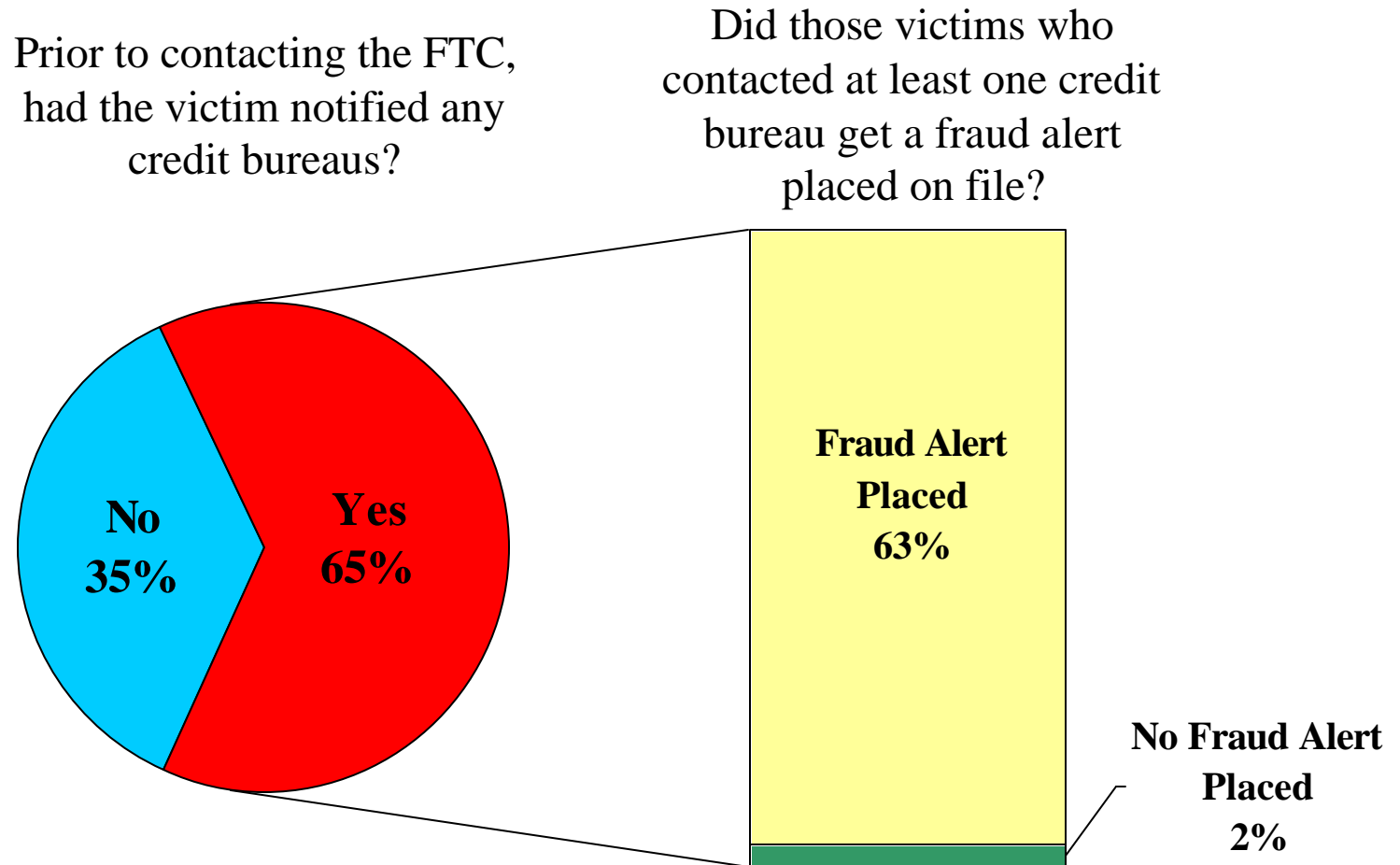
*January 1 – December 31, 2001*



<sup>1</sup>This chart is based on complaints from victims who contacted the FTC directly (70,540 victims) because external agencies generally do not provide this information. Of those victims reporting directly to the FTC, 44% (31,012) provided the dates on which the identity theft first occurred and they first discovered it. Because some victims experienced multiple instances where their information had been misused, these figures do not track the amount of time it took a victim to discover a particular instance of identity theft, but, rather, the amount of time between the initial misuse of the the victim's information and when the victim first discovered that their information had been misused. There was an average of 12.3 months between the initial misuse of the the victim's information and when the victim first discovered that their information had been misused.

# Figure 9 Credit Bureau Contact<sup>1</sup>

January 1 – December 31, 2001



<sup>1</sup>This chart is based on reports from consumers who contacted the FTC directly (70,540 victims) because external data contributors generally do not provide this information. Of those victims reporting directly to the FTC, 95% (66,766) indicated whether or not they had notified any credit bureaus. Less than one percent of these victims did not report if a fraud alert was placed on their files, when they had previously indicated that they had notified at least one credit bureau.

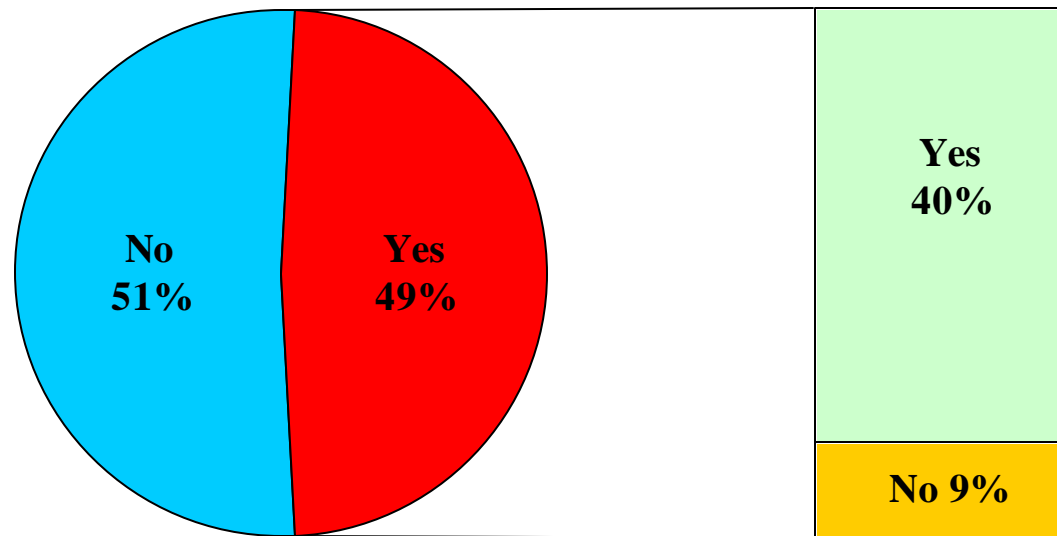
# Figure 10

## Law Enforcement Contact<sup>1</sup>

January 1 - December 31, 2001

Prior to contacting the FTC,  
had the victim notified  
a police department?

If the victim had notified a  
police department, was a  
report taken?



<sup>1</sup>This chart is based on reports from consumers who contacted the FTC directly (70,540 victims) because external data contributors generally do not provide this information. Of those victims reporting directly to the FTC, 95% (67,121) indicated whether or not they had notified any police departments. Approximately one percent of the 67,121 victims did not indicate if they had placed a report with a police department (i.e., “Not Reported”), when they had previously indicated that they had notified at least one police department. Additionally, less than one percent of the 67,121 victims indicated that they had attempted to place reports with multiple police departments *and* had different outcomes, so they may be counted under both “Yes” and “No” in the bar chart in the right, as well as being present in the “Not Reported” category mentioned above.