

# Identify Theft



It could easily happen to you!

## What is identify theft

Identify theft occurs when someone wrongfully acquires and uses a consumer's personal identification, credit, or account information.

## Way thieves acquire your information

- Steal mail
- Steal wallets or purses
- Go dumpster diving
- Scam a person through the phone (pretexting)
- Obtain personal information over the Internet (pharming)
- Complete change of address forms
- Insider access at a workplace (skimming)
- Shoulder surfing

*The number of identity theft complaints filed in 2008 was 313,982. – FTC*

## Identify Theft Prevention

- Don't leave purses and wallets in plain sight
- Only carry what is absolutely needed
- Do not carry Social Security card
- Don't leave statements lying around
- Shred information that contains personal data
- When in public place, block others seeing you enter personal data
- Don't write passwords down or give to others
- Don't give out personal data like Social Security numbers

*Approximately 7% of identity theft victims in 2008 were under 20 years of age. – United States Department of Commerce*

*10% of identity theft victims during 2005 reported personal expenses of more than \$1200. – FTC*

Dennis Krejci, Tri-County Public Schools, Cindy Talley, Fillmore Central Public Schools, and Mona Schoenrock, Columbus Public Schools recommend that this flyer could be used in Information Technology Applications or Desktop Publishing. Students could be asked to prepare a flyer for distribution using Word, InDesign, or Publisher.