

SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1, 2022

IF YOU HAVE MEDICARE/MEDICAID COMPLAINTS CALL OUR UTAH SMP/SHIP PARTNERS

Davis County
801-525-5050

Five County AAA
435-673-3548

Mountainland AAA
801-229-3819

Salt Lake County
385-468-3200

Six County
435-893-0736

Uintah Basin AAA
435-722-4518

Weber AAA
801-625-3770

Bear River AAA
435-752-7242

Tooele County AAA
435-277-2420

Southeastern AAA
435-613-0028

San Juan AAA
435-587-3225

Uintah County AAA
435-789-2169

Or call toll free
800-541-7735
For ANY Medicare Assistance

Fraud and older adults – what’s your story?

By Bridget Small
March 10, 2022

National Consumer Protection Week
March 6 – March 12 · #NCPW2022



Older adults:

Spotted a scam? The FTC wants to know about it.



ReportFraud.ftc.gov

ReporteFraude.ftc.gov

Every year millions of people report fraud, scams, and bad business practices to the FTC. Your stories help us better understand how fraud affects every community.

During [National Consumer Protection Week](#), we’re offering information and advice for some of these communities, and today we’re focusing on scams that have an impact on older adults.

- [Scammers are using social media](#) for investment, romance, and online shopping scams. More than one in four people who reported losing money to fraud from 2020 - 2021 said it started on social media with an ad, a post, or a message. The most money was lost to [investment](#) and romance scams.
- [Romance scammers](#) pursue people on dating apps and social media with fake tales of love, then demand payments with [gift cards](#), [wire transfers](#), and [cryptocurrency](#). The median reported loss across all romance scam reports was \$2,400 last year, but the amount was higher among older adults. [People 70 and](#)

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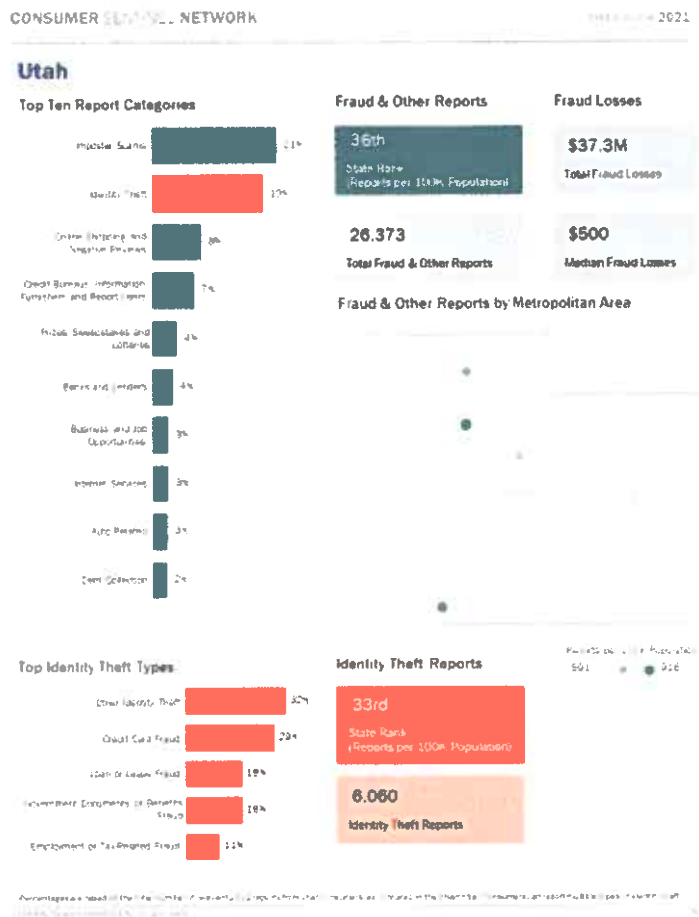


[over](#) reported the highest median losses at \$9,000.

- Imposters [posing as Amazon workers](#) tricked people with messages about suspicious activity or unauthorized purchases on their accounts. Among people age 60 and over who reported the calls in 2020-2021, the median reported loss was \$1,500, compared to \$814 for people under age 60.

If you spot one of these — or another — scam, please tell us at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). It's easy to report and the information you give helps protect your community.

Utah Top Frauds for 2021



The Utah Senior Medicare Patrol (SMPs) empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report healthcare fraud, errors, and abuse. Local SMP office 1-800-541-7735.



Imposter Scams

Here's how they work:

You get a call or an email. It might say you've won a prize. It might seem to come from a government official. Maybe it seems to be from someone you know – your grandchild, a relative or a friend. Or maybe it's from someone you *feel* like you know, but you haven't met in person – say, a person you met online who you've been writing to.

Whatever the story, the request is the same: wire money to pay taxes or fees, or to help someone you care about.

But is the person who you think it is? Is there an emergency or a prize? Judging by the complaints to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the answer is no. The person calling you is pretending to be someone else.

Here's what you can do:

- 1. Stop. Check it out – before you wire money to anyone.** Call the person, the government agency, or someone else you trust. Get the real story. Then decide what to do. No government agency will ever ask you to wire money.
- 2. Pass this information on to a friend.** You may not have gotten one of these calls or emails, but the chances are you know someone who has.





Want to know more? Sign up for scam alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

...Pass it ON

Please Report Scams

If you spot a scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or TTY 1-866-653-4261
- Go online: ftc.gov/complaint

Your complaint can help protect other people. By filing a complaint, you can help the FTC's investigators identify the imposters and stop them before they can get someone's hard-earned money. It really makes a difference.

