

Scam Risk Trends: 2017–2020

TOP RESEARCH FINDINGS

GENDER

Women were twice as likely to report and fall victim to these scams than men, but men reported losing nearly double the amount when they fall victim.



LOCATION

Those reporting from zip codes with a larger portion of Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other racial minorities and zip codes with residents who are less likely to have a high school education or GED equivalent are more likely to be victims of a scam.



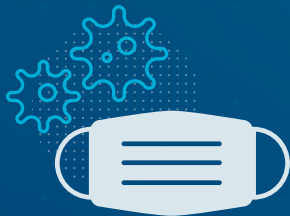
ONLINE SCAMS

Online purchase scams and phishing scams both spiked during 2020 and resulted in higher than usual monetary losses.

IN-PERSON SCAMS

Scams perpetrated in-person are more likely to lead to monetary loss. In-person contact was followed equally by social media and website contacts.

THE MOST COMMON COVID-19 SCAMS



RELATED TO MASKS AND OTHER PPE

United States



RELATED TO PET SALES

Canada

PREVENTION TIPS

- 01** If the deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.
- 02** Before you buy, do your research, especially if purchasing from a new website or business.
- 03** Be careful purchasing sought-after products.
- 04** Use secure and traceable transactions and payment methods.
- 05** Don't believe everything you see. Scammers are great at mimicking official seals, fonts, and other details.
- 06** Beware of making quick purchases while scrolling social media.
- 07** Avoid clicking on links or opening attachments in unsolicited emails.
- 08** Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.
- 09** Use extreme caution when dealing with anyone you've met online.