

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Examining the statistics on fraud and identity theft

Fraud and identity theft hurt millions of Americans every year. Understanding the data around these crimes can help you protect your finances in the future.

Instructions

- 1 Explore the online Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Sentinel Network.
- 2 Use the website to answer the questions below.

Making sense of data

Review statistics about fraud and identity theft from 2014 through last year on the FTC Consumer Sentinel Network at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/federal.trade.commission#!/vizhome/FraudandIDTheftMaps/AllReportsbyState>.

Answering national data questions

- Use the FTC site to answer the questions below.
 - You can change the year and quarter using pull-down menus near the upper right corner.
- Compare the data from 2014 to last year so you can compare full years:
 - Select one year at a time in the pull-down menu.
 - Then make sure the “Quarter” pull-down menu says “All.”



| | First year: 2014 | Most recent full calendar year: _____ |
|---|------------------|--|
| 1. What is the total number of fraud, identity theft, and other reports? | | |
| 2. What is the number of fraud reports? | | |
| 3. What is the total amount of money lost? | | |
| 4. What is the median amount of money lost? (This gives a picture of how much one person lost.) | | |
| 5. What are the top three report categories? | | |

6. Describe the changes you see when you compare the two different years of data.

7. What do you think may have caused the changes in the data?

Answering data questions about your state

Your state: _____

| | First year: 2014 | Most recent full calendar year: _____ |
|--|------------------|--|
| 8. What is the total number of fraud, identity theft, and other reports in your state? | | |

9. Looking just at your state's data for last year, how does your state compare to other states when you consider the reports made per 100,000 people (the key abbreviated this by saying per 100K population)? Check one.

- On the low side About in the middle On the high side

Explain how you know this.

10. Why is it important to be familiar with fraud and identity theft data?
How can that information help you protect yourself?