



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

*Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 11, 2017 | Release #17-027

Contact: Juliana Harris, (803) 734-4296

## **SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit Releases its Fourth Anniversary Report**

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is releasing the [Identity Theft Unit's fourth anniversary report](#). The report outlines identity theft data collected from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2017.

Since its launch, the Identity Theft Unit has taken 11,645 phone calls from consumers and received 1,097 identity theft reports. Some key points featured in the report are:

- Consumers reported losing an estimated \$2.7 million due to identity theft.
- Financial identity theft was the most common type reported at 54 percent.
- The average age of an identity theft victim is 45-54.
- Approximately 25 percent of consumers reporting identity theft received a security breach notice.
- Top counties for identity theft reports (per 1,000 residents) are (1) Pickens, (2) Beaufort, (3) Oconee, (4) Sumter and (5) Newberry.

“No two cases of identity theft are the same,” said SCDCA Administrator Carri Grube Lybarker. “SCDCA’s Identity Theft Unit is ready to provide tailored assistance, an invaluable resource, for identity theft victims in our state.”

Consumers who believe they are the victim of a security breach, scam or identity theft are encouraged to seek tailored guidance from SCDCA’s Identity Theft Unit. Call 844-TELL DCA (835-5322) or fill out an ID Theft Intake form by clicking on Report Identity Theft at [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov).

### **About SCDCA**

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-800-922-1594.

###