

# INTRODUCTION

## Consumer Sentinel Leading Partners & Data Contributors

Between January and December 2002, Consumer Sentinel, the complaint database developed and maintained by the FTC, received 380,103 consumer fraud and identity theft complaints. Consumers reported losses from fraud of more than \$343 million. The reports in this booklet analyze those complaints.

Consumer Sentinel collects information about consumer fraud and identity theft from the FTC and over 100 other organizations and makes it available to law enforcement partners across the nation and throughout the world for use in their investigations. Launched in 1997, the Sentinel database now includes nearly a million complaints. Some data transfers from other organizations contain complaints from previous months and have not yet been received. As a result, the total number of complaints reported may change.

For more information about Consumer Sentinel, as well as information about consumer fraud and identity theft, visit the Consumer Sentinel public website at [www.consumer.gov/sentinel](http://www.consumer.gov/sentinel). If you represent a law enforcement organization, call (202) 326-3196 or e-mail [sentinel@ftc.gov](mailto:sentinel@ftc.gov) for membership information.

 Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	 Better Business Bureaus
 Department of Defense	 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Federal Trade Commission	 Internet Fraud Complaint Center
 National Association of Attorneys General	 National Consumers League
 Canada's Phonebusters	 Social Security Administration
 U.S. Postal Inspection Service	 U.S. Secret Service

### The Consumer Sentinel Network

