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AARP Fraud Survey Reveals the Financial and Emotional Toll Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

AAPIs Fraud Victims Age 50 and Older Lost More Than \$15,000 on Average, Reported Emotional and Health-Related Issues



WASHINGTON, DC—Nearly four in ten (39 percent) Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) age 50 and older report that they or their family members have experienced fraud schemes, according to the recent **fraud survey** from AARP. Additionally, one-third (33 percent) of victims lost \$15,000 on average. Non-financial costs are even more widespread, with most fraud victims (72 percent) experiencing some sort of emotional, physical or mental health impact, including anger, stress and anxiety, difficulty sleeping and shame.

“Everyone in the AAPI community is at risk for fraud,” said Daphne Kwok, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience Strategy. “This survey underscores the need to raise awareness around fraud and scams in order to protect against financial and non-financial loss. AARP seeks to help the AAPI community protect their families and their hard-earned savings.”

Awareness and education are major factors in avoiding fraud, but many AAPIs age 50 and older may be overconfident in their ability to spot common scams. In the survey, nearly three of four participants (73 percent) were confident they could spot a fraudulent offer, yet the majority (71 percent) failed a general fraud knowledge quiz of six questions, unable to correctly answer more than half of the questions.

Some of the most common types of fraud targeting AAPIs age 50 and older include:

- Foreign lottery scams (36 percent)
- Crisis-related charitable donations (33 percent)
- Tech support scammers offering virus removal (32 percent)
- IRS imposter calls to collect back taxes (24 percent)
- Phishing emails (20 percent)

AARP offers advice on dealing with the non-financial impact of fraud, including:

- Understand you are not alone and that it's not unusual to experience feelings of anger, shame and embarrassment.
- Re-channel those feelings into action. Volunteer to help educate others about fraud. Share tips with family and friends.
- If you have continued feelings of shame, embarrassment or anger, seek professional help. Talk to your doctor or another professional.

Family members can also support a victim of fraud by:

- Listening with an empathetic ear to your loved one.
- Asking questions to better understand the situation and context in which the fraud occurred.
- Keeping lines of communication open. Remember to focus frustration and anger on the scam and the perpetrator — not the victim.
- Listening for clues of continued participation, such as: “I’m going to win money” or “the nice man on the phone said.”
- Reading the free AARP Fraud Prevention Handbook and discussing it with your family members (see below for details).

AARP urges people who have lost money to a scammer to report it immediately to the consumer credit bureaus (directions available on their websites) and credit card companies if a charge card was involved. Victims should also report scams to the [Federal Trade Commission](#) and their state Attorney General’s office.

For more information, visit aarp.org/AAPIfraudsurvey. For detailed tips on avoiding fraud, download the free AARP Fraud Prevention Handbook in [English](#) and [Chinese](#).

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Survey Methodology

AARP commissioned Asian American Decisions to conduct a research study among Asian American and Pacific Islanders age 50-plus concerning fraud and scams. The national sample included a total of 1,120 interviews by telephone between Oct. 2 and Nov. 6, 2017. Telephone interviewing was conducted in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Data were weighted to reflect the AAPI 50-plus population. The total sample of 1,120 respondents yields a maximum statistical error of $\pm 2.93\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. A full methodology statement is available at aarp.org/AAPIfraudsurvey.

About AARP

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world’s largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow [@AARP](#) and [@AARPadvocates](#) on social media.

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