



QUARTERLY SCAM UPDATE

Issue 19

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

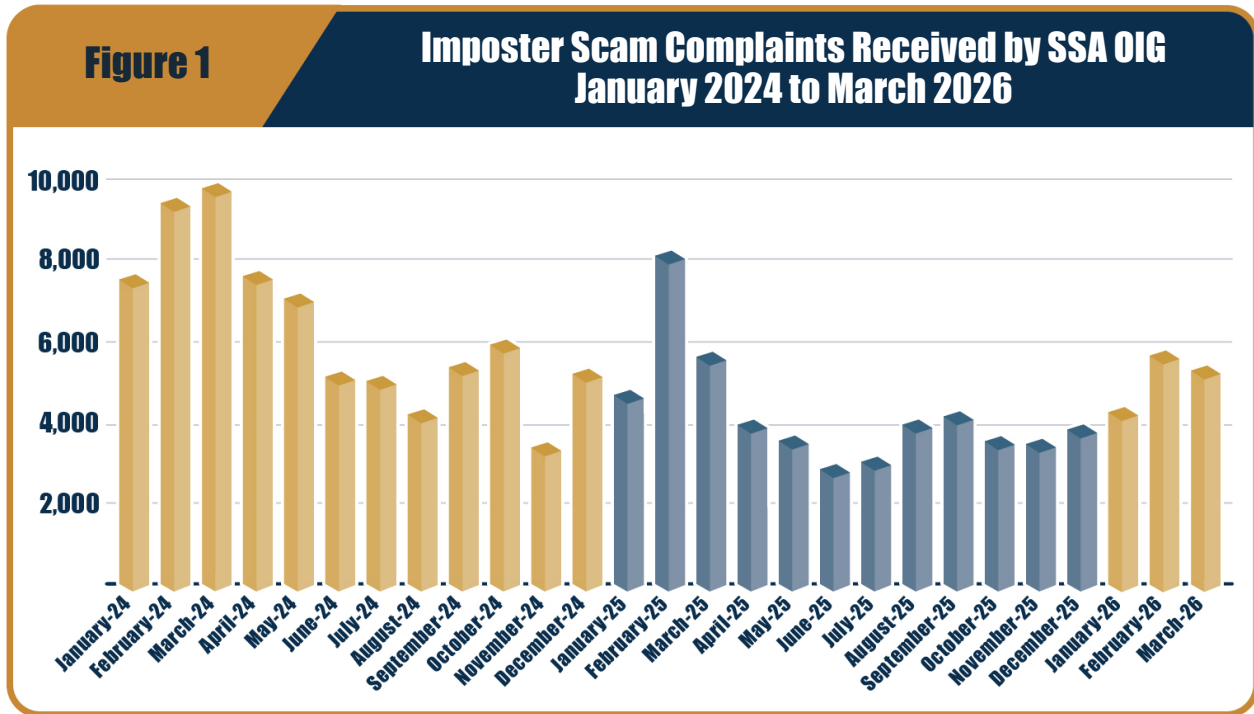
Social Security-Related Scams

The Social Security Administration (SSA) and SSA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continue to receive reports of scammers impersonating government employees or alleging a Social Security-related problem to steal money or personal information from victims.

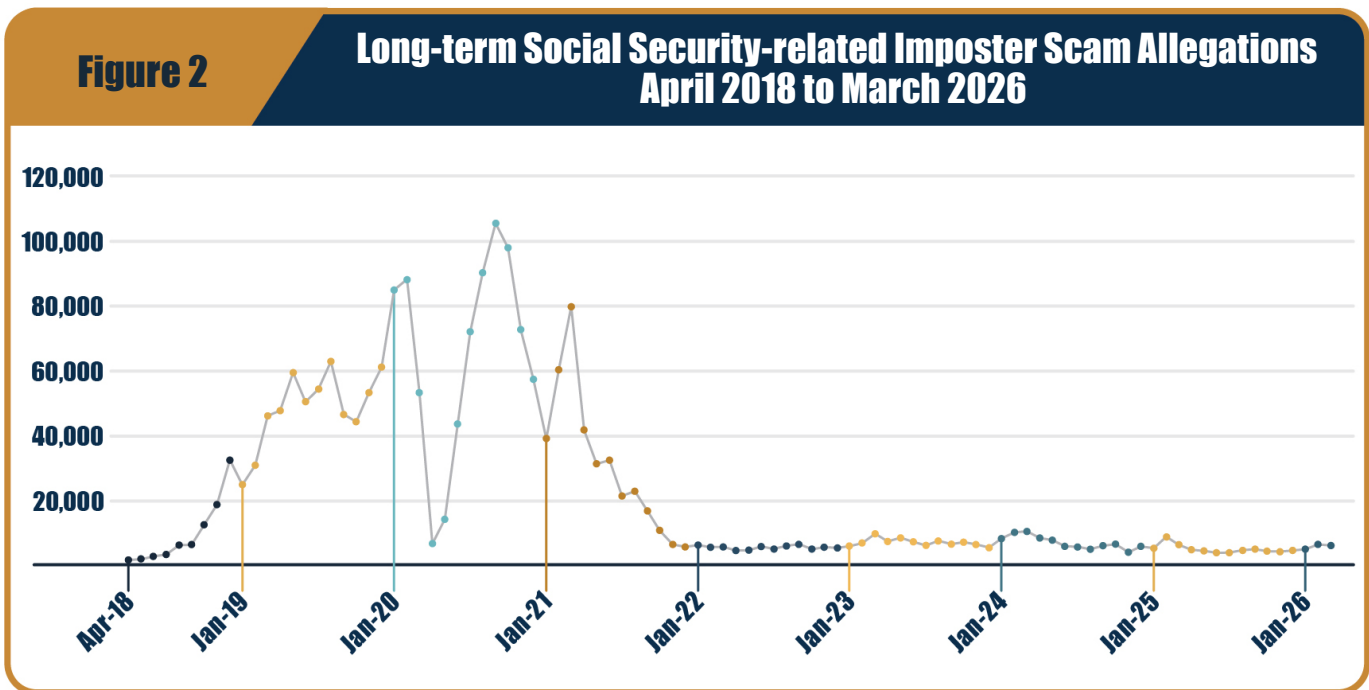
Since October 2019, SSA OIG has shared information on its efforts to combat Social Security-related scams with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security; U.S. Senate Committee on Finance; and U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. SSA OIG began publicly releasing the Quarterly Scam Update in the third quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to provide information about these scams and its efforts to combat them.

This report shares information about Social Security-related imposter scam allegation trends in the first (Q1) and second (Q2) quarters of FY 2026 (October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026). Examples of SSA and SSA OIG's recent efforts to disrupt and raise awareness of scams are also included.





While scam complaints have fluctuated over the last two years (see Figure 1 above), scams reported to SSA OIG have decreased significantly since 2021 (see Figure 2 below). This aligns with data reported by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which shows imposter scam complaints across the government have declined since 2021. However, FTC data also showed a significant spike in government-wide scam reports again in Q2 FY 2025. The FTC continues to identify Social Security-related scams as a top reported government imposter scam type.¹ Therefore, while the long-term decline is promising, SSA OIG and SSA remain vigilant in fighting these scams.











1. This information is based on data [reported to the FTC](#) as of April 7, 2026.

SSA OIG receives the majority of Social Security-related scam allegations from its dedicated online scam reporting form and its hotline. The form is made available for individuals to report they received a suspicious call, letter, text, or email about an alleged problem related to their Social Security number, account, or payments. The form also allows individuals to report whether the scam involved impersonation of SSA, SSA OIG, or other government officials, along with other characteristics.

Figure 3

Q1 and Q2 FY 2026 Complaint Trends – Percentage of Total Allegations from the Scam Reporting Form

Complaint Characteristics		Q1 10/1/25–12/31/25	Q2 1/1/26–3/31/26
	The imposter mentioned a problem with your Social Security number	15%	8%
	The imposter mentioned a problem with your Social Security benefits	10%	10%
	The scammer mentioned a problem with your mySSA account or Social Security direct deposit information	89%	87%
	The imposter used documents or images (such as a federal logo) when communicating with you	22%	22%
	The scammer pretended to be from the Social Security Administration or Office of the Inspector General	89%	87%
	The scam involved the impersonation of officials from federal, state, or local government agencies other than the Social Security Administration	17%	16%
	The scammer requested your Social Security number or other personal information	89%	87%
	None of the Above	28%	28%

Note: The percentages were calculated based on the total number of allegations each quarter. The percentages do not add to 100 percent because individual allegations may include more than one complaint characteristic.

In Q4 FY 2025, fewer individuals 50 years of age or older reported financial losses than those under 50 years of age. Figure 4 (below) shows that in Q1 and Q2 FY 2026, this trend continued. In Q1 and Q2 FY 2026, 1,062 individuals under 50 years of age reported losses, compared with 845 individuals 50 years of age and older.

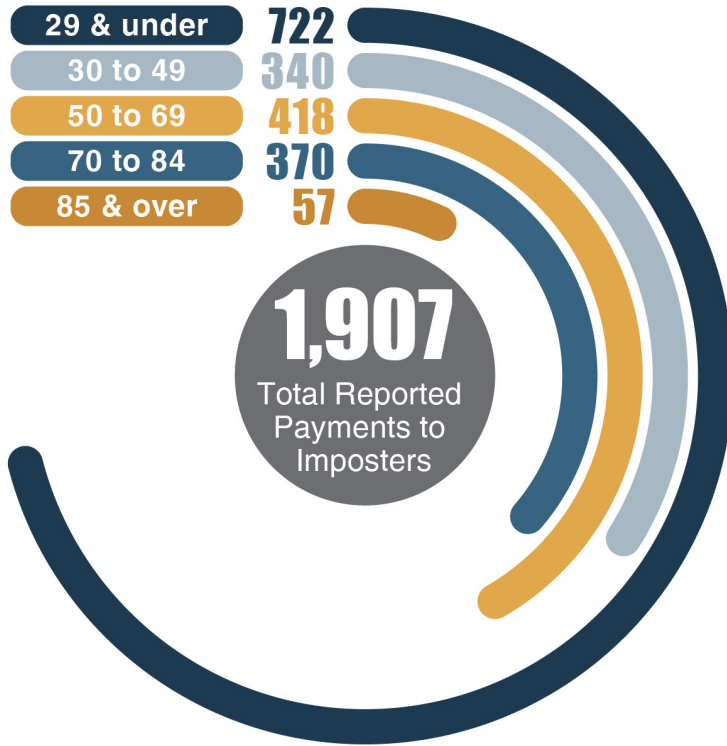


Figure 4

Number of Reported Payments to Imposters, by Reported Age

10/1/2025 – 3/31/2026

In Q4 FY 2025, individuals 70 years of age and over reported higher average losses than those under 70 years of age. Figure 5 (below) shows that in Q1 and Q2 FY 2026, this trend continued.

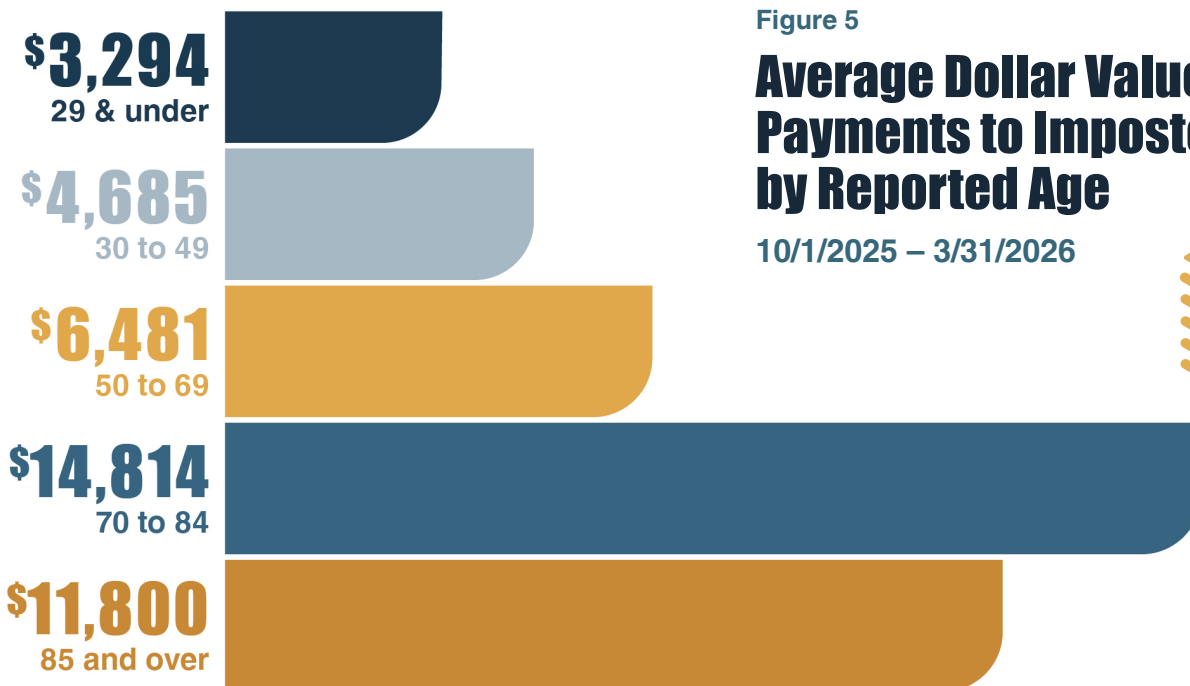


Figure 5

Average Dollar Value Reported Payments to Imposters, by Reported Age

10/1/2025 – 3/31/2026



On March 5, 2026, SSA OIG partnered with SSA for the seventh annual National Slam the Scam Day. As part of the FTC's National Consumer Protection Week, Slam the Scam Day raises public awareness of pervasive Social Security-related and other government imposter scams. This year SSA and SSA OIG engaged in outreach with media, Congressional, intragovernmental, and other stakeholders, and shared scam awareness information on social media.

National Slam the Scam Day



March 5, 2026



Senate Resolution

The U.S. Senate passed S.Res.627 by Unanimous Consent on April 15, 2026, designating March 5, 2026, as National Slam the Scam Day. The bipartisan resolution was led by Senators Rick Scott (R-FL) and Mark Kelly (D-AZ), with several other senators cosponsoring.

Radio Audience



2.7 Million

Total Online + Print Audience



312 Million

Television Audience



1.9 Million



18 Million

#SlamtheScam Chats



9.9 Million

#SlamtheScam Followers



2.2 Million

Reach from Slam the Scam Posts



Note: All figures in this graphic are estimates. April 2026 | Produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.



During Q1 and Q2 FY 2026, SSA OIG issued four scam alerts to raise awareness.

On October 8, 2025, SSA OIG issued [**Unexpected Letter, Text, or Email from the U.S. Supreme Court? Think Scam First**](#), warning the public about a new government imposter scam. The scam comes in the form of an official-looking letter identified as a “certificate” on fake U.S. Supreme Court letterhead using forged signatures of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. This high-pressure scam urges individuals to cooperate with the named SSA official, pressuring them to send money or share personal information.

On November 12, 2025, SSA OIG issued [**Unexpected Letter, Text, or Email from the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General? Think Scam First**](#), alerting the public to a new government imposter scam. For this scam, victims receive an email with the subject line “Alert: Social Security Account Issues Detected,” containing an official-looking attachment on fake SSA OIG letterhead titled, “SUSPENSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DUE TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.” This high-pressure scam claims the recipient’s Social Security number will be suspended within 24 hours and their case referred for criminal prosecution, listing several charges. The attachment is stamped “Official Document” and “Official Government Communication,” urging recipients to immediately contact the OIG using the provided number.

On February 19, 2026, SSA OIG issued [**SSA Office of the Inspector General Warns Public of Surge in Fraudulent “Social Security Statement” Emails**](#), warning the public about a significant increase in government imposter scam emails that falsely claim to provide access to a recipient’s Social Security statement. Clicking links within the email may lead to identity theft, financial loss, or compromised data.

On March 10, 2026, SSA OIG issued [**SSA Provides New and Replacement Social Security Cards for FREE!**](#), reminding the public that they do not have to pay for Social Security card-related services. There are numerous online websites that offer Social Security card-related services for a fee. Individuals are not required to use one of these services for their Social Security card-related needs. Whether applying for a Social Security card for the first time, because of a name change, or because of a lost card, the Social Security Administration will help an individual get their new or replacement Social Security card for free.

Q1 and Q2 FY 2026 Additional Internal and External Education Efforts

SSA OIG engaged in additional outreach and education efforts with members of the public, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of scams targeting U.S. residents. Some examples of these efforts included the activities below.



On November 3, 2025, AARP published an article, [Protect Yourself From Social Security COLA Scams](#), which featured an SSA OIG spokesperson.

Wreaths Across America Radio featured SSA OIG on two episodes to warn about Social Security-related scams. Wreaths Across America Radio shares informational and inspiring content about members of the U.S. armed forces, their families, military veterans, and volunteers throughout the country and overseas. The first episode, [SSA OIG on WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/radio](#), debuted on November 26, 2025.



On January 21, 2026, SSA OIG participated in a webinar, [How To Avoid Government Imposter Scams](#), to discuss the most common government imposter scams and share resources to help individuals avoid these scams.

Throughout the week of February 9, 2026, SSA OIG participated in CFTC's dating or defrauding campaign: [Relationship Investment Scams](#).



On March 5, 2026, SSA OIG participated in a webinar, [Consumer Protection and Older Adults Roundtable: Top Reported Scams by Older Adults](#), to empower older adults to spot and avoid scams.

SSA OIG discussed government imposter scams with The Fraudian Slip Podcast. The episode, [SSA OIG – How to Fight Government Imposter Scams](#), debuted on March 5, 2026.



SSA OIG engaged in multiple social media campaigns to raise awareness of scams throughout Q1 and Q2 FY 2026. Some examples are included below.



Section 1140 of the *Social Security Act*, as amended, protects the public from advertisements, solicitations, and other communications (including websites and scam telephone calls) that may convey the false impression SSA approved, endorsed, or authorized the communication. It also prohibits the reproduction and sale of SSA publications and forms without authorization and places restrictions on charging for services SSA provides to the public for free.

The focus of SSA OIG's Section 1140 consumer protection program is prevention and early intervention to minimize harm to the public and SSA's reputation, while also allowing violating individuals and entities the opportunity to bring their operations into compliance with Section 1140. During Q1 and Q2 FY 2026, SSA OIG's enforcement and outreach efforts included:



Obtaining voluntary compliance from a non-profit organization who agreed to make changes to its direct mail communications to ensure its mailings are not mistaken for being from, or otherwise authorized by, SSA.

Identifying an imposter social media profile for a former Acting Commissioner and facilitated its removal.



Obtaining voluntary compliance from an online company that charges fees for government form services. The company agreed to remove SSA-related forms from its catalog of offered services.

Meeting with an international professional networking service platform to discuss scam reporting and avoidance practices and policies that can be shared with the public through future scam awareness outreach.



Launching a new outreach initiative where the objective is to collaborate with email service providers to combat SSA-related email scams. Fraudsters send out emails that appear to be from SSA or an SSA or SSA OIG official for the purpose of obtaining personally identifiable information to financially harm the intended victim.

Presenting a scam awareness and reporting webinar which included attendees from the public and private sectors, as well as consumers.



Continuing to make progress with an ongoing domain name registration initiative whereby SSA OIG educates owners of recently acquired SSA-related domain names about Section 1140's prohibitions so that the owners can avoid potential internet-related violations.



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