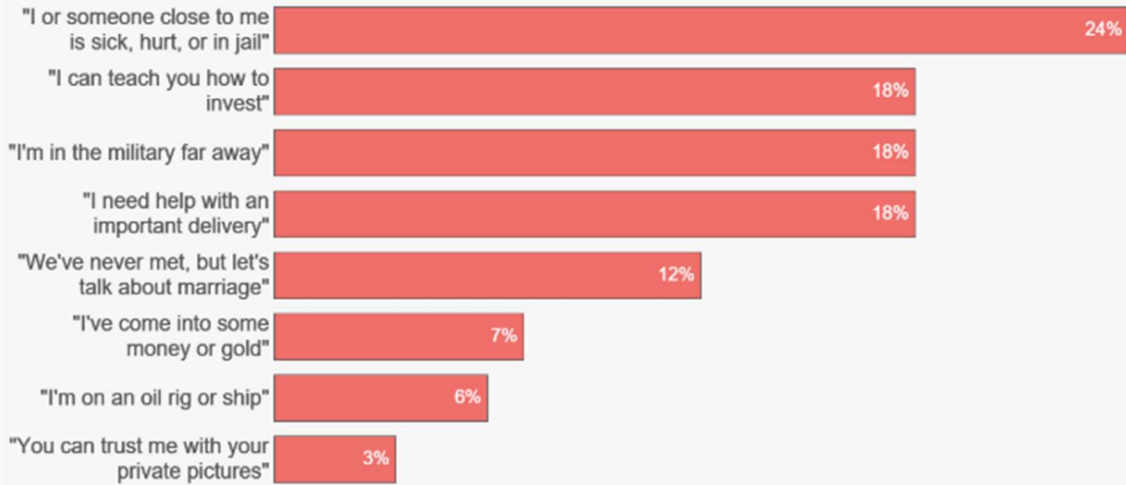


ROMANCE SCHEMES

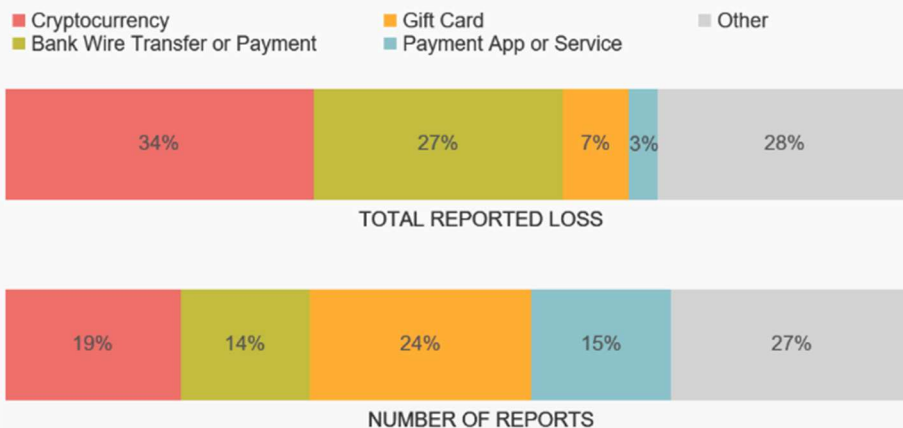
Romance Scammers: Their Favorite Lies by the Numbers



Romance scammers tell lies to steal your heart and money. In 2023, 64,003 people fell victim to a romance scam. Over \$1.14 billion in reported losses, with a median of about \$2,000 per person.

These scammers pay close attention to the information you share, and do not miss a beat becoming your perfect match. If you like something, they like it too. They will create an entirely new identity to get into your life. Most scammers will use dating apps to target people who are looking for love. We are seeing now that they will also target those listed in obituaries to target those filled with grief. Scammers will also take any form of payment when trying to get payments from their victims.

The largest aggregate reported dollar losses were in cryptocurrency, but more people reported paying with gift cards than any other method.



How can you spot a scammer in the act?

1. Nobody legit will ever ask you to help – or insist that you invest – by sending cryptocurrency, giving numbers on a gift card, or by wiring money. Anyone who does is a scammer.
2. If someone tells you to send money to receive a package, you can bet it's a scam.
3. Talk to friends or family about a new love interest and pay attention if they are concerned.
4. Try a reverse image search of profile pictures. If the details do not match up, it's a scam.

Stay vigilant and report any scams to your financial institution!