GAO

Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement

Know how to recognize and report them

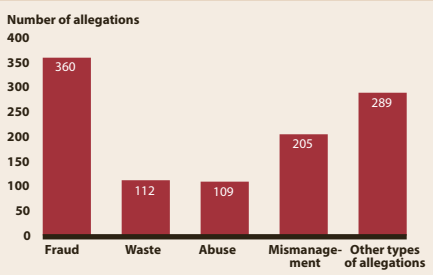
AN OVERVIEW

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT TRACK AND RECOVER DAMAGES FROM FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT HAVE A BIG JOB.

GAO's FraudNet FraudNet is GAO's hotline for the public to report government fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds.

The public sent
2,097 complaints
to FraudNet in FY 2015.

1,066 of those complaints were considered to be allegations worth pursuing.



Source: GAO's FraudNet.

Note: Numbers in this figure are based on analysis of 1,075 allegations contained in 1,066 complaints. Some complaints involved more than one allegation.

THE IMPACT OF FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT IS FELT GOVERNMENT-WIDE.

For example, **$3.5 Billion** was recovered by the Department of Justice in FY 2015 from civil cases involving fraud.

Source: Department of Justice.

FRAUDNET

HOW CAN I REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT?

FraudNet is available online or by telephone for the public to report government fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds. FraudNet:

- Refers allegations to the appropriate authorities
- Helps other agencies establish and operate hotlines
- Supports congressional investigations

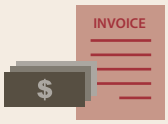
gao.gov/fraudnet

fraudnet@gao.gov

(800) 424-5454

FRAUD

FRAUD IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN SOMETHING OF VALUE THROUGH WILLFUL MISREPRESENTATION



Inflating hours billed to an agency for IT support

Underreporting income to receive federal subsidies for food and housing

Selling counterfeit electronics to an agency

Only the judicial system can determine whether an act is indeed fraud.

WASTE

WASTE IS SQUANDERING MONEY OR RESOURCES, EVEN IF NOT EXPLICITLY ILLEGAL

Buying overpriced office equipment from a favored vendor

Directing agency staff to discard computers rather than donating them to local schools

Buying unnecessary equipment for personal use or gain

ABUSE

ABUSE IS BEHAVING IMPROPERLY OR UNREASONABLY, OR MISUSING ONE'S POSITION OR AUTHORITY

Using an agency computer to download sexually explicit material

Writing technical specifications or contract terms to favor a specific contractor

Buying digital music players for "official data storage"

MISMANAGEMENT

MISMANAGEMENT IS CREATING A SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO AN AGENCY'S ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION

Continuing to pay utility bills for formerly leased office space

Renewing a technical support contract for software the agency no longer uses

Stockpiling equipment beyond its shelf-life

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?
VISIT GAO.GOV/FRAUDNET

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