



**ITAC, THE IDENTITY THEFT ASSISTANCE CENTER,
ADVISES LATINOS TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO
PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST ID THEFT**

Recent national survey shows Latinos at greatest risk of new account fraud

WASHINGTON, DC, April 21, 2009— ITAC, [the Identity Theft Assistance Center](#), advises Latinos to take special precautions to protect themselves against identity theft. Latinos experience the highest incidence of identity fraud among ethnic groups at 5.91%, according to the 2009 *Identity Fraud Survey Report* from [Javelin Strategy & Research](#).

“The Hispanic community is at the highest risk of new account fraud, which is especially damaging because it’s harder to detect and can go undetected for longer periods of time. You might not be aware of it until you get a call from a creditor or spot something unusual in your credit report,” said ITAC President Anne Wallace. “Fraud involving existing credit or debit cards is easier to stop because you simply call your card issuer.”

The report also shows Latinos more often report the loss of their Social Security numbers, which criminals need to open a fraudulent new account.

“It is imperative that the Hispanic community take steps towards protecting itself against identity theft,” said Julie Stav, financial expert, author and host of the national radio show, *Tu Dinero con Julie Stav*. “The issue gets even more complicated when many in our community find out that the perpetrator happens to be a family member or friend, and for that reason, it does not get reported.”

She adds: “Under the present financial crisis, especially in our community, identity theft is disguised as an offer of an immediate solution to credit or mortgage problems.”

ITAC recommends all consumers request a free copy of their credit report online from www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228. Be aware of any unusual statements you receive by mail or calls from unknown creditors. Contact one of the three credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit report if you suspect fraud.

To learn more about how you can protect yourself, visit our [Spanish language page](#) at www.identitytheftassistance.org.

About ITAC

ITAC, the Identity Theft Assistance Center (www.identitytheftassistance.org), is a nonprofit coalition of financial services companies united in our commitment to protect our customers from identity theft. ITAC's victim assistance service – which has helped more than 50,000 consumers recover from identity theft – is available at no cost to the millions of consumers who have an account at an ITAC member company. A leading provider of identity protection services through its ITAC Sentinel® brand (www.itacsentinel.com), ITAC protects all consumers through partnerships with law enforcement, education and identity management services.

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