

# Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement

Know how to recognize and report them

AN OVERVIEW

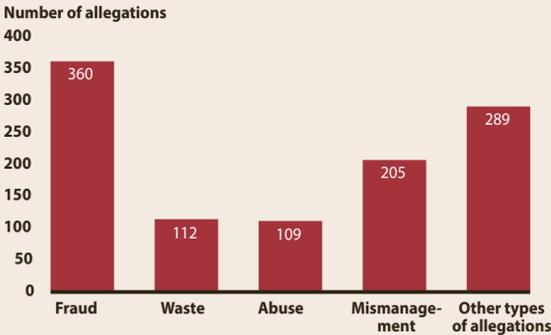
## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT TRACK AND RECOVER DAMAGES FROM FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT HAVE A BIG JOB.

### 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.

## 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

## 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](http://gao.gov/fraudnet)



[fraudnet@gao.gov](mailto:fraudnet@gao.gov)



(800) 424-5454

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION? VISIT [GAO.GOV/FRAUDNET](http://GAO.GOV/FRAUDNET)

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