



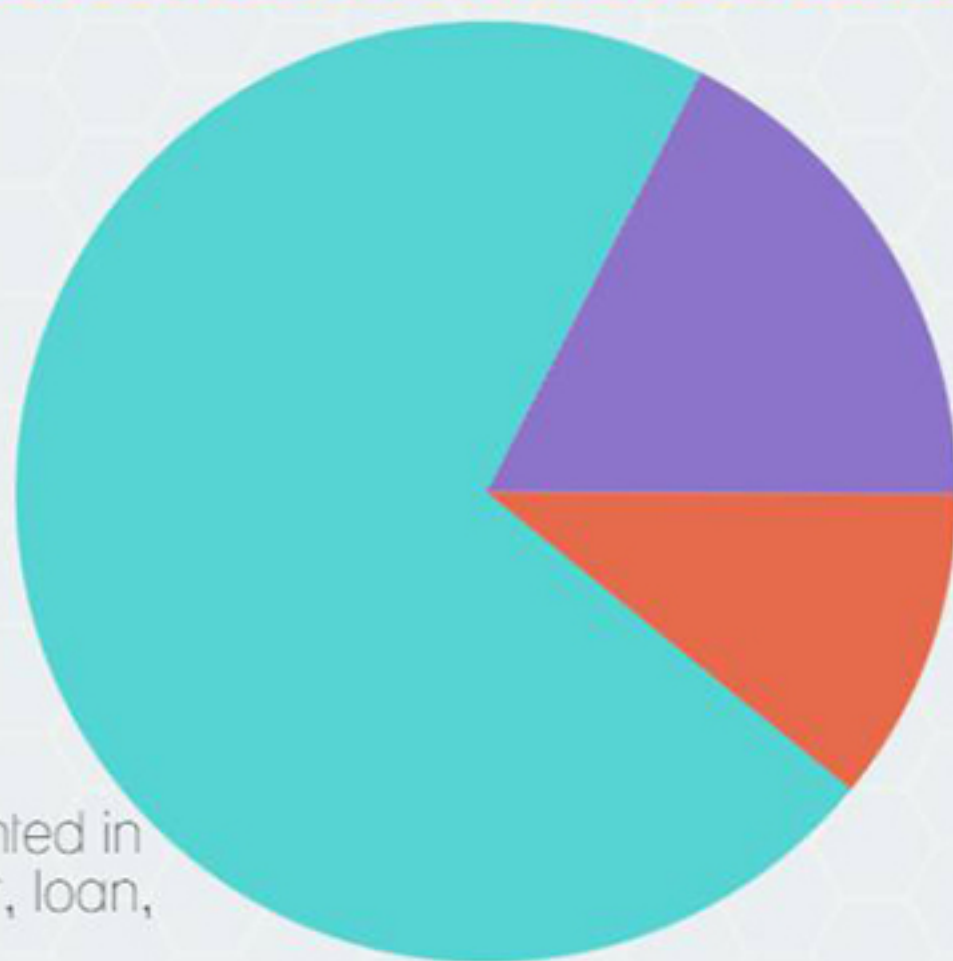
SCAMS IN SC | 2015

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine sophisticated technology with age-old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information. They add new twists to old schemes and pressure people to make important decisions on the spot. One thing that never changes: they follow the headlines — and the money.

The charts below reflect scams reported to SCDCA in 2015.

Top 3 Reported Scams In South Carolina 2,452 Scams Reported

53%
IMPOSTER



13%
DEBT COLLECTION

8%
PHISHING

*Other categories (26%) not represented in the chart include: sweepstakes, grant, loan, work at home and internet.

Example of Imposter Scams:

"I am an investigator with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). My badge number is 12345. You owe money and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer."

"Your grandson is in trouble and needs you to wire him money IMMEDIATELY!"

Example of Debt Collection Scams:

"We are contacting you to collect on an outstanding debt. If you do not provide your account number to settle, we will have no other choice than to issue a warrant for your arrest."

"You owe \$5,000 in credit card debt, but we'll take \$1,000 RIGHT NOW as the final payment."

Example of Phishing Scams:

You receive an email saying: "Your credit card ending in 1234 has been locked due to suspicious activity. Please click here or call 800-123-4567 to confirm/verify/update your account information."



LOST TO SCAMS



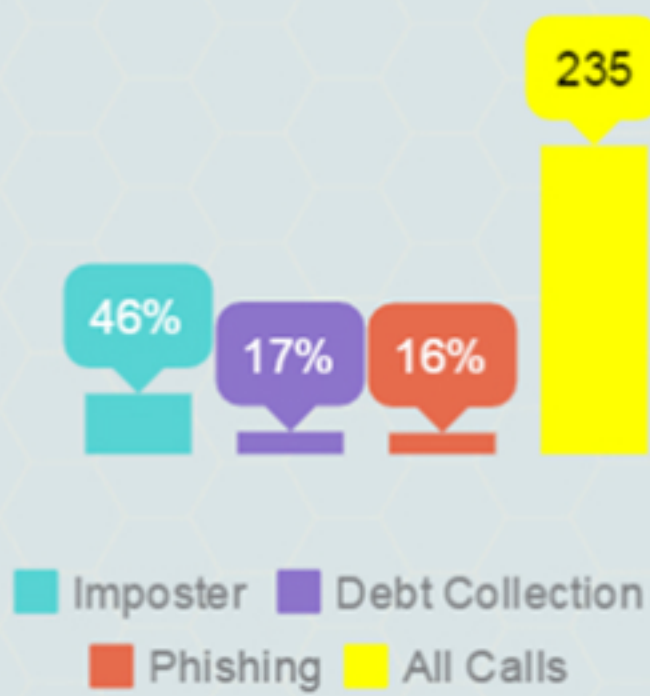
ACTUAL ---> \$1,841,403
POTENTIAL ---> \$1,101,690



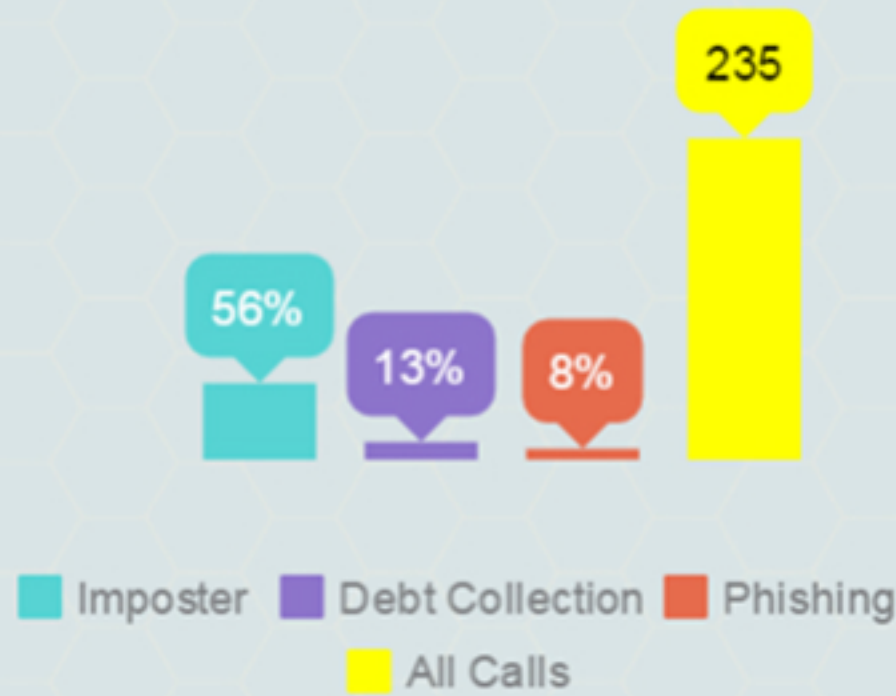
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TOP SCAMS BY MONTH

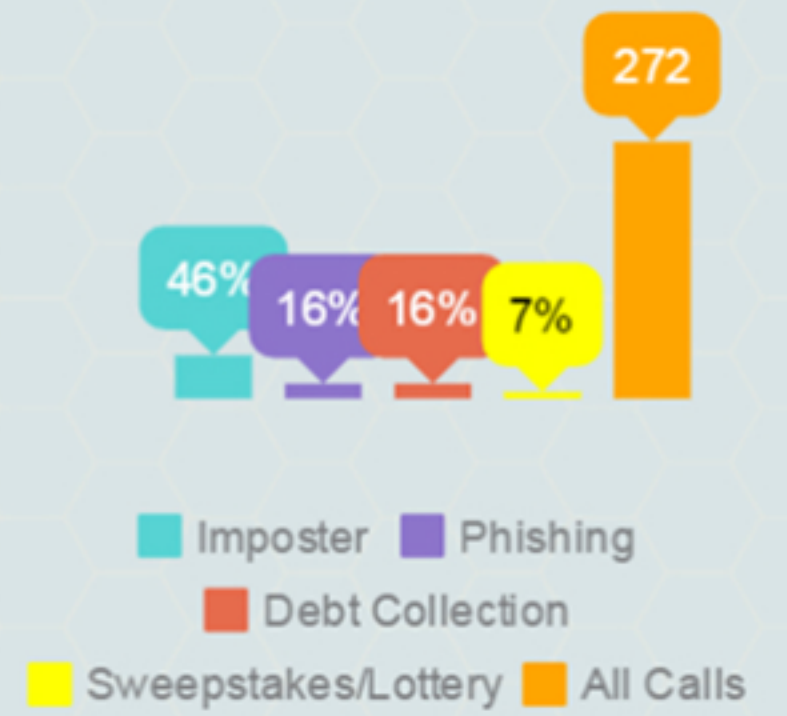
15-Jan



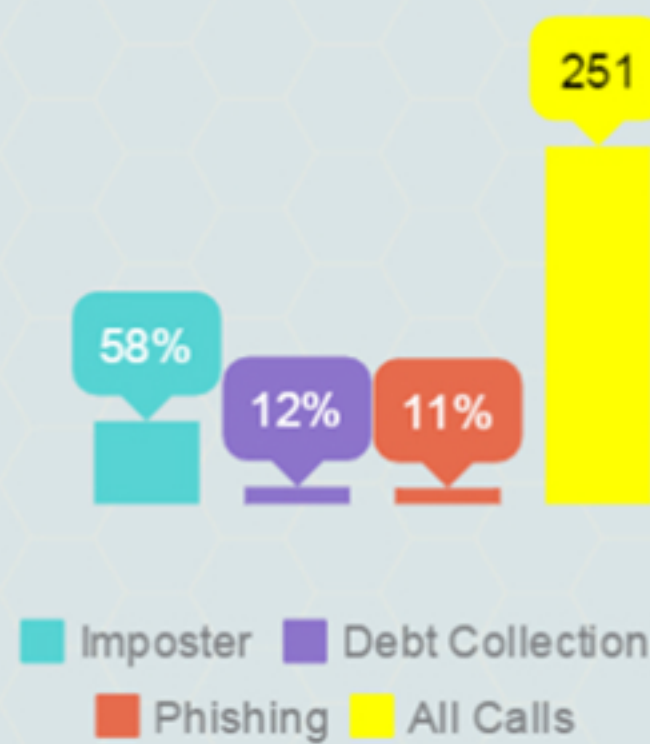
15-Feb



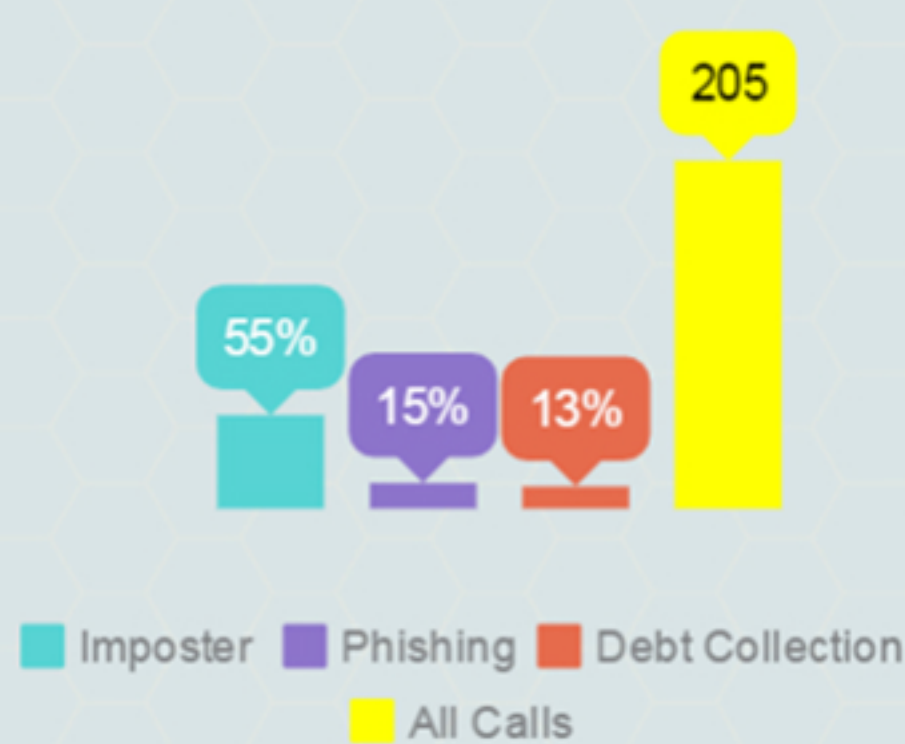
15-Mar



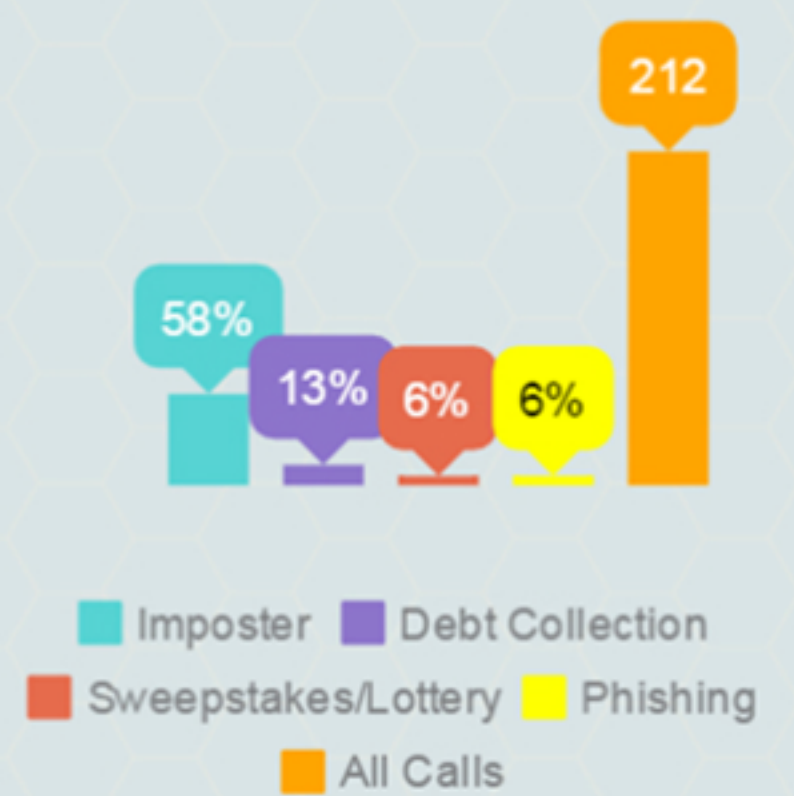
15-Apr



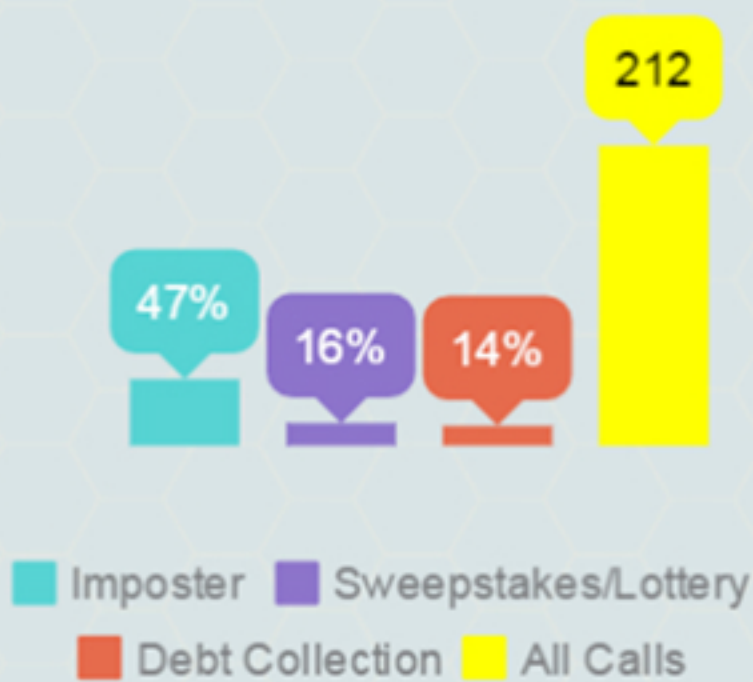
15-May



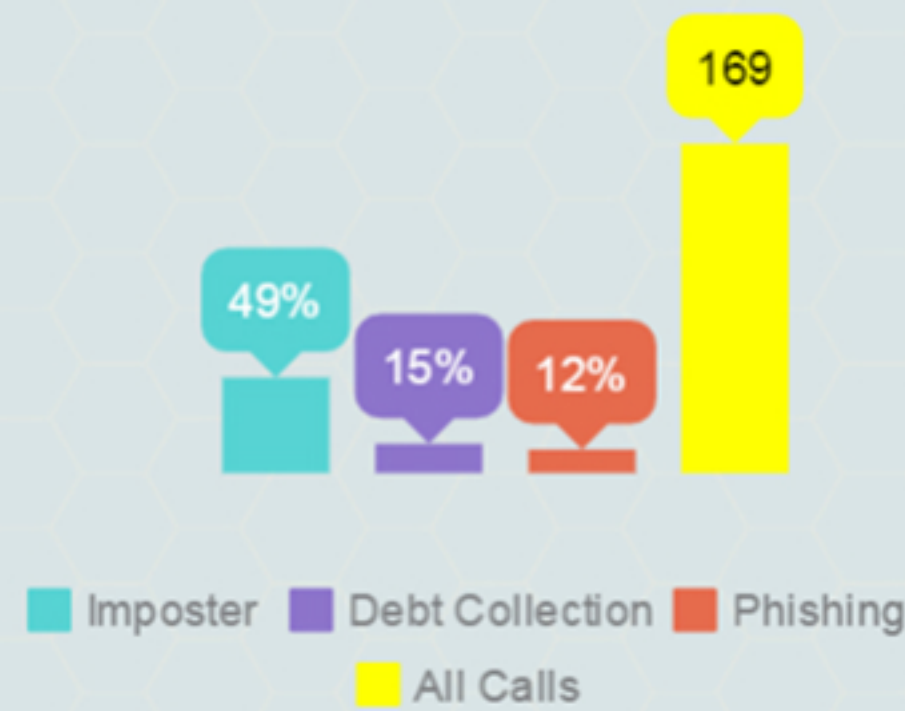
15-Jun



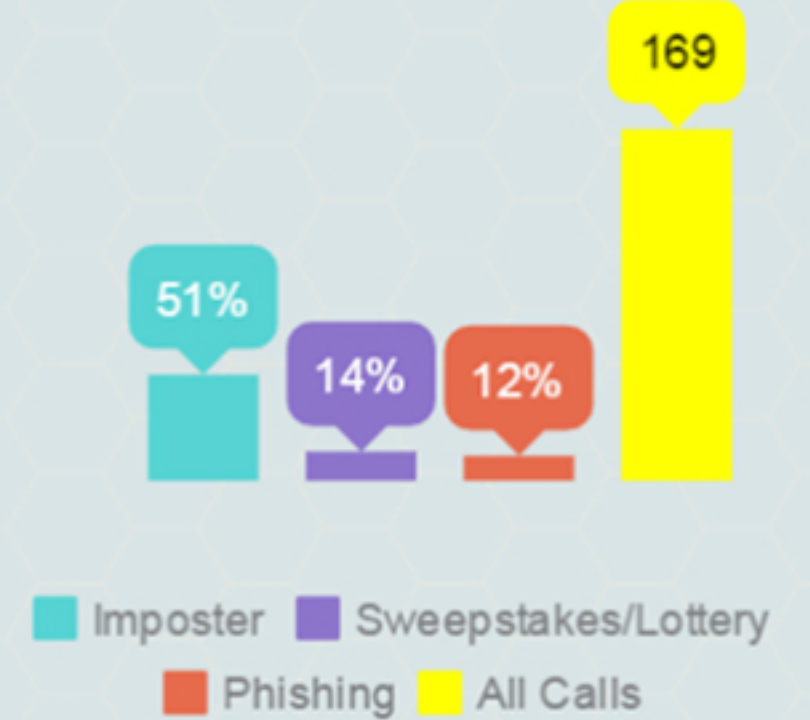
15-Jul



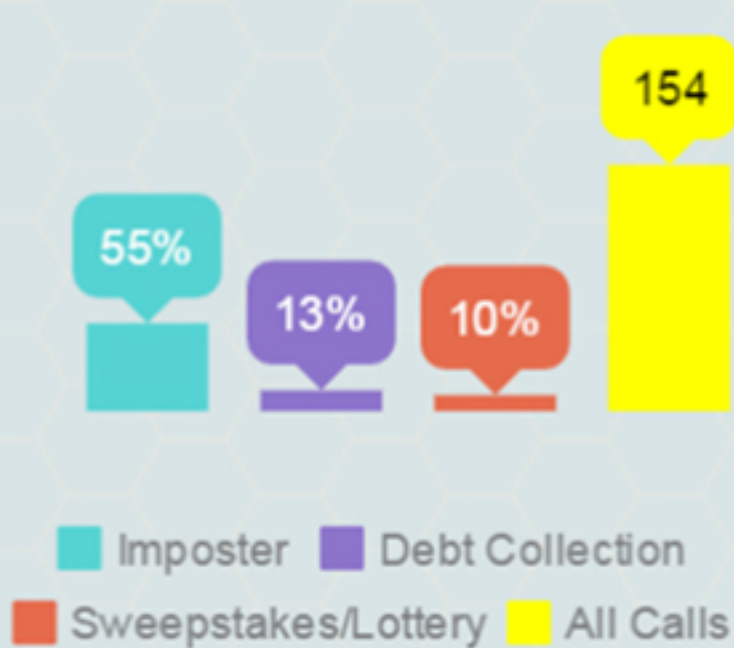
15-Aug



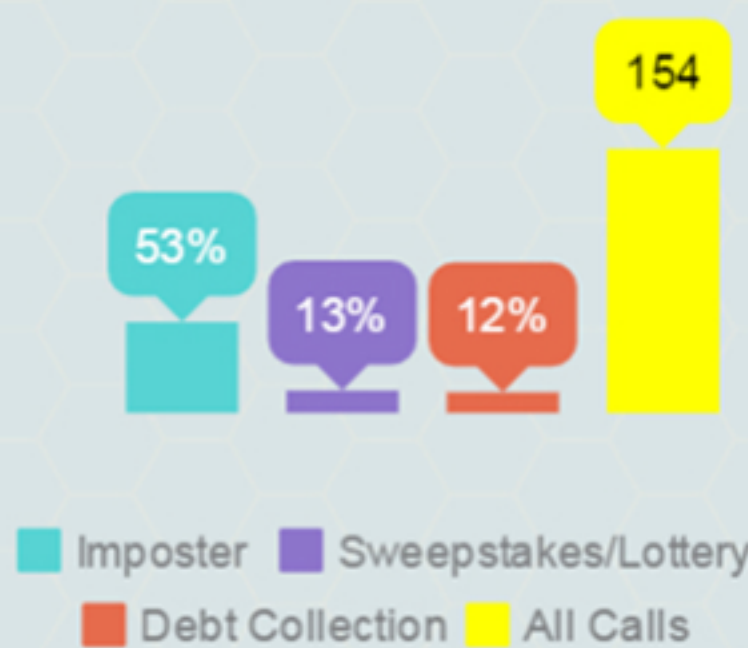
15-Sept



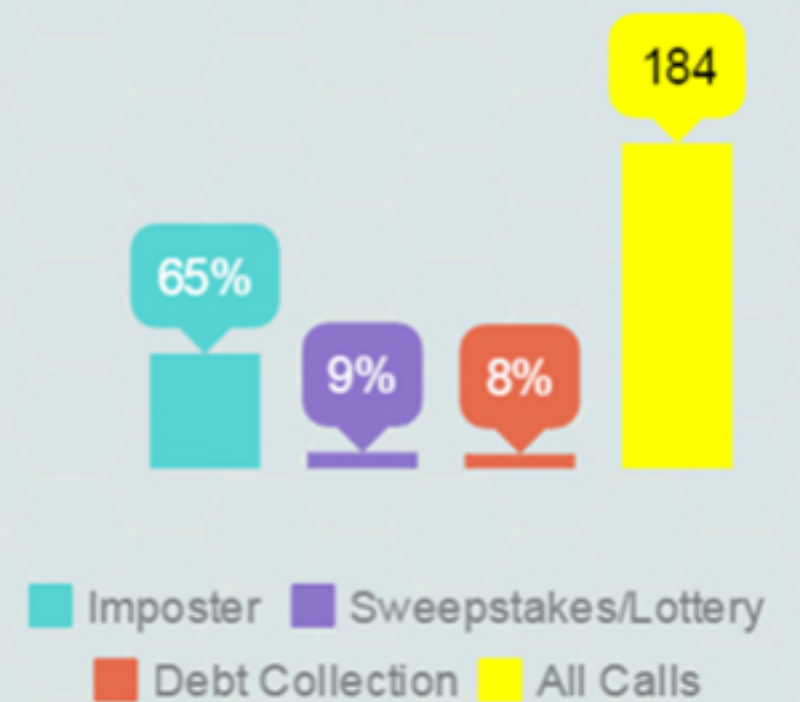
15-Oct



15-Nov



15-Dec



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SCAMS, CHECK OUT DITCH THE PITCH, DCA'S GUIDE TO SCAMS