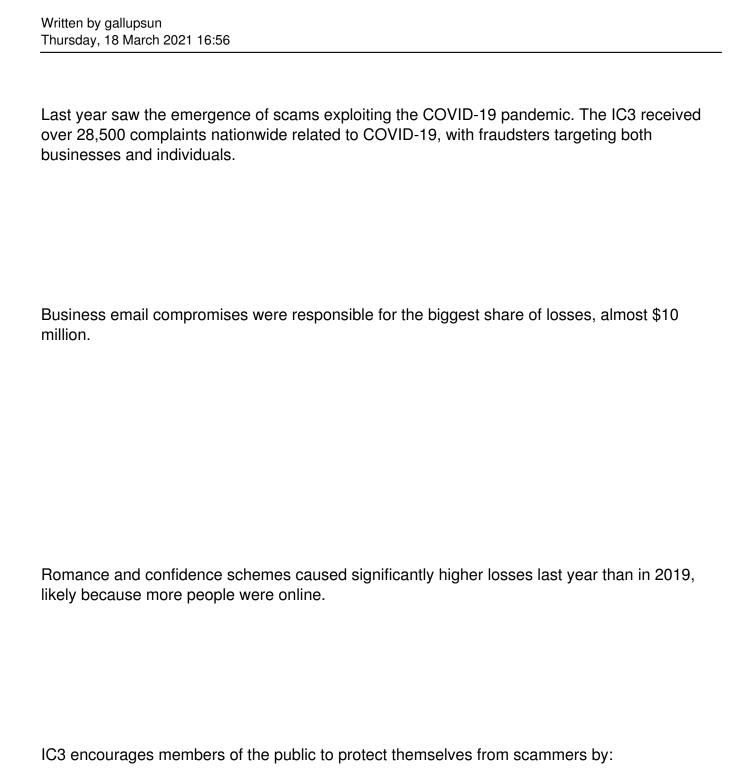
Written by gallupsun Thursday, 18 March 2021 16:56

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center has released its annual report, with New Mexico victims of suspected cyber scams reporting losses of over \$23,900,000 in 2020.

The 2020 Internet Crime Report includes nationwide information from 791,790 complaints of suspected internet crime — an increase of more than 300,000 complaints from 2019 — and reported losses exceeding \$4.2 billion.



"While many New Mexicans struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic, cyber criminals didn't miss a beat," Acting Special Agent in Charge Scott A. Rago of the Albuquerque FBI Division said. "The increased number of people teleworking or going online to stay in touch provided more opportunities for computer scams. It is imperative the public immediately report suspected criminal internet activity to the IC3 at ic3.gov so we can put a dent in these kinds of crimes."



- Using extreme caution in online communication. Verify the sender of an email, and be wary of attachments or links.
- Practice good "cyber hygiene," such as installing anti-virus software and keeping it updated.
- Question anyone offering you something that is "too good to be true," a secret investment opportunity, or medical advice.
- Rely on trusted sources, like your own doctor, the Centers for Disease Control, and your local health department for medical information, and the Federal Trade Commission and Internal Revenue Service for financial and tax information.

Suspected internet crime cost New Mexico victims almost \$24 million in 2020

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