



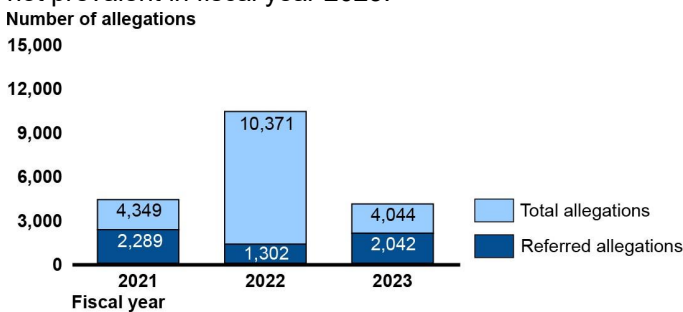
FraudNet Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2023 (Accessible Version)

Why This Matters

FraudNet’s primary mission is to facilitate the reporting of allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds. It also supports GAO audits and investigations. This is a summary of FraudNet’s activities for fiscal year 2023.

FraudNet Processed 4,044 Allegations in Fiscal Year 2023

The public, including government employees and contractors, submitted 4,044 allegations to FraudNet in fiscal year 2023. As shown in the figure below, the number of allegations processed in fiscal year 2023 was closer to fiscal year 2021 and substantially lower than fiscal year 2022. More than half of the allegations received in fiscal year 2022 were associated with social media campaigns that resulted in multiple complainants submitting form letters alleging the same fraud. This type of allegation was not prevalent in fiscal year 2023.



Source: GAO analysis of FraudNet data. | GAO-24-107272

Note: FraudNet may refer individual allegations to multiple agencies. Referred allegations from fiscal year 2022 changed from 1,239 from the previous GAO report (GAO-23-106669) to 1,302 due to additional processing of open allegations in fiscal year 2022.

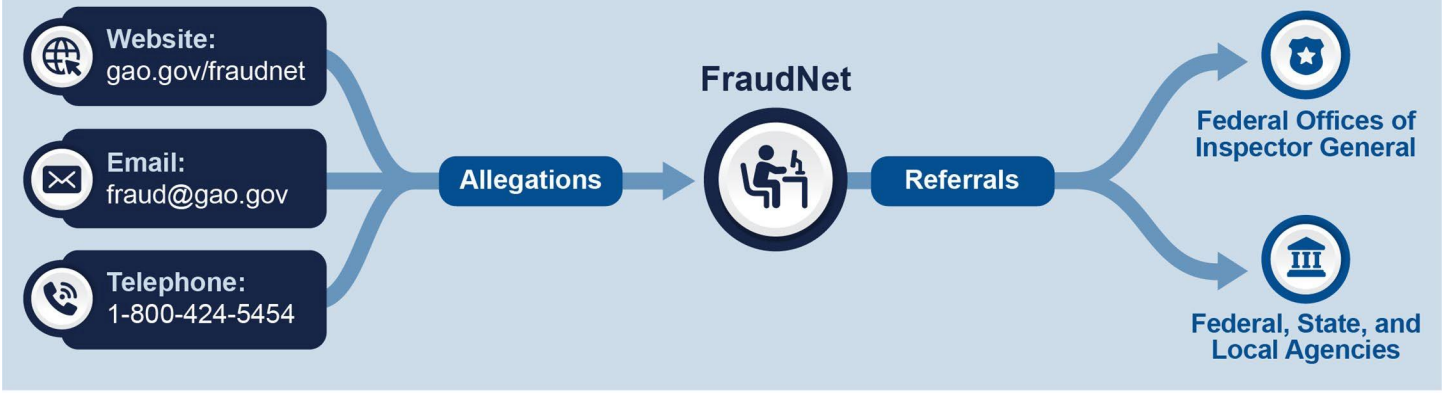
Allegations in fiscal year 2023 included topics such as government subsidy fraud, ethics/conflict of interest/misconduct, and employee fraud.

FraudNet’s Investigative Research Analysts review every allegation received. If it is determined a referral is appropriate, FraudNet makes referrals to federal Offices of Inspector General, as well as to other federal, state, and local entities. Upon receipt of a referral, the receiving entity determines how it will address the allegation.

Of the total allegations received in fiscal year 2023, FraudNet referred 2,042 complaints to approximately 50 other entities, including the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and Department of the Treasury. For 201 allegations, complainants indicated that they had sent the same allegation to entities other than GAO. In such instances, FraudNet does not generally refer the allegation to those other entities to avoid duplicating efforts.

FraudNet Analysts Provided Research Support to GAO Audits and Investigations

FraudNet analysts supported approximately 60 requests from GAO teams conducting audits and investigations in fiscal year 2023. These requests involved analysts researching individuals and businesses in investigative databases. For example, FraudNet collected state court records and publicly available information in support of work related to unemployment insurance. This support assisted GAO in updating fraud flags and generating consolidated fraud risk scores.



Sources: GAO (information); Icons-Studio/stock.adobe.com (icons). | GAO-24-107272

Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement

Anyone can contact FraudNet’s hotline to report suspected fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds. The website is generally the preferred reporting method. However, GAO cannot accept classified information via the website – please call for further guidance for allegations involving classified information.

GAO does not independently investigate allegations at the request of the individual(s) who reported them. FraudNet documents all allegations received and makes them available to any ongoing or future GAO work. As appropriate, FraudNet refers allegations to the relevant external agency for consideration of further action.

The graphic below provides good practices to follow when filing an allegation with FraudNet.

What Is Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement?

 <p>Fraud</p> <p>Attempting to obtain something of value through willful misrepresentation</p>	 <p>Waste</p> <p>Squandering money or resources, even if not explicitly illegal</p>
 <p>Abuse</p> <p>Behaving improperly or unreasonably, or misusing one’s position or authority</p>	 <p>Mismanagement</p> <p>Creating a substantial risk to an agency’s ability to accomplish its mission</p>

Source: GAO (information and icons). | GAO-24-107272

Good Practice "Dos" to Consider When Filing an Allegation

DO provide the subject of your allegation



including a name and contact information of the government agency, individual, or business and any other identifying information connected to the subject. This includes, if available, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.

DO provide good contact information



for yourself, when feasible, so the FraudNet team can reach out for follow-up when needed.

DO provide a narrative



explaining the nature, scope, time frame, and how you came to learn about the activity in your allegation.

DO include the law, rule, or regulation



you believe was violated, when possible, in your allegation.

DO include the other agencies



that you have reported the activity to in your allegation.

Sources: GAO (information); antto/stock.adobe.com (icons). | GAO-24-107272

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A. Nicole Clowers, Managing Director, Congressional Relations,
ClowersA@gao.gov, (202) 512-4400

Sarah Kaczmarek, Acting Managing Director, Public Affairs,
KaczmarekS@gao.gov, (202) 512-4800

U.S. Government Accountability Office,
441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20548

This document is not an audit product and is subject to revision. It contains information prepared by GAO to provide insight on FraudNet to federal agency officials, legislative bodies or other organizations. We believe that the information and data obtained, and the analysis conducted, provide a reasonable basis for any statements within this product.

For more information about this GAOOverview, contact: Howard Arp, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, at (202) 512-6722 or ArpJ@gao.gov

Key Contributors: Mark MacPherson (Assistant Director), Mariana Calderón (Assistant Director), Melissa Hart (Investigator in Charge), Pamela Richards, Daniel Bibeault, David Linch, Kimberley Bynum, Colin Fallon, and Maria McMullen.

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The GAO Antifraud Resource: https://gaoinnovations.gov/antifraud_resource/

A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs:
<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-15-593sp>

GAOOverview: FraudNet Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2022:
<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-106669>

Appendix

Figure A

Fiscal year	Total allegations	Referred allegations
2021	4349	2289
2022	10371	1302
2023	4044	2042

Note: FraudNet may refer individual allegations to multiple agencies. Referred allegations from fiscal year 2022 changed from 1,239 from the previous GAO report GAO-23-106669) to 1,302 due to additional processing of open allegations in fiscal year 2022.

Source: GAO analysis of FraudNet data. | GAO-24-107272

Figure B

Website:
gao.gov/fraudnet

Email:
fraud@gao.gov

Telephone:
1-800-424-5454

FraudNet

- Allegations
- Referrals
 - Federal Offices of Inspector General
 - Federal, State, and Local Agencies

Sources: GAO (information); Icons-Studio/stock.adobe.com (icons). | GAO-24-107272

Figure C

What Is Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismanagement?

- Fraud: Attempting to obtain something of value through willful misrepresentation
- Waste: Squandering money or resources, even if not explicitly illegal
- Abuse: Behaving improperly or unreasonably, or misusing one's position or authority
- Mismanagement: Creating a substantial risk to an agency's ability to accomplish its mission

Source: GAO (information and icons). | GAO-24-107272

Figure D

Best Practice "Dos" to Consider When Filing an Allegation

- DO provide the subject of your allegation including a name and contact information of the government agency, individual, or business and any other identifying information connected to the subject. This includes, if available, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.
- DO provide good contact information for yourself, when feasible, so the FraudNet team can reach out for follow-up when needed.
- DO provide a narrative explaining the nature, scope, time frame, and how you came to learn about the activity in your allegation.
- DO include the law, rule, or regulation you believe was violated, when possible, in your allegation.
- DO include the other agencies that you have reported the activity to in your allegation.

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