Risky Business: Managing Risk and Preventing Fraud in Your Organization

2015 ACBO Spring Conference

Presented By:
Christy White, CPA
Tanya Rogers, CPA, CFE
Steven Currie, CPA

Christy White and Associates, Inc.

619-270-8222

Web: cwacpa.com

How Prevalent is White Collar Crime?

2013 Integrity Survey by KPMG

- * 74% of employers reported instances of fraud
- >>56% of <u>employees</u> reported they knew of "serious misconduct that would result in a significant loss of public trust if discovered!"
- Government was 2nd to the consumer markets industry in the prevalence of misconduct and 2rd in seriousness to the electronics, software industry
- * Types of government misconduct: misleading or false claims, improper political contributions, corruption and bribes

The Fraud Triangle or "How Trusted People Can Steal"

- # Pressure a perceived "non-sharable" financial need (e.g., unable to pay one's debt, unable to admit personal failures, business reversal, need to "keep up with the Jones" or be ousted from the group)
- Opportunity perceived ability to perpetuate fraud
- Rationalization why it is OK (e.g., underpaid/overworked, a temporary loan, a one-time incident)

Rationalization Expanded

- Not ex post facto justification but rather a necessary component of the crime <u>before</u> it takes place
- Common rationalization: "borrowing"
 - * At crossroad when in too deep, either:
 - Come clean, make wild attempts to regain amounts, or even commit suicide; or,
 - 2. Go the full criminal route!

How Employers Are Unwitting Accomplishes

Placing too much trust in key employees

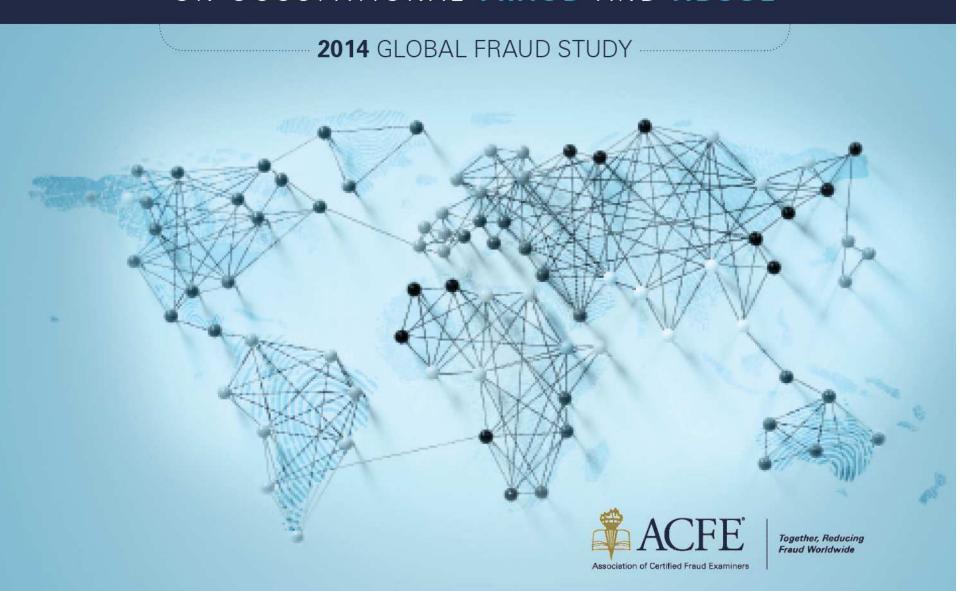
*** Lax controls:**

- Lack of proper authorization procedures
- Lack of background checks
- Lack of segregation of duties

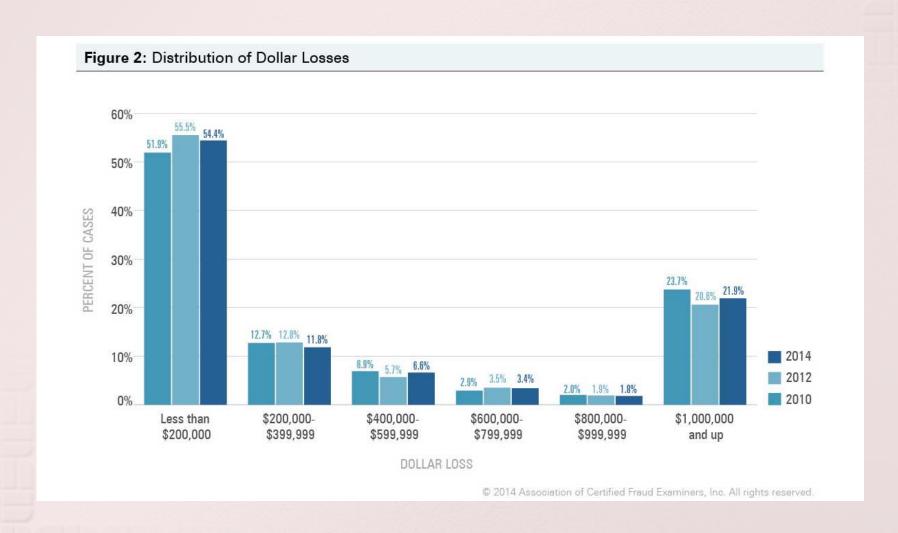
- Organization structure and supervision problems
 - Inattention to details
 - Open access to assets and records
 - Lack of clear lines of authority
 - Lack of effective internal audit
- Not paying attention to red flags

REPORT TO THE NATIONS

ON OCCUPATIONAL FRAUD AND ABUSE

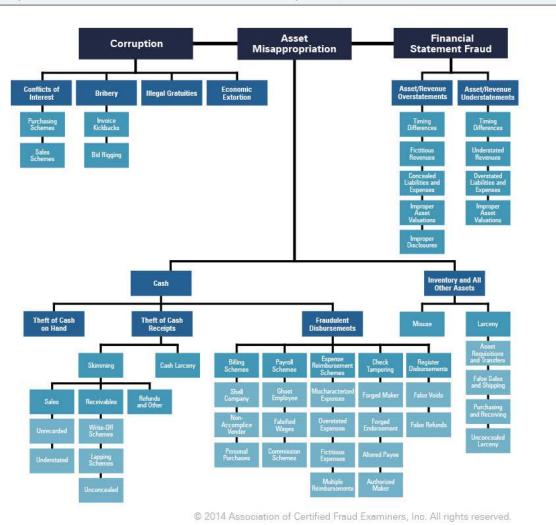


The Cost of Occupational Fraud

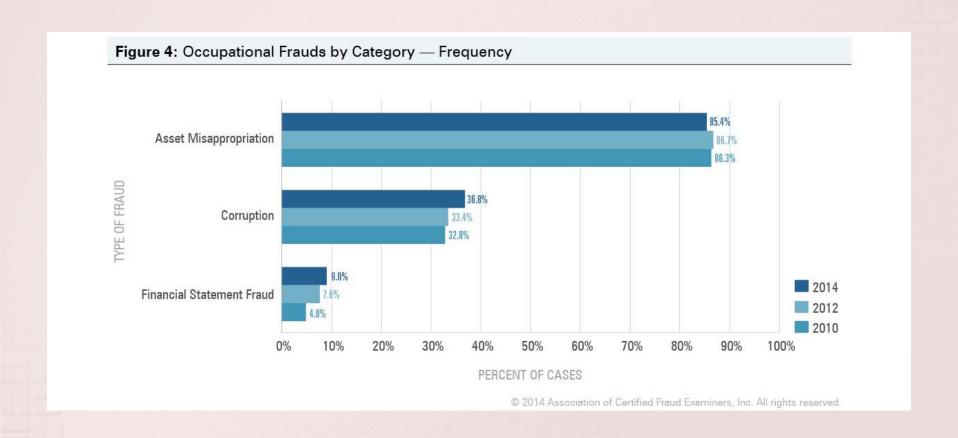


How Occupational Fraud is Committed

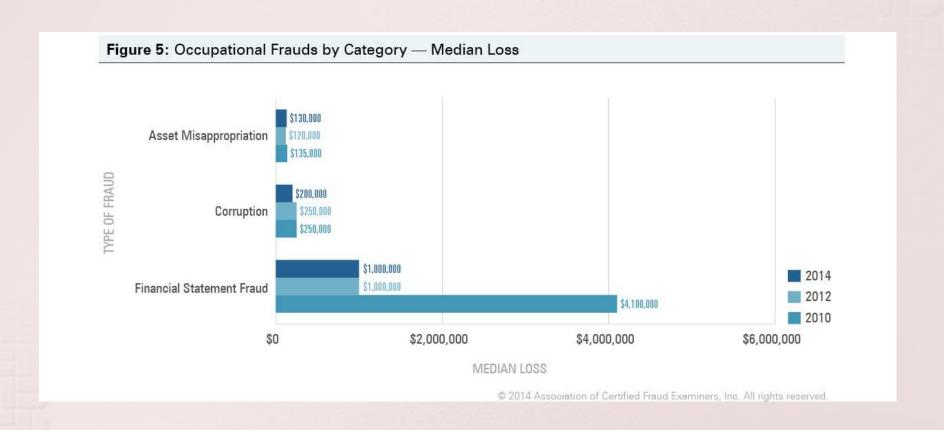
Figure 3: Occupational Fraud and Abuse Classification System (Fraud Tree)



How Occupational Fraud is Committed

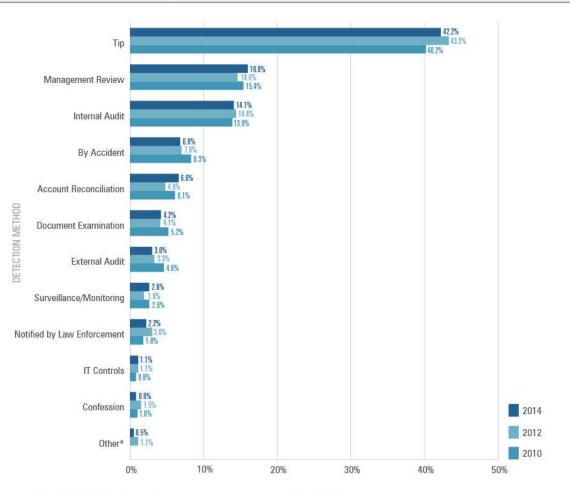


How Occupational Fraud is Committed

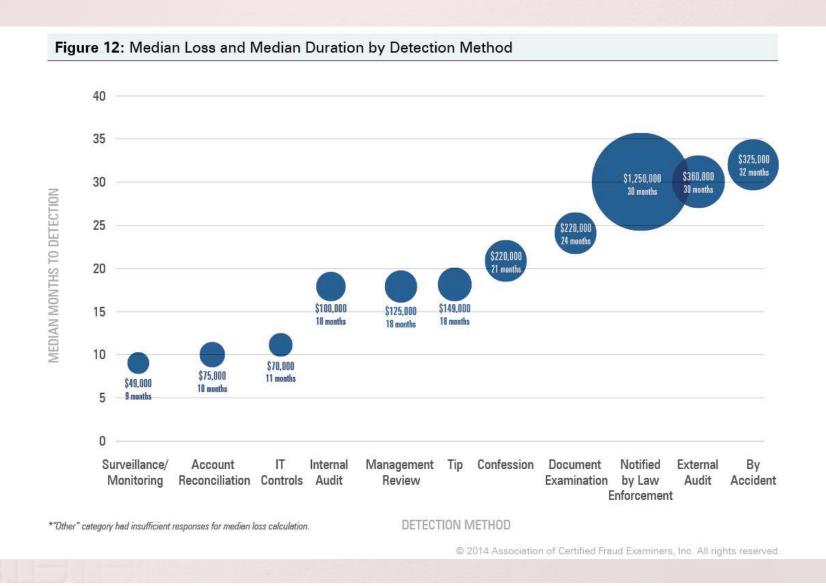


Initial Detection of Occupational Frauds

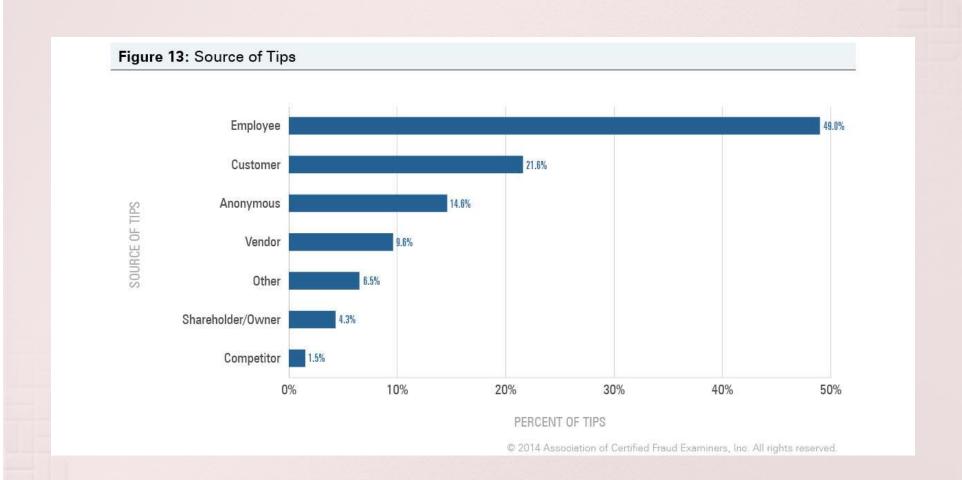
Figure 11: Initial Detection of Occupational Frauds



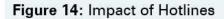
Median Loss and Median Duration by Detection Method

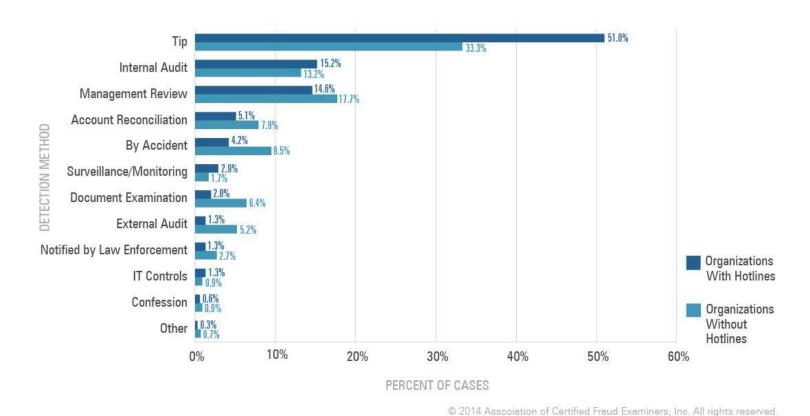


Source of Tips



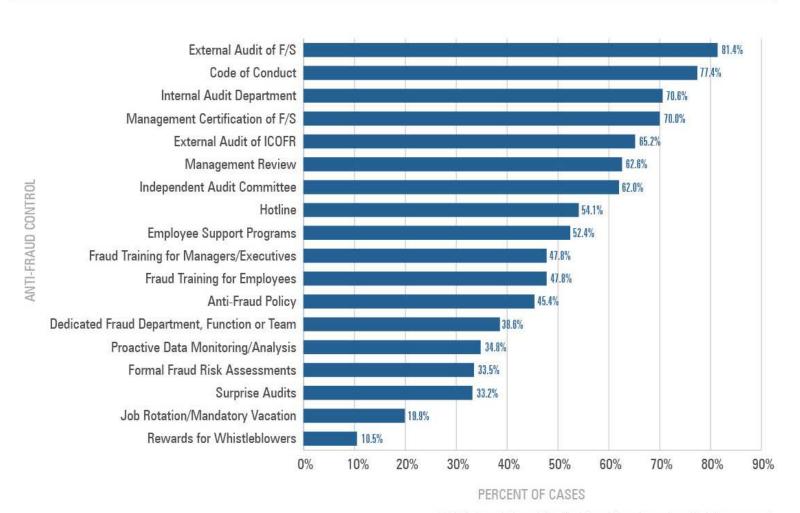
Impact of Hotlines





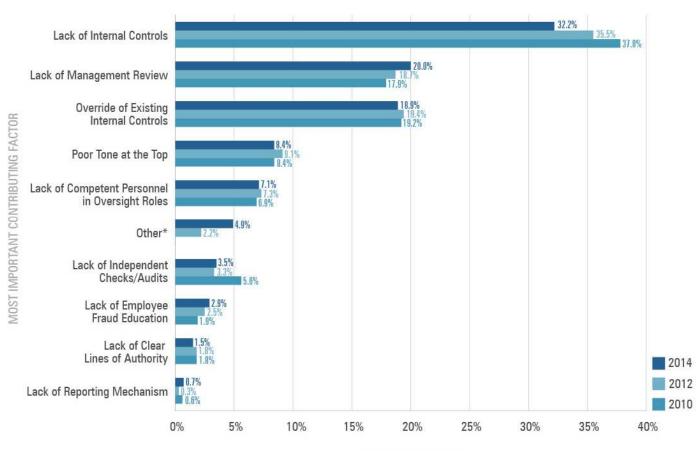
Anti-Fraud Controls at the Victim Organization

Figure 26: Frequency of Anti-Fraud Controls

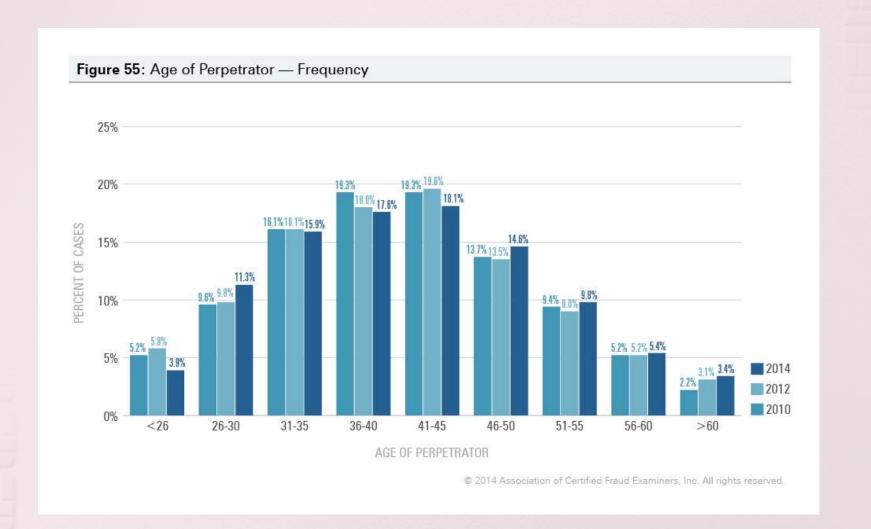


Control Weaknesses That Contributed to Fraud

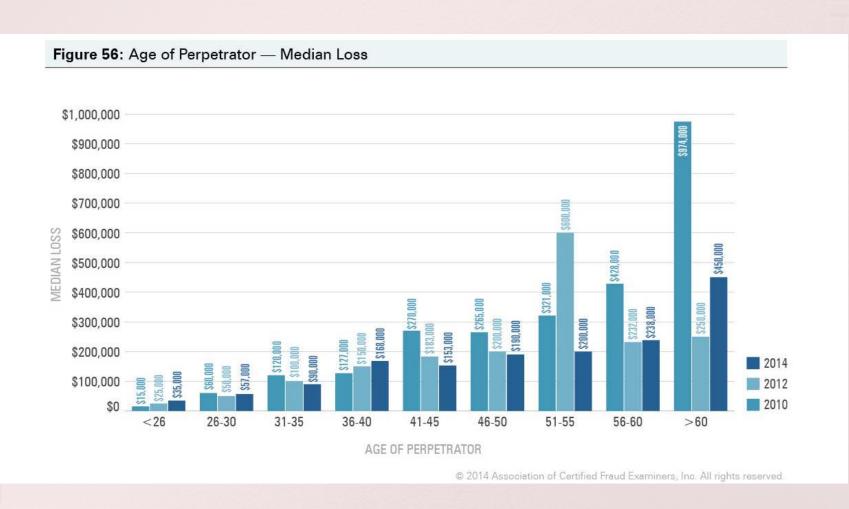
Figure 39: Primary Internal Control Weakness Observed by CFE



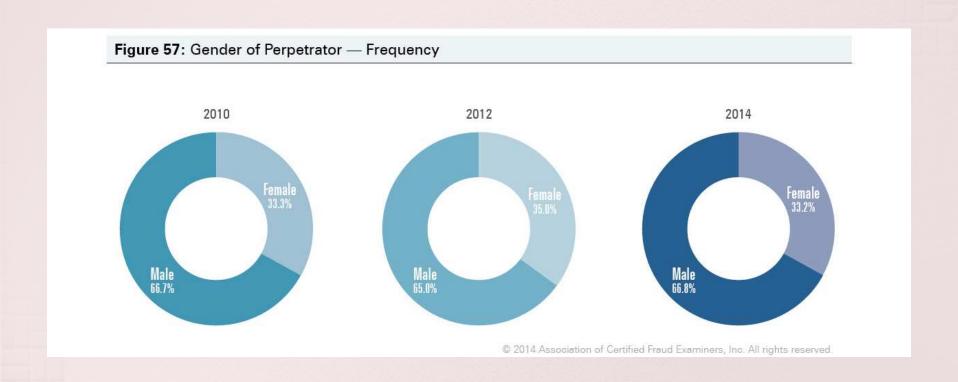
Perpetrator's Age



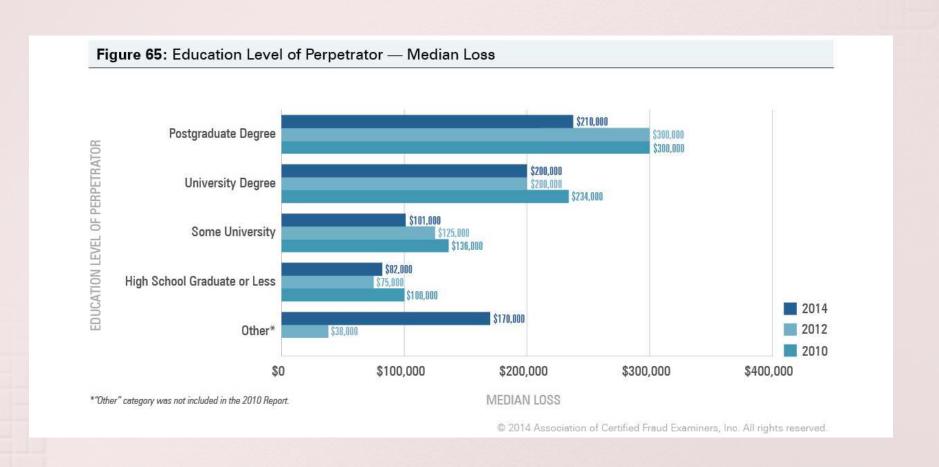
Perpetrator's Age



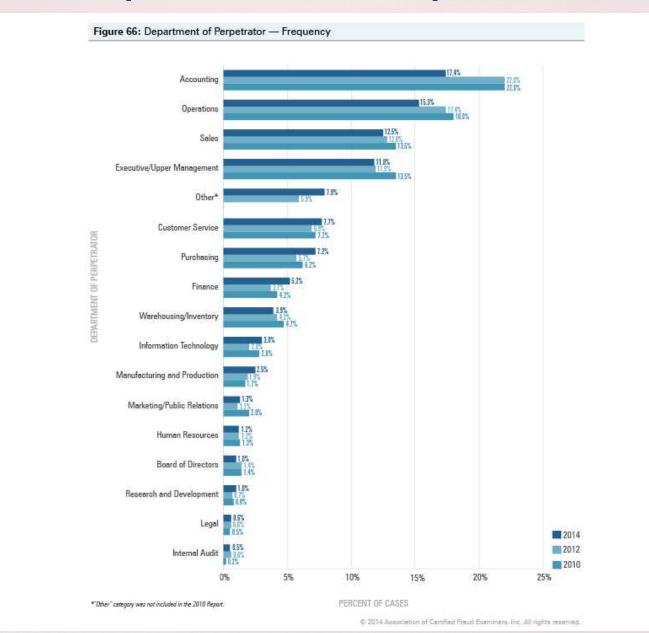
Perpetrator's Gender



Perpetrator's Education Level

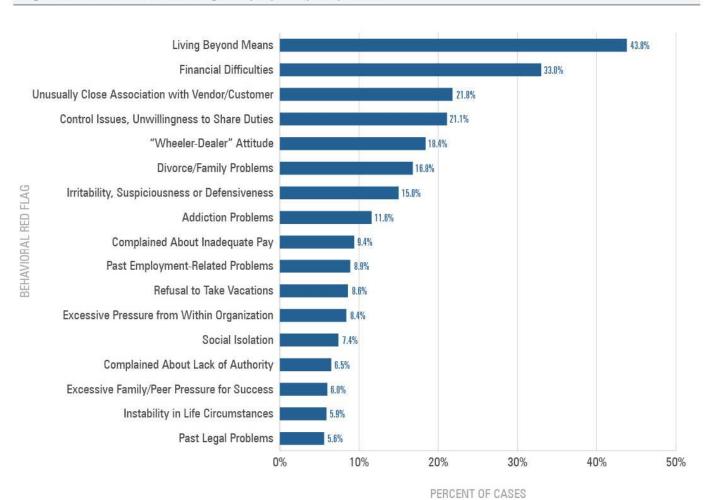


Perpetrator's Department

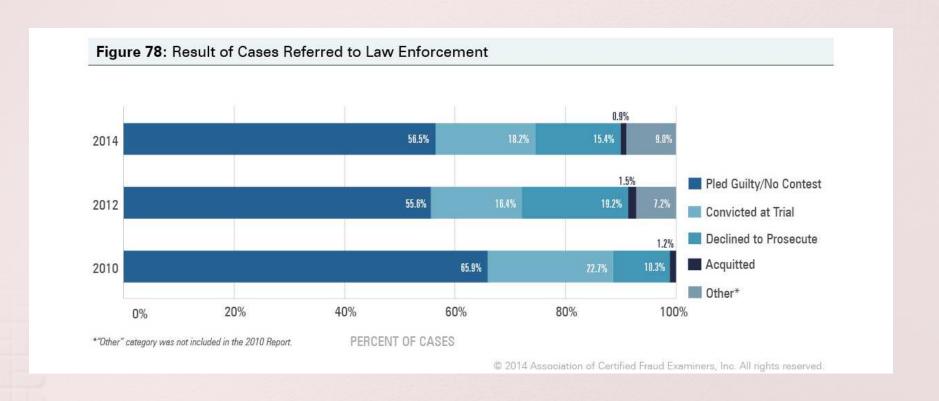


Behavioral Red Flags Displayed by Perpetrators

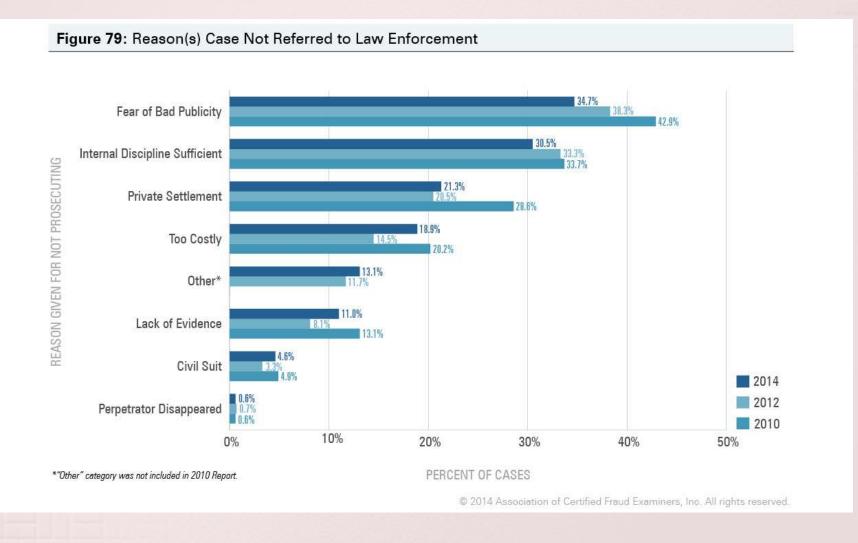




Criminal Prosecutions

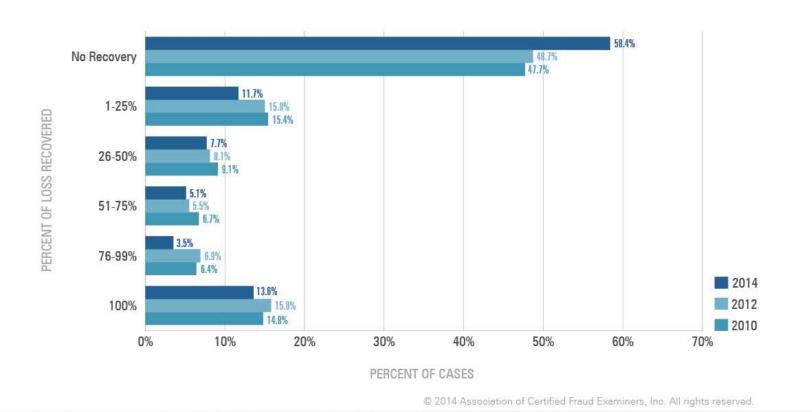


Criminal Prosecutions



Recovery of Losses





Most Frequent Types of Fraud

- **#** Financial Statement Fraud
- Payroll/Ghost Employees
- Purchasing
- Cash receipts/skimming
- Programmatic activities
 - * Academic
 - * Athletic, etc.
- **Student Financial Aid**

What Employers Can Do to Prevent Fraud

- Set the proper tone at the top
- Increase actual and perceived internal controls
 - Higher risk of detection = less likely to attempt fraud
- How employees perceive management is key, there is more theft when:
 - Employees feel underappreciated
 - Employers don't care about theft to take actions when it occurs
 - Employees abuse other company policies
- Address the suspected fraud promptly

Fraud is Suspected – What Next?

- Safeguard records
 - Chain of custody is key!!!
- Establish a chronology of events
- Identify witnesses
- Hire fraud auditor or conduct internal investigation if you have the expertise and resources (or some combination)
- Work with legal, police and human resources
- Covert investigations, such as surveillance and use of informants is best left to the experts!
 - Can use surveillance camera if in a public place where there in no expectation of privacy
- Data analysis, specialized software helps to sort and discover data relationships (matches, duplicates, unexpected correlations)

Preserving the Evidence

- "Documents do not make the cases, witnesses make cases. The documents make or break the witness." 2011 Fraud Examiners Manual
 - Keep all documents as you don't know what might become relevant and material to the case
- Chain of custody is key (what received, by whom, source and where maintained) turn over key documents to the experts
- Keep originals safe, seal, date and initial
 - » Don't handle originals, make working copies
- Preserve equipment

Types of Evidence

- Direct i.e., a check from a vendor to the purchasing agent that shows a kickback
- Circumstantial i.e., cash deposits made to the purchasing agents account around the time the vendor received the contract award
- Look out for phony documents, may need to bring in experts
 - Forgery different types of handwriting
 - * Alteration, erasures
 - Determining when prepared, if from same pad of paper
 - Looking for faint indented writing, inserted type
 - Identification of photocopy, mechanical impressions and printer inks
 - * Counterfeiting is too easy today with scanners, printers and computer software!
- May need to hire fingerprint and handwriting experts

Who Can Conduct an Interview?

- Anyone, but don't hold yourself out as an investigator if you are not and don't infringe upon their rights
 - False imprisonment don't lock the door!
 - Recording interviews check with legal first!
- **Tips** when conducting interviews
 - One interviewee at a time!
 - Shake hands, don't invade their space
 - Try to make them feel good
 - * Assure confidentiality
 - People like recognition, sympathy, catharsis
 - * Use non-emotional words ("paperwork problem" versus embezzlement!)
 - « Guard your own responses (i.e., don't be too cagey, don't boast about what you know)
 - Be careful when taking notes

Body Language Can Show Potential Guilt

- Backing away indicates unpleasantness/sensitivity
- * Avoidance of eyes indicates shame or confusion
- Breathing unnatural, excessive perspiration
- ***** Touches their face
- Covers their mouth when speaking
- Blushing (increased blood pressure)
- Playing with objects
- Crossing arms or feet
- Sitting is a fleeing position

Are they lying? You be the judge...

- Change in speech vocal cords constrict when tense
- Repeating the question to gain time
- Complains about the physical environment or length of interview
- **Selective** memory
- Emphasis on certain words, take oaths
- * Answers a question with a question

- Overly respectful
- Denials become weaker instead of stronger
- Fails to deny event (qualified with to the best of my knowledge...)
- Won't use words like steal, lie and crime
- Tolerates and justifies bad behavior
- Reluctant to terminate interview
- **Will feign unconcern**

Admission-Seeking

- **B** Direct the accusation
- ***** Allow them to rationalize the crime
- ***** To diffuse alibis
 - » Display physical evidence
 - » Discuss witness (without identification)
- * Ask them to choose between a positive and negative admission
 - » Did you get greedy or did you have financial problem?
- Purpose to get a confession, once they confess get as much information as you can, write it down and have them sign

4th Amendment Protections

- Protects against unreasonable searches and seizures
- In general, work computers, files and cabinets are not considered private and not protected
- Do not inspect individual's personal
 belongings leave that to law enforcement

Now What?

- **#** Employment action
- Legal −
 - Civil recovery of loss
 - x Criminal formal charges
- Appropriate communication to the community

What the Experts Recommend...

*** Law Enforcement –**

- Consider involving an outside agency in assisting with the investigation
 - Reduces potential for bias

District Attorney -

- Chain of custody of evidence is key
- * Thoroughness of documentation obtained and retained

What We Recommend...

- ***** Take action.
- Failure to act assures you will have similar activity in the future, if not currently happening!

