



50% Haven't Checked Credit Since Equifax Breach

18% Have Never Checked Credit Report or Score

Austin, Texas – February 26, 2018 – 50% of U.S. adults did not check either their credit score or their credit report in the last six months, according to a new CreditCards.com report. The timing is significant because it coincides with the massive Equifax data breach, first reported in early September 2017, which exposed the personal information of more than 145 million consumers. Click here for more information:

<http://www.creditcards.com/credit-card-news/equifax-data-breach-cellphone-survey.php>

Nearly 3 in 10 who have heard “a lot” about the breach still didn’t bother to check their credit in the past six months. “Frankly, that’s disturbing,” said CreditCards.com’s senior industry analyst, Matt Schulz. “If this breach won’t get people to act, what will?”

It’s a boom or bust story for millennials: 26% of 18-37 year-olds have still heard nothing at all about the Equifax breach, double the 13% of 38+ year-olds who haven’t heard about it. But on the bright side, 34% of millennials checked both their credit score and report in the last six months, more than any other generation. Breaking it down further, 45% of older millennials (31-37 year-olds) checked both. No other age segment topped 35%.

“Millennials who heard anything at all about the breach were much more likely to do exactly what they needed to do, checking their credit score and report,” Schulz added. “Americans need to talk about identity theft more because it’s incredibly important. If your friends and family don’t know about the Equifax breach, tell them. If they’ve never checked their credit score or report, show them how to do it.”

18% of U.S. adults have never checked their credit score or report. Young adults and people with lower incomes and lower levels of education are the least likely to have examined their credit.

You can get your free VantageScore credit score and free TransUnion credit report at CreditCards.com or by downloading the site’s Score and Report app for iOS and Android devices.

<https://www.creditcards.com/mobile/score-report/>

Even though half the adult population has not checked their credit since the Equifax hack came to light, a much higher percentage claims to be concerned about their data. 73% say they are either “very” or “somewhat” concerned about the breach and just 8% are “not at all” worried.

Also, 74% responded that having their personal data stolen would be worse than having their cell phone stolen, the correct answer in Schulz's estimation. "Data security is a big deal. It's not the most fun thing to talk about at the dinner table or at the water cooler, but these discussions need to be had because this problem affects virtually every American and isn't going to go away," Schulz concludes.

CreditCards.com commissioned YouGov Plc to conduct the survey. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,164 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between February 9-12, 2018. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all U.S. adults (aged 18+).

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