



Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429-9990

Financial Institution Letter
FIL-56-2006
June 28, 2006

Bank Secrecy Act

The SAR Activity Review By the Numbers, May 2006

Summary:

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has issued the sixth edition (May 2006) of *The SAR Activity Review By the Numbers*.

Distribution:

FDIC-Supervised Banks (Commercial and Savings)

Suggested Routing:

Chief Executive Officer
BSA Compliance Officer

Related Topics:

Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Programs

Attachment:

None

Contact:

Review Examiner Debra Novak, Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection, at SASFIL@FDIC.gov or (202) 898-3673

Note:

FDIC Financial Institution Letters (FILs) may be accessed from the FDIC's Web site at www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/2006/index.html.

To receive FILs electronically, please visit <http://www.fdic.gov/about/subscriptions/fil.html>.

Paper copies of FDIC FILs may be obtained through the FDIC's Public Information Center, 801 17th Street, NW, Room 100, Washington, DC 20434 (1-877-275-3342 or 703-562-2200).

Highlights:

- FinCEN issued the sixth edition of *The SAR Activity Review By the Numbers*. The report is a compilation of numerical data gathered from Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) filed by depository institutions, casinos and card clubs, certain money services businesses, and certain segments of securities and futures industries.
- *The SAR Activity Review By the Numbers* is generally published twice annually with activity covering two filing periods: January 1 to June 30, and July 1 to December 31. The current edition can be accessed at www.fincen.gov/sar_review_by_the_numbers_issue6.pdf.
- *The SAR Activity Review By the Numbers* serves as a companion report to *The SAR Activity Review – Trends, Tips & Issues*.
- As of December 31, 2005, over 3.1 million SARs have been filed with FinCEN. Of that total, over 2 million were filed by depository institutions.
- Bank Secrecy Act/structuring/money laundering continues to be the leading characterization of suspicious activity.
- A comparison of SAR filing trends between 2004 and 2005 includes: a 41% increase in mortgage loan filings; a 55% increase in consumer loan fraud filings; a 77% increase in false statement filings; and a 35% decrease in computer intrusion filings.