



DIGITAL THREAT REPORT

DIGITAL THREAT REPORT: PENNSYLVANIA 2025

New Report from Proxyware's Digital Crime Index Reveals
Record Levels of AI-Driven Scams and Cyberattacks Targeting
Children, Teens, and Local Government Employees
Across the Commonwealth

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proxyware's latest analysis of digital attacks across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania reveals a sharp rise in AI-driven scams targeting school-aged students, college and university students and employees, and local government employees.

Residents of the City of Philadelphia and its surroundings faced more than 110,000 attacks in the first six months of 2025, while higher education institutions were attacked at twice the rate of government buildings.

The findings in this report underscore an urgent need for strengthened digital infrastructure, proactive monitoring, and real-time defensive measures to protect citizens of Pennsylvanians.

KEY FINDINGS

K-12 schools increasingly vulnerable: The Delaware Valley and Pocono Mountain school districts each recorded more than 10,000 attacks, with Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, and West Chester schools close behind.

Local governments remain high-value targets: Montgomery and Delaware counties recorded tens of thousands of attacks, showing that cybercriminals view local governments as critical entry points to community infrastructure.

Philadelphia under siege: The City of Philadelphia employees were the single most targeted group in Pennsylvania, recording 110,720 attacks in just six months.

Education at risk: Colleges and universities collectively endured over 656,000 attacks—making college-aged students the most targeted sector statewide, with phishing and backdoor attempts dominating.

Future leaders threatened: Students at Pennsylvania State University, Thomas Jefferson University, the University of Pennsylvania, and other top universities are being directly targeted, putting personal data, research, and academic continuity at risk.

Attack types consistent: Across all sectors, phishing and backdoor attacks each account for 39% of attempted breaches.

Sector-by-Sector Analysis

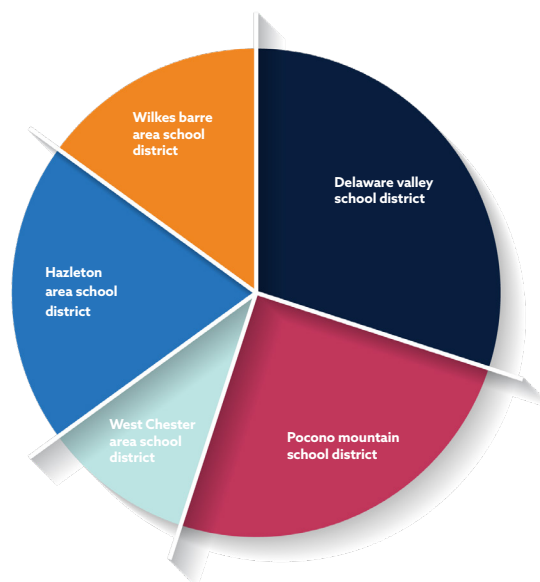
K-12 SCHOOLS

Pennsylvania public k-12 school children are facing an alarming uptick in attacks within the first six months of this year. The Delaware Valley and Pocono Mountain districts were each hit with more than 10,000 incidents, while Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, and West Chester schools faced between 6,000–7,000 attacks.

Cybercriminals frequently exploit weak defenses in school systems to launch ransomware, steal student data, or lure children into unsafe online communities.

Source: Digital Crime Index, The Media Trust

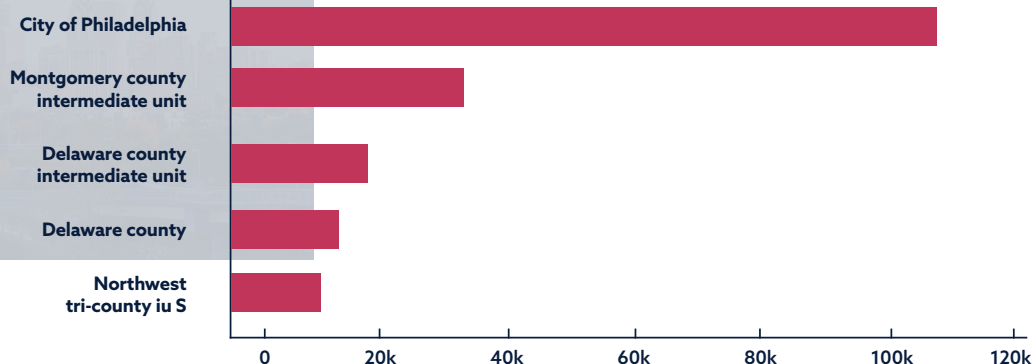
Top 5 Schools Attacked in 2025



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Philadelphia is the epicenter of government-targeted cybercrime, absorbing more than 110,000 attacks between January and June of this year. Other counties, including Montgomery and Delaware, show heavy targeting, largely through phishing campaigns designed to compromise employee credentials and open backdoor access to networks.

Top 5 Local Government Organizations Attacked in 2025



Source:
Digital Crime Index,
The Media Trust

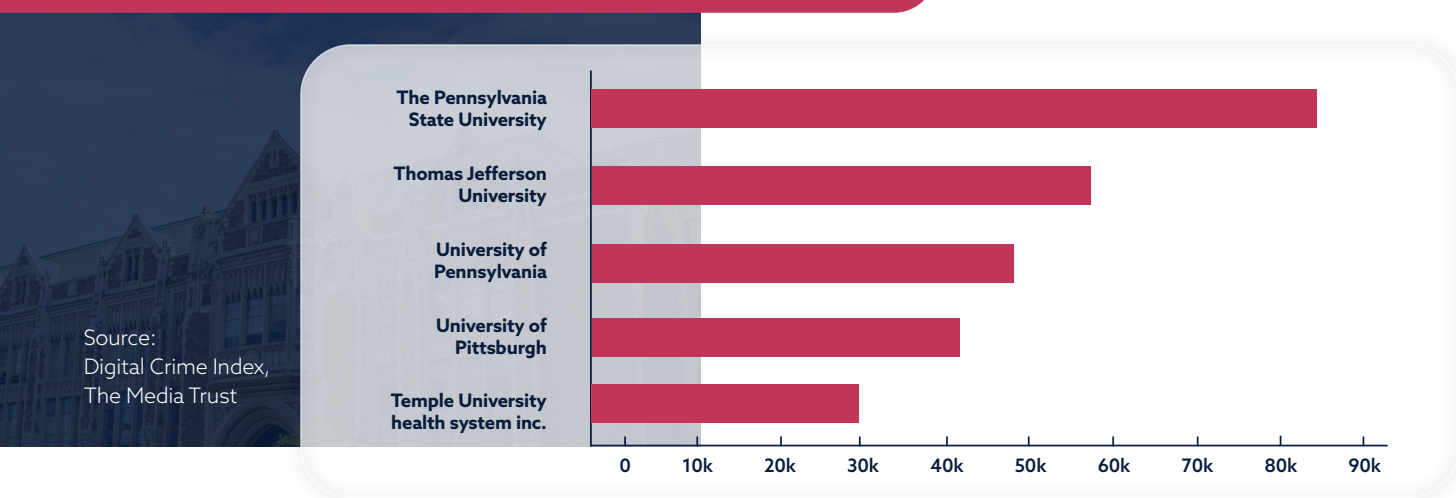
HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities have become the primary battleground in Pennsylvania's cybercrime landscape. With more than 656,000 attacks logged in the first six months of 2025 alone, we see students and academic services being targeted twice as often as state or federal government employees and systems.

The Pennsylvania State University leads with nearly 83,000 attacks, followed by Thomas Jefferson University (56,930), University of Pennsylvania (48,962), and University of Pittsburgh (42,751). This reflects a nationwide trend: universities are both data-rich (housing sensitive research, health records, and personal student data) and resource-constrained, leaving openings for cybercriminals.

Crucially, the students themselves, our future leaders, are becoming targets, with attackers seeking to compromise academic accounts, personal financial data, and professional credentials.

Top 5 Universities Attacked in 2025

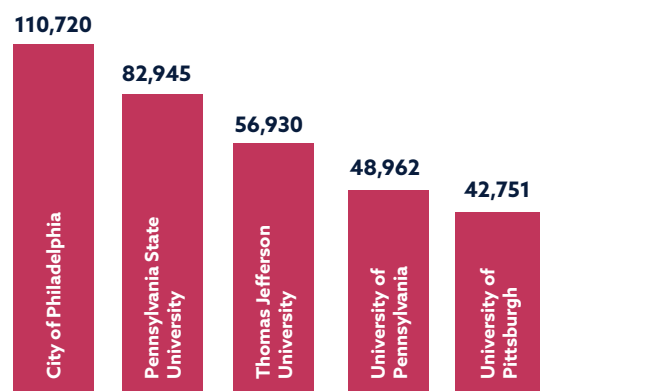


COMPARATIVE BREAKDOWN

By attack volume, colleges and universities dominate Pennsylvania's digital threat landscape, followed by local governments and K-12 schools. State and federal government buildings, while still targeted, saw far fewer attempts.

Source: Digital Crime Index, The Media Trust

Top 5 Most-Attacked Organizations in Pennsylvania (all sectors)





CHRIS OLSON
CEO

EXPERT PERSPECTIVE

"Phishing and backdoor attacks remain the most common entry points for criminals, and Pennsylvania's schools, universities, and local governments are being hit hardest.

Proxyware's Pennsylvania Digital Crime Index leads the nation in real-time analysis of online threats, turning raw attack data into actionable intelligence that reduces harm to citizens across the Commonwealth. "



THREAT LENS SUMMARY

Cybercriminals are escalating attacks across Pennsylvania, with the education and local government sectors absorbing the highest concentration of risk. With AI-driven scams growing more sophisticated, community-level defense is no longer optional—it is essential.

Proxyware's expanded infrastructure in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Maris Grove, Glen Mills and Macungie ensures real-time detection and protection for seniors, children, small businesses, and government employees across the state.



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