

Liars Index® Climbs to Highest Percent in Five Years

Climbing up to 16.07% for the first half of 2006, The Liars Index® reached its highest mark since 2001. Three years ago the Index bottomed out at 6.06%. The two-year running average is up to 12.57%.

The issue of resume fraud, particularly misrepresentation of education, is receiving increasing attention. ABC News reported earlier this year that the State of Washington was set to approve a \$1,000 fine for people claiming fake degrees on their resumes.

In June, AP-Ipsos surveyed 1000 people regarding many aspects of lying, reporting that it is “never okay” to lie on a resume according to the view of 88%

of people surveyed, a rate only exceeded by “lying about an affair (90%)” and “cheating on ones taxes (93%)”.

With such strong numbers against the idea of lying about career credentials, we wonder why people continue to misrepresent their education. It seems clear, that despite this data, the “Talent Wars” plus the demand for candidates are so strong that employers are tempted to short cut their screening processes.

It is important to verify education always, but clearly, when one in six resumes have misrepresented academic credentials, employers need to check claims, even more so today.

Here’s our latest data:

Data Point	2nd Half 2002	1st Half 2003	2nd Half 2003	1st Half 2004	2nd Half 2004	1st Half 2005	2nd Half 2005	1st Half 2006
Semi-annual Percentage	11.19%	10.59%	6.06%	9.82%	11.88%	10.73%	11.61%	16.07%
Prior Two Year Average	13.71%	11.25%	9.76%	9.41%	9.59%	9.62%	11.01%	12.57%

Can you share some of your own experiences with resume fraud? Let us hear from you about your encounters with candidates who gild the lily, inflate their accomplishments or misrepresent their credentials (especially education).