

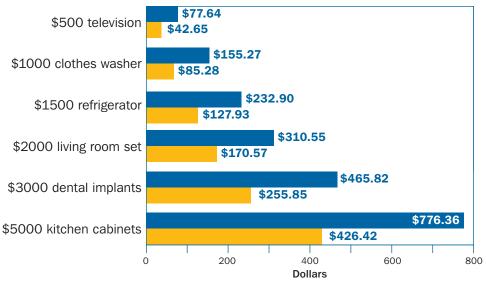
# DECEPTIVE BARGAIN

# THE HIDDEN TIME BOMB OF **DEFERRED INTEREST CREDIT CARDS**

© Copyright 2015, National Consumer Law Center, Inc.

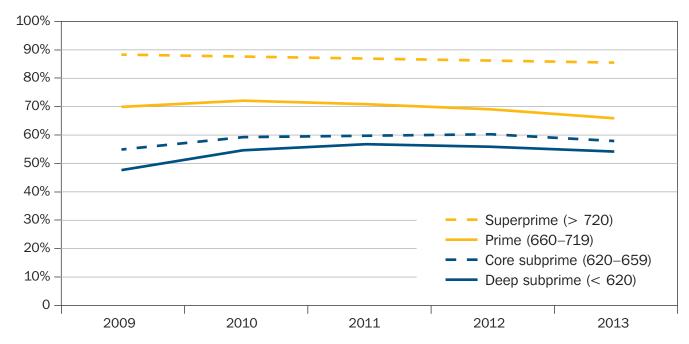
### CHARTS AND GRAPHICS

CHART 1 **Comparison of Interest Paid for One-Year Deferred Interest** Promotion at 24% APR versus General Credit Card at 14% APR



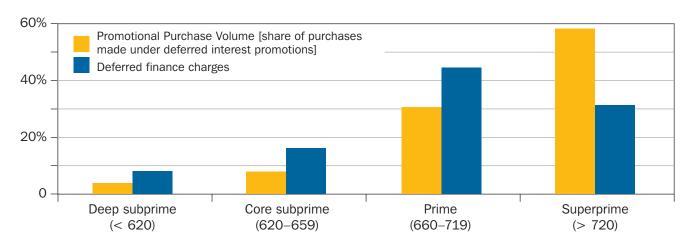
Assumes a monthly payment of 8% (or 96% of the total) of the original purchase.

CHART 2 **Promotion Payoff Rates by Consumer Credit Score** for Deferred Interest Loans with **Promotional Periods from Six to 17 Months** 



Source: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Consumer Credit Card Market Report, Dec. 2015, p. 167 (Figure 8)

CHART 3 **Share of Promotional Spending and Deferred Interest Charges** by Consumer Credit Score, 2009–2013



Source: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Consumer Credit Card Market Report, Dec. 2015, p. 197 (Figure 30)

#### **GRAPHIC 1**

#### **Payment Allocation Example for Deferred Interest Promotion**

This graphic illustrates how a \$100 payment above the minimum would be credited during a twelvemonth deferred interest promotion for two purchases, only one of which (television) is subject to deferred interest. Many consumers will not be aware that the \$100 is applied solely to the non-promotional purchase (headphones) and will not help them reduce the deferred interest television balance.

#### Months 1 to 10 Months 11 and 12 \$100 payment above minimum \$100 payment above minimum applied to applied to \$1000 TV \$500 headphones \$1000 TV \$500 headphones at 24% APR at 24% APR with deferred with deferred interest promotion interest promotion

## **GRAPHIC 2 Sample Payment Form**

\$25 Minimum payment: Additional payment towards deferred interest balance: Additional payment towards 24% interest balance: Total payment:

Important Note: You can minimize your interest charges by designating payments above the minimum to your 24% interest balance. However, if you do so, you must be sure to pay off your entire deferred interest balance by January 1, 2017 if you wish to avoid back interest. If you do not pay off your **entire** deferred interest balance by that date, you will be assessed \$457 interest on your January 2017 statement.