

Resumes as fish stories

A new study by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) shows why you need to conduct thorough, effective (and legal) background checks on job candidates.

A *majority* of applicants stretch the truth on resumes, the study showed. More than half, 55%, lied about the length of past employment. Other common fish stories included:

- ◆ past salaries, 52%
- ◆ criminal records, 45%
- ◆ former job titles, 44%
- ◆ former employers, 34%
- ◆ driving records, 33%
- ◆ degrees, 28%
- ◆ credit, 24%, and
- ◆ schools attended, 22%.

Some 15% percent even falsify their social security numbers.

Source: SHRM, 703-S48-3440

From: *What's Working in Human Resources*, June 30, 1999