



Largest Healthcare
Data Breaches
of 2016





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Largest Healthcare Data Breaches of 2016
 2. 2016 Healthcare Data Breaches of 500 or More Records
 3. Largest Healthcare Data Breaches of 2016
 4. Largest Healthcare Data Breaches of 2016
 5. Main Causes of Healthcare Data Breaches in 2016
 6. 2016 Healthcare Data Breaches by Covered Entity
- 

Introduction

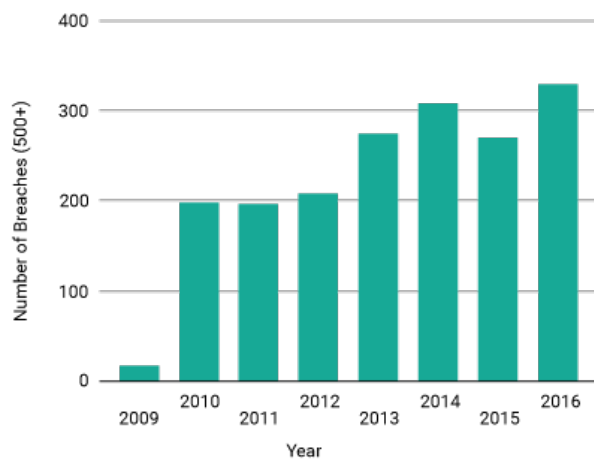
2016 was a particularly bad year for healthcare data breaches. The largest healthcare data breaches of 2016 were nowhere near the scale of those seen in 2015 – 16,471,765 records were exposed compared to 113,267,174 records in 2015 – but more covered entities reported breaches than in any other year since OCR started publishing breach summaries on its ‘Wall of Shame’ in 2009. 2016 ranks as the second worst year in terms of the number of patient and health plan members’ records that have been exposed in a single year.

As of February 6, 2017 there have been 329 reported breaches of more than 500 records that have been uploaded to the OCR breach portal.

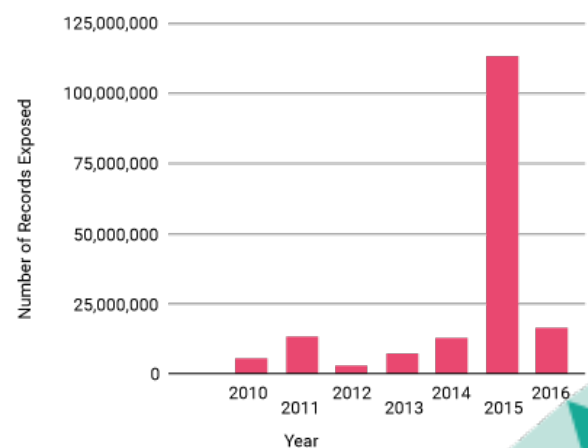
2016 Healthcare Data Breaches of 500 or More Records

Year	Number of Breaches (500+)	Number of Records Exposed
2016	329	16,471,765
2015	270	113,267,174
2014	307	12,737,973
2013	274	6,950,118
2012	209	2,808,042
2011	196	13,150,298
2010	198	5,534,276
2009	18	134,773
Total	1801	171,054,419

Number of Breaches



Number of Records Exposed



Largest Healthcare Data Breaches of 2016

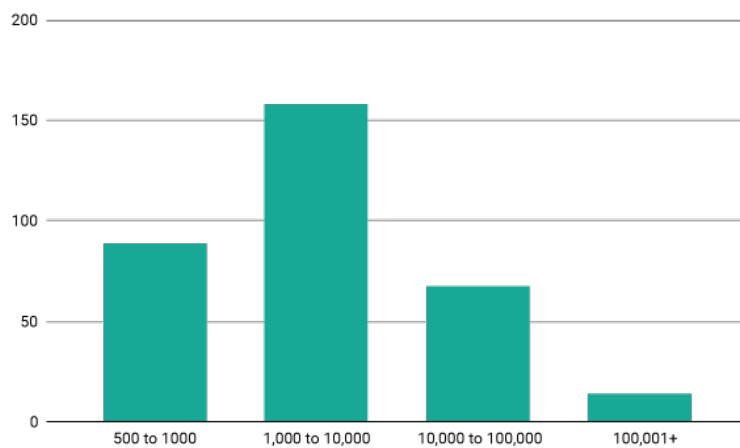
While the above figures appear to suggest a significant reduction in large healthcare data breaches year on year, the figures are somewhat misleading.

In 2015 there were three massive data breaches reported by covered entities: Anthem Inc., Premera Blue Cross, and Excellus Health Plan. Those three cyberattacks resulted in the theft of 78.8 million records, 11 million, and 10 million records respectively.

More records may have been exposed in 2015 as a result of those major cyberattacks, although in each size category, 2016 ranked worse than 2015. Many healthcare organizations will be happy to put 2016 behind them.

Breaches of More Than 500 Records

Year	Breaches of More Than 500 Records			
	500 to 1000	1,000 to 10,000	10,000 to 100,000	100,001+
2016	89	158	67	14
2015	76	142	37	12



No total submitted for one healthcare databreach in 2016

Aside from one major breach at a business associate and a health plan, all of the largest healthcare data breaches of 2016 – those that resulted in the exposure or theft of more than 100,000 healthcare records – affected healthcare providers. The largest healthcare databreach of 2016 experienced by a health plan was the 381,504-record breach reported by Community Health Plan of Washington in December.

Largest Healthcare Data Breaches of 2016

Rank	Covered Entity	Entity Type	Cause of Breach	Records
1	Banner Health	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	3,620,000
2	Newkirk Products, Inc.	Business Associate	Hacking/IT Incident	3,466,120
3	21st Century Oncology	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	2,213,597
4	Valley Anesthesiology Consultants	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	882,590
5	County of Los Angeles Departments of Health and Mental Health	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	749,017
6	Bon Secours Health System Incorporated	Healthcare Provider	Unauthorized Access/Disclosure	651,971
7	Peachtree Orthopaedic Clinic	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	531,000
8	Radiology Regional Center, PA	Healthcare Provider	Loss	483,063
9	California Correctional Health Care Services	Healthcare Provider	Theft	400,000
10	Community Health Plan of Washington	Health Plan	Hacking/IT Incident	381,504
11	Central Ohio Urology Group, Inc.	Healthcare Provider	Hacking/IT Incident	300,000
12	Premier Healthcare,	Healthcare Provider	Theft	205,748
13	Athens Orthopedic Clinic, P.A.	Healthcare Provider	Unauthorized Access/Disclosure	201,000
14	Community Mercy Health Part-	Healthcare Provider	Improper Disposal	113,528

Main Causes of Healthcare Data Breaches in 2016

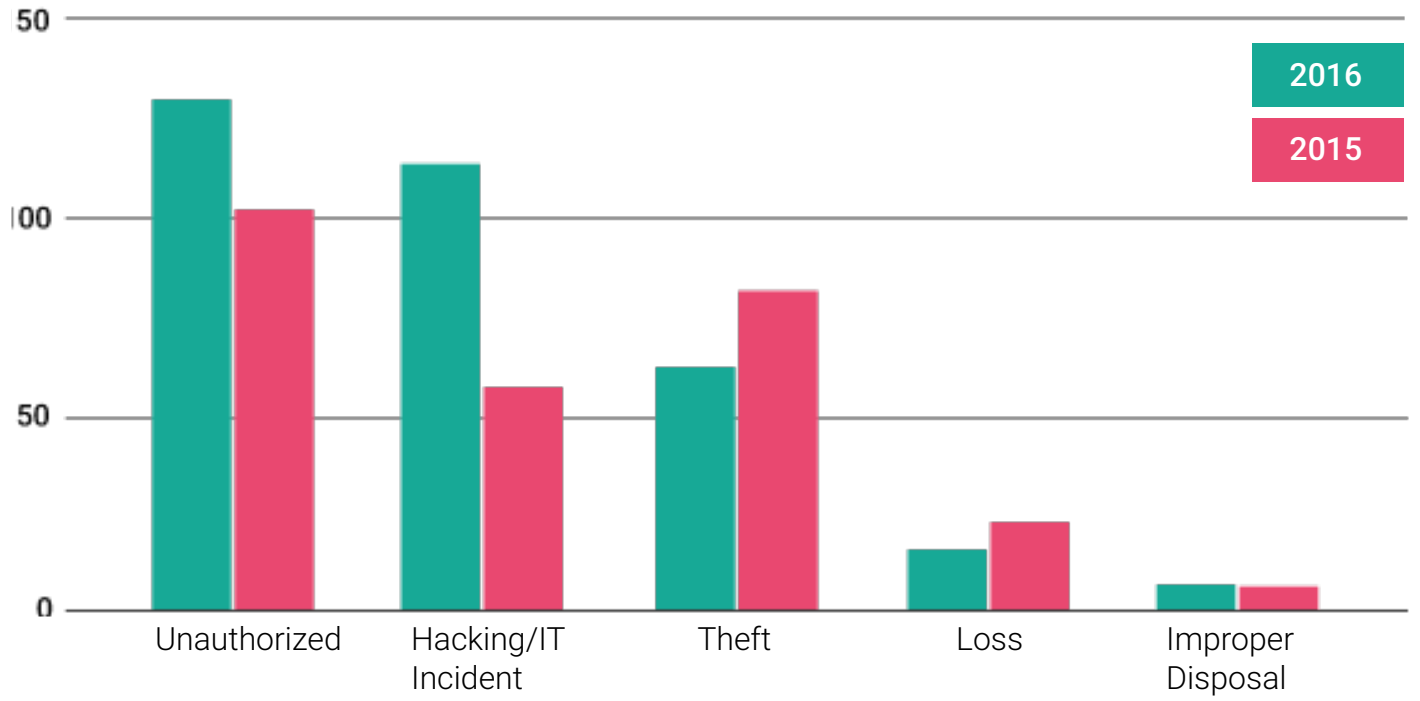
Insider breaches continue to plague the healthcare industry in the United States. Insiders may not have caused the largest healthcare data breaches of 2016, although these breaches can cause the most harm to patients. The data stolen in these incidents is commonly used for identity theft and fraud, and usually relatively soon after data have been stolen. Hackers often wait for a year or two before data are used.

As in 2015, the main cause of healthcare data breaches in 2016 was unauthorized access/disclosure. Hacking incidents on the scale of those at Anthem, Premera, and Excellus were not repeated in 2016, but 2016 saw a major increase in healthcare hacks.

The loss and theft of unencrypted devices used to store PHI fell considerably year on year, although the use of data encryption technology could have prevented all of those data breaches and the exposure of almost 1,500,000 healthcare records.

Main Cause of Breach	2016	2015
Unauthorized Access/Disclosure	130	102
Hacking/IT Incident	113	57
Theft	62	81
Loss	16	23
Improper Disposal	7	6

Main Cause of Breach



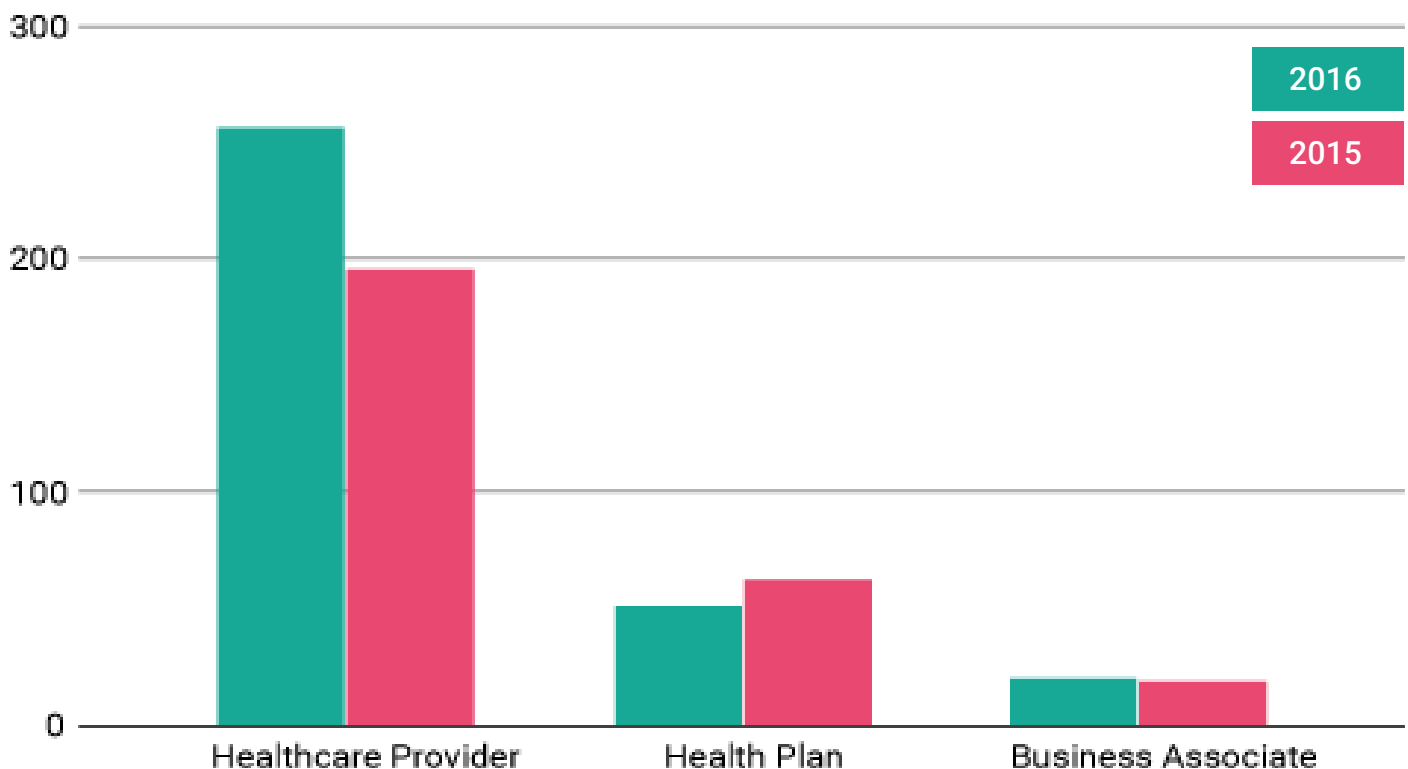
One cause of breach in 2016 was not reported

2016 Healthcare Data Breaches by Covered Entity

Healthcare data breaches in 2016 followed a similar pattern to 2015, with healthcare providers the main entities breached, although the percentage of breaches affecting health plans was significantly lower in 2015. Data breaches at business associates remained at the same level year on year.

Breached Entity	2016	2015
Healthcare Provider	257	196
Health Plan	52	62
Business Associate	20	19

Breached Entity



Data Source: Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights: Figures Updated February 7, 2017