



Dental Data Breaches Reported to HHS: Practices, Dental Groups and Insurers

Original analysis of 276 records from the HHS Office for Civil Rights, Oct 2009–Sep 2026 (submission dates).

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Dental practices, dental management groups and dental insurers filed 276 breach reports with the HHS Office for Civil Rights from 2010 through September 2026, listing 45.7 million affected individuals. Dental insurers and benefit administrators filed 20 of those reports but account for 74% of the individuals. The count covers breaches affecting 500 or more people at organizations whose names identify them as dental.

276

Dental breach reports to HHS, 2010–Sep 2026

45.7M

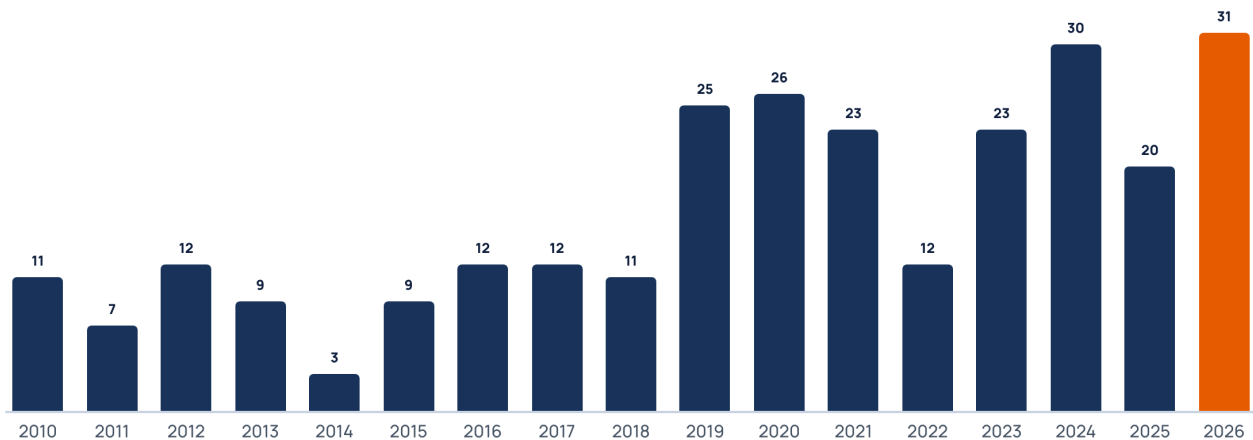
Individuals affected (sum of reports)

74%

Share of individuals in insurer reports



Dental breach reports to HHS by submission year



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the HHS Office for Civil Rights

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What the HHS breach reports show

- 1. Insurers: few reports, most of the people.** Dental insurers and benefit administrators filed 20 reports (7.2% of the total) covering 33.9 million individuals, 74.2% of everyone listed. Dental practices and practice-management groups filed 253 reports covering 11.8 million.

2. **Three reports make up two-thirds.** The DentaQuest report of 2026 (15.0 million), Managed Care of North America (MCNA Dental, 2023, 8.6 million) and Delta Dental of California (2023, 7.1 million) together account for 67.2% of all individuals in dental reports.
3. **Eight reports of a million or more.** Of all dental reports, 8 listed one million or more individuals each: 4 from insurers and benefit administrators and 4 from dental management groups. Together they account for 90.0% of the total.
4. **Hacking drives the numbers.** Hacking/IT incidents make up 64.1% of dental reports and 98.9% of the individuals affected.
5. **More reports, steady share.** Dental organizations filed 114 reports in 2020–2024, against 42 in 2010–2014. Their share of all HHS breach reports did not rise: 3.5% in 2010–2014 and 3.2% in 2020–2024.

How we measured

Data come from the HHS Office for Civil Rights breach portal, which lists breaches of unsecured protected health information affecting 500 or more individuals that HIPAA covered entities report under Section 13402 of the HITECH Act. We used both the current list (under investigation) and the archive, as imported on 2026-10-14, limited to reports submitted through that date; the latest dental report was submitted on 2026-09-10. To check the extraction, we counted all reports submitted in 2023: 745, against the 746 HHS reported to Congress (0.13% difference).

HHS does not record a medical specialty, so a report counts as dental when the reporting organization's name (covered_entity) contains, case-insensitively, one of these strings: dental, dentist (including dentistry), orthodont, endodont, periodont, DDS, D.D.S, DMD, D.M.D, oral surg, maxillofacial (anywhere in the name, so "Oral, Maxillofacial & Implant Surgery" counts), oral & facial, oral facial, oral health (only as a separate word, so "Behavioral Health" does not count), smile, braces, teeth, or DentaQuest. The two oral & facial surgery centers in Arkansas and at Harborview and the Northern Virginia oral, maxillofacial and implant surgery practice are therefore included. We added Managed Care of North America, which runs dental Medicaid and CHIP benefits as MCNA Dental. We removed 5 reports whose names mention dental care only next to general medical services: the JHU/APL medical and dental plan, the Asarco health, dental and vision plans, North Hill Needham's employee dental plan, and the Lakewood and Olde Towne community clinics for medicine and dentistry. Every match was reviewed by hand.

Counts are reports as HHS lists them. In 2 cases the same incident was filed twice: Delta Dental of Illinois, where OCR's description says so, and Superior Dental Care, whose business associate filed on the same date with the same count; these count as reports but their individuals are counted once (the second filings are the Delta Dental of Illinois business-associate report and the Superior Dental Care Alliance report). Every other report, including Delta Dental of Illinois's separate 2019 report and same-day filings with different counts, is counted in full. Affected individuals are the sum of the counts HHS lists for each report. Insurers and benefit administrators are Delta Dental companies, DentaQuest, MCNA Dental, Dominion Dental, Dental Health Services, Superior Dental Care, Dental Select and an employer dental plan; Patterson Dental and the clearinghouse DentalXChange are grouped as suppliers; all other reports, including dental service organizations filing as business associates, are practices and practice-management groups. Breach types follow the HHS breach_type field; a report counts as hacking when that category appears in the field.

Checked against published figures

- All breach reports affecting 500+ individuals submitted to the HHS OCR breach portal in calendar year 2023: published 746, our count 745 (0.13% apart). [HHS OCR, Annual Report to Congress on Breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information for Calendar Year 2023](#)

Limitations

- The name filter misses dental organizations whose names carry none of the terms, and it cannot see dental benefits run inside general insurers or dental clinics inside hospitals and health systems. The totals are therefore a lower bound.
- The sum of affected individuals counts notifications, not unique people: one person can appear in several reports. HHS figures are the organization's own estimate at the time of reporting and are sometimes revised later; the DentaQuest figure is a round number as listed on the portal.
- HHS posts and updates reports after review, so reports submitted in recent months, including all of 2026, may still be added or changed. The partial year 2026 is shown separately and not compared with full years.
- Breaches affecting fewer than 500 individuals are reported to HHS once a year and are not published, so many small dental office incidents are not in these data. A report on the portal is not a finding that HIPAA was violated.

Data files

- [Dental breach reports by segment](#) (CSV, 3 rows)
- [Dental breach reports by segment and breach type](#) (CSV, 13 rows)
- [Dental breach reports to HHS by state](#) (CSV, 41 rows)
- [Dental breach reports to HHS by year of submission](#) (CSV, 17 rows)
- [The 25 largest dental breach reports to HHS](#) (CSV, 25 rows)

How to cite

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