

# Health Care Fraud Prosecutions Hit Record Highs

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Federal [health care fraud prosecutions](#) in the first eight months of 2011 are on pace to rise 85% over last year, according to new government statistics. The sharp increase is largely attributable to ramped-up enforcement efforts under the Obama administration.

The new figures, released by the non-partisan Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, indicate there have been 903 prosecutions so far this year. That's a 24% increase over the total for all of fiscal year 2010, when 731 people were prosecuted for health fraud. Looking back five years, prosecutions have gone up an astounding 71%, according to TRAC.

Federal agencies tasked with investigating health care fraud told [USA Today](#) that their own data reveal an uptick in prosecutions. They also agree that the trend reflects increased efforts on their part, including several large-scale takedowns.

“The trend certainly looks accurate and on track with our data,” said Department of Justice (DOJ) spokeswoman Alisa Finelli, though she said she could not verify the exact numbers. She cited the record Medicare Fraud Task Force takedown this past February, which netted 111 individuals, as a contributing factor.

As we mentioned in a previous [blog post](#), task force convictions have also risen. According to the DOJ's criminal division Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force secured 23 trial convictions for Medicare fraud in 2010. In the first eight months of this year, they have already had 24.

“That's just a stunning number when you see it in the first eight months,” Breuer said of the task force. “We're just going to build on this model, and we're going to hold those responsible who are stealing from the government.”

## *How We Can Help*

Healthcare fraud charges are very serious and can result in lengthy prison sentences. Therefore, if you are being investigated or have been arrested for Medicare fraud or any other type of health care fraud, it is essential that you retain an experienced Arizona white-collar criminal defense attorney as soon as possible.



## About Ashley D. Adams, PLC

*At Ashley D. Adams, PLC, we have a well-established track record of success that can make a difference, whether in defending charges of white-collar crime, health care fraud, financial fraud, general fraud charges, other criminal or civil matters, or representing our clients during a government investigation.*

*We practice excellence, one client at a time. That means each of our clients is given personal attention and aggressive representation. Contact us today at **info@azwhitecollarcrime.com** or **1-480-646-4956** to schedule a free 30-minute consultation with one of our attorneys.*