

# Which Providers Are at Greatest Risk for Healthcare Fraud Investigations?

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When it comes to [healthcare fraud](#), the risk for civil and criminal legal action is not the same for different Arizona [healthcare providers](#). Hospitals and medical facilities are more likely to face civil liability, while durable medical equipment suppliers and medical facilities are more likely to be charged criminally, according to a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General.

The [OIG report](#) examined the characteristics of the 10,187 individuals and companies investigated for healthcare fraud in 2010. In total, 7,848 were subjects of criminal fraud cases and 2,339 were subjects of civil fraud cases. The analysis revealed:

- Medical facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers accounted for about 40 percent of subjects of criminal cases.
- Of the 7,848 subjects associated with criminal cases, about 1,100 were charged, and 85 percent of those charged were found guilty or pled guilty or no contest.
- In 2010, about 35 percent more subjects were investigated in civil fraud cases than in 2005.
- Nearly half of the subjects of 2010 cases were pursued. Among the subjects whose cases were pursued, 55 percent resulted in judgments or settlements.
- Of the nearly 2,200 individuals and entities excluded from Medicare/Medicaid participation for health care fraud, about 60 percent were in the [nursing](#) profession. Pharmacies or individuals affiliated with pharmacies were the next- largest provider type excluded, representing about seven percent of those excluded.

While fraud investigations are certainly on the rise, a large majority of criminal investigations do not ultimately result in prosecutions, the report shows. Retaining a skilled and experienced healthcare fraud defense attorney who advocates on your behalf early in the investigation can be the key to a positive outcome.

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*About Ashley D. Adams, PLC*

*At Ashley D. Adams, PLC, we have a well-established track record of success in false claim cases that can make a difference. For both organization defending against false claims charges and individuals pursuing qui tam claims, Ashley's background with the complex law is a substantial advantage.*

*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](mailto:info@azwhitecollarcrime.com) or 1-480-646-4956 to schedule a free 30-minute consultation with one of our attorneys.*