

***** STATEMENT *****

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31.6 Million Patients Affected by Data Breaches So Far in 2019—Double Entire Year in 2018—Why?

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom: EHR Mandate Has Put Patients and Their Data in Harm's Way

ST. PAUL, Minn.—According to an eye-opening [new report](#), “breaches of patient privacy appear to be on the rise in the first half of 2019 with an alarming number of records affected by security incidents: 31.6 million.”

That’s more than double what the health care industry experienced throughout the entire year of 2018, when 14.2 million patient records were affected by breaches, found Protenus and DataBreaches.net.

Citizens' Council for Health Freedom (CCHF, www.cchfreedom.org) says government-mandated EHRs are the culprit.

“The electronic health record (EHR) mandate has put patients and their data in harm’s way,” said CCHF president and co-founder Twila Brase. “The high cost of these computerized systems has further compromised security by limiting the funds available for the technicians and cybersecurity resources necessary to keep these systems as secure as possible. Countless outsiders have now accessed the personal, medical and financial information of millions of Americans. No one knows how that information will be used, and even worse, no one seems to know how to stop the breaches, but there is something that can be done. EHRs were not created for patient care, they were made for billing and reporting. And as a result, EHRs are a safety hazard and as data breaches show, a security hazard. It’s time for Congress to repeal the EHR mandate.”

Thus far in 2019, [FierceHealthcare](#) reported, 285 breach incidents have been disclosed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the media (January to June 2019). Details were disclosed for 240 of these incidents, affecting nearly 32 million patient records, Protenus found. Protenus first reported in 2016 that at least one health data breach occurs each day—and that trend continues.

Brase writes extensively about how the HIPAA “privacy” rule and today’s electronic health records do not protect privacy in her award-winning book, ***“Big Brother in the Exam Room: The Dangerous Truth About Electronic Health Records.”*** For more information, visit BigBrotherintheExamRoom.com.

Learn more about *CCHF* at www.cchfreedom.org, its [Facebook](#) page or its Twitter feed @CCHFFreedom. Also view the [media page for CCHF](#) here. For more about *CCHF’s* initiative *The Wedge of Health Freedom*, visit www.JointheWedge.com, *The Wedge Facebook* page or follow *The Wedge* on Twitter @wedgeoffreedom.

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