BLACK KITE

HEALTHCARE UNDER SIEGE

The Ransomware Epidemic

Healthcare has become a top ransomware target, rising from the 7th to the 3rd most targeted industry in a year. Behind the rise lies a perfect storm of vulnerabilities, evolving attacker tactics, and the high stakes of patient care.

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Welcome
BLACK KITE

Healthcare Under Ransomware Attack

Why Healthcare Is Now the 3rd Most Targeted Industry in the Ransomware Cybercrime Ecosystem

EXEC SUMMARY:

Rising Ransomware in Healthcare and the Urgency for Proactive Defense

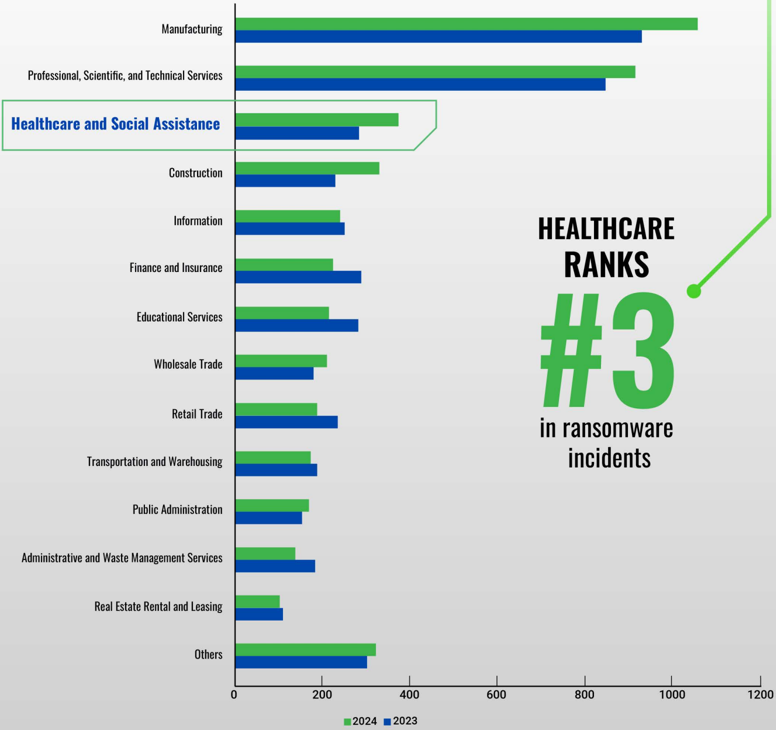
Healthcare is now the third most targeted industry in the ransomware landscape, with incidents surging from 5% of ransomware victims announced in

Our latest report, ***Healthcare Under Ransomware Attack***, sheds light on the reasons behind this surge in attacks — and how you can protect your organization.

Cybercriminals Take Aim at Healthcare

Healthcare now accounts for 8% of all ransomware attacks, a sharp rise from 5% in 2023, while overall attacks on healthcare organizations surged by 32.16%. The trend is clear: cybercriminals are zeroing in on this sector. From major hospitals to small clinics, no organization is immune.

# of Victims per Industry in 2023 and 2024



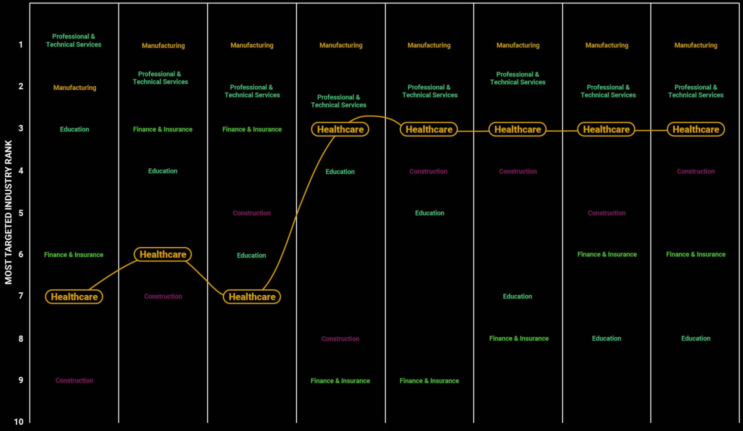
HEALTHCARE RANKS

#3

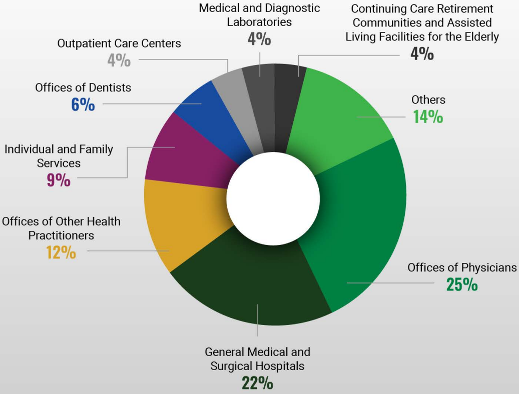
in ransomware incidents

Healthcare is steadily rising as a top ransomware target

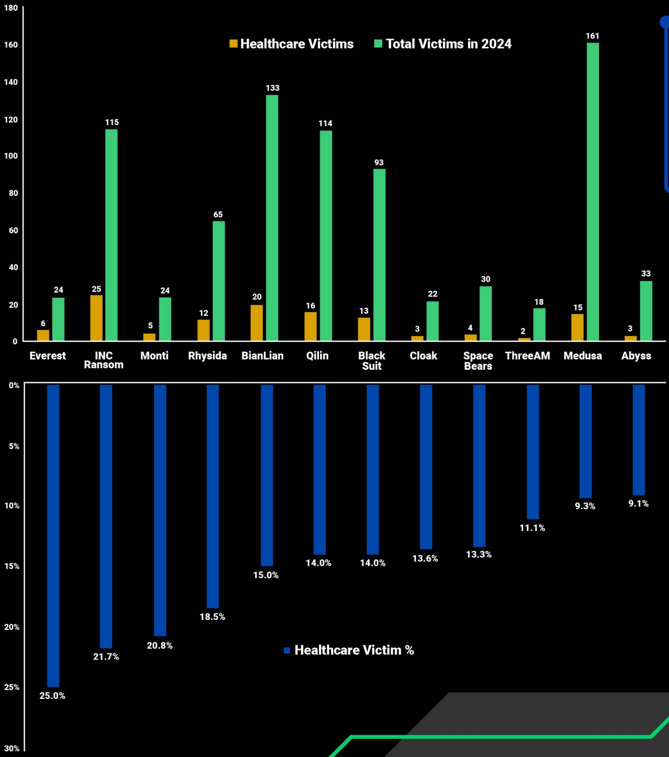
Q1 2023 Q2 2023 Q3 2023 Q4 2023 Q1 2024 Q2 2024 Q3 2024 Q4 2024



Ransomware groups are attacking a broad range of healthcare targets



Certain ransomware groups disproportionately target healthcare

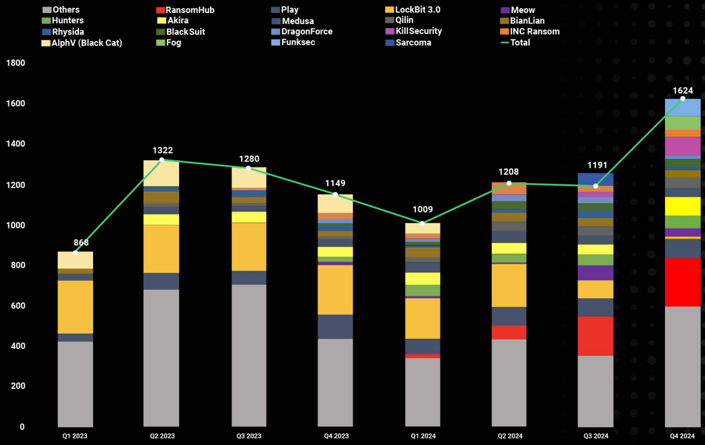


Power shifts fuel aggressive attacks

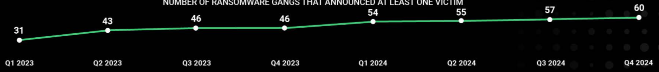
A fractured ransomware ecosystem and empowered affiliates are fueling the surge in healthcare attacks. The Change Healthcare breach and law enforcement takedowns of prominent groups have led to aggressive new players targeting the sector without restraint.

Aggressive new ransomware groups emerge

NUMBER OF RANSOMWARE VICTIMS ANNOUNCED

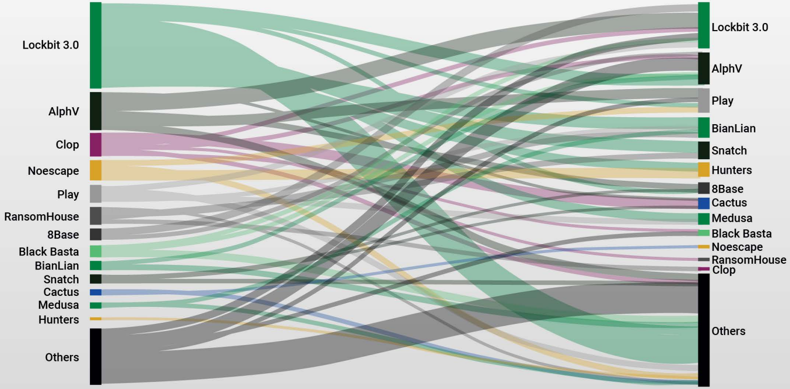


NUMBER OF RANSOMWARE GANGS THAT ANNOUNCED AT LEAST ONE VICTIM



The dismantling of LockBit and AlphV (BlackCat) disrupted the ransomware landscape, opening the door for new groups to emerge. RansomHub, for example, attracted disillusioned affiliates by offering **a 90% payout and allowing them to handle transactions directly.**

Affiliate transitions between ransomware groups



This graph illustrates the fluid network where affiliates freely transition between groups, taking their skills where they find the best opportunity.

High stakes, big rewards

Sensitive patient data and high-stakes operations make healthcare a lucrative target. Smaller practices, often with weaker defenses, are especially vulnerable. Attackers bank on the urgency to restore services, **with some ransom demands reaching a staggering $20M.**

Patient data + Urgent operations = Big payouts

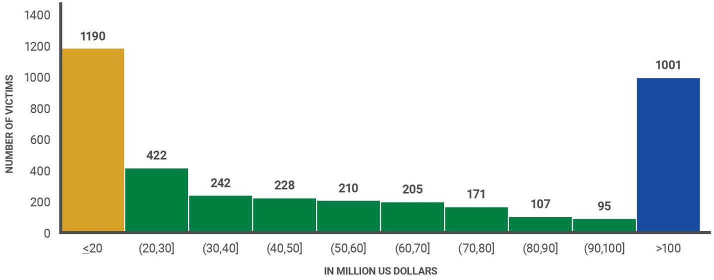
While there may be some randomness to ransomware attacks, for the most part the bigger attacks are targeted.

Technical
Vulnerability identified;
Targets discovered

Industry Vertical
Reputation, Digital, Common vendor

Likely to Pay
Paid before, Easier to pay

Ransomware groups target large and small practices



The graph illustrates the annual revenue distribution of ransomware victims.

Patient safety at risk

Ransomware attacks in

Patient Care Disrupted

Attacks can delay surgeries and block access to medical records.

healthcare aren't just a financial problem — they're a matter of life and death.

The consequences of a single attack ripple through the entire ecosystem, jeopardizing care, safety, and trust.

Ethical Dilemmas

Practices face tough choices: pay the ransom or risk patient safety.

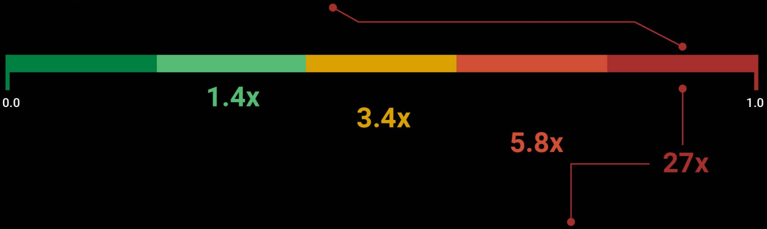
Supply Chain Effects

Attacks spill over to vendors and suppliers, amplifying risks.

An early warning system is a strong defense

Black Kite's Ransomware Susceptibility Index® (RSI™) helps healthcare organizations stay ahead of threats, providing insights into the risk of a ransomware attack. With this early warning system, you can prioritize and remediate vulnerabilities before an attack occurs.

The companies with an RSI value in this range are



more likely to experience ransomware attacks than the companies with an RSI™ value below 0.2.

Explore the full report

Dive deeper into the trends, tactics, and impacts of ransomware in healthcare. Our interactive, web-based report offers insights to help you protect your organization.

READ THE REPORT

No downloads — just click and explore!