



Published on FierceHealthcare (<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com>)

Survey: Health execs are highest earning CEOs

By Dan Bowman

Created Nov 17 2010 - 12:45pm

A recent analysis of CEO compensation compiled and published by the *Wall Street Journal* found that out of every industry, healthcare executives rake in the most money annually, on average. The healthcare category in this study included, among others, executives for [highly scrutinized health insurance companies](#) [1], as well as [health system](#) [2] and [pharmaceutical](#) [3] CEOs, and [health IT company](#) [4] leaders.

Healthcare CEOs earned an average of \$10 million annually, according to the *Journal*, which pointed out that the next highest grossing CEOs--consumer goods execs--took home \$8.9 million on average. Both telecom and oil and gas executives earned \$8.6 million. A total of 456 U.S. companies with revenues of at least \$4 billion in the most recent fiscal year were examined.

While [Aetna's Ron Williams](#) [5] was actually the highest paid health insurance CEO in 2009, and [WellPoint's Angela Braly](#) [6] was the most criticized thanks to her company's [rate hikes](#) [7], the pay package of [UnitedHealth Group's Stephen Hemsley](#) [8] stood out overall, according to the *Journal*. Hemsley's nearly 200 percent increase in pay (he earned roughly \$8.9 million in 2009) was the biggest year-over-year percentage gain of any healthcare executive, the newspaper reported. He also earned around \$100 million in [realized long-term incentives](#) [9], the second biggest amount out of all healthcare executives analyzed, according to the *Journal*.

To learn more:

- read this *Wall Street Journal Health Blog* [post](#) [10]
- here's the *Journal's* [survey results](#) [11]

Related Content:

- [2009 Health Insurance CEO Compensation](#) [12]
- [CEO payouts at top healthcare systems](#) [13]
- [CEO Payouts at Public Health IT Companies](#) [14]
- [Top 10 Pharma CEO salaries of 2009](#) [15]

Source URL:

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/survey-health-exec-are-highest-earning-ceos/2010-11-17>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/special-reports/2009-health-insurance-ceo-compensation>
- [2] <http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/special-reports/ceo-payouts-top-healthcare-facilities>
- [3] <http://www.fiercepharma.com/special-reports/top-10-pharma-ceo-salaries-2009>
- [4] <http://www.fiercehealthit.com/special-reports/ceo-payouts-public-health-it-companies>

- [5] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/ron-williams-2009-insurance-ceo-compensation/2010-05-11>
- [6] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/angela-braly-2009-insurance-ceo-compensation/2010-05-11>
- [7] <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/spotlight-wellpoints-braly-calls-raised-premiums-prudent/2010-02-25>
- [8] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/stephen-hemsley-2009-insurance-ceo-compensation/2010-05-11>
- [9] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/unitedhealth-ceo-stephen-hemsley-took-home-102-million-2009/2010-07-06>
- [10] <http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2010/11/16/health-care-ceos-bring-home-the-bacon/>
- [11] <http://graphicsweb.wsj.com/php/CEOPAY10.html>
- [12] <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/special-reports/2009-health-insurance-ceo-compensation>
- [13] <http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/special-reports/ceo-payouts-top-healthcare-facilities>
- [14] <http://www.fiercehealthit.com/special-reports/ceo-payouts-public-health-it-companies>
- [15] <http://www.fiercepharma.com/special-reports/top-10-pharma-ceo-salaries-2009>