
Women Lead Top Digital Health Companies, Recruitment Lags



A recent report by Rock Health shows that in the field of digital healthcare, 95 percent of women and 58 percent of men regard gender diversity as a contributing factor to best performance in a company but the hiring process needs improvement for this to be reflected in real terms in the executive leadership mix.

Gender diversity in leadership roles has been shown to have a positive impact on company performance. The report found that, in 2015, the Fortune 500 list included 45 healthcare companies, 11 percent of which had a woman in the role of chief technology officer or chief information officer.

The report also found that, since 2014, there has been a six-percent drop in the number of companies that have executive teams consisting of at least 25 percent women. However, since 2013, there has been a 50 percent rise.

Top Performers

Of the top 10 healthcare companies on the 2015 Fortune 500 list, 70 percent have at least one quarter of their board made up of women leaders and nine out of ten have women in C-level positions not only in technology and information but also human resources, marketing, communications and legal.

The top 100 Hospitals of 2015 have a 36 percent presence of women in executive leadership roles. Out of these, 17 received the prestigious Everest Award for highest current performance and fastest long-term improvement over five years. Only eight of the top 100 hospitals had a woman CEO, but 50 percent of these received the Everest Award.

See also: [Creating an Effective Workforce](#)

"The diversity of the board plays an important role in improving the pipeline of talented and credible women who take on C-level roles. Sixty-three percent of the Fortune 500 healthcare companies have less than 25 percent of their board represented by women. This could be one of the underlying problems that is creating an inherent lag in the recruitment of women leaders in healthcare," research fellow Diljot Chhina said in the report

Healthcare Lagging

Year-on-year, 2015 showed a better situation for women in executive positions in digital health. Rock Health's latest funding report in the sector showed that while men continue to make up the majority of CEOs in funded digital health, women were at the helm of 29 companies funded in 2015 representing double the amount than in 2014.

In general though, the healthcare sector fares badly in comparison to the overall 5 percent of women in C-level roles in 2014 and 2015.

"Unfortunately, this trend is not paralleled in the healthcare industry, as not enough women on executive teams are filling C-level roles," Chhina said.

Rock Health is a venture fund that supports entrepreneurs working at the intersection of healthcare and technology.

Sources: [Rock Health](#), [HCI](#)

Image source: BIA

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