

Alaska eHealth Network

Status of EHR Use in Alaska

A Market Research Report

By



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B A C K G R O U N D & M E T H O D S

Craciun Research was hired by the Alaska eHealth Network to conduct a statewide follow-up survey of Alaska physicians and clinic managers:

- 2009 physician usage of Electronic Health Records (EHRs)
- 2010 updated changes from previous study in terms of acquiring EHR's

In April 2009, the survey was made available to 1401 physicians and 180 clinic managers using the Alaska State Medical Association medical license database and the Alaska Medical Group Management Association's membership.

Total number of completed surveys from 2009:

Physicians	378	85.9%
Clinic Managers	62	14.1%
TOTAL SAMPLE	440	100%

The margin of error is not as reliable on a "self-selected" sample such as this. However, if it was a true random selection, the margin of error would be about +/- 4.0%.

OWNERSHIP OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

58% of our study population own or share ownership of the practices represented in this report.

SIZE OF PRACTICE

The median number of physicians in our study per practice is four, and the mid-level practitioner is one. Forty one percent (41%) of the practices have no mid-level practitioners. The combined medical staff has a median of five individuals per practice. More of the doctors are in solo practice (26.8%) than any other category of size: 2-3 physicians, 4-6, 7-12, and 13-100.

TYPE OF PRACTICE

Thirty five percent of our respondents (35%) work in Family Practice and the next group represented is Pediatrics at 12%. Many physicians and clinic managers gave multiple answers, with 27% selecting "other" and specifying a different type of practice. In addition to the 10 categories provided, respondents specified 60 other types of practice.

UPDATE SAMPLING 2010

In January 2010, physicians who had not reported having an EHR in the earlier study were called and asked whether they had establish an EHR to their practice during the previous nine months. Please see the Executive Summary published February 2010 under separate cover.

2010 DETAILED RESEARCH METHODS

SURVEY INSTRUMENT, SAMPLE FRAME AND FIELDING

The survey instrument (questionnaire) was designed to determine whether any of certain clinics (those which, when surveyed nine months ago, did not have EHRs) have since acquired them. One-hundred and five such clinics were defined. Of that number ninety-four were reached and responded to the questions.

DATA ANALYSIS & REPORTING

Members of the Craciun Research team, employing SPSS¹, analyzed the sample. The primary procedures reported are frequencies and cross tabulations.

Included in the presentation of each response is a summary or example of any significant findings, followed by relevant tables. All percentages in the narrative are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.

Often, a few respondents fail to answer a question. Unless the percentage that failed to answer is significant, these people are not included in the totals upon which the percentages are based. Percentages in the tables occasionally do not add to exactly 100% because of rounding.

Cross tabulations describe data that may be related in some way. In many cross tabulations, categories are combined or omitted because the numbers are too small to be statistically significant. This manipulation may change the totals on which percentages are based, but does not affect the relationships between percentages.

Cross tabulations may be used to indicate differences (or lack of differences) between subgroups of people.

Notes to Readers

Survey questions are grouped together for reporting purposes when they are related. Also, the order in which the questions are presented in the findings is not the same as in the survey instrument. Refer to the Appendix for the actual question presentation sequence and skip control logic.

When a lack of difference is being shown, a footnote is appended to the table indicating that the differences are not “statistically significant.”²

¹ Trademark registered.

² Statistical significance is determined by using a chi-square test with a significance factor of less than .05. The chi square test is used by researchers to determine whether or not a result may be due to random variation, which is sensitive to sample size, large random variations may occur in small samples.

SURVEY RESULTS

Question: Has your clinic adopted an EHR/EMR system in the last nine months?

Question: Are you planning to adopt an EHR in the next six months?

In the past nine months, a quarter (26%) of the clinics which had previously had no EHR had acquired systems; another 19% is planning to do so.

TABLE A1.1: NEW ACQUISITIONS OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

-----+-----		
-----+-----		
In past 9 months Clinic has:		
Adopted an EHR.....	24 25.5%	
Is planning to.....	18 19.1%	
Neither.....	52 55.3%	
Total.....	94 100%	
-----+-----		

Question: Which EHR does your office use?

Question: Which EHR brand are you considering?

A wide variety of EHR brands has been acquired and is under consideration.

TABLE A2.1: EHR COMPANIES

Brand of the adopted EHR		
Cerner.....	3	12.5%
Centricity.....	2	8.3%
eMDs.....	2	8.3%
SRS.....	2	8.3%
Alert.....	1	4.2%
Allscripts.....	1	4.2%
eClinical Works.....	1	4.2%
Lantus.....	1	4.2%
Meditech.....	1	4.2%
MedSeries 4.....	1	4.2%
Nexgen.....	1	4.2%
Office Mate.....	1	4.2%
Practice Partner.....	1	4.2%
ProMed.....	1	4.2%
Stryker.....	1	4.2%
T-System.....	1	4.2%
Tier.....	1	4.2%
Unsure of type.....	2	8.3%
Total.....	24	100%
Brand of EHR under consideration:		
EPIC.....	4	21.1%
Allscripts.....	2	10.5%
eMDs.....	2	10.5%
Alert.....	1	5.3%
Amazing Charts.....	1	5.3%
Centricity.....	1	5.3%
Cerner.....	1	5.3%
Exscribe.....	1	5.3%
NexTec.....	1	5.3%
Undecided.....	5	26.3%
Total.....	19	100%

Question: How many doctors in your/the practice?

Question: How many mid-level practitioners?

The mean number of physicians per clinic, overall, is 4.1 and the median is 3, while the mean number of mid-level practitioners is 1.7 and the median 1. Forty-six percent of the practices have no mid-level practitioners.

TABLE A3.1: SIZE OF PRACTICE

Physicians:		
One.....	27	29.0%
Two.....	17	18.3%
Three.....	15	16.1%
Four.....	7	7.5%
Five.....	7	7.5%
Six.....	4	4.3%
Eight.....	6	6.5%
Nine.....	2	2.2%
Ten.....	2	2.2%
Twelve.....	3	3.2%
Twenty.....	2	2.2%
Twenty-five.....	1	1.1%
Total *.....	93	100%
Mid Level providers:		
None.....	43	45.7%
One.....	21	22.3%
Two.....	12	12.8%
Three.....	8	8.5%
Four.....	1	1.1%
Five.....	1	1.1%
Six.....	1	1.1%
Seven.....	1	1.1%
Eight.....	2	2.1%
Ten.....	1	1.1%
Eleven.....	1	1.1%
Fifteen.....	2	2.1%
Total.....	94	100%

* One respondent did not answer and has been omitted from the percentage base.

The combined medical staff has a mean of 5.8 and a median of 4.

TABLE A3.2: COMBINED SIZE OF PRACTICE

Total providers:		
One.....	20	21.5%
Two.....	17	18.3%
Three.....	5	5.4%
Four.....	15	16.1%
Five.....	6	6.5%
Six.....	6	6.5%
Seven.....	2	2.2%
Eight.....	4	4.3%
Nine.....	4	4.3%
Ten.....	1	1.1%
Twelve.....	4	4.3%
Fourteen.....	1	1.1%
Fifteen.....	1	1.1%
Sixteen.....	1	1.1%
Eighteen.....	1	1.1%
Nineteen.....	1	1.1%
Twenty-three.....	1	1.1%
Twenty-eight.....	1	1.1%
Thirty-five.....	2	2.2%
Total.....	93	100%
Providers:		
One.....	20	21.5%
Two thru four.....	37	39.8%
Three thru seven.....	14	15.1%
Eight or more.....	22	23.7%
Total.....	93	100%

One respondent did not answer and has been omitted from the percentage base.

Larger clinics are more likely to adopt EHR systems than are smaller ones currently in Alaska.

TABLE A3.3: ADOPTED EHR SYSTEMS BY CLINIC SIZE

	Providers:				Total
	One	Two thru four	Three thru seven	Eight or more	
In past 9 months Clinic has:					
Adopted an EHR.....	20.0%	13.5%	28.6%	45.5%	24.7%
Is planning to.....	5.0%	16.2%	42.9%	22.7%	19.4%
Neither.....	75.0%	70.3%	28.6%	31.8%	55.9%
Number.....	20	37	14	22	93

Column percentages

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Clinic Name [ENTER FROM DATABASE]

1. Hello, my name is _____ from Craciun Research calling on behalf of the Alaska Electronic Health Records Alliance, a non-profit Alaska organization. May I speak to the clinic manager?
2. Your clinic took a survey we conducted in March of 2009 regarding electronic health record usage and we are calling to update our information. We only have a couple questions.
3. Has your clinic adopted an electronic Health record or EHR/EMR in the past nine months?
 - 1, Yes
 - 2, No
4. What is the brand of the EHR?
 - 1, Alert
 - 2, Allscripts
 - 3, Centricity
 - 4, eClinical Works
 - 5, eMDs
 - 6, HAC
 - 7, ICANotes
 - 8, MediNotes
 - 9, Misys
 - 10, Practice Partner
 - 11, Soapware
 - 12, WebMD
 - 13, GEMMS
 - 14, Sage Intergy
 - 15, T-System
 - 16, Other
5. Other EHR/EMR
6. Are you planning to adopt an EHR in the next six months?
 - 1, Yes
 - 2, No
 - 3, Not Sure
7. What brand of EHR?
 - 1, Alert
 - 2, Allscripts
 - 3, Centricity
 - 4, eClinical Works
 - 5, eMDs
 - 6, HAC
 - 7, ICANotes
 - 8, MediNotes

- 9, Misys
- 10, Practice Partner
- 11, Soapware
- 12, WebMD
- 13, GEMMS
- 14, Sage Intergy
- 15, T-System
- 16, Other

- 8. Other EHR/EMR
- 9. How many providers are in your clinic?
 - 1, Physicians ____
 - 2, Mid Level ____
- 10. Thank you so much for your time.