

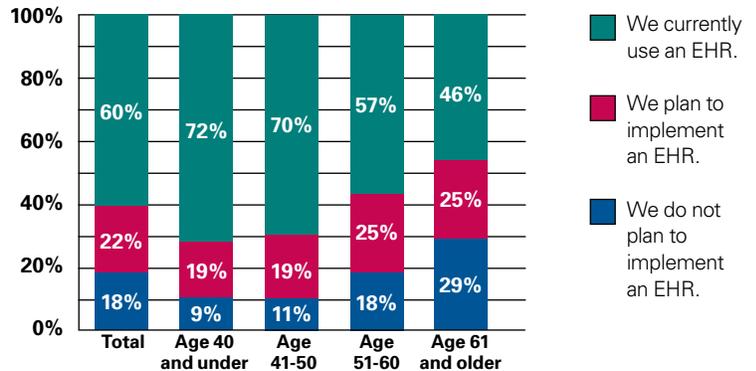
Background

Health information technology (HIT) such as electronic health records (EHRs), e-prescribing, and health information exchanges has the potential to improve quality of care, patient safety, and practice viability. TMA's goal is to help ensure HIT has a positive impact on physicians, patients, and practices. TMA has surveyed physicians on office technology use since 2005 and has noticed an upward trend since that time. Based on survey findings, TMA tailors services and resources to help physicians appropriately implement and utilize office technologies.

EHR Implementation Hits 60 Percent in Texas

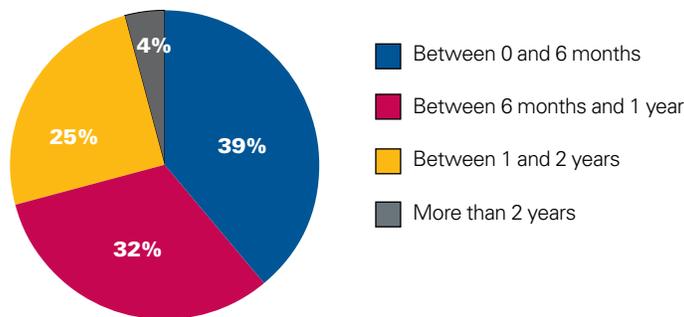
The percentage of respondents who currently use an EHR continues to rise (60 percent, up from 43 percent in 2009). Of the 18 percent of respondents with no plans to implement an EHR, 67 percent report prohibitive cost as the reason. Another reason physicians list for not planning to implement an EHR is having no decisionmaking authority in their practice. Not surprisingly, older physicians are more likely to report nearing retirement as a reason for not planning to implement an EHR.

EHR Status by Physician Age



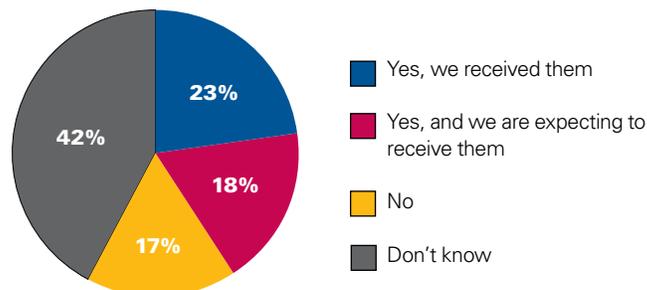
Plans to Implement an EHR

Among physicians who want to implement an EHR, the majority plan to do so in the next year (72 percent).



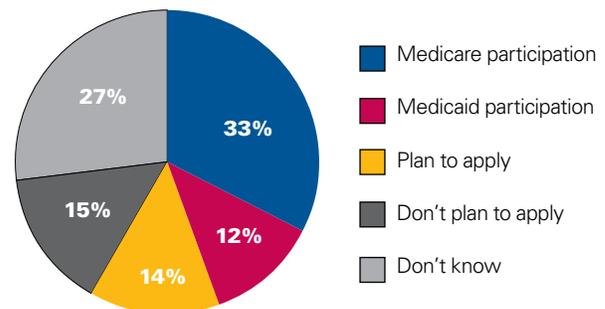
Qualified for EHR Incentive Payments

Forty-one percent of physicians report they qualified for stimulus incentives and either received them already or are expecting them. A large minority of physicians don't know if their practice qualified for the stimulus incentives (42 percent). This is most likely because these physicians are not involved in practice management decisions.



EHR Incentive Payments From Medicare or Medicaid

Physicians currently using an EHR were asked if their practice applied for Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) incentive payments. Some 33 percent applied for funds from Medicare (up to \$44,000), and 12 percent applied for incentives from Medicaid (up to \$63,750).



Summary

The current survey is a benchmark of physician needs and experiences with EHRs. This survey is a follow-up to surveys conducted in 2009, 2007, and 2005. In April 2012, TMA emailed a survey to 33,808 physicians and residents. By the end of the month, TMA had received responses from 1,733 physicians, for a rate of 5 percent. For a complete report, contact TMA at (800) 880-5720 or go to www.texmed.org/HIT.