

National Electronic Health Records Survey: 2015 Specialty and Overall Physicians Electronic Health Record Adoption Summary Tables

Statistics are presented on data collected in the 2015 National Electronic Health Records Survey (NEHRS). NEHRS, which is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics and sponsored by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, is a nationally representative mixed mode survey of office-based physicians that collects information on physician and practice characteristics, including the adoption and use of EHR systems. The NEHRS sampling design allows for both national and state-based estimates of EHR adoption. NEHRS is conducted annually as a sample survey of nonfederal office-based patient care physicians, excluding anesthesiologists, radiologists, and pathologists.

The 2015 estimates are based on a sample of 10,302 physicians, which is designed to produce national and state-based estimates of office-based physicians. The 2015 NEHRS data collection took place from August through December 2015; it used a sequential mixed-mode design to collect data through web, mail, and phone.

The overall unweighted response rate of the 2015 NEHRS questionnaire was 51.9% (49.2% weighted). A copy of the 2015 NEHRS questionnaire is available from the NCHS website at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/ahcd_questionnaires.htm.

This table provides overall physicians and specialty-based estimates of office-based physicians' adoption of electronic health record/electronic medical record (EHR/EMR) systems. A basic system is a system that has all of the following functionalities: patient history and demographics, patient problem lists, physician clinical notes, comprehensive lists of patients' medications and allergies, computerized orders for prescriptions, and the ability to view laboratory and imaging results electronically (Institute of Medicine. (2003). Key capabilities of an electronic health record system. Retrieved from <http://iom.nationalacademies.org/Reports/2003/Key-Capabilities-of-an-Electronic-Health-Record-System.aspx>). A certified system was defined by physicians answering "yes" to having a current system that "meets meaningful use criteria defined by the Department of Health and Human Services." Note that some certified EHR systems do not meet the definition of a basic EHR system (Heisey-Grove, D., Patel, V. (September 2015) Any, Certified, or Basic: Quantifying Physician EHR Adoption. ONC Data Brief, no. 28. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology: Washington DC.). For more information on certified systems and meaningful use criteria go to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Official Web site for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html?redirect=/ehrincentiveprograms>). The percentage for each specialty is compared to the percentage for all physicians – statistically significant differences are noted using statistical tests with 0.05 significance level.

Table. Percentage of office-based physicians using any EHR/EMR, physicians that have a basic system, and physicians that have a certified system, by specialty: United States, 2015

Specialty	Any EHR or EMR ¹ system	Basic system	Certified system
	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Physicians	86.9	53.9	77.9
Primary care	89.6	57.9	80.9
Non-primary care	84.4	50.1	75.1
Surgical	84.5	48.5	77.0
Medical	84.4	51.1	74.0
All Physicians	86.9	53.9	77.9
General/family practice	92.7†	66.1†	84.0†
Internal medicine	88.2	53.9	81.4
Pediatrics	87.4	51.0	76.3
General surgery	93.8†	52.3	77.6
OB/GYN	89.2	63.8	80.6
Orthopedic surgery	93.2†	64.6	86.6†
Cardiovascular disease	95.6†	64.4	83.2
Dermatology	70.2	21.3§	62.3
Urology	94.0	60.4	92.6†
Psychiatry	61.3§	15.5§	40.8§
Neurology	94.5†	75.7†	89.9†
Ophthalmology	72.7	22.8§	70.0
Otolaryngology	89.4	68.0	82.7
Other	86.4	53.4	78.6

†Percentage is higher than all physicians percentage ($p < 0.05$).

§Percentage is lower than all physicians percentage ($p < 0.05$).

¹EHR/EMR is electronic health record/electronic medical record.

NOTE: A basic system is a system that has all of the following functionalities: patient history and demographics, patient problem lists, physician clinical notes, comprehensive lists of patients' medications and allergies, computerized orders for prescriptions, and the ability to view laboratory and imaging results electronically. A certified system was defined by physicians answering "yes" to having a current system that "meets meaningful use criteria defined by the Department of Health and Human Services." For more information on certified systems and meaningful use criteria go to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Official Web site for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html?redirect=/ehrincentiveprograms>).

SOURCE: NCHS, National Electronic Health Records Survey. 2015.

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