



Status of EHR Use In Alaska
Summary of Key Findings from Survey
May 11, 2009

Respondents

Sample

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 completed surveys:

Physicians:	378	85.9%
Clinic Managers:	<u>62</u>	<u>14.1%</u>
TOTAL:	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%.

Statewide participation was widespread; physicians and clinic managers from 29 communities completed the survey.

Ownership of Medical Practice

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

Size of Practice

The median number of physicians per practice is four, and mid-level practitioners, one. 41% of the practices have no mid-level practitioners. Combined medical staff has a median of five 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, 13-100.

Type of Practice

35% work in Family Practice with Pediatrics next 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.

EHR Use

Use of EHRs and ePrescribing

A third of respondents, physicians/clinic managers, use ePrescribing.

Half, 50%, use an EHR including 40% who use practice management and 10% who do not.

Note: This number cannot be ascribed to the total population of Alaska Physicians due to the self-selecting nature of the survey. However, at a minimum, 16% of Alaska physicians use an EHR and the figure is likely somewhere between that number and 50%.

Use of EHRs by Size and Type of Practice

26% of physicians in one-doctor practices have an EHR. Those with the largest clinics are most likely to have an EHR.

50% of Family Physicians, Internists, Pediatricians, and Ob/Gyn's use EHRs, whereas fewer, (41%) grouped in the "other" category of practice types, use them.

Brands of EHRs in Use in Alaska

No EHR holds a significant portion of the EHR market in Alaska. Centricity holds 11%; eClinicalWorks, 8%. There are approximately 55 EHRs in use.

EHR Connections

Most (74%) of the EHRs are integrated with a practice management system.

Half are connected to labs and a third to one or more pharmacy.

A third of the EHRs do not connect to any other entity.

Servers and Hardware

79% of the servers are located on site; 78% of EHR owners supplied their own hardware.

Nearly all respondents had their EHR longer than one year.

Satisfaction Levels

Three quarters of EHR users are at least "somewhat satisfied" with their system with a third who say they are "very satisfied." Nearly a third are somewhat to very dissatisfied.

Less than half (43%) would recommend their EHR to others without reservation and 36% with reservations. 20% would not recommend their EHR.

Non-Use of EHRs

Nearly half (47%) of the physicians not using an EHR have seriously considered buying one. 19% have considered but decided against it.

Barriers

The top barriers (medium and major barrier categories combined) to adopting EHRs are as follows:

Initial cost	84%
Practice disruption and the cost	85%
Uncertainty about which EHR to buy	65%

Privacy concerned 31%.

Interest in AEHRA Pilot

11% (21 docs) are interested in participating; 48% (91) might be interested but need more information.