

Sharing Data, Saving Lives

America's hospitals and health systems agree: connected, shared health information helps achieve the best possible outcome for every individual.

The Benefits of Sharing

Achieving the reality of fully interoperable health information offers many benefits, including:



Strengthened care coordination. Providers, patients and caregivers can work together to make fully informed care decisions.



Improved safety and quality. Interoperable patient data translates to a better, safer and more efficient experience.



Empowered patients and families. People can make better informed clinical decisions and can become partners in their own care.

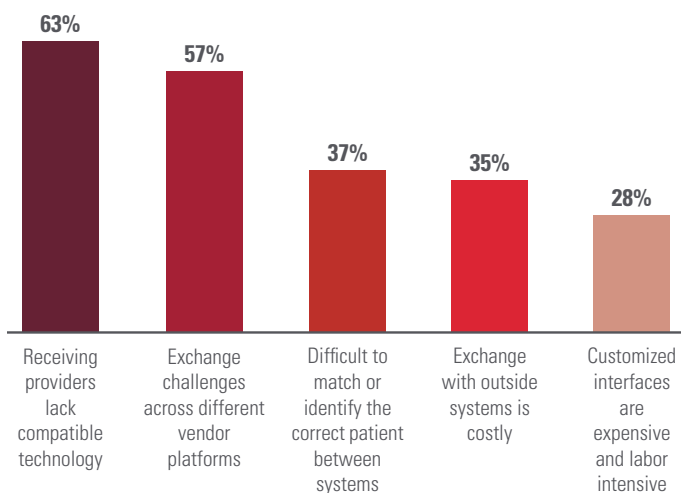


Increased efficiency and reduced costs. Information sharing reduces costs in time and resources for patients, insurers, clinical and administrative staff.



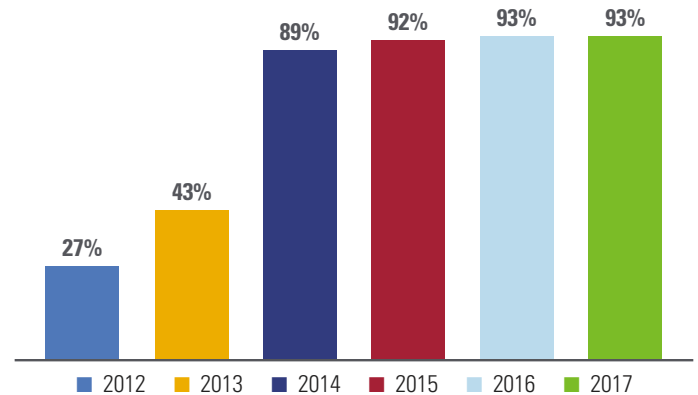
Robust public health registries. The sharing of aggregated health information supports more accurate tracking and prevention efforts for disease and other public health threats.

Barriers to Exchange and Interoperability, 2017



Source: AHA analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement data, 2017.

Patients Are Increasingly Able to View Health Records Online



Source: American Hospital Association Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement data, 2012-2017.

Pathways to Interoperability



Security and privacy. Stakeholders must be able to trust that shared data is accurate, secure, and used in accordance with best practices and patient expectations.



Efficient, usable solutions. Data must be available where and when it is needed, in a useful format and support accurate patient matching.



Cost effective, enhanced infrastructure. Information sharing networks will require consistent use of standards, semantics and a common set of "rules of the road" for exchange.



Standards that work. Connected systems require improved – as well as new – standards used consistently to minimize proprietary solutions and gatekeeping.



Connecting beyond electronic health records (EHRs). To improve health and care, interoperable systems must support population health, address social determinants of health and facilitate remote monitoring and patient-generated data.



Shared best practices. All stakeholders should share best practices to build on what works.