

Since 2004, the eHealth Initiative has tracked the progress of organizations across the country working on health information exchange. This report summarizes the results of eHealth Initiative's 2010 Annual Survey of Health Information Exchange. The survey data is self-reported and offers a non-scientific snapshot of the field.

The last year has seen many advances in health information exchanges. The eHealth Initiative has identified and collected information on 234 active health information exchange initiatives (HIEs) in the country. Of the 234 known initiatives, 199 groups responded to and qualified for inclusion in the 2010 Annual Survey on Health Information Exchange. This year, there has been significant expansion in the field with the creation of 56 state designated entities (SDE). eHealth Initiative made a concerted effort to include these entities in the survey; it should be noted that 48 of the 56 SDEs completed the 2010 survey. To view a list of all the initiatives, please visit <http://www.ehealthinitiative.org>.

Highlights from the report are below:

**There is continued growth in the number of health information exchange initiatives, and those which are operational. Operational initiatives are currently transmitting data that is being used by stakeholders.**

- 73 operational initiatives up from 57 in 2009

**Sustainability is an attainable goal for health information exchange organizations. There is a small but critical mass of sustainable organizations.**

- 107 initiatives not dependent on federal funding, up from 71 in 2009.
- 18 initiatives are operational, not dependent on federal funding, and have broken even through operational revenue alone.

**Health information exchange initiatives do not have to have a financial relationship with or partially own the organizations involved in order to become sustainable.**

- 44 of the 73 operational initiatives have no financial relationship with the entities involved in the initiative.
- 7 of the 18 sustainable initiatives have no financial relationship with the organizations involved in the initiative.

**More organizations are reporting a reduction in staff time and redundant testing through the use of health information exchange.**

- Reduced staff time spent on clerical administration and filing (33)
- Reduced staff time spent on handling lab and radiology results (30)
- Decreased dollars spent on redundant tests (28)

**New challenges are rapidly emerging related to federal policy and governance of health information exchanges.**

- 131 initiatives cited addressing government policy mandates as a major challenge.

**States and State Designated Entities (SDE) have varying perspectives of their purpose.**

- 40 entities see their role as planning for health information exchange
- 8 entities see their role as building or maintaining a technical infrastructure
- 22 entities see their role as supporting a technical infrastructure

- 2 entities are not directly involved in building an infrastructure, but in coordinating or creating policy

**There have been increases in functionality amongst health information exchange initiatives with respect to the meaningful use rules.**

The top 3 functionalities being provided by the initiatives:

- Connectivity to electronic health records (67)
- Results Delivery (50)
- Health Summaries for continuity of care (49)

The top 5 types of data exchanged by the initiatives:

- Laboratory Results (68)
- Medication Data (63)
- Outpatient laboratory results (62)
- Allergy Info (61)
- Emergency Department episodes/discharge summaries (58)

The top 3 services offered by the state designated entities:

- Electronic prescribing and refill requests (4)
- Prescription fill status and/or medication fill history (3)
- Electronic eligibility and claims transactions (3)

**Patient engagement has increased dramatically. More organizations are providing services to patients and providing access to patient data through health information exchange.**

- 44 initiatives allow patients to view their data, up from 3 in 2009
- 31 initiatives allow patients to contribute information on their health status, up from 7 in 2009

**Initiatives are creating methods to address the complexities of security and privacy. More organizations are creating systems which allow patients to control the level of access to their information.**

- 61 initiatives have global opt-in/out policies
- 36 initiatives have organizational opt-in/out policies
- 34 initiatives have provider opt-in/out policies
- 14 initiatives have emergency care opt-in/out policies
- 13 initiatives have individual data element opt-in/out policies