
2015 Population Health Study

HIMSS Analytics

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Executive Summary

As the emphasis on the change in delivery of care escalates, population health management initiatives are becoming more prevalent across the healthcare industry. However, many organizations are addressing their initial population health needs without an IT solution. In this Essential Brief, we share insight from nearly 200 healthcare executives (C-Suite, Administrators, Directors & VPs) on their population health initiatives, their current and future approach to population health IT solutions and consultants, and unique insight into organization's outlook on what their population health services will look like in 5 years.

The term "population health" is broadly used to describe different approaches to care for a population of people as patients and as the overall community. For the purposes of our study population health was defined as improving the health outcomes for a defined population in a specific geographic area. Overall just over 67 percent of respondents currently have population health initiatives in place. A breakdown of respondents by bed size indicated that over 80 percent of organizations with over 100 beds currently employ a wide range of initiatives focused on population health management.

Organizations across the industry, regardless of size, have begun to put into place programs focused on bettering the health of their population. These areas include chronic disease management, wellness and preventive health, clinically integrated network models (CIN) and patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model. Most organizations have focused their efforts on chronic disease management (83 percent of respondents with initiatives in place) and wellness/preventive health (82 percent of respondents with initiatives in place.) Surprisingly, very few indicated the use of a dedicated vendor solution to help address their population health needs. Overall, only 25 percent of organizations with initiatives in place currently use a vendor provided population health solution.

There are a number of different areas where vendor provided solutions can be used to help organizations with their population health initiatives. The top areas as indicated by organizations were business intelligence/analytics/reporting, data warehouse/aggregation and a patient dashboard or scorecard.

We were also interested in organizational use of consultants to help with population health and opinion in this area was mixed. Nearly 23 percent of respondents with initiatives in place either use a consultant or are considering one. However, a majority of organization, nearly 60 percent, indicated they do not use a consultant for any of their population health initiatives. Their areas of focus are also mixed as some are being used to create a comprehensive program roadmap, operational goals and metrics while others are focusing on accountable care and clinically integrated network development.

For those organizations without current initiatives in place, we asked about future population health goals. Over half of those without current initiatives plan to employ initiatives or programs in the future, primarily focused on chronic disease management and wellness/preventive health. However, there is a high level of uncertainty around using a vendor solution to meet their future population health needs.

Methodology & Demographics

Methodological Approach 1: Web based survey
Dates of Data Collection: October 20, 2015 to November 3, 2015
Target Audience(s): C-Suite, Directors, Presidents, Vice Presidents
Number of Respondents: 197


Organization Type	Count	Percent
Hospital, multi-hospital, integrated delivery	95	48.4%
Critical access hospital	79	40.3%
Academic medical center	15	7.7%
Other	7	3.6%
Total	196	100%

Bed Size	Count	Percent
Less than 50 Beds	104	53.0%
50-100 beds	31	15.8%
101-250 beds	27	13.8%
251-500 beds	13	6.6%
Greater than 501 beds	18	9.2%
Other	3	1.5%
Total	196	100%

Patients Served	Count	Percent
Less than 50,000 patients	103	54.2%
50,000-100,000 patients	31	16.3%
100,001-500,000 patients	33	17.3%
500,001-1 million patients	10	5.3%
Greater than 1 million patients	6	3.2%
Unsure	7	3.7%
Total	190	100%

Patients Under Risk Contracts	Count	Percent
Less than 1%	60	31.4%
1% to 10%	38	19.9%
11% to 25%	13	6.8%
26% to 50%	4	2.1%
Greater than 50%	3	1.6%
None	14	7.3%
Unsure	59	30.9%
Total	191	100%

Appendix A

 Continuity of Care Maturity Model	
STAGE 7	Knowledge Driven Engagement for a Dynamic, Multi-vendor, Multi-organizational Interconnected Healthcare Delivery Model
STAGE 6	Closed Loop Care Coordination Across Care Team Members
STAGE 5	Community Wide Patient Record using Applied Information with Patient Engagement Focus
STAGE 4	Care Coordination based on Actionable Data using a Semantic Interoperable Patient Record
STAGE 3	Normalized Patient Record with Share Care Plans using Structural Interoperability
STAGE 2	Patient Centered Clinical Data using Basic System-to-System Exchange
STAGE 1	Basic Peer-to-Peer Data Exchange
STAGE 0	Limited to No E-communication

About HIMSS Analytics

HIMSS Analytics collects, analyzes and distributes essential health IT data related to solutions, costs, metrics, trends and purchase decisions. It delivers quality data and analytical expertise to healthcare delivery organizations, IT companies, governmental entities, financial, pharmaceutical and consulting companies. Visit www.himssanalytics.org.

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