

27th Annual HIMSS Leadership Survey

Executive Summary
March 2016



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HIMSS has once again conducted the annual Leadership Survey as a means to identify and monitor generalized trends within the U.S. healthcare IT marketplace. Now in its 27th year, the study covers a variety of topics designed to capture responses to fixed longitudinal challenges facing health IT leaders as well as dynamic time-specific concerns. This year's survey, which includes responses of 282 IT executives and professionals, was no exception. With a wide array of data points to cull from, the present report highlights some of the most notable findings from this year's study. Additional findings will be released at a later time.

In brief:

- The vast majority of respondents (95 percent) view health IT as a strategically critical tool to help healthcare organizations be successful... especially surrounding their patient care focused efforts.
 - Clinical integration – 73.8%
 - Primary care provider efficiency – 72.3%
 - Mandated quality metrics improvement – 68.4%
 - Care coordination – 67.4%

- The criticality of health IT to patient focused initiatives suggests there is a need to better understand the role and impact of clinical IT executives.
 - 71 percent of all respondents indicated their organization employs a clinical IT leader, such as a Chief Medical Information Officer or Chief Nursing Informatics Officer

- The presence of a clinical IT executive in the organization appears to have a notable impact on the organization's orientation towards health IT.
 - Respondents working for an organization with a clinical IT executive tended to place a substantially higher importance of health IT than their counterparts in a variety of areas, but most notable care coordination, post-acute care management and use of evidence based medicine.

- Many healthcare organizations employing clinical IT executives include them in the overall executive team... but this is far from being universally true.
 - 71 percent of respondents working for an organization with a CNIO on staff indicated that this individual was part of the executive team
 - 59 percent of respondents working for an organization with a CMIO on staff indicated that the individual was part of the executive team

About HIMSS

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). In North America, HIMSS focuses on health IT thought leadership, education, events, market research, and media services. Founded in 1961, HIMSS North America encompasses more than 64,000 individuals, of which more than two-thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental, and not-for-profit organizations, plus over 640 corporations and 450 not-for-profit partner organizations, that share this cause.

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