



Behavioral health IT adoption and care integration

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Jessica Kahn, Bebet Herminio Navia, Jr., Brooke
Hammond

September 24, 2021

www.macpac.gov

 @macpacgov

Health information technology and behavioral health

September 2021 MACPAC Public Meeting

Friday, September 24, 2021

Presented by Jessica Kahn



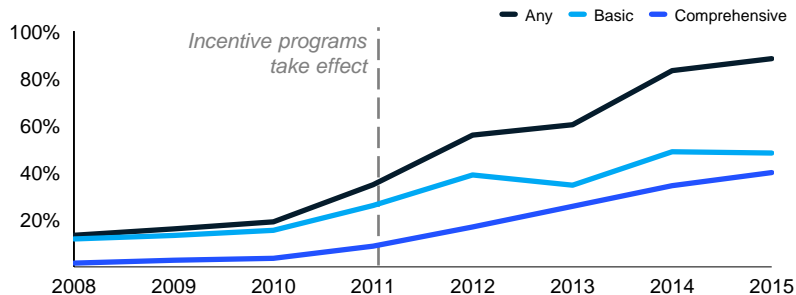
Incentives have helped increase adoption of electronic health records

As part of the HITECH Act in 2009, significant investments were made to incentivize electronic health record (EHR) adoption¹

\$35B

allocated for Medicaid and Medicare incentive programs encouraging hospitals and providers to adopt EHR systems¹

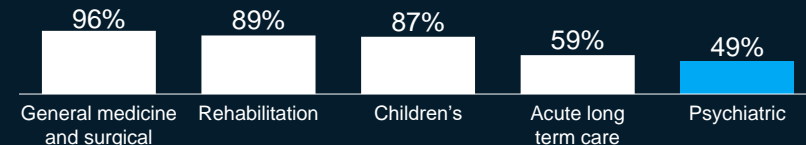
From the inception of the incentive programs in 2011 to 2015, EHR adoption increased 53 percentage points among U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals²



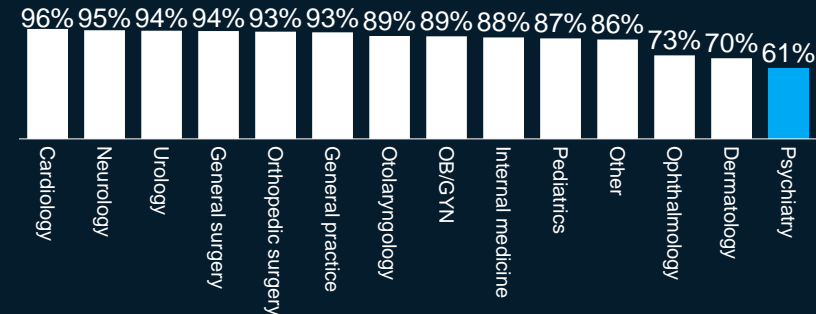
1. "Where Is HITECH's \$35 Billion Dollar Investment Going?" Health Affairs Blog, March 4, 2015.
2. Henry, J., Pylypchuk, Y., Searcy T. & Patel V. "Adoption of Electronic Health Record Systems among U.S. Non-Federal Acute Care Hospitals: 2008-2015." ONC Data Brief, no.35. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. May, 2016.

... yet adoption has been limited in behavioral health

Psychiatric hospitals lag behind other specialty hospitals in possession of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology³



Office-based physicians practicing psychiatry lag behind other specialty physicians in EHR adoption⁴



3. "Percent of Specialty Hospitals that Possess Certified Health IT." Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. August 2019.
4. Yang N, Hing E. Table of Electronic Health Record Adoption and Use among Office-based Physicians in the U.S., by Specialty: 2015. National Electronic Health Records Survey. 2017.

EHR adoption among behavioral health providers remains low primarily due to four factors



Most behavioral health provider types (psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, etc.) were **ineligible for the federal incentive packages** spurring adoption of EHR systems¹



Behavioral health providers have less incentive to adopt EHRs as they are **typically not included in health information exchanges**, which often serve as a catalyst for EHR adoption among other providers



Behavioral health providers are **often unable to invest in the hardware, software, and training necessary** for EHR adoption due to low operating margins



Behavioral health providers are subject to **data-sharing regulations beyond Certified Electronic Health Record Technology requirements** and may face challenges implementing compliant systems

1. "EHRs in Behavioral Health – A Digital Future?", Social Work Today, 2013

Interoperable behavioral health solutions may help bridge the gap: a growing number of companies are offering solutions designed for interoperability with other provider types

Examples of companies with interoperable solutions

NOT EXHAUSTIVE



TherapyNotes™

CREDIBLE™ Secure. Proven. Easy To Use.



Netsmart

sevocity™
CUSTOM EHR SOLUTIONS™

CureMD™
Practice without boundaries

ICANotes™
Behavioral Health EHR

kareo™

vālant

Increasing adoption of CEHRT among behavioral health providers could have wide-reaching benefits¹

Sources: "Integrating Clinical Care through Greater Use of Electronic Health Records for Behavioral Health", MACPAC, June 2021, "[Behavioral Health Integration](#)", SAMHSA



Increase clinical integration and achieve cost savings

EHR adoption and information sharing among providers may promote coordinated care and in turn improve population health and healthcare value, a component of which is reduced costs



Enable participation in value-based payment

EHR adoption may facilitate the development of attribution models to realize the captured value of behavioral health care savings and enable participation in value-based payment



Improve the quality of health reporting

As the behavioral health field moves towards measurement-based care, supportive EHR systems are essential to improve the quality and availability of health reporting, and potentially ease the burden of reporting to state agencies or Medicaid MCOs




Behavioral health IT adoption and care integration

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission

Jessica Kahn, Bebet Herminio Navia, Jr., Brooke
Hammond

September 24, 2021

www.macpac.gov

 [@macpacgov](https://twitter.com/macpacgov)