Trends in National Perceptions regarding Privacy and Security

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Background

• As EHR adoption increases and HIE expands, ONC seeks to monitor national perceptions regarding privacy and security

• Nationally representative survey of individuals conducted in 2012 and 2013 to address the following questions:
  – What are current levels of concerns regarding privacy and security of medical records? What impact do these concerns have on patients’ interactions and communication with providers?
  – Do these concerns vary by whether provider has an EHR?
  – How have these perceptions changed over time?
  – What are individuals’ concerns regarding different methods of exchange (electronic vs. fax) and have these changed over time?
  – What are individuals’ levels of support for EHRs and electronic HIE in spite of these concerns, and have these changed over time?
A majority expressed concerns, but less than 1 in 10 individuals withheld information from their healthcare providers due to those concerns.

**Proportion of Individuals Concerned about Privacy and Security of Medical Record, and Proportion of Individuals Withheld Information from Healthcare Provider Due to Those Concerns**

- Very or Somewhat concerned regarding privacy of medical record: 75%
- Very or Somewhat concerned regarding security of medical record: 69%
- Withheld Information from Healthcare Provider due to Privacy or Security Concerns: 8%

*Source: 2013 Consumer Survey of Attitudes Toward the Privacy and Security Aspects of Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchange. Number of respondents range from 2093 to 2097. Results for 2012 not significantly different from 2013.*
Although privacy and security concerns were slightly higher when a provider had a paper medical record, the differences were not statistically significant.

Source: 2013 Consumer Survey of Attitudes Toward the Privacy and Security Aspects of Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchange. Number of respondents range from 1772 to 1767. Differences not statistically significant.
A majority of Americans expressed concerns regarding providers sending medical records, whether paper or electronic; this concern didn’t change between 2012 and 2013.
Support for EHRs and HIE was consistent and relatively high despite potential privacy or security concerns

Percent of Americans Who Wanted Health Care Providers to Use an EHR Despite Any Potential Privacy and Security Concerns

Percent of Americans Who Wanted Health Care Providers to Electronically Share their Medical Record with Other Providers Treating Them Despite Privacy/Security Concerns

Questions?
Reference
Definitions

• Privacy means you have a say in who can collect, use and share your medical record.
  – How concerned are you about the privacy of your medical record?

• Security means having safeguards to keep your medical record from being seen by people who aren’t permitted to see them.
  – Safeguards may include technology. How concerned are you about the security of your medical record?
Data Source: Nationally Representative Survey

• **Who?**
  – Representative sample of US Americans, age 18+
  – Oversampling of African-American, Latino/a, and Asian-American groups (in 2013)

• **When?**
  – Conducted in 2012 and 2013

• **How?**
  – Nationwide random digit dialing (RDD) telephone survey using land line and cell phone numbers.
    • In 2012, 2,050 surveys completed
    • In 2013, 2,107 surveys completed
  – Results weighted to develop population estimates
  – Conducted in English and Spanish
  – Cognitive testing performed to ensure quality of survey instrument