Use of Certified Health IT and Methods to Enable Interoperability by U.S. Non-Federal Acute Care Hospitals, 2019

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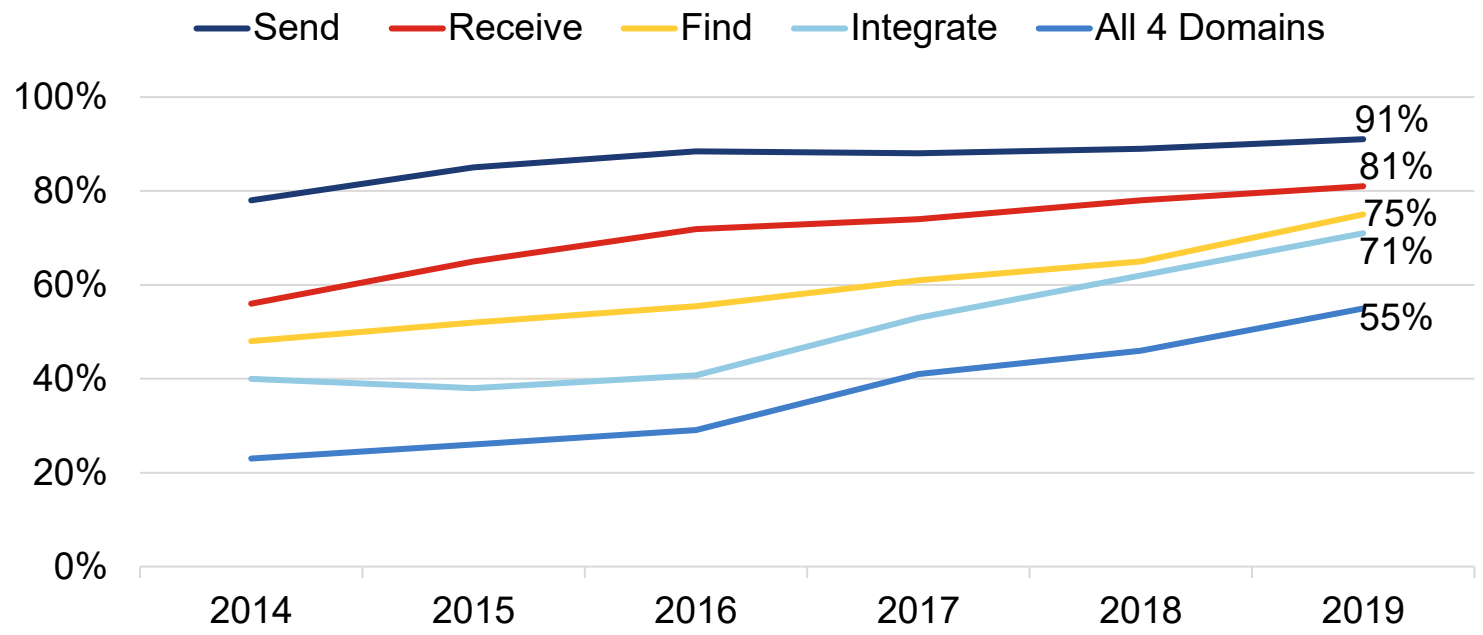
About 70% of hospitals reported integrating data into their EHR – a nearly 15% increase from 2018.

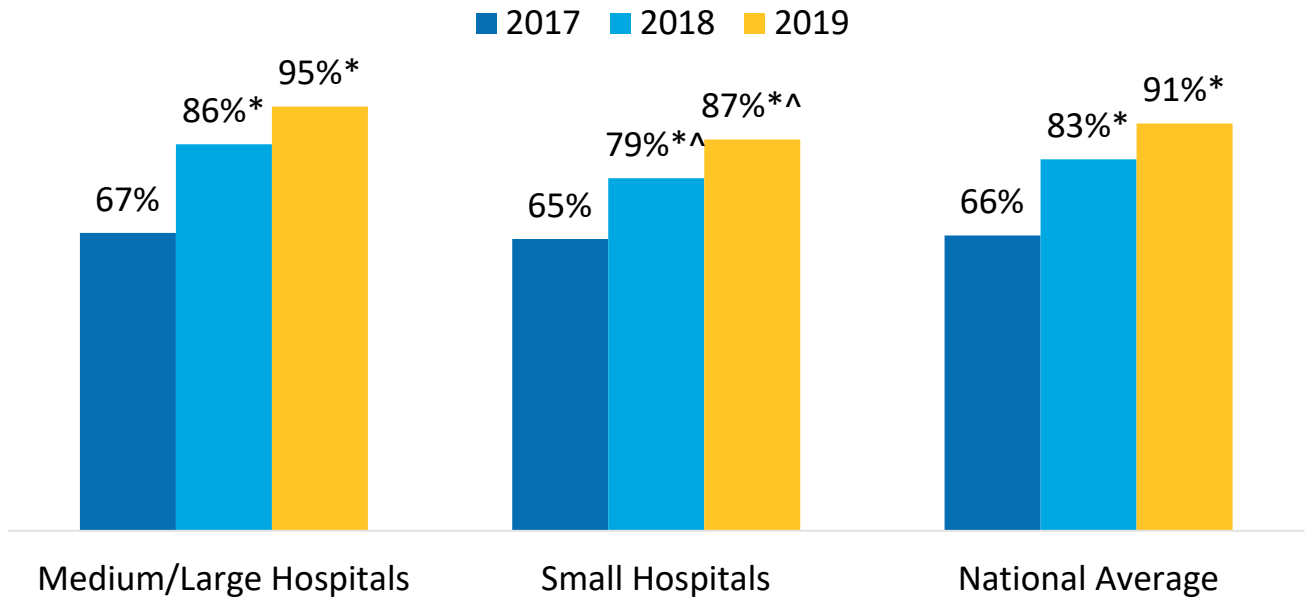
Figure 1: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that electronically find patient health information, and send, receive, and integrate patient summary of care records from sources outside their health system, 2014-2019.



SOURCE: 2014-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Note: See Appendix Table A2 for specific data points for all years.

About nine in 10 hospitals nationwide had a 2015 Edition Certified EHR in 2019.

Figure 2: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that have a 2015 Edition Certified EHR by hospital size, 2017-2019.



Source: 2017-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Note: *Significantly different from previous year (p<0.05). ^Statistically significant from medium/large hospitals (p<0.05).

Health Information Service Providers (HISPs) were the most common electronic method for sending and receiving summary of care records used by hospitals in 2019.

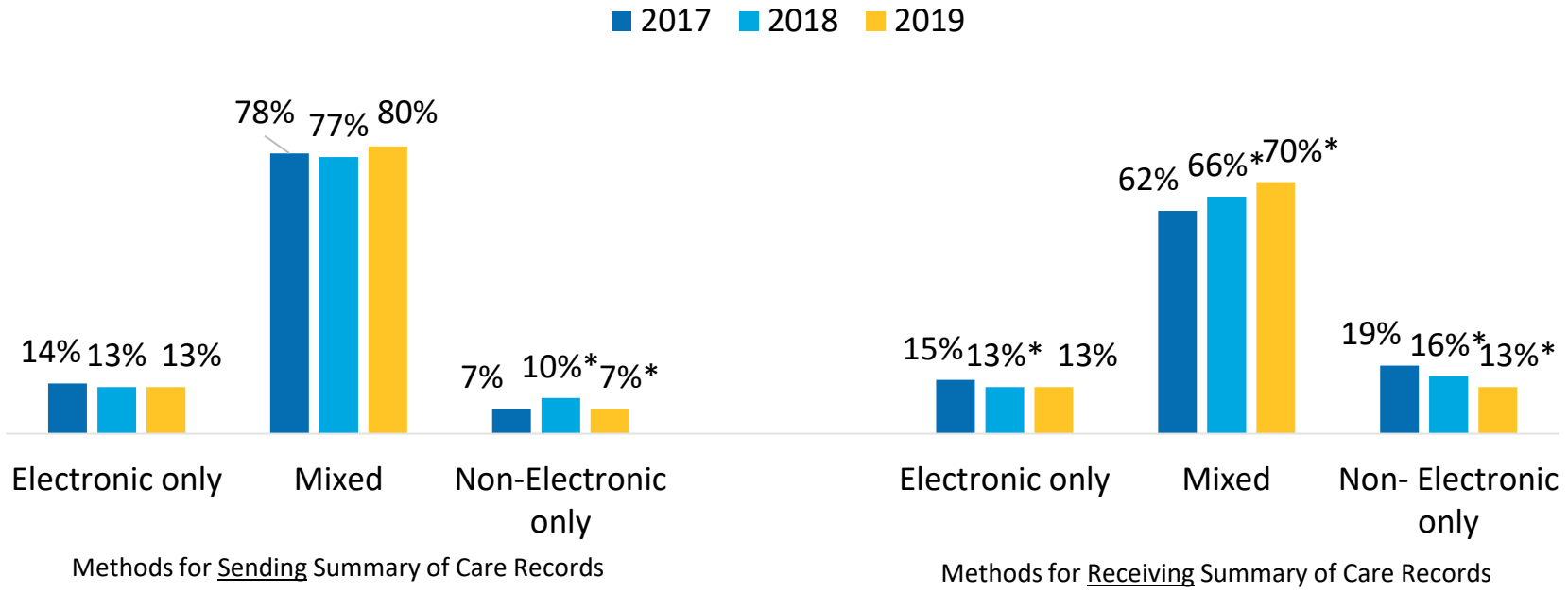
Table 1: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that often or sometimes send or receive summary of care records with sources outside their hospital system by method, 2018-2019.

	Send		Receive	
Methods	**2018**	**2019**	**2018**	**2019**
Non-Electronic Method				
Mail or fax	71%	68%*	76%	76%
eFax using EHR	66%	70%*	52%	56%*
Electronic Method Not Using Third-Party or Network				
Provider portal that enables viewing of another organizations' EHR system	49%	55%*	37%	41%*
Interface connection between EHR systems (e.g. HL7 interface)	42%	45%	30%	31%
Access to other organizations' EHR system using login credentials	37%	45%*	26%	26%
Electronic Method Using a Third-Party or Network				
HISPs that enables messaging via DIRECT protocol	61%	65%*	49%	55%*
State, regional, or local HIE	59%	62%*	46%	51%*
EHR vendor-based network that enables exchange between users of a single EHR vendor	43%	47%*	41%	47%*
National networks that enables exchange across different EHR vendors (e.g. CommonWell, Carequality)	35%	41%*	32%	40%*

Source: 2018-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from previous year ($p<0.05$).

A majority of hospitals reported using a mix of electronic and non-electronic methods for exchanging summary of care records in 2019.

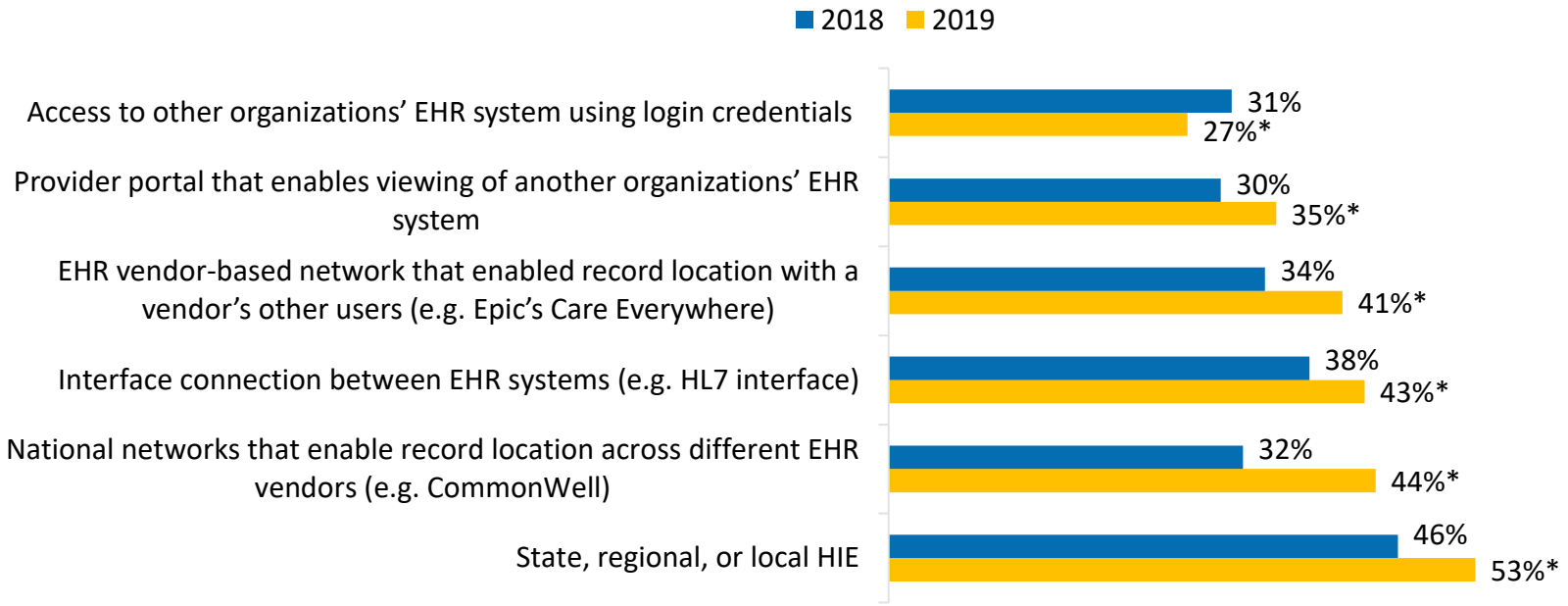
Figure 3: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that often or sometimes receive/send summary of care records by method type, 2017-2018.



Source: 2017-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from a corresponding category in previous year ($p<0.05$).

The proportion of hospitals that used a national network to find (or query) patient health information increased by nearly 40% in 2019.

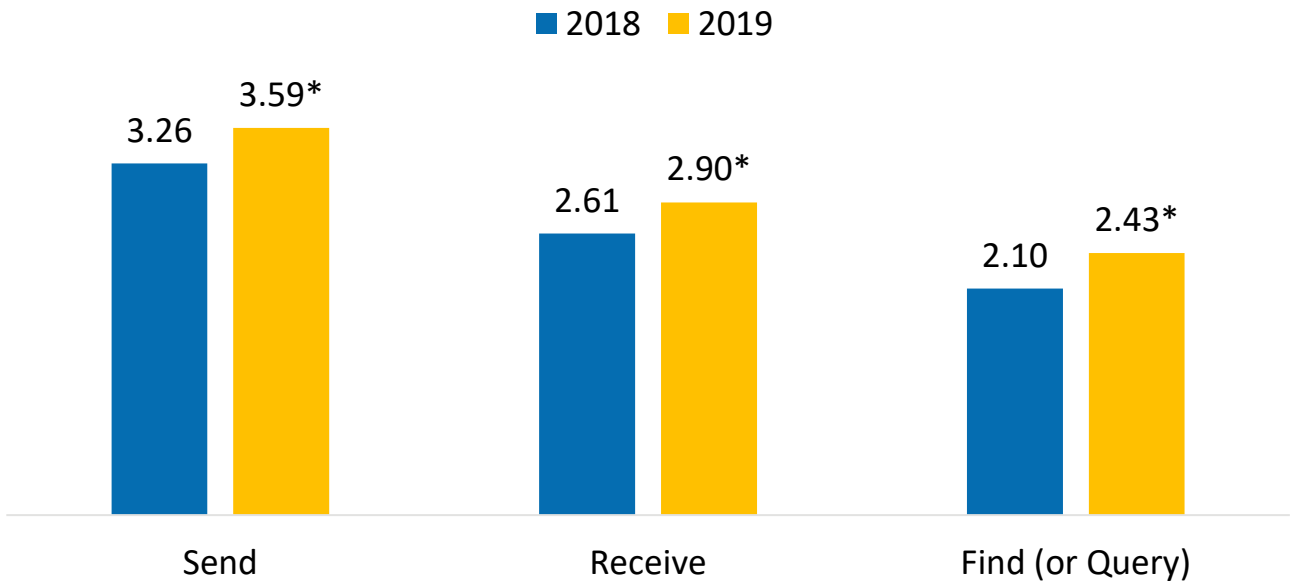
Figure 4: Methods used to electronically find (or query) for patients' health information, 2018-2019.



Source: 2018-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from previous year ($p<0.05$).

The average number of electronic methods hospitals use to send, receive, and find (or query) health information increased between 2018 and 2019.

Figure 5: Average number of electronic methods hospitals use to send, receive, and find (or query) health information, 2018-2019.



Source: 2018-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from a corresponding category in previous year ($p<0.05$).

Nearly half of hospitals participated in more than one national network in 2019.

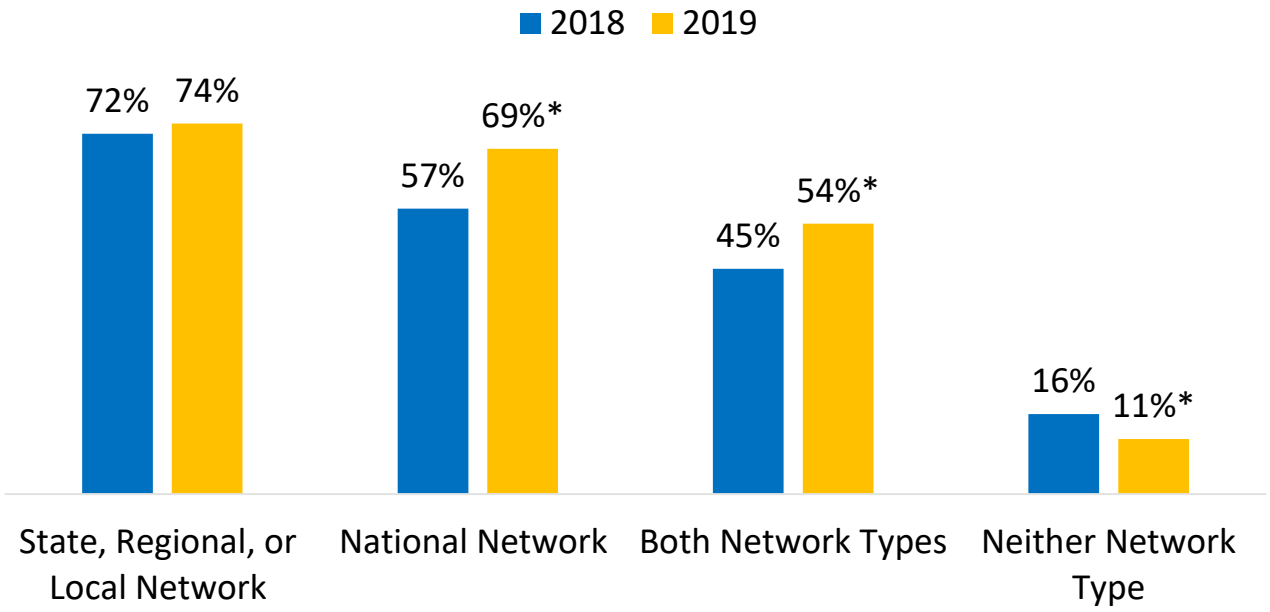
Table 2: Hospitals' participation in national networks, 2018-2019.

Overall National Network Participation	2018	2019
Percent of Hospitals that Participate in Any Network	57%	69%*
Percent of Hospitals that Participate in More than One Network	33%	48%*
Average Number of Networks	1.21	1.67*
National Network	**Percent**	**Percent**
Single-EHR vendor network	32%	41%*
e-Health Exchange	25%	27%*
DirectTrust	21%	38%*
Sequoia Project's Carequality	20%	31%*
CommonWell Health Alliance	19%	26%*

Source: 2018 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from previous year ($p<0.05$). This table presents the top 5 national networks that hospitals reported participating in most frequently, additional networks were included in the calculation of the overall participation metrics

More than half of hospitals participated in both a national network and a state, regional, or local HIE – a statistically significant increase from 2018.

Figure 6: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that participate in national and state, regional, or local health information networks, 2018-2019.



Source: 2018-2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.
Notes: *Significantly different from previous year ($p<0.05$).

The proportion of small, rural, and CAHs that participated in both national and state, regional or local health information networks was lower compared to their counterparts.

Table 3: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that participate in national and state, regional, or local health information networks by hospital type, 2019.

Type of Network	Medium-Large	Small	Suburban-Urban	Rural	Non-CAH	CAH
State, Regional, or Local Network	80%	68%*	78%	68%*	76%	68%*
National Network	75%	63%*	74%	62%*	73%	59%*
Both Network Types	61%	47%*	59%	46%*	57%	46%*
Neither Network Type	5%	17%*	7%	17%*	8%	19%*

Source: 2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.

Notes: *Significantly different from a corresponding category presented in the column to the left ($p<0.05$).

More than 70 percent of hospitals reported challenges exchanging data across different vendor platforms.

Table 4: Percent of U.S. non-federal acute care hospitals that experienced barriers when trying to electronically send, receive, or find health information to/from other care settings or organizations, 2019.

Barriers related to electronically sending patient health information	Percent
Difficult to find providers' Direct address	58%
Exchange partners' EHR system lacks capability to receive data	59%
Exchange partners' we would like to send data to do not have an EHR or other electronic system to receive data	48%
Many recipients of care summaries report that the information is not useful	40%
Cumbersome workflow to send the information from our EHR system	24%
The complexity of state and federal privacy and security regulations makes it difficult for us to determine whether it is permissible to electronically exchange patient health information	12%
Lacking the technical capability to electronically send patient health information to outside providers or other sources	8%
Barriers related to electronically receiving patient health information	
There are providers whom we share patients with that don't typically exchange patient data with us	66%
Difficult to match or identify the correct patient between systems	46%
We lack the technical capability to electronically receive patient health information from outside providers or other sources	17%
Other barriers related to exchanging patient health information	
Greater challenges exchanging data across different vendor platforms	73%
Paying additional costs to exchange with organizations outside our system	42%
Develop customized interfaces in order to electronically exchange health information	48%

Source: 2019 AHA Annual Survey Information Technology Supplement.

Highlights

- About 70% of hospitals reported integrating data into their EHR – a nearly 15 percent increase from 2018.
- A majority of hospitals used a mix of electronic and non-electronic methods to exchange summary of care records, however use of electronic third party methods (HISPs, HIEs, and vendor networks) increased in 2019.
- The proportion of hospitals that used a national network to find (or query) patient health information increased by nearly 40% between in 2019.