



Use of Health Information Technology Among Dentists

Key Findings of a National
Survey

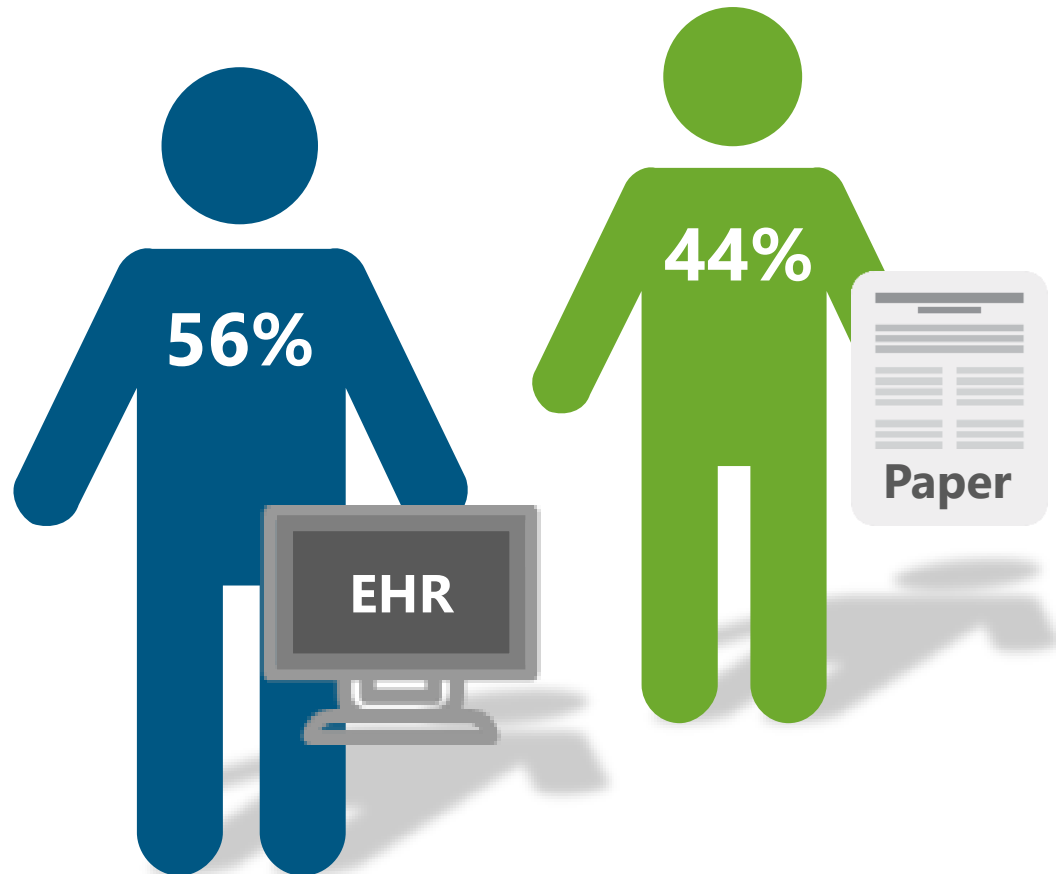
2019

About the Assessment

The American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (HPI) partnered with the Maryland Health Care Commission to develop and distribute a questionnaire focused on adoption and use of electronic health records (EHRs) and telehealth (or teledentistry) among dentists. This dashboard presents select data gathered from 645 respondents.

Introduction

More than half of dentists have adopted an EHR



"Information technology use leads to greater efficiency and productivity. This is very beneficial to patients and doctors."

- Survey Participant



"Digital imaging has made teledentistry perfect for the general practitioner working with specialists."

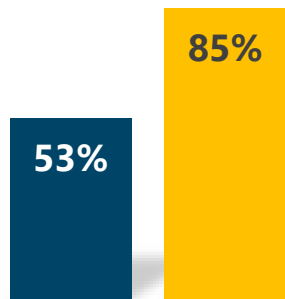
- Survey Participant



EHRs

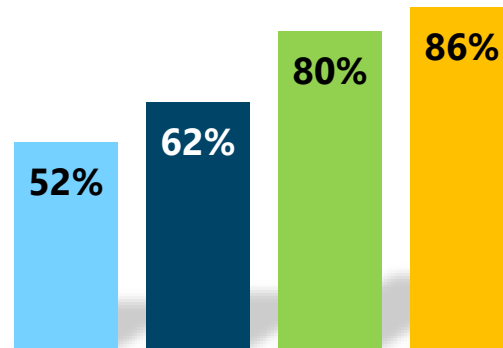
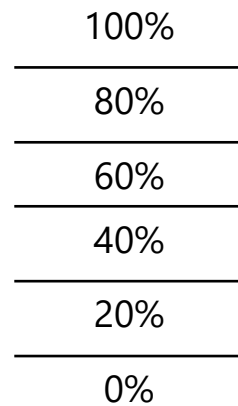
EHR adoption is more common among...

Dentists practicing in institutional settings



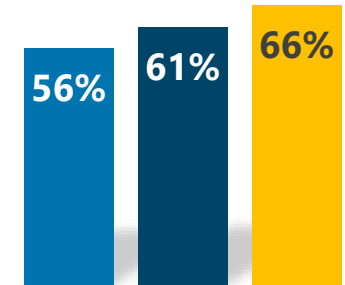
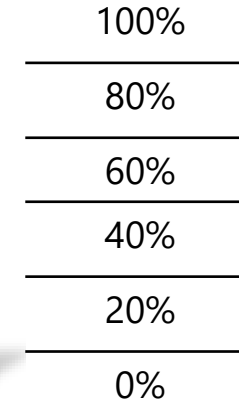
- Independent Setting
- Institutional Setting

Large dental practices (at least four dentists)



- Single Dentist
- 2-3 Dentists
- 4-5 Dentists
- More than 5 Dentists

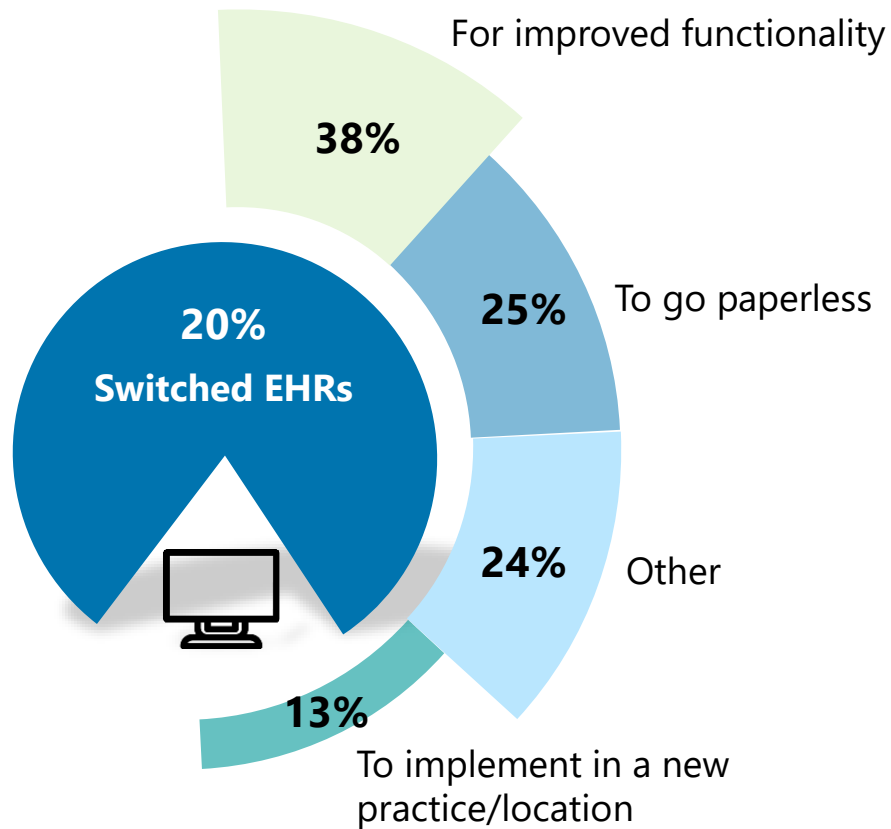
Dentists who accept Medicaid



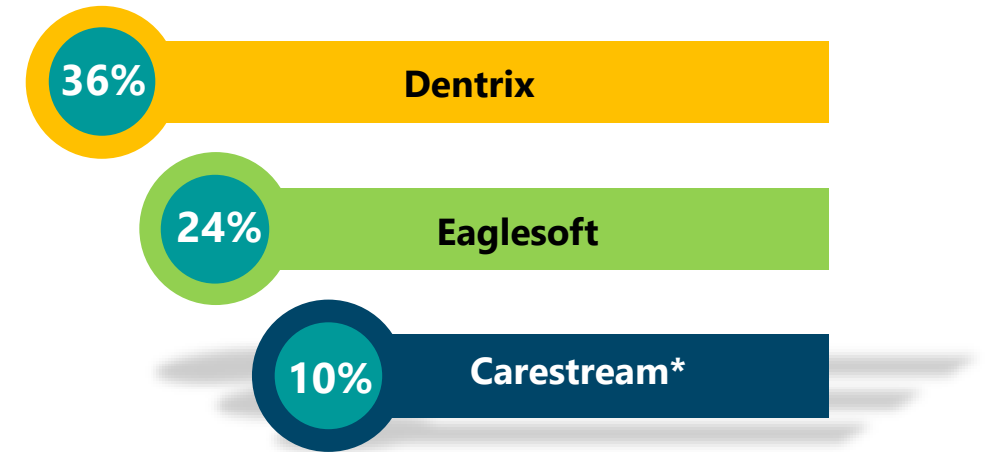
- Private Insurance Only
- Medicaid Only
- Private Insurance & Medicaid

EHRs

One in five EHR adopters has switched EHRs in the past five years



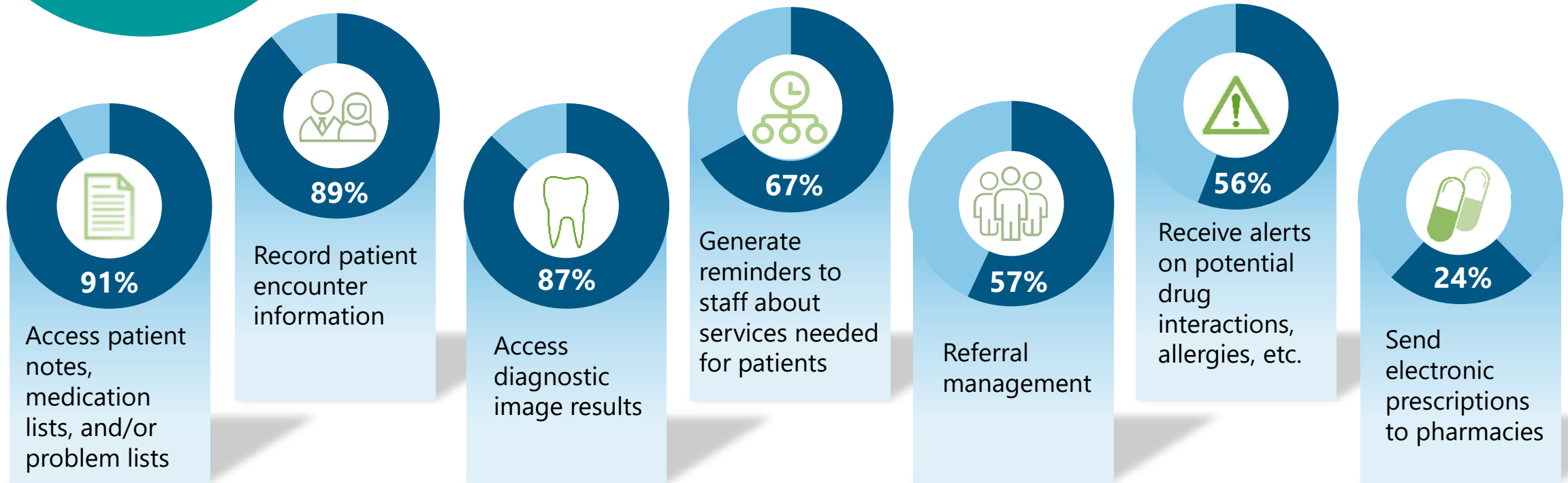
Two EHR vendors share a majority of the dental market



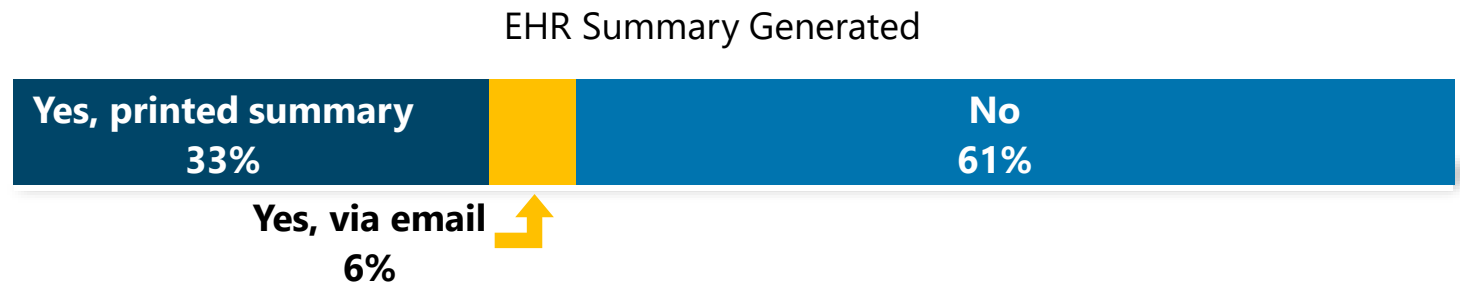
* Carestream solutions include Softdent, PracticWorks, and WinOMS.

EHRs

Core EHR functions are used for clinical documentation and to view patient health information



Patient summaries produced by EHRs are rarely provided electronically



EHRs

Challenges related to redesigning practice workflows, cost, and change management are barriers to adoption

"My IT guy has become one of my best friends!"

– Survey Participant

"It would be nice to get some support on the fastest and least expensive way to go from paper charts to EMR."

– Survey Participant

"In a rural setting, hiring qualified IT staff is difficult."

– Survey Participant

46%

Redesigning the practice's operational and clinical processes is burdensome

Purchasing an EHR is too expensive

38%

Using an EHR requires too much staff education and training

34%

30%

Updating / maintaining an EHR is too expensive

25%

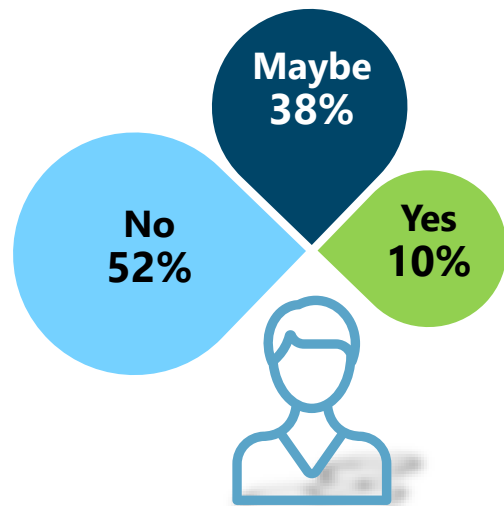
EHR products' abilities do not meet practice needs

Privacy / security concerns

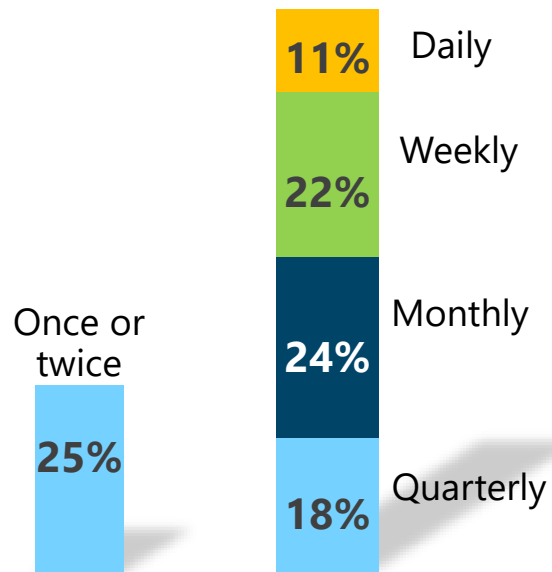
23%

Teledentistry

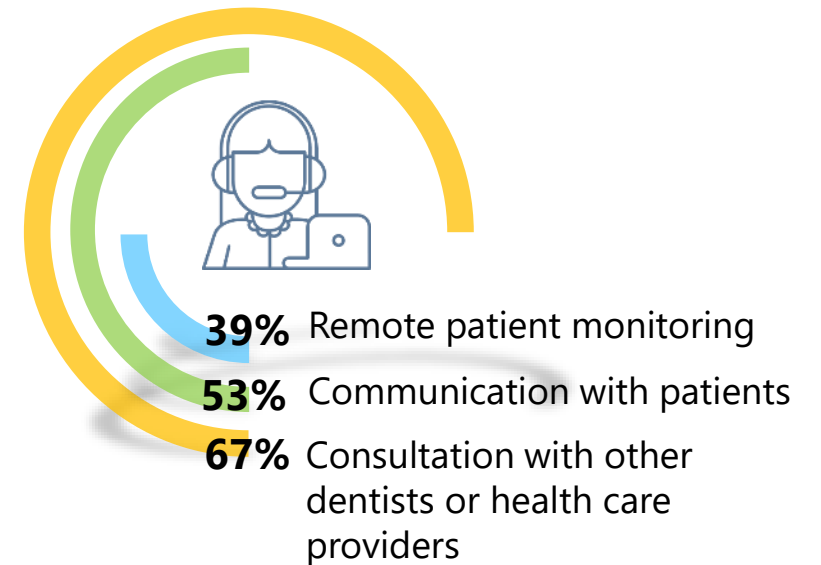
About half of dentists show some level of interest in offering teledentistry services



Among dentists who have used teledentistry in the last year, three in four have used it regularly



Dentists using teledentistry use it for three main purposes



The End

The Dental Health IT survey was developed by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) in partnership with HPI. The data analysis was completed by MHCC and included 645 responses to the survey. The MHCC appreciates the opportunity to support HPI in completion of this work. For more information, contact Christine Karayinopulos at christine.karayinopulos@maryland.gov.

