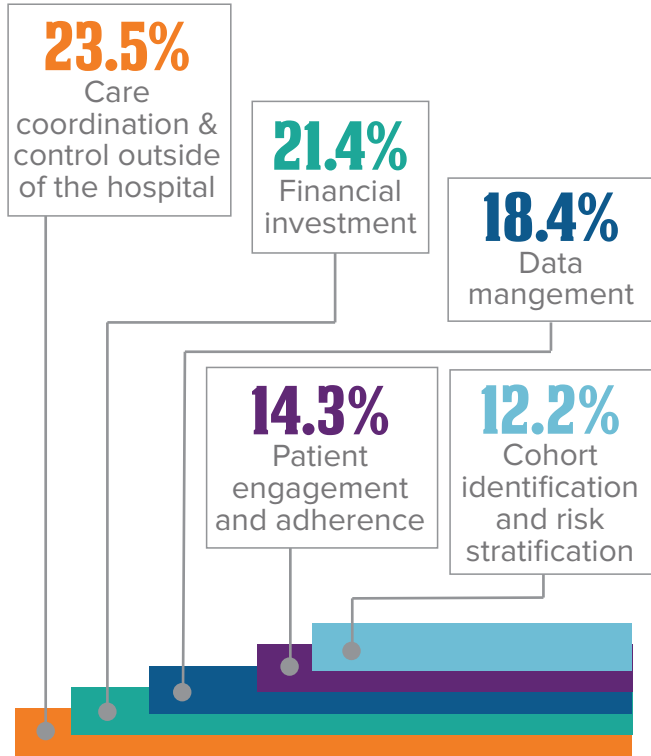# HEALTHCARE IT's EVOLUTION:
Connecting care for continuous health

Hospitals and IDNs are continuing to invest in new technologies that support collaborative care across the continuum, according to 2013-2015 surveys conducted by HIMSS Analytics on behalf of Philips Healthcare. In this 2016 survey update, population health has emerged as one of the major goals of connected care. To address such a broad initiative, hospitals and IDNs are looking to cloud-based technology to tackle scalability and cost challenges. Of the 105 respondents:
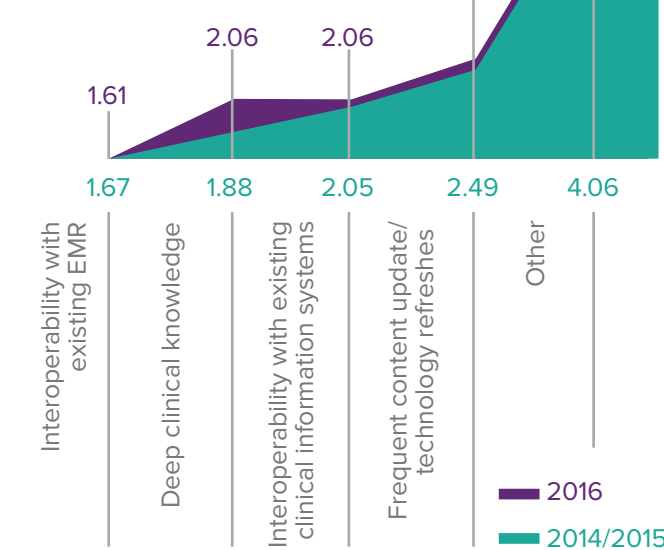
86% represented standalone hospitals or IDNs

52% identified as C-level executives

27% identified as IT directors

ROLE OF HEALTHCARE IT SHIFTS

Healthcare IT is expanding its focus beyond compliance to include a greater emphasis on the patient for more advanced patient-centric care.

physician offices
89%
compared to **91%** in 2014/2015 and **78%** in 2013

ambulatory
52%
compared to **47%** in 2014/2015 and **47%** in 2013

urgent care
52%
compared to **45%** in 2014/2015 and **32%** in 2013

diagnostic imaging
56%
compared to **43%** in 2014/2015 and **41%** in 2013

patient homes
38%
compared to **42%** in 2014/2015 and **30%** in 2013

EMTs
27%
compared to **26%** in 2014/2015 and **17%** in 2013

CARE COORDINATION STILL A CHALLENGE

As healthcare organizations deploy population health programs, care coordination is the biggest management issue.

23.5% Care coordination & control outside of the hospital

21.4% Financial investment

18.4% Data management

14.3% Patient engagement and adherence

12.2% Cohort identification and risk stratification

The percentages above represent respondents who selected the option as the biggest challenge. On a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the biggest challenge and 3 being the third biggest challenge.
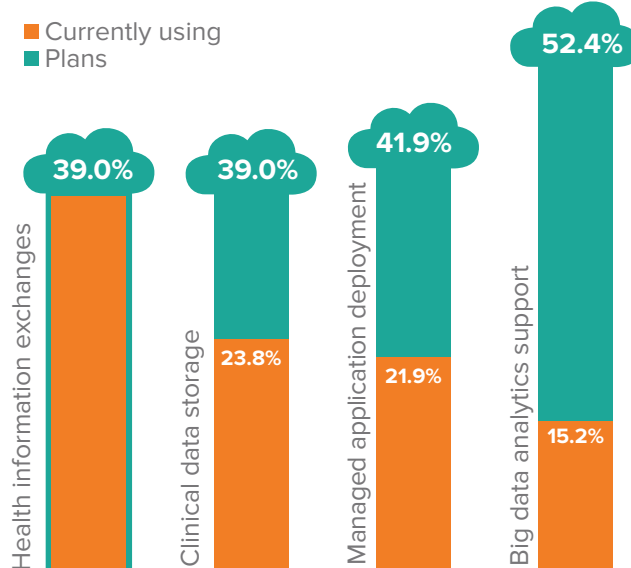
INTEROPERABILITY IS KEY

In addition to seeking solutions that drive measurable improvements, healthcare organizations want to partner with a clinical informatics vendor that enables interoperability with their EMRs and other clinical IT systems.

2016: 1.61, 2.06, 2.06, 2.60, 4.0
2014/2015: 1.67, 1.88, 2.05, 2.49, 4.06

- Interoperability with existing EMR
- Deep clinical knowledge
- Interoperability with existing clinical information systems
- Frequent content update/technology refreshes
- Other

■ 2016
■ 2014/2015

(Importance was rated on a 1 to 5 scale with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important. For those who ranked "other" as the most important, support, reliability and ease of use were the most common attributes listed.)

SUCCESS OF POPULATION HEALTH

The success of population health relies on achieving measurable clinical improvements. Therefore, clinical IT purchasing decisions hinge on whether solutions can drive measurable improvements.

25.7% / 24.0% — Drives measurable clinical improvements

11.4% / 6.6% — Is interoperable with existing clinical information systems

17.1% / 20.7% — Is interoperable with EMR

9.5% / 5.8% — Connects inpatient, outpatient and other organizational entities

13.3% / 13.2% — Is linked to EMR adoption

7.6% / 10.7% — Supports standardization across the enterprise

12.4% / 10.7% — Expands or enhances EMR functionality

The percentages above represent respondents who selected the option as the most important on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.

■ 2016
■ 2014/2015

POPULATION HEALTH PLANS

More than a third of respondents have population health plans in HIE, consulting or analytics.

🟠 Currently using
🟢 Plans

Health Information Exchange/Interoperability — **57.6%** / 40.4%

Telehealth systems — **57.6%** / 28.3%

Analytics software — **54.5%** / 38.4%

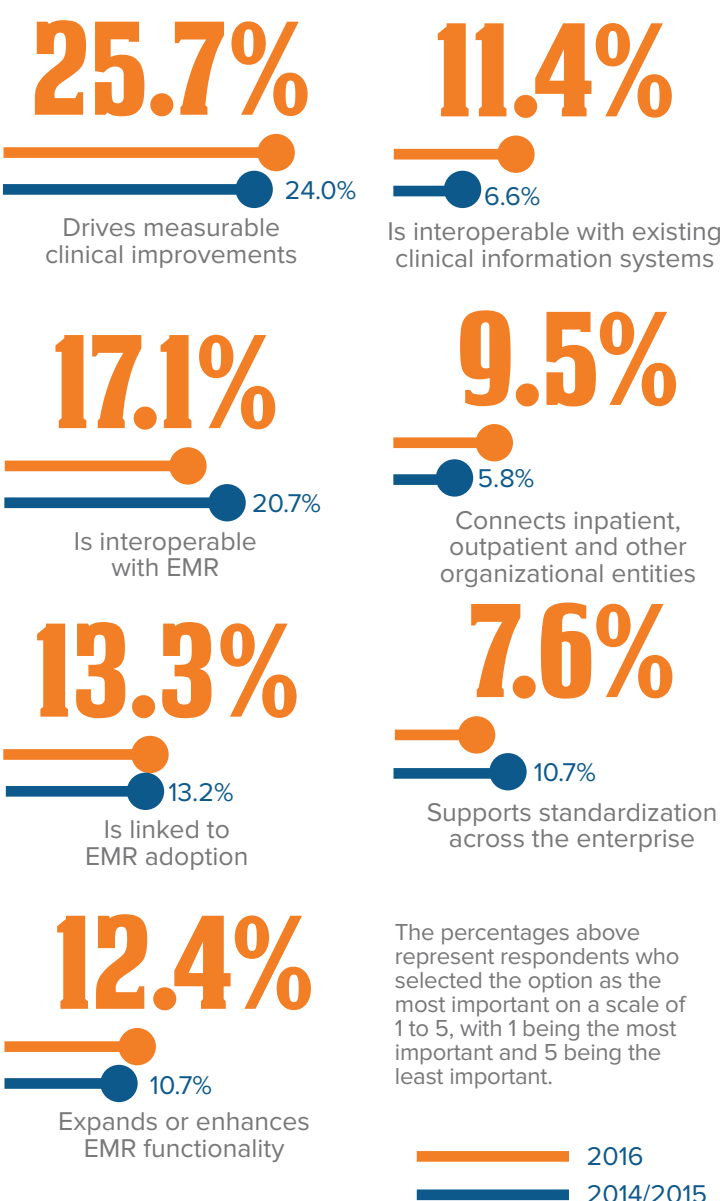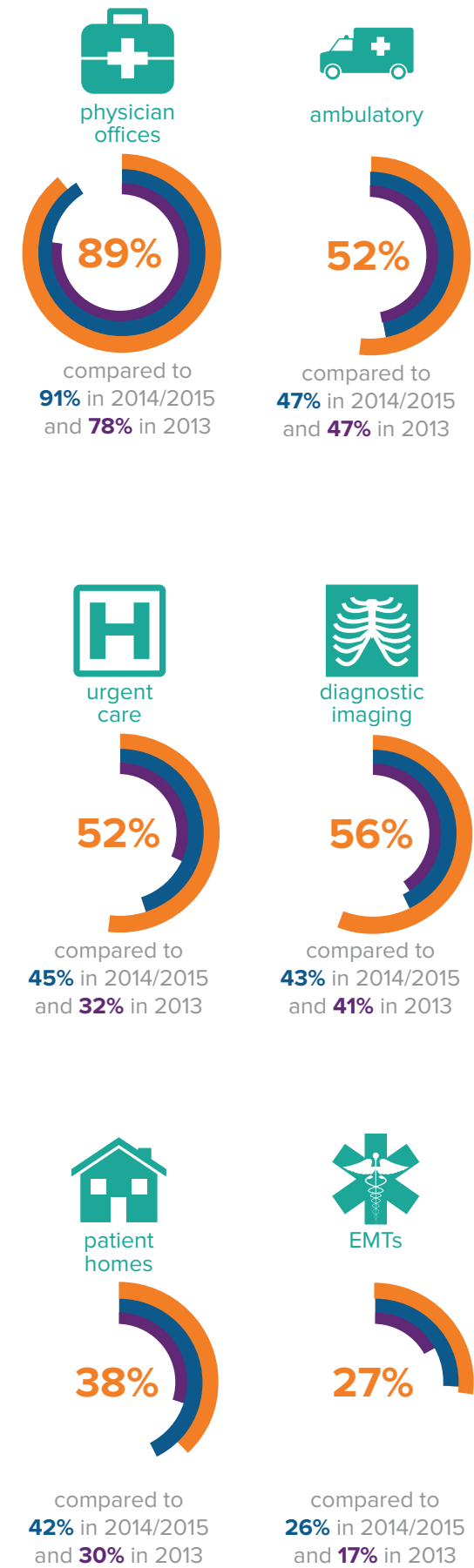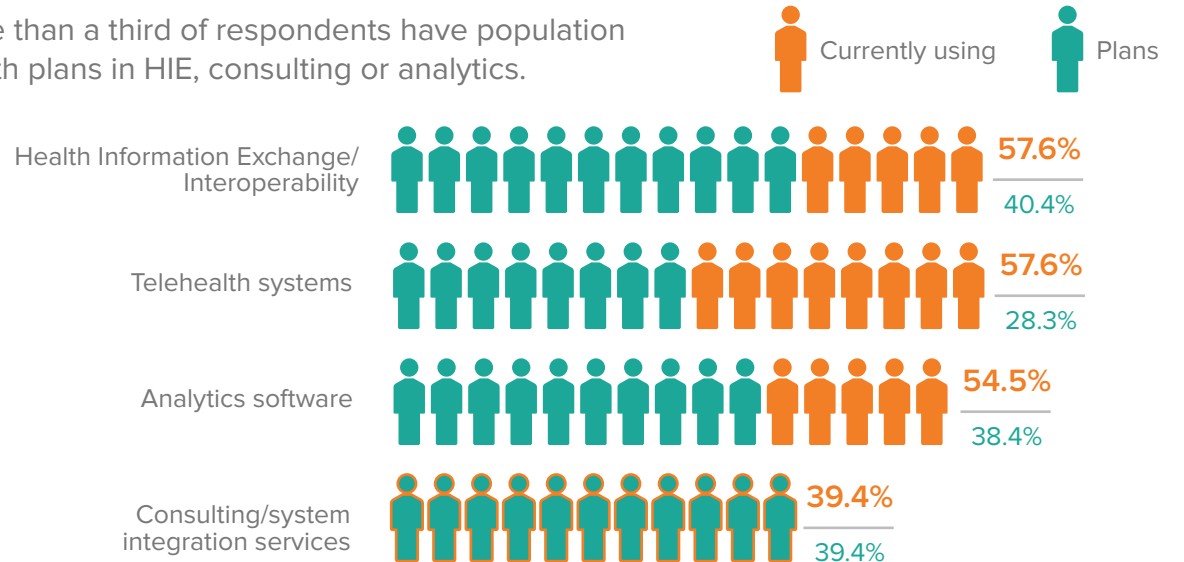Consulting/system integration services — **39.4%** / 39.4%

CLOUD-BASED TECHNOLOGY

Cloud-based technology offers flexibility, scalability and cost efficiencies: Healthcare organizations are looking to the cloud to support their various IT initiatives.

🟠 Currently using
🟢 Plans

Health information exchanges — 39.0% / 39.0%

Clinical data storage — 23.8% / 39.0%

Managed application deployment — 21.9% / 41.9%

Big data analytics support — 15.2% / 52.4%

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Nearly half of respondents have home monitoring device, aging well/elderly care or mobile wellness monitoring plans. Many patient care programs have a great need for IT solutions, as respondents report more planning of these programs than actual implementation.

Hospital discharge/30-day readmission programs — 71.7% / 22.2%

Acute care programs — 69.7% / 20.2%

Patient education programs — 67.7% / 27.3%

Chronic patient management programs — 54.5% / 35.4%

Home monitoring devices — 27.3% / 45.5%

Aging well or elderly care programs — 24.2% / 46.5%

Mobile wellness monitoring devices (mHealth) — 21.2% / 52.5%

■ Currently using
■ Plans