



Digital Readiness Survey Assessment Report

June 22nd, 2026

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Digital Readiness Survey Background and Purpose

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Overview

RHTP will stand up a set of five strategic initiatives under the Transformation of Rural Community Health Care (ToRCH Care) program

1. Regional Coordinating Networks and Hub Activation

Create local and regional groups that help providers coordinate care and focus on critical needs, spanning 104 counties

2. Alternative Payment Models

Use new payment approaches that reward teamwork and better health outcomes

4. Rural Health Workforce Programs

Train, recruit, and keep health care workers in rural areas



3. Digital Backbone

Build shared technology systems so providers can communicate and share information easily

5. Provider Transformation

Help rural hospitals and clinics modernize how they operate, including strategic renovations

Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) Overview

RHTP Background

The State of Missouri was awarded federal funding through the **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**, a multi-year initiative administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to strengthen rural healthcare access, quality, and sustainability. The program is administered through the Missouri Department of Social Services.

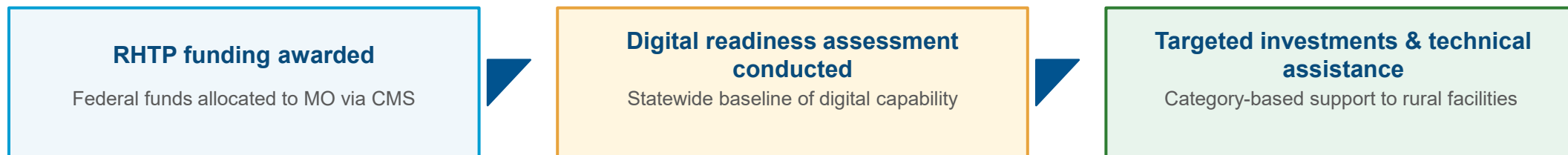
The **Digital Readiness Survey** was designed to help the State **strategically allocate digital backbone investments and technical support** to rural health facilities over the 5-year grant period.

~\$216M

Missouri's first-year RHTP award

 Learn more about the program [here](#)

From federal funding to targeted investments



MO Digital Backbone Initiative is a core RHTP priority

Missouri's RHTP initiatives



Regional Networks
and Hub Activation



Alternative Payment
Models



Digital Backbone



Rural Health
Workforce Programs



Provider
Transformation



**EHR Modernization &
Interoperability**

Funding Electronic Health Record (EHR) deployments and interoperability modernization so rural providers can exchange clinical data more effectively



HIE / QHIN Connectivity

Scaling Missouri's Rural Health Data Collaborative, onboarding rural facilities to Health Information Exchanges and Qualified Health Information Networks for statewide real-time data exchange



**Social Care Referral &
CIE Platform**

Procuring a statewide Community Information Exchange (CIE) platform to enable closed-loop social referrals across clinical and community partners

MISSOURI INTEGRATED HEALTH DATA FABRIC

One source of truth across clinical, claims, social & public health data. Including (but not limited to) the elements below:



Unified Citizen
Portal



Data Lakehouse



Master Patient
Index



Analytics & AI
Reporting



**Cloud & Hybrid
Architecture**

Standing up a hybrid-cloud Data Lakehouse providing secure, scalable analytics and shared infrastructure for rural providers



Advanced Technologies

Funding Ambient Artificial Intelligence (AI) licensing, Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) deployment, and telehealth expansion to improve provider and patient experience



**Data Governance,
Security & AI Policy**

Establishing a Digital Governance Board setting data and responsible AI standards across rural providers

ENABLES THE KEY RHTP OBJECTIVES



Expanded access to care



Improved health outcomes



Strengthened provider
sustainability



Increased interoperability

The Digital Readiness Survey establishes a baseline of the digital landscape, capability gaps, and funding opportunities across rural facilities to guide where investments are directed.

What the Digital Readiness Survey Assessed

The survey collected baseline technology and readiness data across nine domains spanning interoperability, cybersecurity, data governance, and care delivery.



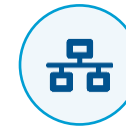
Facility Information

The survey reached **929 rural facilities** across **12** facility types.



EHR & Interoperability

92.4% of facilities have an EHR;
31% have working FHIR R4* endpoints (a key enabler for interoperability)



Infrastructure & Broadband

71.8% of facilities have 100+ Mbps broadband.



Cybersecurity & Privacy

~48% adhere to a recognized cybersecurity framework.



Financial Sustainability

Half allocate **5% or less** of budget to health Information Technology (IT)



Digital Workforce Capacity

60% report IT staff trained in cyber/EHR;
1 in 4 rate digital workforce capacity as low.



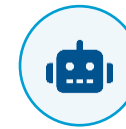
Data Governance & Reporting

39.3% have a published data governance policy and 29.9% a formal governance structure.



Patient-Facing Technology

Telehealth reaches **44.9%** of facilities and RPM reaches **16.2%**.



AI Adoption

38% have piloted or deployed AI;
~25% have AI governance processes in place.

* Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Release 4 (R4) endpoints

How Survey Results Will Inform Planning & Investment

Purpose of the survey

The survey was designed to help the State of Missouri understand the digital readiness of facilities participating in the Rural Health Transformation Program across areas including digital infrastructure, interoperability, cybersecurity, data reporting, and workforce capacity. Survey responses will directly inform how the State prioritizes digital backbone investments and technical support across rural providers.

Objectives of the survey

- Measure current digital readiness and identify key capability gaps across rural providers
- Establish baseline technology metrics tied to grant funding
- Support Year 1 and subsequent investment planning

Rural facility types included

- Hospitals
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
- Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs)
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUD Tx)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Pharmacies
- Multi-facility & EMS Multi-Facility respondents¹
- Other (e.g., I/DD, residential, behavioral health support)

Administered Annually

The Digital Readiness Survey will be administered annually to capture YoY progress, enable facilities to correct inaccurate information, and capture new information from facilities that were unable to complete the prior survey.

How results inform planning & investment decisions

Category placement → facilities are categorized into RHTP support categories based on readiness, guiding which investments they are eligible for
Statewide gaps → survey findings inform funding priorities to close digital readiness gaps (e.g., EHR adoption, FHIR interoperability, HIE connection)
Advanced readiness → findings identify facilities positioned for advanced technologies (AI, telehealth, RPM) and inform prioritization

¹ **Multi-facility & EMS Multi-Facility respondents:** Respondents who selected more than one facility type on the survey (e.g., a health system operating as Hospital + FQHC, or a behavioral health organization operating as CCBHC + CMHC). EMS Multi-Facility respondents are EMS agencies that also operate other facility types (e.g., EMS + MIH-CP + Fire).

Survey Response Rates & Key Metrics

Key Takeaways

01

Strong rural participation across the state

Rural facilities responded at **70.3%** excluding pharmacies (234 / 333) and **55.7%** including pharmacies (929 / 1,669).

02

Engagement varied widely by rural facility type

CCBHCs, SUD Tx providers, FQHCs, and hospitals all responded at **70%+**, while **27.1%** of EMS organizations responded. LPHAs landed in the middle at **62.6%**.

03

EHR adoption is near-universal, but interoperability readiness is lower

92.4% of facilities have an EHR or clinical documentation system, **31%** have confirmed FHIR R4 endpoints, and **33.8%** are connected to an HIE — strong EHR adoption means substantial investment will be able to focus on interoperability upgrades.

04

Formal data governance frameworks are limited

39.3% of rural facilities have a published data governance policy and **29.9%** have a formal governance council or structure, pointing to data governance policy and structure support as a priority investment.

05

Cybersecurity practices are mixed

71.8% of facilities report a structured cybersecurity patching process, and **49.6%** meet [HHS Cybersecurity Performance Goals](#) or follow a recognized cybersecurity framework.

06

Advanced tech adoption is uneven; social-care connectivity is the biggest gap

Telehealth (**44.9%**) and AI (**38%**) have broader adoption than RPM at **16.2%**. The single largest gap across all metrics is connection to a Social Care Referral / CIE platform at **15.8%** (fewer than 1 in 6 rural facilities), highlighting CIE/social-care as a key need.

Survey Response Rates by Rural Facility Type – Excluding Pharmacy

70.3%

Response Rate

234 / 333 rural facilities

11

Rural Facility Types Represented

CCBHC, SUD Tx, FQHC, Hospital, LPHA, CMHC, EMS, Other, Multiple, EMS Multiple, RHC

234

Rural facilities responded across all non-pharmacy facility types

Rural Facility Type	In Scope	Rural Responded	Response Rate
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)	12	12	100.0%
Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUD Tx)	3	3	100.0%
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	20	19	95.0%
Hospital	75	55	73.3%
Local Public Health Agency (LPHA)	99	62	62.6%
Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)	2	1	50.0%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	122	33	27.1%
Other ¹	N/A	30	N/A
Multiple ²	N/A	9	N/A
EMS Multiple ³	N/A	4	N/A
Rural Health Clinic (RHC)	N/A	6	N/A
TOTAL	333	234	70.3%

1: "Other" respondents: Residential & Community Living (13), I/DD & Developmental Disability Services (8), Other Community Services (6), Behavioral Health Support (3).
2: "Multiple" respondents selected more than one facility type on the survey (e.g., Hospital + FQHC, or FQHC + CCBHC + CMHC + SUD Tx)
3: "EMS Multiple" respondents are EMS agencies that also operate other facility types (e.g., EMS + MIH-CP + Fire)

* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type



Takeaways

- The survey saw high engagement from CCBHCs, SUD treatment providers, FQHCs, and hospitals — all exceeding **70%** response rates
- Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) also demonstrated strong engagement, with well over half responding (**62.6%**)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) had a survey response rate at **27.1%**

Survey Response Rates by Rural Facility Type – Including Pharmacy

55.7%

Response Rate

929 / 1667 rural facilities

12

Rural Facility Types Represented

CCBHC, SUD Tx, FQHC, Hospital, LPHA, Pharmacy, CMHC, EMS, Other, Multiple, EMS Multiple, RHC

929

Rural facilities responded in total, including pharmacies

Rural Facility Type	In Scope	Rural Responded	Response Rate
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)	12	12	100.0%
Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUD Tx)	3	3	100.0%
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	20	19	95.0%
Hospital	75	55	73.3%
Local Public Health Agency (LPHA)	99	62	62.6%
Pharmacy	1334	695	52.1%
Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)	2	1	50.0%
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	122	33	27.1%
Other ¹	N/A	30	N/A
Multiple	N/A	9	N/A
EMS Multiple	N/A	4	N/A
Rural Health Clinic (RHC)	N/A	6	N/A
TOTAL	1667	929	55.7%

1: "Other" respondents: Residential & Community Living (13), I/DD & Developmental Disability Services (8), Other Community Services (6), Behavioral Health Support (3).
2: "Multiple" respondents selected more than one facility type on the survey (e.g., Hospital + FQHC, or FQHC + CCBHC + CMHC + SUD Tx)
3: "EMS Multiple" respondents are EMS agencies that also operate other facility types (e.g., EMS + MIH-CP + Fire)

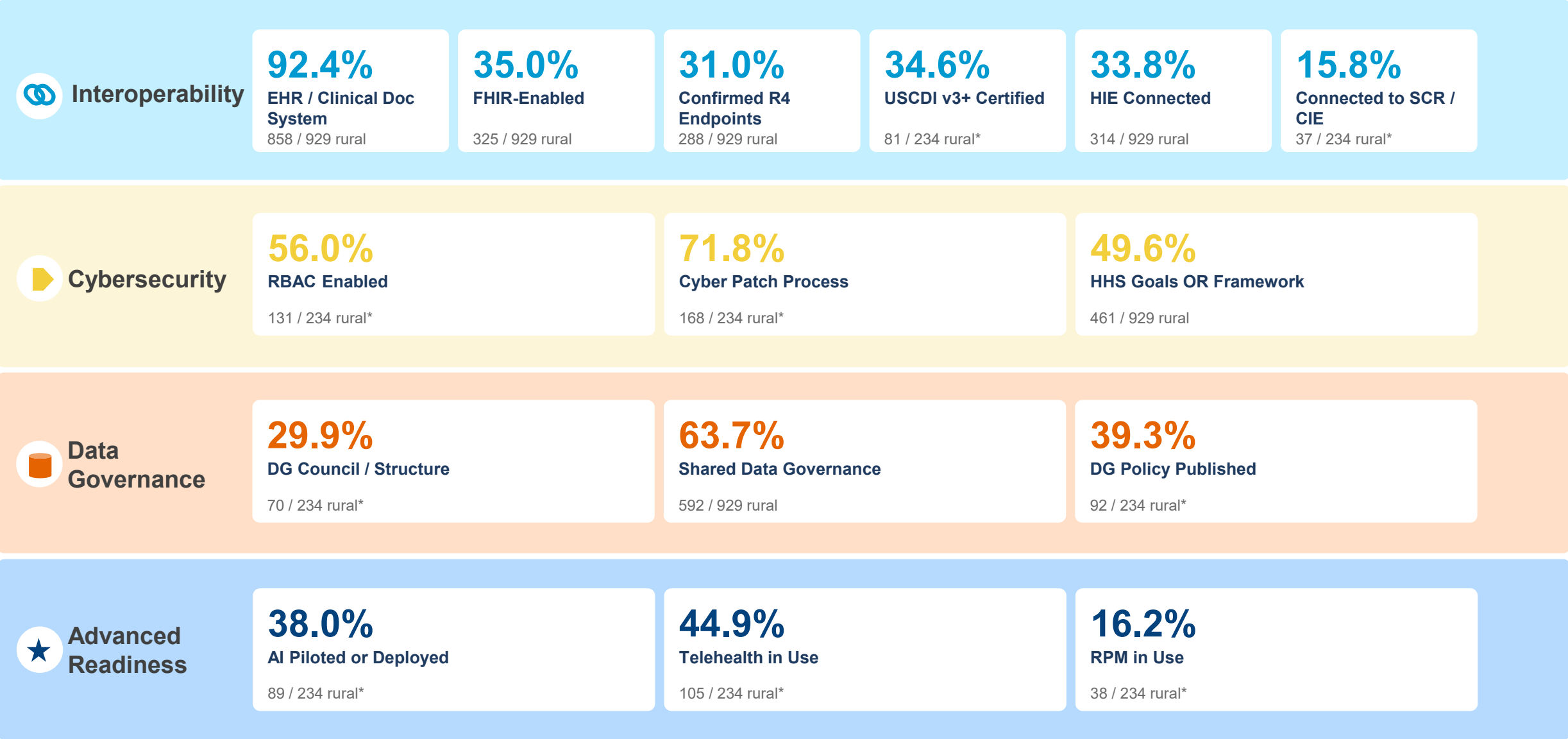
* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type



Takeaways

- Pharmacies accounted for 695 responses, over **70%** of all survey respondents, making them the single largest contributor to overall participation
- The inclusion of pharmacies reduced the response rate from **70.3%** to **55.7%**, reflecting the much larger pharmacy outreach population

Key Statewide Readiness Metrics — Overview



* Metrics marked with an asterisk use n = 234 (rural excl. pharmacy); pharmacies were not asked these items. All other metrics use n = 929 (incl. pharmacy).

Key Statewide Readiness Metrics — Interoperability

n = 929 (incl. pharmacy where applicable)

Interoperability metrics measure how well systems can share patient information between providers, pharmacies, hospitals, and community partners.

EHR / Clinical Doc System Adoption

92.4% 858 / 929 rural

What it is: The facility has some kind of electronic record system in place to store patient information.

Why it matters: Without an electronic record, there's no way to share information digitally.

Takeaway: 858 of 929 rural facilities (92.4%) have an EHR or clinical documentation system; 71 reported no electronic record.

FHIR-Enabled

35.0% 325 / 929 rural

What it is: The facility's system speaks [FHIR](#), a common digital language for sharing health information across different software.

Why it matters: If two systems both speak FHIR, they can pass patient info to each other without manual re-entry.

Takeaway: 325 of 929 rural facilities (35.0%) are FHIR-enabled.

Confirmed R4 Endpoints

31.0% 288 / 929 rural

What it is: The facility has confirmed that [FHIR R4](#) end points are configured and enabled.

Why it matters: Even if FHIR is supported, data won't flow until the connection is set up and verified.

Takeaway: 288 of 929 rural facilities (31.0%) have validated, working R4 endpoints.

USCDI v3+ Standard

34.6% 81 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The system captures a standard set of patient information fields (like medications, allergies, vitals) the same way every other certified system does, following the [United States Core Data for Interoperability \(USCDI\) standard](#)

Why it matters: When everyone uses the same fields, data moves cleanly between systems, improving interoperability.

Takeaway: 81 of 234 rural facilities (34.6%) are certified; many respondents were not sure of their status.

HIE Connected

33.8% 314 / 929 rural

What it is: The facility participates in a regional Health Information Exchange (HIE) for health data interoperability.

Why it matters: Facilities connected to an HIE can exchange health data for care coordination and population health.

Takeaway: 314 of 929 rural facilities (33.8%) are HIE-connected; SPHERE is the most common pharmacy HIE.

Connected to SCR / CIE

15.8% 37 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility connects to a Social Care Referral (SCR) / Community Information Exchange (CIE) platform that links clinical care to social needs like housing, food, and transportation.

Why it matters: Patient health often depends on factors outside the clinic — these tools close the loop between care and community services.

Takeaway: 37 of 234 rural facilities (15.8%) are connected to a Social Care Referral / CIE platform.

Note on pharmacy: Pharmacies were not asked whether USCDI v3+ standard has been adopted or CIE/SCR connectivity

Key Statewide Readiness Metrics — Cybersecurity

n = 234 rural (excl. pharmacy) for Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) & Patch; n = 929 for Framework

Cybersecurity metrics measure how well facilities protect patient data from breaches, ransomware, and unauthorized access.

RBAC Enabled

56.0%

131 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: [RBAC](#) means that staff only see the patient information they need for their job — a nurse sees different things than a billing clerk.

Why it matters: Limiting access reduces what an attacker can steal if they break into one staff account.

Takeaway: 131 of 234 rural facilities (56.0%) have Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) enabled.

Cybersecurity Patch Process

71.8%

168 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility has a routine for keeping software up to date when security fixes come out.

Why it matters: Most ransomware gets in through software that wasn't patched — a regular update process is the cheapest defense.

Takeaway: 168 of 234 rural facilities (71.8%) have a structured patch process.

Meets HHS Cyber Goals OR Has a Framework

49.6%

461 / 929 rural (incl. pharmacy)

What it is: The facility either meets the federal [HHS cybersecurity benchmarks](#) or follows a recognized standard like [NIST](#), [HITRUST](#), [SOC 2](#), or [ISO/IEC 27001](#).

Why it matters: Adopting a recognized framework signals an organized security program — not just one-off controls.

Takeaway: 461 of 929 rural facilities (49.6%) meet the HHS benchmark or follow a recognized framework.

Note on pharmacy: Pharmacies were not asked about RBAC or patching specifically; they were asked about security certifications, which inform the framework metric.

Key Statewide Readiness Metrics — Data Governance

n = 234 rural (excl. pharmacy) for Council & Policy;
n = 929 for Shared Data Governance (DG)

Data governance metrics measure whether facilities have clear rules and accountability for how patient data is collected, used, and shared.

Data Governance Council / Structure

29.9% 70 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility has a named group or committee responsible for data decisions — who can access what, how data quality is checked, etc.

Why it matters: Without someone accountable for the data, decisions get made one-off and inconsistencies build up.

Takeaway: 70 of 234 rural facilities (29.9%) have a formal data governance council or structure.

Shared Data Governance

63.7% 592 / 929 rural (incl. pharmacy)

What it is: The facility shares data governance practices with other organizations — common policies, shared audit processes, joint consent rules.

Why it matters: When partners govern data the same way, sharing patient information across organizations is far easier and safer.

Takeaway: 592 of 929 rural facilities (63.7%) participate in a shared data governance model; pharmacy chains account for a large share.

Data Governance Policy Published

39.3% 92 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility has a written, published policy that explains who owns the data, who can access it, and how quality is maintained.

Why it matters: A written policy is the difference between data being managed and data being managed by chance.

Takeaway: 92 of 234 rural facilities (39.3%) have a written, published data governance policy.

Note on pharmacy: Pharmacies were not asked about Data Governance Policy or Data Governance Council/Structure — only whether they had a shared data governance model.

Key Statewide Readiness Metrics — Advanced Readiness n = 234 rural respondents (excl. pharmacy)

Advanced readiness metrics measure adoption of newer technologies that improve access and reduce provider burden — AI, telehealth, and remote monitoring.

AI Piloted or Deployed

38.0% 89 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility is testing or actively using AI tools — most commonly ambient AI.

Why it matters: AI tools can save providers hours of documentation time each day, easing burnout and freeing up time for patients.

Takeaway: 89 of 234 rural facilities (38.0%) have piloted or deployed AI.

Telehealth in Use

44.9% 105 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: The facility delivers care via video visits or virtual specialty consults.

Why it matters: Telehealth lets rural patients see a specialist without driving hours — and lets facilities stretch limited staff.

Takeaway: 105 of 234 rural facilities (44.9%) have telehealth in use.

RPM in Use

16.2% 38 / 234 rural excl. pharmacy

What it is: Remote Patient Monitoring — devices at home (blood pressure cuffs, glucose monitors, etc.) send vitals back to the care team automatically.

Why it matters: RPM catches problems early in patients with chronic conditions and prevents avoidable ER visits and hospital stays.

Takeaway: 38 of 234 rural facilities (16.2%) use Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM).

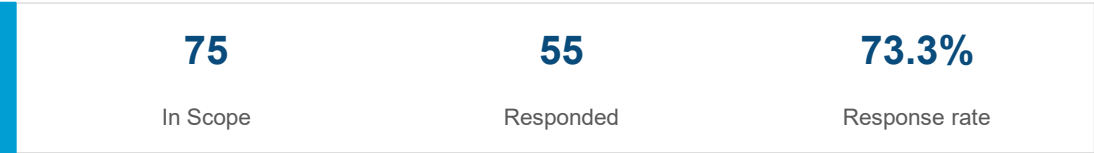
Note on pharmacy: Pharmacies were not asked about AI, Telehealth, or RPM.

Facility Snapshots

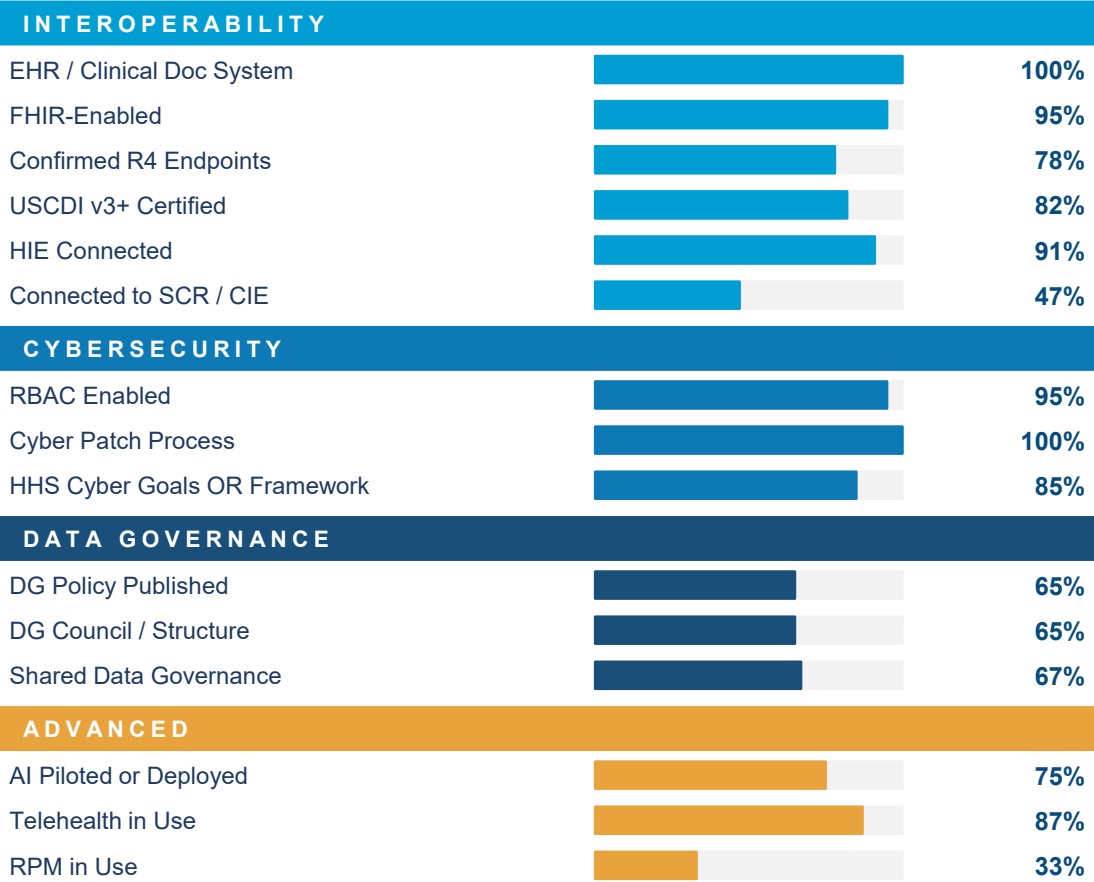
Hospitals

n = 55 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability
All 55 hospitals have an EHR and 52 of 55 (95%) are connected to an HIE or have R4 endpoints, meeting baseline readiness criteria for advanced technologies.
- 2

Cybersecurity & Privacy
All hospitals have a structured patch process and 95% (52 of 55) have Role-Based Access Control enabled.
- 3

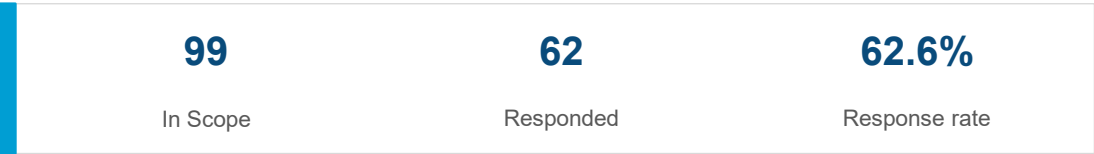
EHR & Interoperability
26 of 55 hospitals (47%) are connected to a CIE platform; expanding this would support closed-loop social-care referrals.
- 4

Patient-Facing Tech
48 of 55 hospitals (87%) use telehealth, while 18 of 55 (33%) use remote patient monitoring.

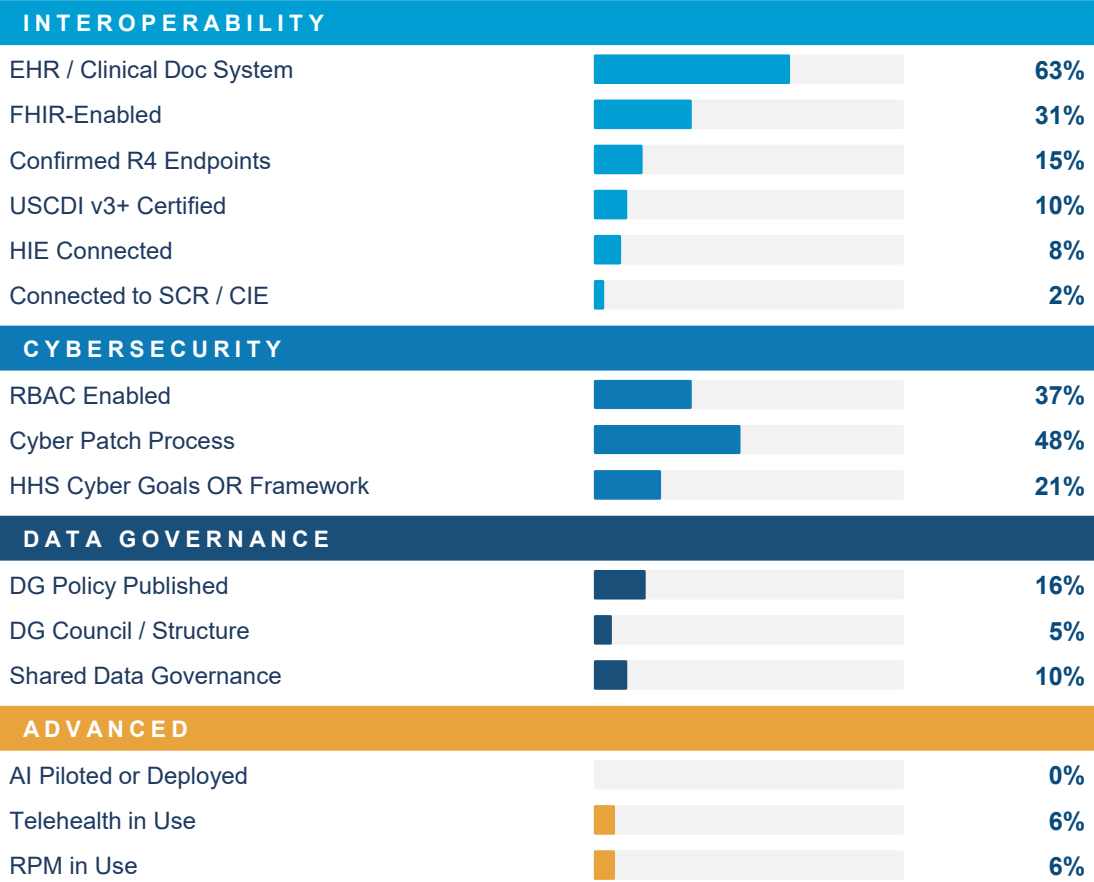
Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs)

n = 62 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability

39 of 62 LPHAs (63%) have an EHR, and 23 of 62 report no electronic record system. EHR deployment will help LPHAs strengthen data-sharing capabilities.
- 2

EHR & Interoperability

5 of 62 LPHAs (8%) are connected to an HIE; onboarding more would help improve statewide real-time data exchange.
- 3

Data Governance

10 of 62 LPHAs (16%) have a published data governance policy and 3 of 62 (5%) have a formal governance structure.
- 4

Digital Workforce

32 of 62 LPHAs (52%) rate their digital workforce capacity as low or very low.

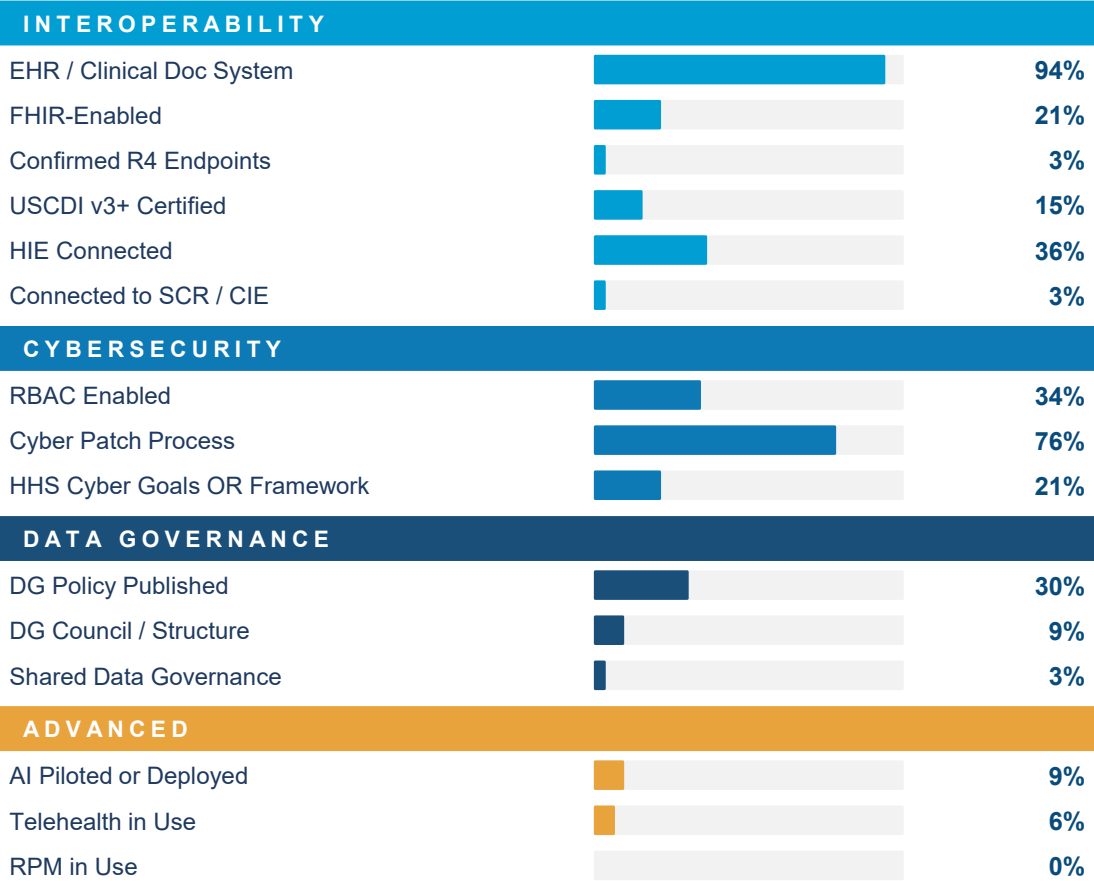
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

n = 33 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- EHR & Interoperability**

1 31 of 33 EMS agencies (94%) have an EHR, while 1 of 33 (3%) has a confirmed FHIR R4 endpoint; expanding R4 would let organizations exchange clinical data more effectively.
- Cybersecurity & Privacy**

2 7 of 33 EMS agencies (21%) meet the HHS benchmark or follow a recognized cybersecurity framework.
- Patient-Facing Tech**

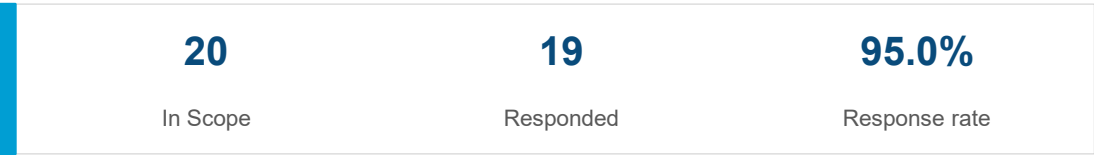
3 2 of 33 EMS agencies (6%) use telehealth and none use remote patient monitoring.
- Infrastructure & Broadband**

4 17 of 33 EMS agencies (52%) have 100+ Mbps broadband and 14 of 33 (42%) maintain a disaster-recovery plan.

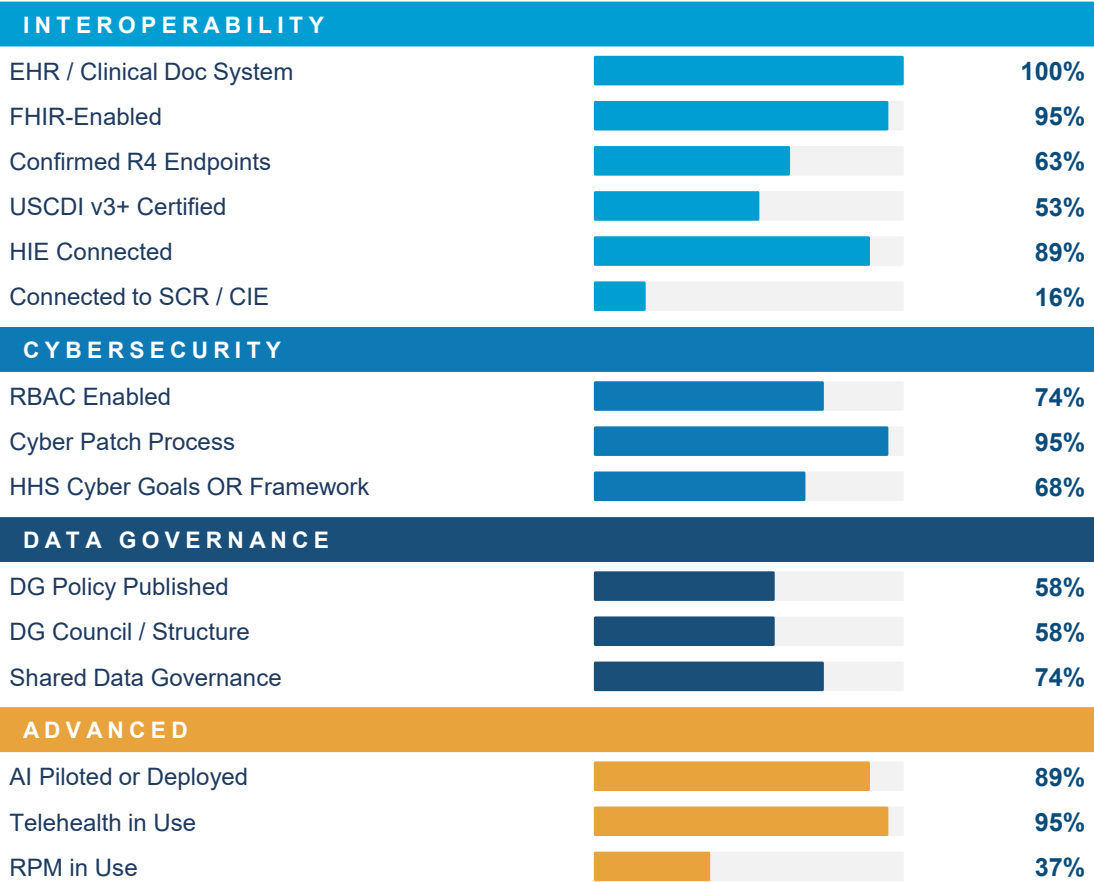
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

n = 19 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability

19 of 19 FQHCs (100%) have an EHR and 18 of 19 (95%) are FHIR-enabled, indicating an interoperability base for advanced technologies support.
- 2

EHR & Interoperability

12 of 19 FQHCs (63%) have a confirmed R4 endpoint and 17 of 19 (89%) are connected to an HIE.
- 3

EHR & Interoperability

3 of 19 FQHCs (16%) are connected to a CIE platform; broader connection would support closed-loop social-care referrals.
- 4

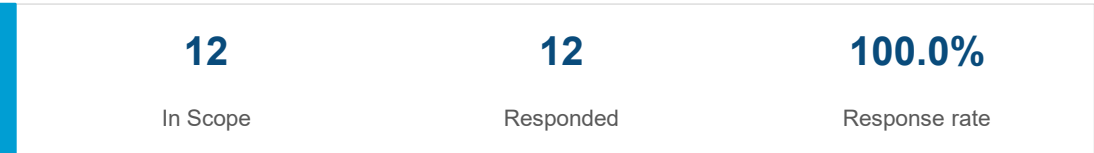
AI Adoption

17 of 19 FQHCs (89%) have piloted or deployed AI and 18 of 19 (95%) use telehealth.

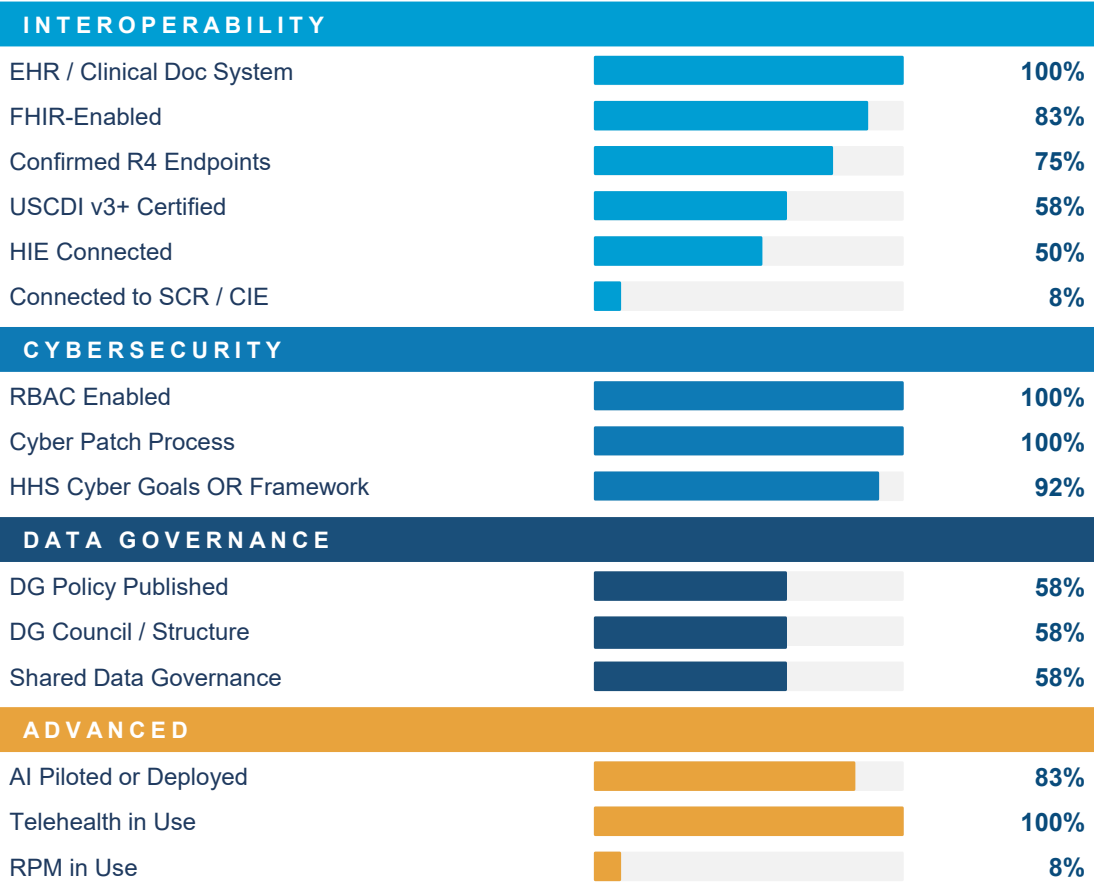
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

n = 12 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability
12 of 12 CCBHCs (100%) have an EHR and 9 of 12 (75%) have a confirmed R4 endpoint, indicating readiness for advanced technology investments.
- 2

Cybersecurity & Privacy
12 of 12 CCBHCs (100%) have Role-Based Access Control and a structured patch process, and 11 of 12 (92%) meet the HHS benchmark or a recognized framework.
- 3

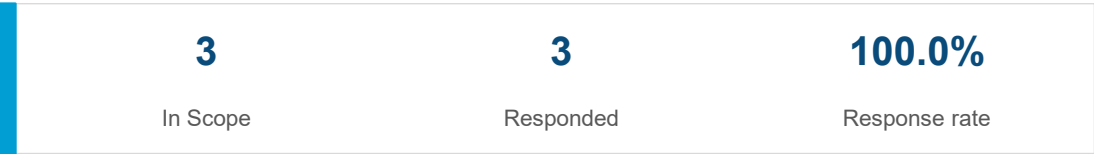
Patient-Facing Tech
6 of 12 CCBHCs (50%) are connected to an HIE; expanding connectivity would improve data sharing and care coordination
- 4

Financial Sustainability
12 of 12 CCBHCs (100%) use telehealth and 6 of 12 (50%) report pursuing outside digital-health funding.

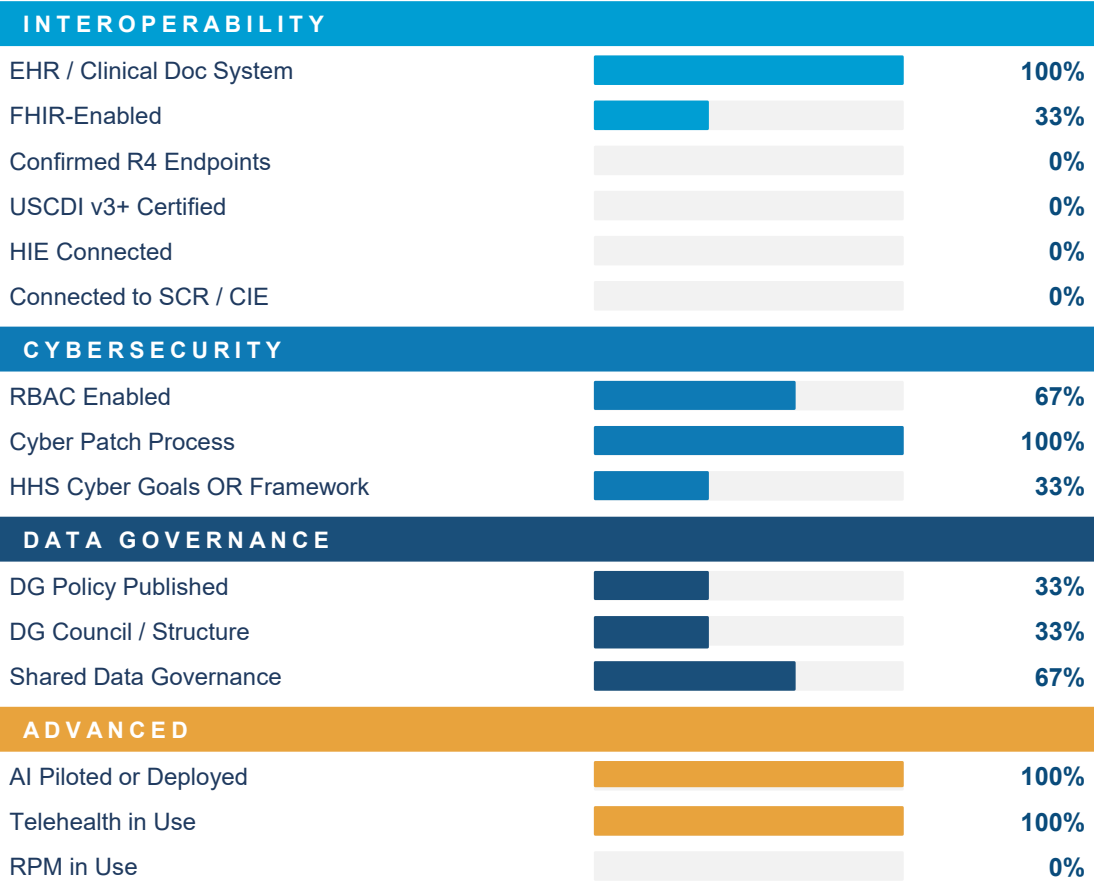
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Centers (SUD Tx)

n = 3 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability

3 of 3 SUD Tx respondents (100%) have an EHR, while none have a confirmed R4 endpoint or HIE connection.
- 2

AI Adoption

3 of 3 SUD Tx respondents (100%) use telehealth and all have piloted or deployed AI.
- 3

Cybersecurity & Privacy

3 of 3 SUD Tx respondents (100%) report a structured patch process, while 1 of 3 (33%) meets the HHS benchmark or a recognized framework.

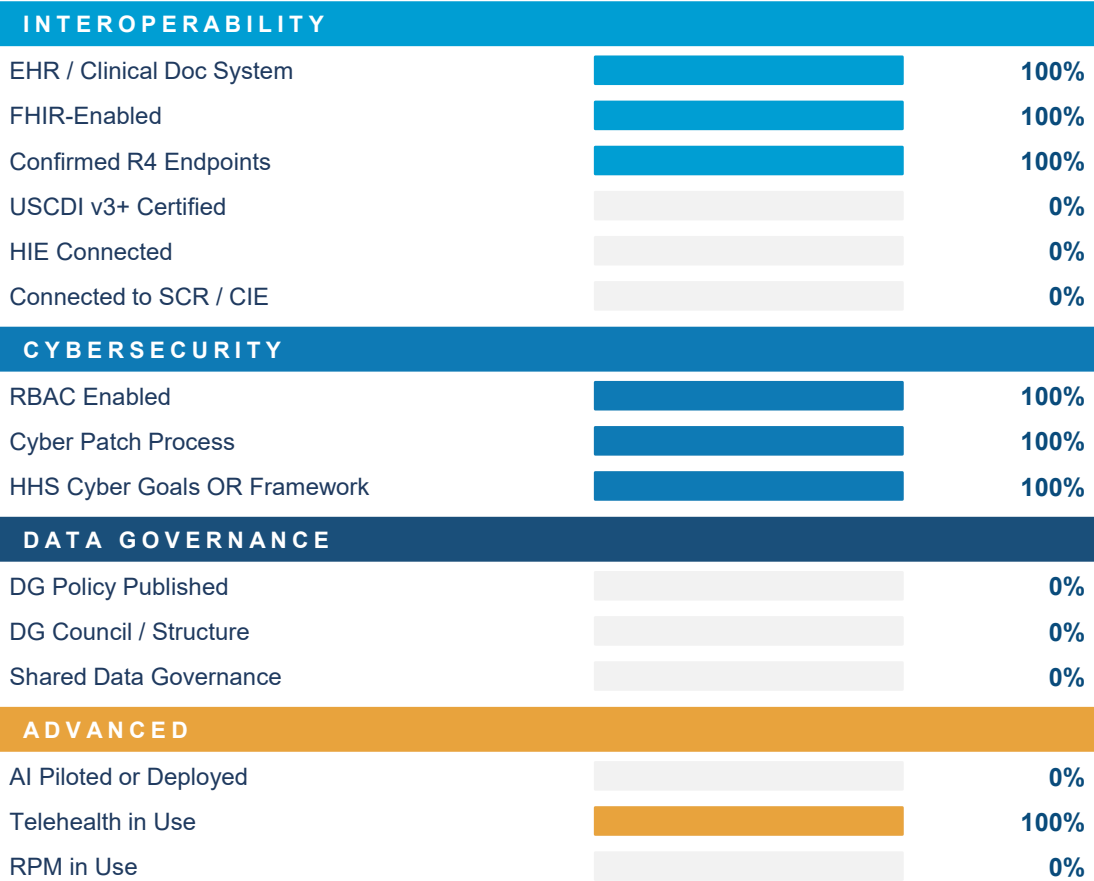
Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)

n = 1 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- EHR & Interoperability**

1 The 1 CMHC respondent has an EHR, is FHIR-enabled, and has a confirmed R4 endpoint.
- EHR & Interoperability**

2 The CMHC is not connected to an HIE or a CIE platform; onboarding to an HIE would help improve care coordination and data sharing.
- Data Governance**

3 The CMHC uses telehealth and reports Role-Based Access Control, a structured patch process, and a recognized cybersecurity framework.

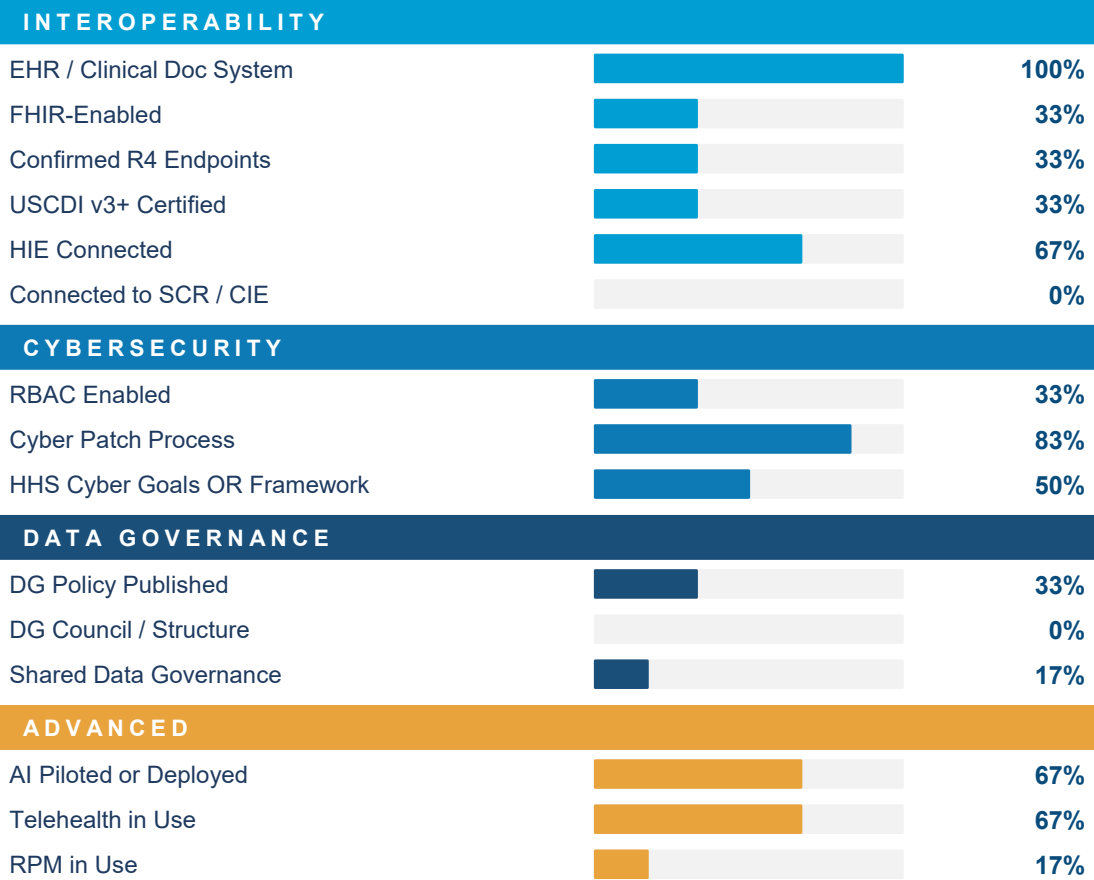
Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

n = 6 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate

N/A*	6	N/A
In Scope	Responded	Response rate

Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability
6 of 6 RHCs (100%) have an EHR and 2 of 6 (33%) have a confirmed FHIR R4 endpoint; expanding R4 would let them exchange clinical data more effectively.
- 2

EHR & Interoperability
4 of 6 RHCs (67%) are connected to an HIE, while none are connected to a CIE platform.
- 3

Cybersecurity & Privacy
5 of 6 RHCs (83%) have a structured patch process and 2 of 6 (33%) have Role-Based Access Control enabled.

* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type

Pharmacies

Rural Response Rate



Key Metrics

ALL PHARMACIES (n = 695) LARGE CHAINS (n = 382)

INTEROPERABILITY		
EHR / Clinical Doc System	97%	99%
FHIR-Enabled	30%	51%
Confirmed R4 Endpoints	30%	51%
USCDI v3+ Certified	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
HIE Connected	30%	1%
Connected to SCR / CIE	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
CYBERSECURITY		
RBAC Enabled	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
Cyber Patch Process	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
HHS Cyber Goals OR Framework	51%	87%
DATA GOVERNANCE		
DG Policy Published	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
DG Council / Structure	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
Shared Data Governance	74%	96%
ADVANCED		
AI Piloted or Deployed	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
Telehealth in Use	Not surveyed	Not surveyed
RPM in Use	Not surveyed	Not surveyed

n = 695 rural respondents

Key Takeaways

1

EHR & Interoperability

Large chains report higher rates than rural pharmacies overall on FHIR R4 (51% vs. 30%) and shared data governance (96% vs. 74%).

2

EHR & Interoperability

1% of large chains are connected to a Missouri HIE, compared with 30% of rural pharmacies overall; onboarding them would help improve statewide real-time data exchange.

Note: Large pharmacy chains often submitted a single response on behalf of multiple facilities; facility counts reflect all represented locations.

Other Rural Facility Types

n = 30 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate

N/A*	30	N/A
In Scope	Responded	Response rate

Key Metrics

INTEROPERABILITY		
EHR / Clinical Doc System		30%
FHIR-Enabled		0%
Confirmed R4 Endpoints		0%
USCDI v3+ Certified		0%
HIE Connected		7%
Connected to SCR / CIE		3%
CYBERSECURITY		
RBAC Enabled		13%
Cyber Patch Process		27%
HHS Cyber Goals OR Framework		13%
DATA GOVERNANCE		
DG Policy Published		27%
DG Council / Structure		7%
Shared Data Governance		17%
ADVANCED		
AI Piloted or Deployed		20%
Telehealth in Use		13%
RPM in Use		13%

Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability
9 of 30 facilities (30%) have an electronic record system and 21 of 30 (70%) report none.
- 2

EHR & Interoperability
None report FHIR or R4 capability, indicating a need for interoperability investments.
- 3

Cybersecurity & Privacy
4 of 30 facilities (13%) meet the HHS benchmark or a recognized framework and 8 of 30 (27%) have a published data governance policy.
- 4

EHR & Interoperability
6 of 30 facilities (20%) have piloted or deployed AI and 4 of 30 (13%) use telehealth.

* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type

Footnote: "Other" facility types include: Residential & Community Living (13), I/DD & Developmental Disability Services (8), Other Community Services (6), Behavioral Health Support (3).

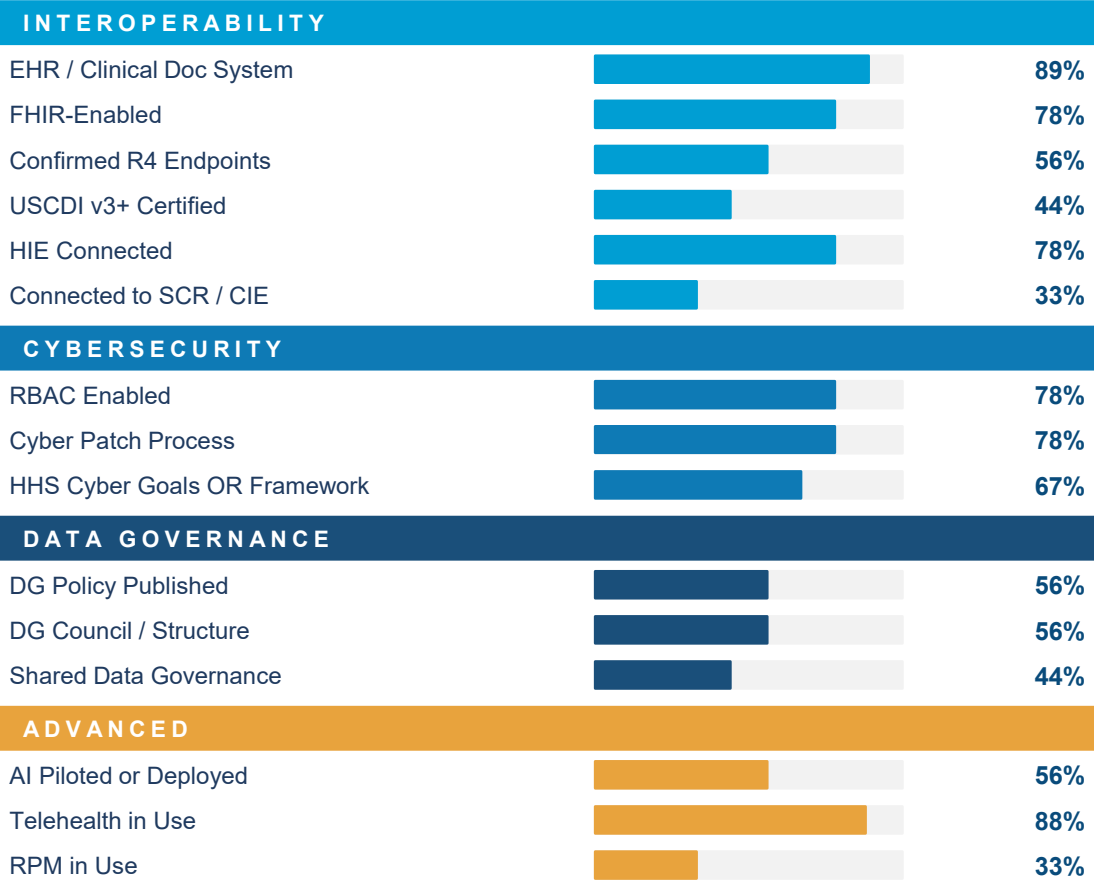
Multiple Rural Facility Types

n = 9 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate

N/A*	9	N/A
In Scope	Responded	Response rate

Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

- 1

EHR & Interoperability
8 of 9 multi-facility respondents (89%) have an EHR and 7 of 9 (78%) are connected to an HIE.
- 2

Cybersecurity & Privacy
7 of 9 multi-facility respondents (78%) have Role-Based Access Control and 6 of 9 (67%) meet the HHS benchmark or a recognized framework.
- 3

Patient-Facing Tech
8 of 9 multi-facility respondents (88%) use telehealth and 3 of 9 (33%) use remote patient monitoring.

* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type

Footnote: "Multiple Facility Types" (n=9 rural) — facilities that selected more than one facility type. Common combinations include Hospital + RHC; FQHC + CCBHC + CMHC + SUD Tx

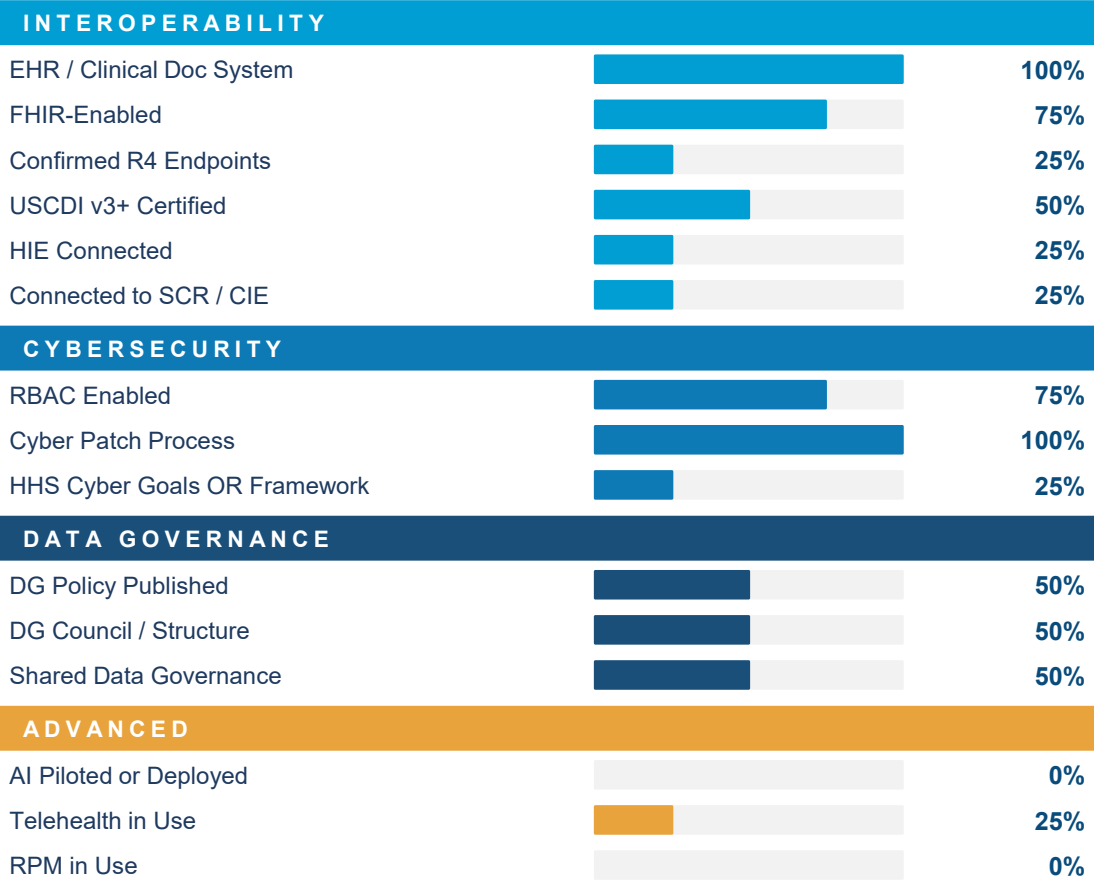
EMS Multiple Facilities

n = 4 rural respondents

Rural Response Rate

N/A*	4	N/A
In Scope	Responded	Response rate

Key Metrics



Key Takeaways

1

EHR & Interoperability
4 of 4 EMS Multiple respondents (100%) have an EHR and 3 of 4 (75%) are FHIR-enabled, while 1 of 4 (25%) has a confirmed R4 endpoint.

2

Cybersecurity & Privacy
4 of 4 EMS Multiple respondents (100%) have a structured patch process and 3 of 4 (75%) have Role-Based Access Control enabled.

3

EHR & Interoperability
1 of 4 EMS Multiple respondents (25%) is connected to an HIE; onboarding more would help improve statewide real-time data exchange.

* N/A = In scope facility list not received for this facility type

Footnote: "EMS Multiple" (n=4 rural) — EMS agencies operating multiple facilities, primarily reporting EMS + Mobile Integrated Health-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP).

Digital Maturity Framework

Framework Categories, Modules & Support Areas

Informed by Digital Readiness Survey responses, facilities are slotted into categories that align with their current digital maturity standing. This helps ensure facilities get the support they based on where they are today.

Each Category is made up of Modules; within each Module, facilities are eligible for various Support Areas that address needs identified in the Digital Readiness Survey.



CATEGORY 1

Foundational

MODULE

EHR Connection

SUPPORT AREAS: Shared EHR Deployment



CATEGORY 2

Modernization

MODULE

Required Interoperability

SUPPORT AREAS: FHIR R4 Endpoint Configuration, HIE Connection

Additional Interoperability

SUPPORT AREAS: USCDI v3 Upgrade, CIE Connection

Cybersecurity

SUPPORT AREAS: Cyber Framework Certification, RBAC Enablement, Cybersecurity Patches/Updates

Data & AI Governance

SUPPORT AREAS: Data Governance & AI Policy, Data & AI Governance Structure



CATEGORY 3

Advanced

MODULE

Advanced Technologies

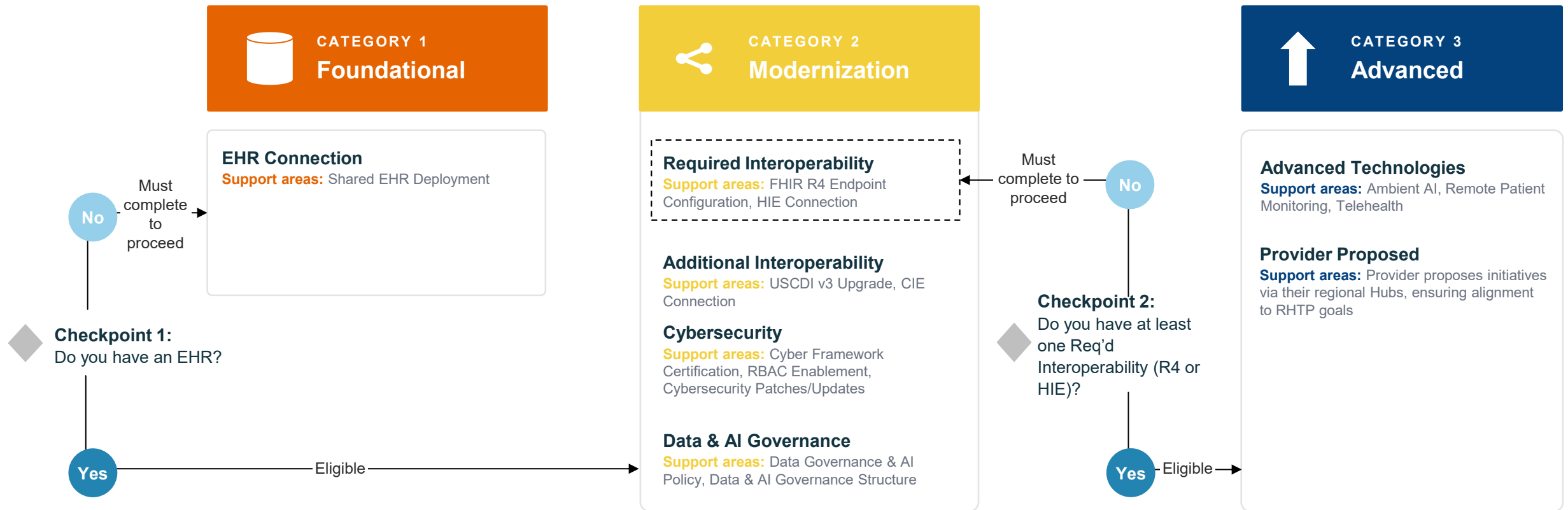
SUPPORT AREAS: Ambient AI, Remote Patient Monitoring, Telehealth

Provider Proposed

SUPPORT AREAS: Regional Hubs solicit input and proposed initiatives from participating providers and submit ideas, ensuring alignment with RHTP goals

How Survey Responses Map to Support

Each facility's responses to the Digital Readiness Survey determine what specific Support Area investments they are eligible for.



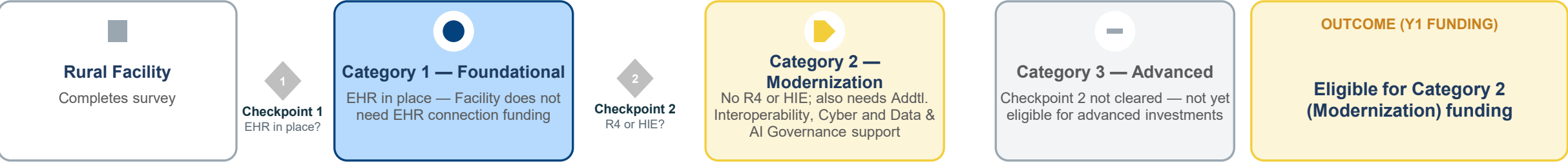
Note: Each facility may be eligible for multiple Support Areas.

How Rural Facilities Flow Through the Categories — Three Scenarios

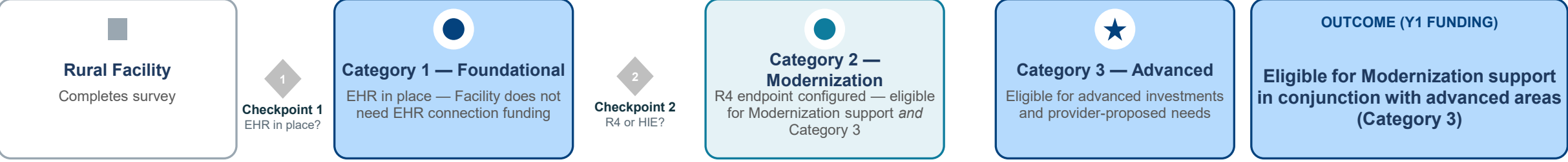
Scenario 1: No EHR — held at Category 1



Scenario 2: Has EHR, no R4 or HIE — held at Category 2



Scenario 3: Has EHR and R4 — reaches Category 3 (Advanced)



KEY — CATEGORY LOGIC

Category 1 — Foundational

EHR adoption is required before any advancement. Clearing Checkpoint 1 (an EHR in place) unlocks Category 2 (Modernization) support.

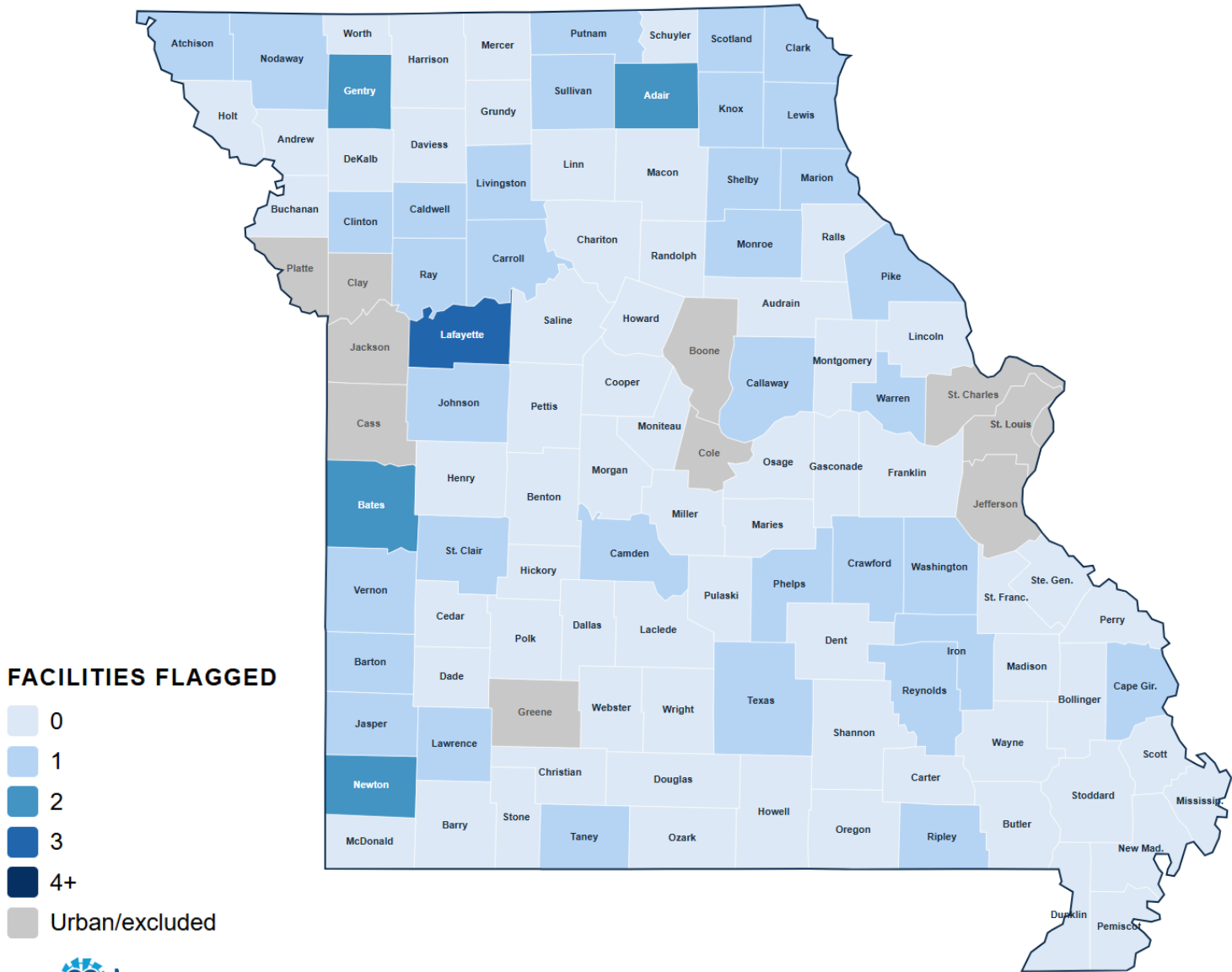
Category 2 — Checkpoint 2 (Required Interoperability)

An R4 endpoint and/or HIE connection unlocks Category 3 (Advanced). Without R4 or a HIE connection a facility can still receive support area investments across multiple Modernization modules but is blocked from Category 3.

Category 3 — Advanced (Eligible)

Once a facility has an R4 endpoint and/or HIE connection, it is eligible for advanced investments and provider-proposed needs — and remains eligible for Category 2 (Modernization) support if still needed.

Category 1 – Foundational Module

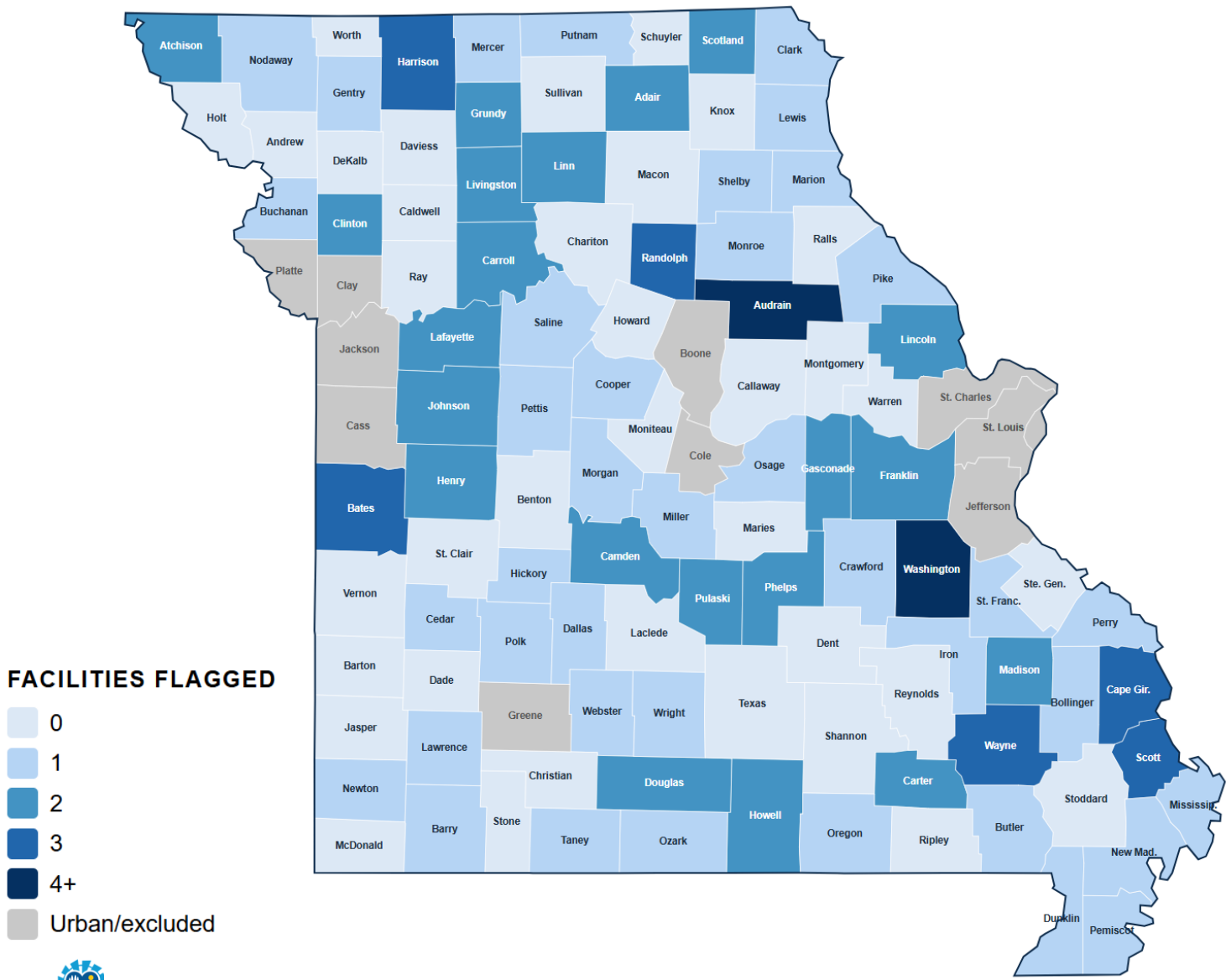


Key Insights

Total flagged rural facilities	47 across 40 counties
Rural facility type breakdown	LPHA (23, 49%), Other (21, 45%), EMS (2, 4%)
Most impacted county	Lafayette (3), Newton / Adair / Bates / Gentry (2 each)
Support area	EHR — 47 of 47 flagged facilities require it (100%)

LPHAs account for nearly half of all Category 1 flags. Hospitals are absent from this category entirely, they have universally cleared the foundational EHR bar. The single support area need tells a clear story: these 47 facilities have no EHR in place, meaning no higher-category capability is within reach until this gap is closed.

Category 2 – Required Interoperability Module

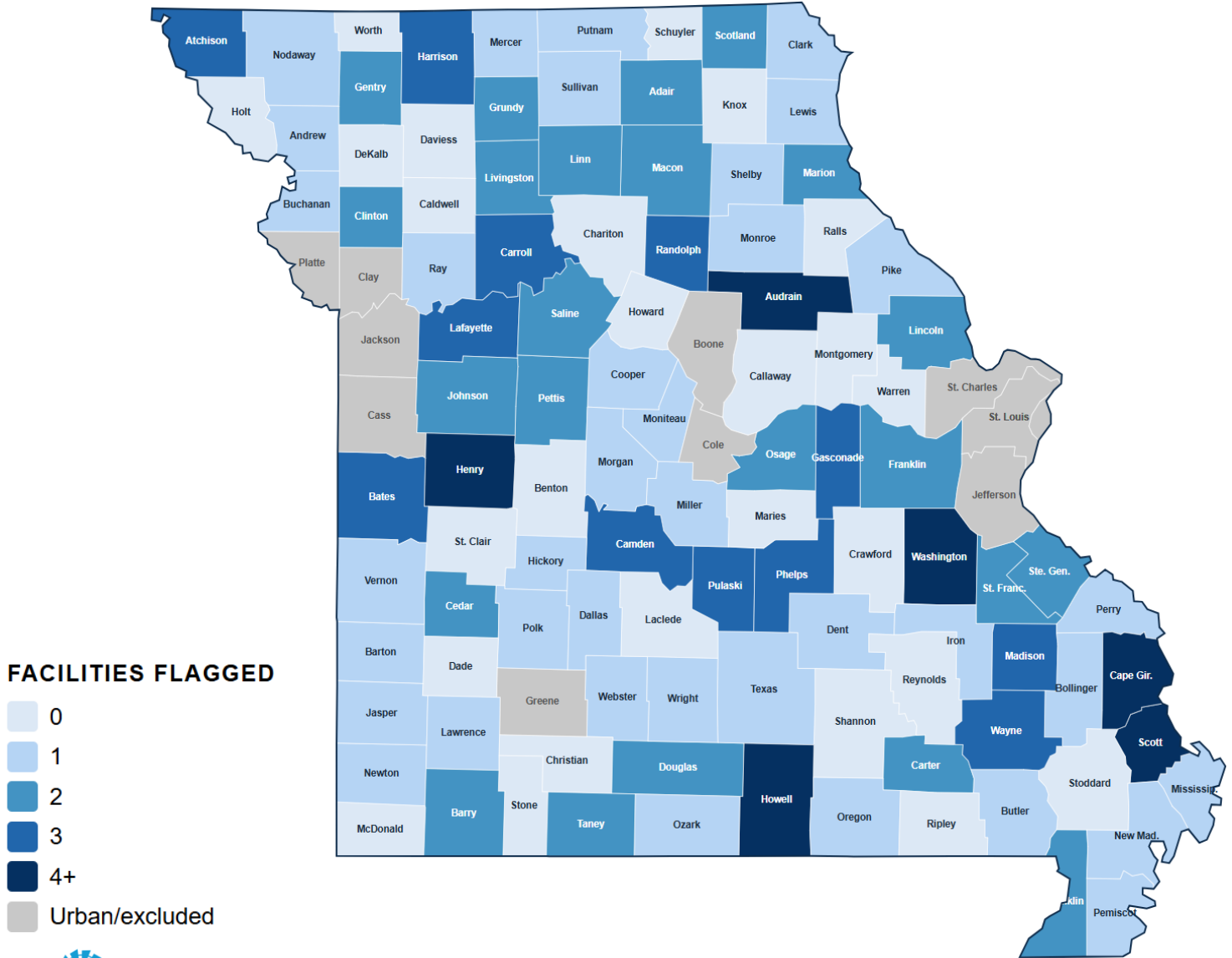


Key Insights

Total flagged rural facilities	116 across 73 counties
Rural facility type breakdown	LPHA (34, 29%), EMS (30, 26%), Hospital (14, 12%), Other (9, 8%), FQHC (8, 7%)
Most impacted county	Audrain (5), Washington (4), Harrison / Bates / Randolph / Wayne (3 each)
Support areas	R4 — 104 of 116 (90%), HIE Connection — 83 of 116 (72%)

With 116 flagged rural facilities across 73 counties, Category 2 (Required Interoperability) has one of the widest geographic footprints in the program. LPHAs (29%) and EMS (26%) together account for more than half of all flags in this Category.

Category 2 – Additional Interoperability Module

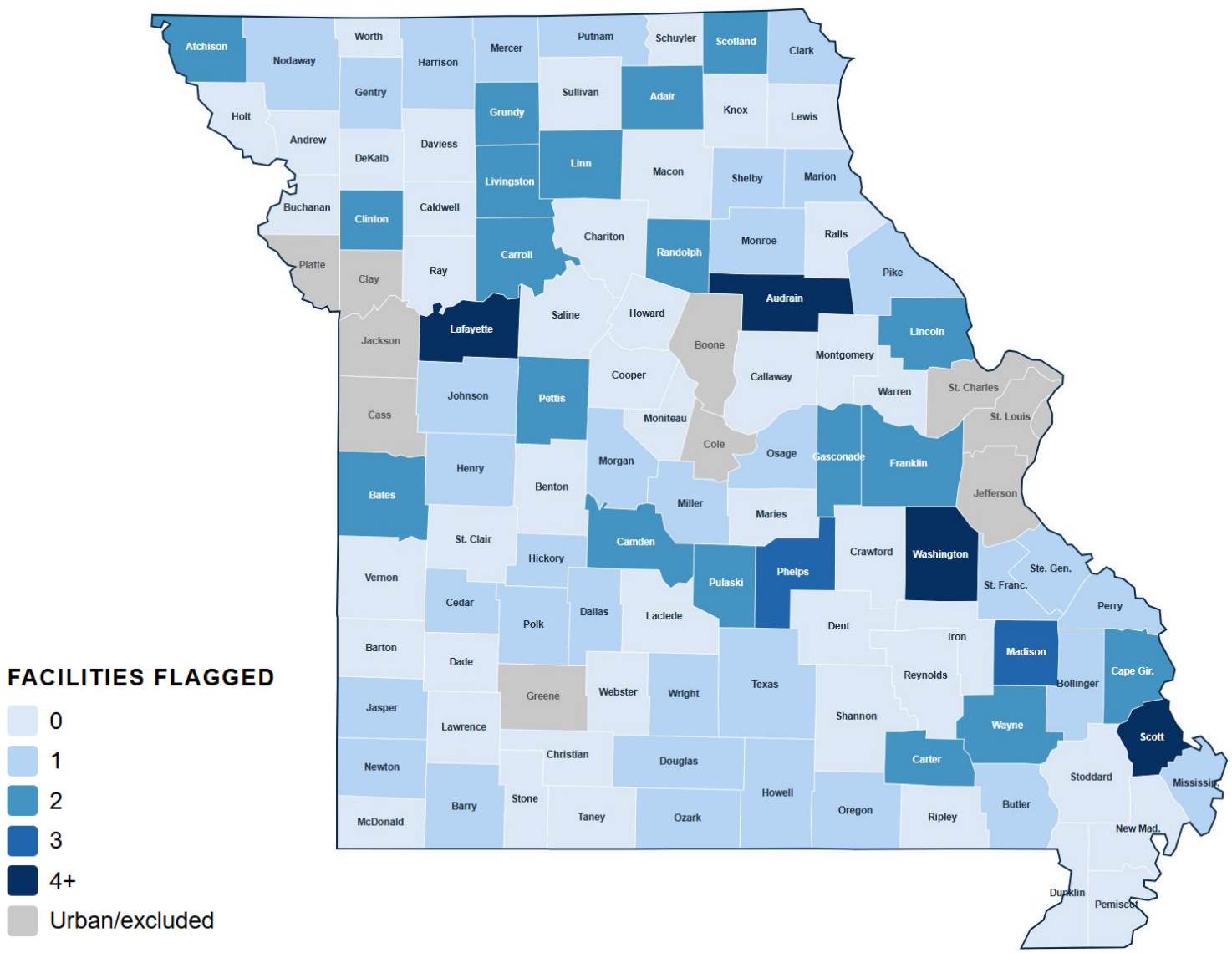


Key Insights

Total flagged rural facilities	157 across 84 counties (highest facility count and broadest county footprint of any category)
Rural facility type breakdown	LPHA (39, 25%), Hospital (32, 20%), EMS (31, 20%), FQHC (17, 11%), CCBHC (11, 7%)
Most impacted county	Henry / Audrain (5 each), Washington / Cape Girardeau / Howell / Scott (4 each)
Support areas	CIE Integration — 151 of 157 (96%), USCDI V3 — 106 of 157 (68%), HIE Enhancement — 106 of 157 (68%)

Category 2 (Additional Interoperability) has the highest number of eligible facilities (157) and geographic reach (84 counties). CIE Integration is needed by 96% of flagged facilities. USCDI V3 and HIE Enhancement are each needed by 68%, meaning most facilities need all three support areas simultaneously. The top three facility types, LPHAs (25%), hospitals (20%), and EMS (20%), are more evenly distributed here than in any other category, indicating this gap cuts broadly across the rural care ecosystem rather than concentrating in one provider type.

Category 2 – Cybersecurity Module

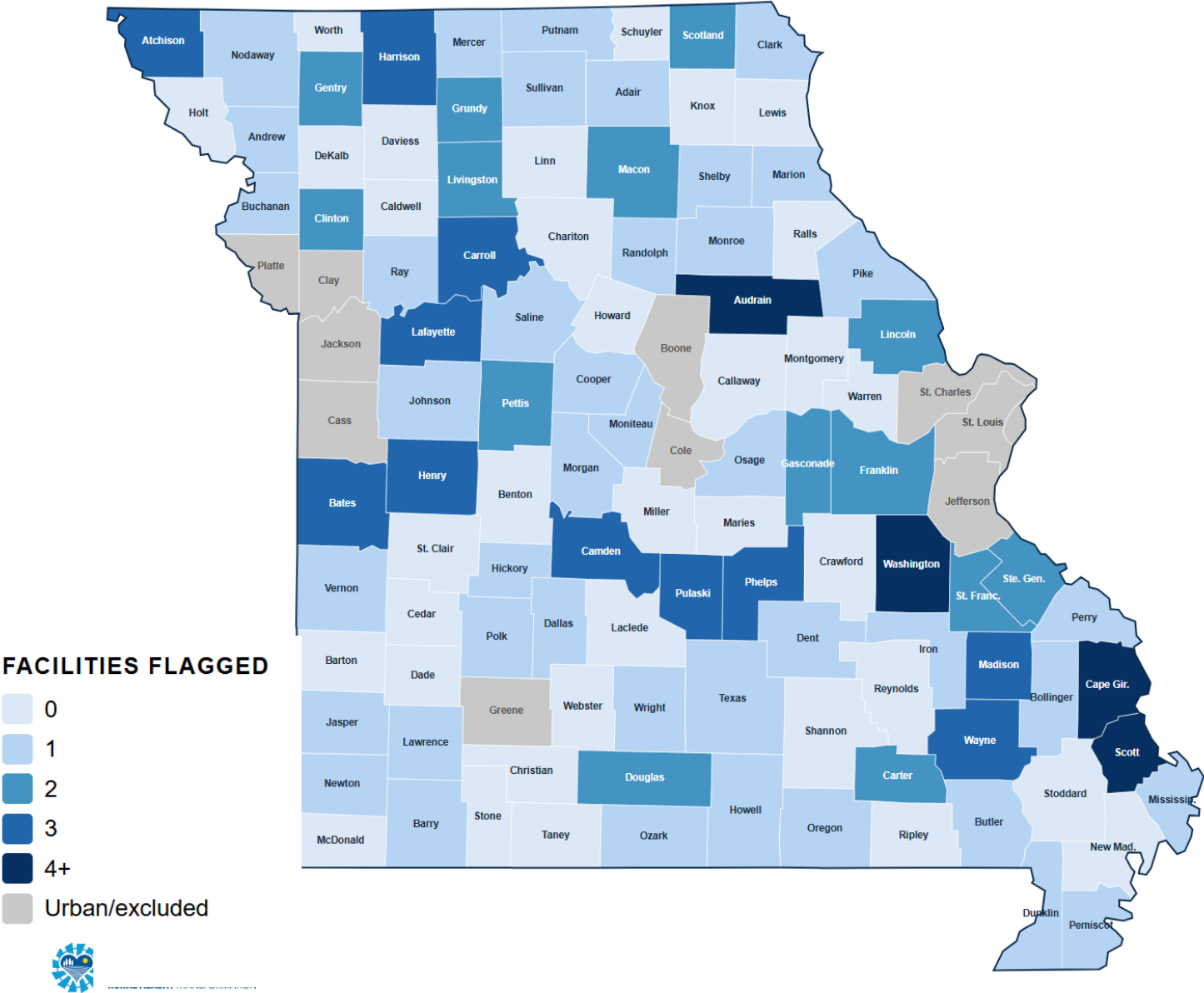


Key Insights

Total flagged rural facilities	101 across 63 counties
Rural facility type breakdown	EMS (29, 29%), LPHA (28, 28%), Hospital (12, 12%), FQHC (10, 10%), Other (7, 7%)
Most impacted county	Washington / Audrain / Scott / Lafayette (4 each), Madison / Phelps (3 each)
Support areas	Framework Certification Support — 97 of 101 (96%), RBAC Enablement — 56 of 101 (55%), Cyber Patches/Updates — 21 of 101 (21%)

Framework Certification Support is needed by 96% of flagged facilities, the single most concentrated support area need across all categorys. EMS (29%) and LPHAs (28%) are essentially tied at the top, together accounting for 57% of all Category 2 (Cybersecurity) flags.

Category 2 – Data & AI Governance Module



Key Insights

Total flagged rural facilities	128 across 74 counties
Rural facility type breakdown	LPHA (37, 29%), EMS (28, 22%), Hospital (23, 18%), FQHC (10, 8%), Other (9, 7%)
Most impacted county	Audrain (5), Washington / Cape Girardeau / Scott (4 each), Henry / Harrison (3 each)
Support areas	Governance Structure Support — 119 of 128 (93%), Data Governance Policy Support — 102 of 128 (80%)

At 128 facilities across 74 counties, Category 2 (Data & AI Governance) has the second-highest facility count and second-widest county footprint of any category. Governance Structure Support and Data Governance Policy Support almost always appear together, pointing to a systemic absence of data governance frameworks rather than isolated policy gaps. Hospitals represent 18% of flags in this category, a higher share than in most other categories, suggesting data governance gaps are not limited to smaller or lower-resourced providers.



Total flagged rural facilities	116 across 66 counties
Rural facility type breakdown	Hospital (52, 45%), FQHC (18, 16%), EMS (12, 10%), LPHA (9, 8%), CCBHC (9, 8%)
Most impacted county	Jasper (5), Henry / St. Francois / Howell (4 each), Cape Girardeau / Ste. Genevieve (3 each)
Support areas	Ambient AI, RPM Deployment Support, Telehealth Services

Hospitals make up the largest proportion (45%) of flagged facilities in this category. This category represents facilities that have cleared foundational adoption (Category 1) and have the required interoperability (Category 2 – Required Interoperability) in place positioning themselves to be more advanced.

Additional Detailed Data

EHR / Clinical Documentation System Vendor Distribution

n = 929

Named EHR / Clinical Documentation System Vendors (counts of 5 or more)

EHR / Clinical Documentation System Vendor	Count	% of Rural	Segment
Proprietary / Chain-specific pharmacy system	331	35.6%	Pharmacy
PioneerRx	147	15.8%	Pharmacy
Multiple EHRs	113	12.2%	Mixed
None / no EHR	66	7.1%	N/A
EnterpriseRx	42	4.5%	Pharmacy
Epic Systems Corporation	24	2.6%	Hospital/FQHC
CureMD	22	2.4%	LPHA
Liberty	18	1.9%	Pharmacy
FrameworkLTC	17	1.8%	Pharmacy
Meditech	14	1.5%	Hospital, FQHC, CCBHC
ComputerRx	12	1.3%	Pharmacy
ESO	9	1.0%	EMS
Epic Willow (pharmacy module)	9	1.0%	Pharmacy
Patagonia Health	9	1.0%	LPHA
TruBridge	8	0.9%	Hospital
Qualifacts/CareLogic	8	0.9%	CCBHC/SUD
ImageTrend	7	0.8%	EMS
NextGen	7	0.8%	FQHC/RHC
Oracle Cerner	6	0.6%	Hospital
Therap	6	0.6%	Other (I/DD)
eClinicalWorks	5	0.5%	FQHC
Athenahealth	5	0.5%	Hospital, FQHC
Multiple EHRs (write-in)	5	0.5%	Mixed

Note: Vendors reported by fewer than 5 rural facilities are not listed individually. Percentages are of all 929 rural respondents.

EHR Vendor Distribution by Rural Facility Type

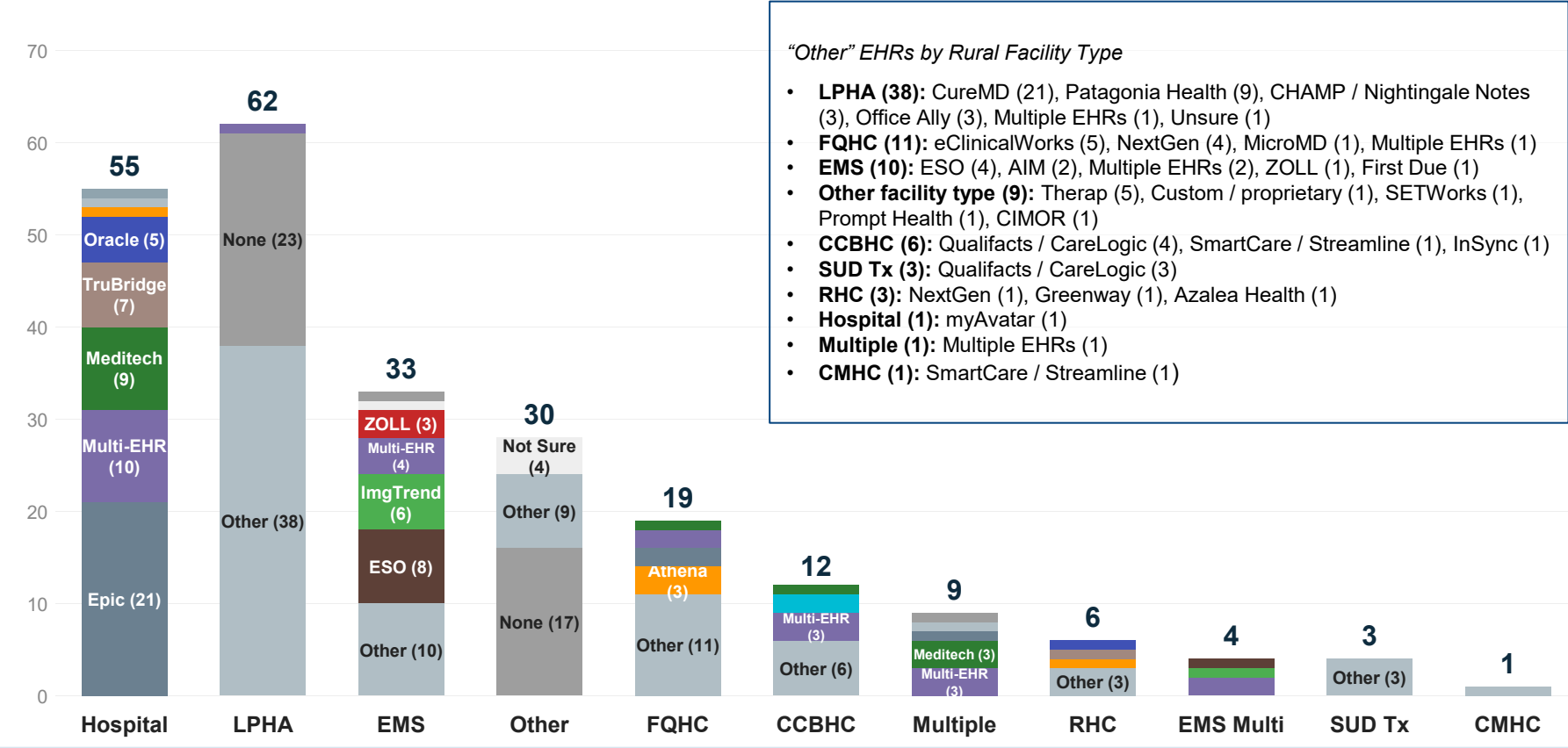
n = 929 rural · facilities may use multiple systems

Pharmacy · n = 695 · shown separately due to scale



Smaller stacks: EnterpriseRx (42), None / no EHR (24), Liberty (18), FrameworkLTC (17), ComputerRx (12), Epic Willow (9), DRX (3), QS/1 (2), Rx30 (2)

All other facility types · n = 234 (rural excl. pharmacy)



Legend · Vendor (rural total)

- Proprietary/Chain (331)
- PioneerRx (147)
- Multiple EHRs (113)
- Other (write-in) (83)
- None / no EHR (66)
- EnterpriseRx (42)
- Epic (24)
- Liberty (18)
- FrameworkLTC (17)
- Meditech (14)
- ComputerRx (12)
- ESO (9)
- Epic Willow (9)
- TruBridge (8)
- ImageTrend (7)
- Oracle Cerner (6)
- Athenahealth (5)
- Not Sure (5)
- ZOLL (3)
- DRX (3)
- Netsmart (2)
- Rx30 (2)
- QS/1 (2)
- Altera (1)

HIE Connectivity, Networks & Exchange

n = 929

33.8%

HIE Connected

314 / 929 rural

29.0%

Bidirectional Exch.

91 / 314 connected

92.6%

24hrs or less

291 / 314 connected

34.2%

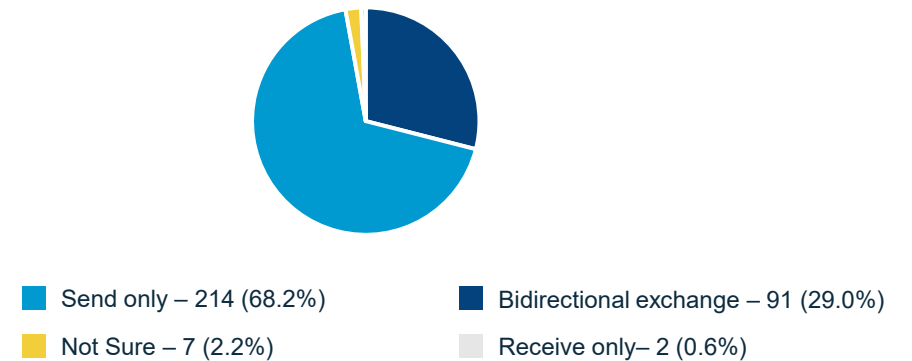
No HIE

318 / 929 rural

Most common HIE Networks & Vendors (sorted descending from top)

Vendor / Network	Count	% of HIE-Connected
SPHERE	193	61.5%
Multiple HIEs	32	10.2%
Tiger Institute (incl. Tiger / Tiger Connect / Tiger Institute)	21	6.7%
Velatura (incl. Velatura HIE / Veltura)	10	3.2%
LACIE / Lewis And Clark Information Exchange (incl. LACIE / Lacie / Lacey)	8	2.5%
Carequality (incl. CAREQUALITY / Care Quality / carequality)	6	1.9%
CommonWell (incl. Commonwell / Common Well)	6	1.9%
ESO (incl. ESO / ESO EHR)	3	1.0%
Meditech Traverse (incl. TEFCA)	3	1.0%
Show Me Vax	2	0.6%
Cerner / Oracle	2	0.6%
Pulsara (incl. XchangeER Pulsara)	2	0.6%
Other	2	0.6%
SureScripts	2	0.6%

HIE Exchange Level (of 314 connected)



HIE Data Timeliness (of 314 connected)

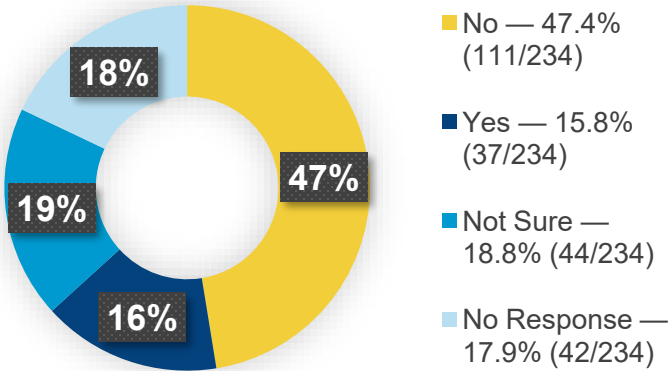
Timeliness	Count	%
Less than 12 hours	206	65.6%
Near real-time (within minutes)	78	24.8%
Not Sure	19	6.1%
12-24 hours	7	2.2%
>24 hours	4	1.3%

CIE / Social Care Connectivity

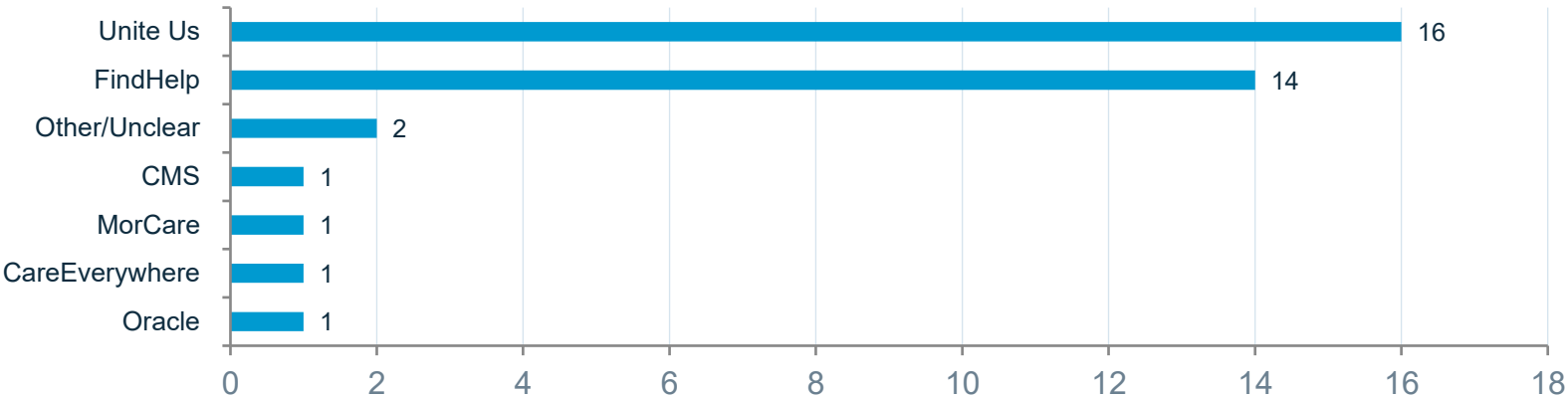
n = 234



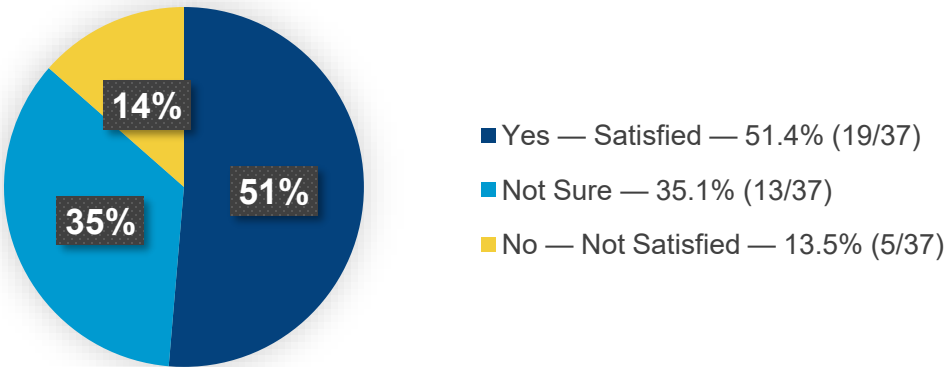
CIE Connectivity Status (n=234 excl. pharmacy)



CIE Platforms (of 37 connected · multi-select · sorted descending from top)



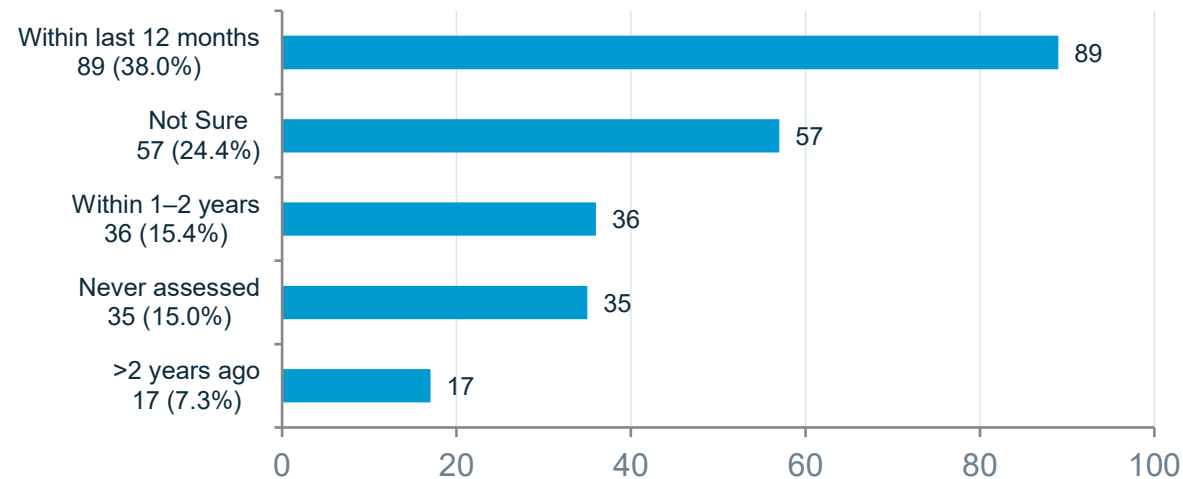
CIE Platform Satisfaction (of 37 connected)



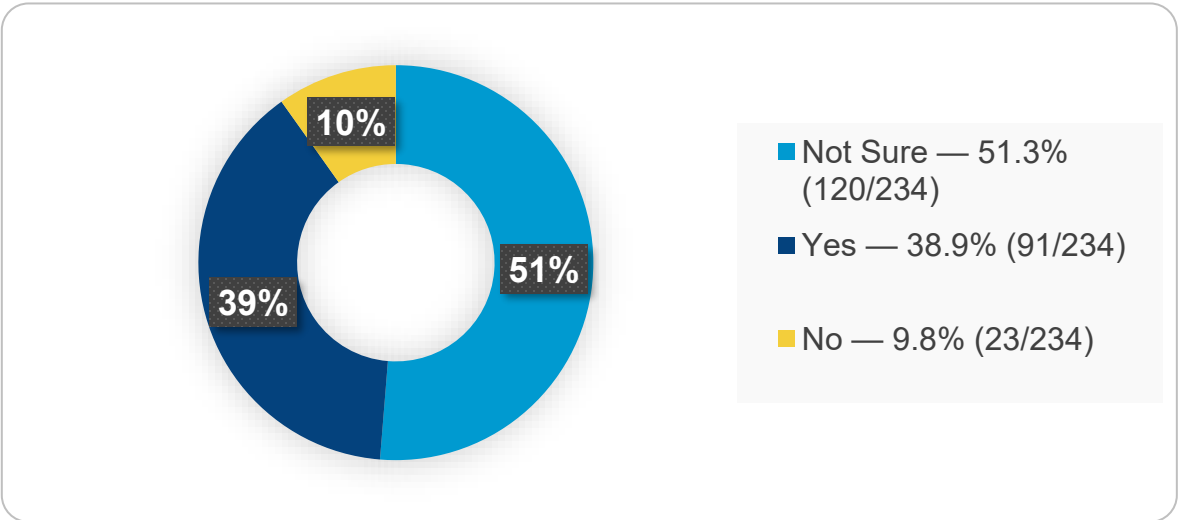
Cybersecurity Assessments & HHS Goals

n = 234 or 929 (when incl. pharmacies)

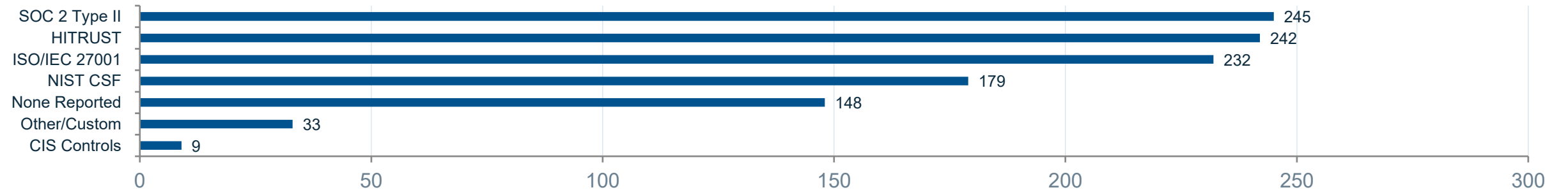
Last 3rd-Party Cyber Assessment (n=234 excl. pharmacy · sorted descending from top)



Meets HHS Cybersecurity Performance Goals (n=234 excl. pharmacy)



Cyber Frameworks & Certifications (multi-select · including pharmacies · sorted descending from top)



Cyber Framework Links:

- SOC 2: <https://soc2.co.uk/>
- HITRUST: <https://hitrustalliance.net/hitrust-framework>
- ISO/IEC 27001: <https://www.iso.org/standard/27001>
- NIST CSF: <https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework>
- CIS Controls: <https://www.cisecurity.org/controls>

Data Sharing Methods, Formats & Governance Maturity

n = 234

47.4%

Standardized Reporting Formats

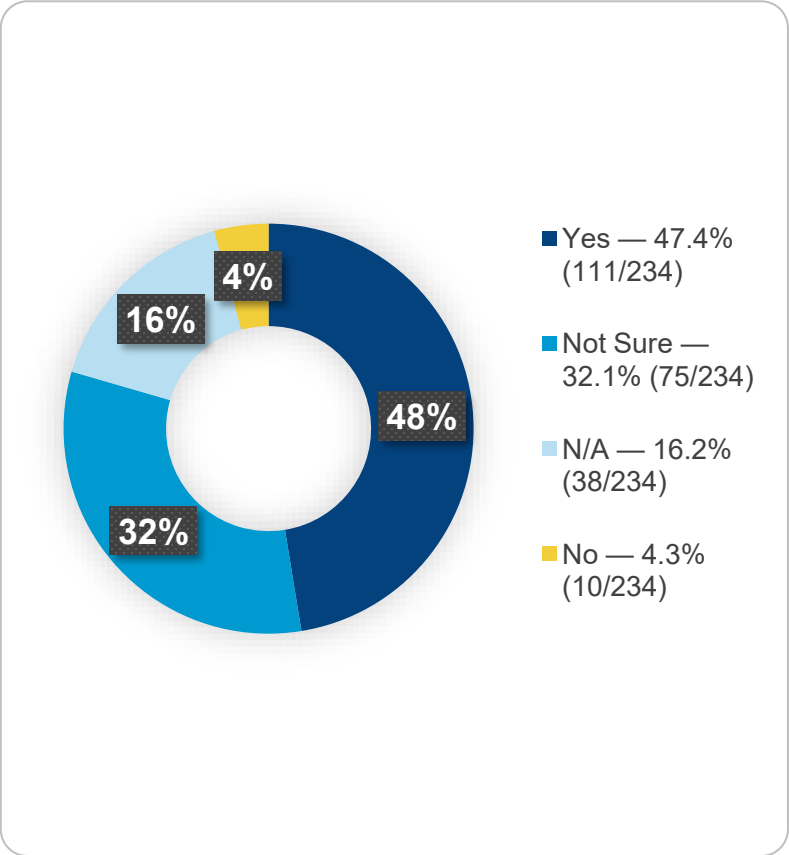
111 / 234 rural excl. pharm

30.8%

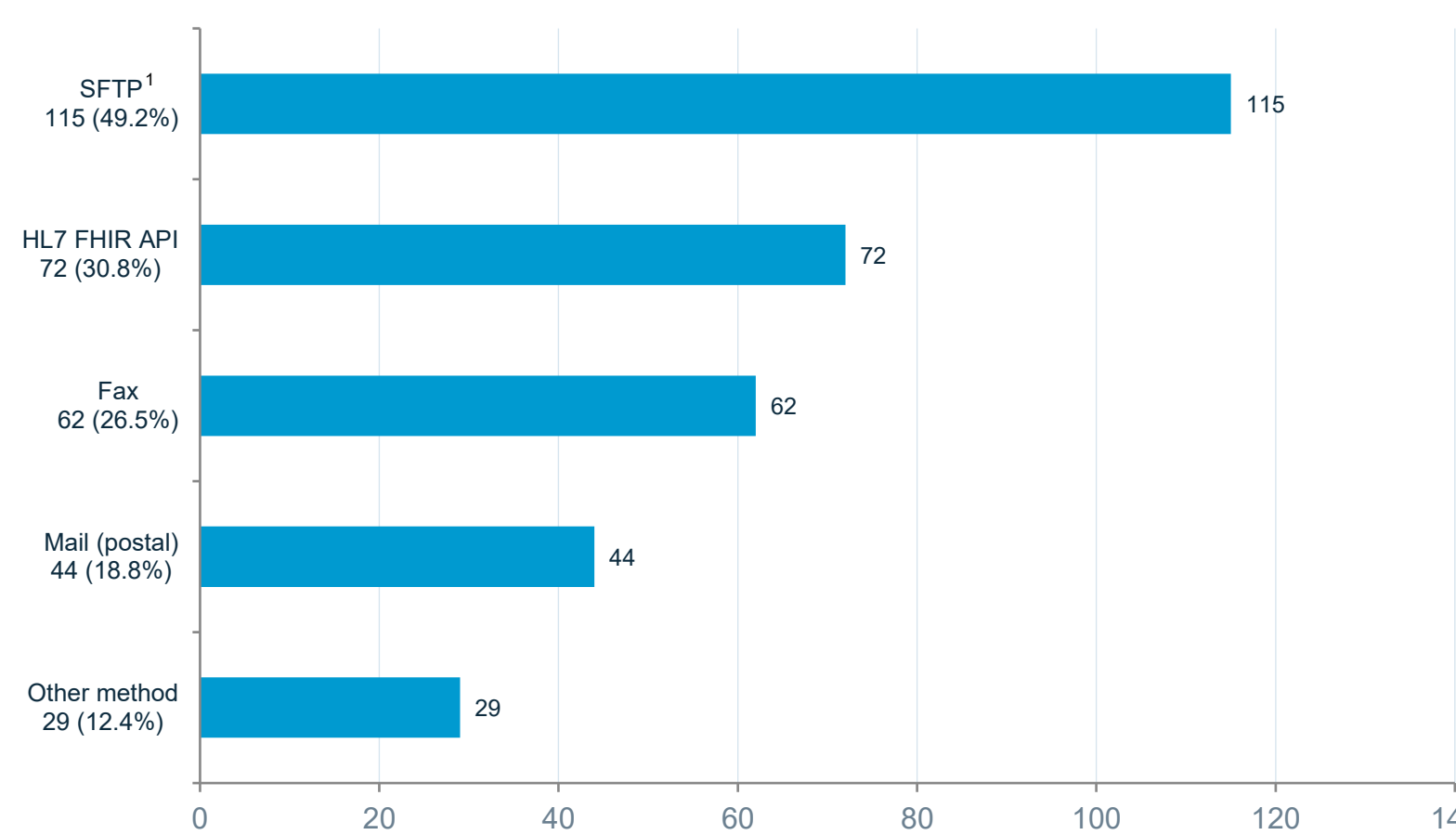
Use of HL7 FHIR APIs For Data Sharing

72 / 234 rural excl. pharm

Standardized Format Use (n=234 excl. pharmacy)



Data Sharing Methods (n=234 excl. pharmacy · multi-select · sorted descending from top)



Ambient AI Adoption & Governance

n = 234

28.2%

Ambient AI Piloted

66 / 234 rural excl. pharm

28.2%

Ambient AI Deployed

66 / 234 rural excl. pharm

25.2%

AI Governance

59 / 234 rural excl. pharm

Ambient AI Vendors — Piloted Most Common (sorted descending from top)

Vendor / Tool	Count	% of piloted ambient AI
Multiple Ambient AI Tools	15	22.7%
Nuance DAX / DAX Copilot	15	22.7%
Suki	6	9.1%
Eleos (incl. Eleos Scribe)	4	6.1%
Sunoh AI	3	4.5%
Bells (incl. Bells for Avatar / Bells Virtual Scribe)	3	4.5%

Ambient AI Vendors — Deployed Most Common (sorted descending from top)

Vendor / Tool	Count	% of deployed ambient AI
Nuance DAX / DAX Copilot	15	22.7%
Multiple Ambient AI Tools	9	13.6%
Suki	6	9.1%
Eleos (incl. Eleos Scribe / Eleos BH)	6	9.1%
Sunoh AI	3	4.5%
Abridge	3	4.5%
Oracle (incl. Oracle CAE)	3	4.5%
Bells (incl. Bells for Avatar / Bells Virtual Scribe)	3	4.5%

AI Governance Processes (n=234 excl. pharmacy)

Response	Count	%
N/A	21	9.0%
No	60	25.6%
Yes	59	25.2%
Not Sure	25	10.7%

AI Staff Awareness & Training (n=234 excl. pharmacy)

Awareness Level	Count	%
All	21	9.0%
Most	29	12.4%
Some	32	13.7%
Few	22	9.4%
None	41	17.5%
No Response	69	29.5%

% Clinical Hours Supported by Ambient AI (of 66 AI-deploying)

Coverage Band	Count	%
>50%	16	24.2%
30–40%	11	16.7%
20–30%	9	13.6%
10–20%	16	24.2%
<10%	11	16.7%

Barriers to Digital Health Adoption

n = 234

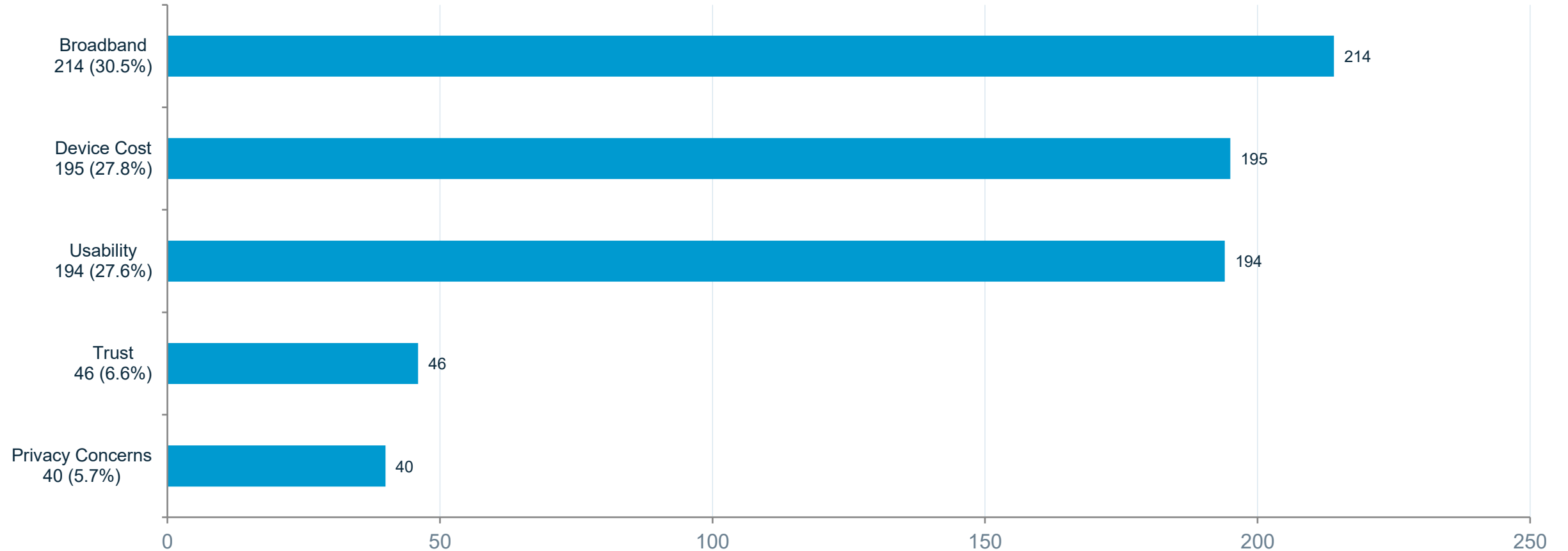
Broadband
#1 Barrier
214 mentions (30.5%)

Device Cost
#2 Barrier
195 mentions (27.8%)

Usability
#3 Barrier
194 mentions (27.6%)

702
Total Mentions
n=234 × up to 3 each

Top Patient Barriers to Consumer Technology Use (Reported by Facilities) (multi-select — up to 3 per facility · sorted descending from top)



Glossary and Survey Design & Methodology

Glossary of Acronyms

PROGRAMS & AGENCIES

- RHTP** Rural Health Transformation Program
- CMS** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- HHS** U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- MO** Missouri

SURVEY-SPECIFIC TERMS

- Checkpoint 1** Required Category 1 prerequisite (EHR) before any other category
- Checkpoint 2** Category 2 (Required Interoperability) prerequisite (FHIR R4 / HIE) to unlock Category 3
- Category 1** Foundational (basic EHR / clinical doc)
- Category 2** Modernization (required interop, addtl. interop, cybersecurity, data & AI governance)
- Category 3** Advanced Technologies (RPM, Ambient AI, Telehealth) and Provider Proposed
- Bidirectional** Two-way data exchange (send AND receive)
- Endpoint** A configured, working FHIR connection point

FACILITY TYPES

- FQHC** Federally Qualified Health Center
- RHC** Rural Health Clinic
- LPHA** Local Public Health Agency
- CCBHC** Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic
- CMHC** Community Mental Health Center
- SUD Tx** Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- EMS** Emergency Medical Services
- CAH** Critical Access Hospital
- I/DD** Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities
- MIH-CP** Mobile Integrated Health-Community Paramedicine
- BH** Behavioral Health
- ED / ER** Emergency Department / Emergency Room

CYBERSECURITY & GOVERNANCE

- RBAC** Role-Based Access Control
- DG** Data Governance
- NIST** National Institute of Standards and Technology
- HITRUST** Health Information Trust Alliance
- SOC 2** Service Organization Control 2 (audit standard)
- ISO 27001** Int'l Standard for Information Security Management
- HHS CPG** HHS Cybersecurity Performance Goals
- IT** Information Technology

INTEROPERABILITY & STANDARDS

- EHR** Electronic Health Record
- FHIR** Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources
- R4** FHIR Release 4 (the current standard version)
- HL7** Health Level Seven (data standards body)
- USCDI** United States Core Data for Interoperability
- API** Application Programming Interface
- HIE** Health Information Exchange
- HIN** Health Information Network
- QHIN** Qualified Health Information Network
- TEFCA** Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement
- CIE** Community Information Exchange
- SCR** Social Care Referral

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

- AI** Artificial Intelligence
- Ambient AI** AI scribe tools that document clinical visits passively
- RPM** Remote Patient Monitoring

Survey Design & Methodology

The Digital Readiness Assessment was administered as a digital survey, distributed in partnership with state agencies and provider associations across Missouri.

Online Survey Platform

- Administered digitally via Qualtrics.
- A Word version of the survey was provided alongside the Qualtrics link to support internal collaboration before final submission.

Two Survey Instruments

- Primary Digital Readiness Survey administered to the general healthcare provider population.
- Separate Pharmacy Digital Readiness Survey developed to reflect distinct pharmacy workflows and technology environments.

Distribution Approach

- Distributed by the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) and circulated through provider association partners.
- Association partners listed here conducted outreach to their providers: MHA (hospitals), MO-PCA (FQHCs), MORHA (RHCs), MBHC (behavioral health), DHSS (LPHAs), MOR, and WCADEMS (EMS).

Timeline

- Both surveys followed an approximately 21-day completion window.
- Primary Digital Readiness Survey closed April 17, 2026.
- Pharmacy Digital Readiness Survey closed April 30, 2026.

Scope & Content

- Twelve facility classifications surveyed: Hospitals, FQHCs, RHCs, LPHAs, CCBHCs, CMHCs, SUD Tx, EMS, Pharmacy, Multi-Facility Type, EMS Multi-Facility Type, and Other
- Nine digital health domains assessed, spanning interoperability, security, governance, infrastructure, workforce, financial sustainability, and care delivery technologies.
- Two denominators are used: 929 = full rural base (incl. 695 pharmacies); 234 = rural excl. pharmacy (929 – 695). Pharmacy-exempt metrics use 234; shared metrics use 929.

Pre-Analysis Data Refinement

- Standardized refinement steps were applied prior to analysis to ensure data integrity and accurate facility classification (e.g., duplicate handling, multi-facility response standardization, free-text and naming consolidation)