

HIT leaders report progress in data governance efforts

By Joseph Goedert | Published October 02 2017, 4:06pm EDT

Many hospitals continue to struggle with data governance initiatives as they try to improve data integrity and access.

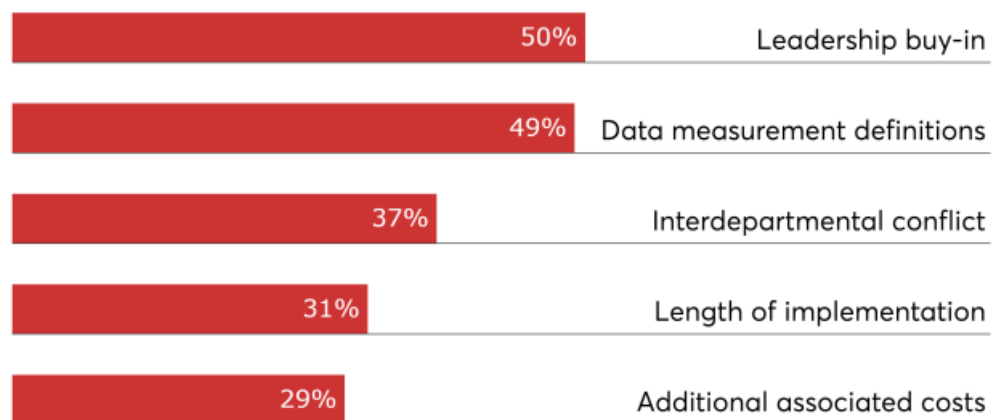
But a survey of 104 high-level hospital health information technology executives finds quite a few providers have made real progress.

Data analytics and business intelligence vendor Dimensional Insight conducted the poll in August.

Some 44 percent of survey respondents to the survey, conducted for Dimensional Insight in August, say they have implemented an enterprisewide data governance program. Another 49 percent expect to implement a program during 2018. The remaining respondents have incomplete or non-existent plans or were not sure of their organization's status.

Significant governance challenges

The 5 largest impediments to implementing a strategy



Source: Dimensional Insight

Two-thirds of respondents cite better trust in their organization's data as the core reason for a governance program. Many of them identify the program as important to improving care quality, regulatory compliance, patient safety, management of care costs and being successful with new payment models.

Despite the desire to improve data governance, 70 percent of respondents acknowledge that the lack of resources has to some degree stalled their progress.

Having consistent governing measures also remains a challenge, as more than 70 percent of respondents report experiencing discrepancies between measures across organization departments, such as clinical and financial.

As hospitals continue to acquire more data and recognize the need to better use it, having an effective governance plan is more important than ever before, says Fred Powers, CEO at Dimensional Insight, a company that offers data analytics and business intelligence products and services.

"There still is a need to make the governance process easier for everyone involved so that data is consistent, well-documented and trustworthy," Powers says.