



WHITE PAPER

From Insight to Impact: A Comprehensive View of UDS+ Readiness in 2025

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Introduction: The Future of UDS Reporting

In the rapidly evolving landscape of healthcare, data reporting has emerged as a cornerstone for driving impactful decisions and securing critical funding. As Uniform Data System Modernization or UDS+ takes center stage, Community Health Centers (CHCs) are navigating a complex web of regulatory requirements, technological advancements, and clinical innovation to meet the demands of modern reporting.

To explore these challenges and opportunities, NextGen Healthcare conducted the **Insight to Impact UDS+ Reporting Survey**. With responses from 65+ health centers—94% of whom represent Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)—this survey offers a comprehensive view of the current state of UDS+ readiness. It delves into how CHCs are leveraging technology, investing in innovation, and building confidence to optimize their reporting processes.

The findings reveal critical trends, from the reliance on electronic health record (EHR) systems for analytics to the varied levels of confidence in understanding UDS+ changes. Moreover, the survey highlights the aspirations of CHCs to enhance patient outcomes through data-driven strategies and their commitment to adopting advanced technologies. **This report not only analyzes the key insights but also provides actionable recommendations for transforming these insights into tangible impacts.** Let's dive in.

Key Survey Findings

Leveraging EHRs for Data Analytics

What technology do you use for data analytics to help you run your business?

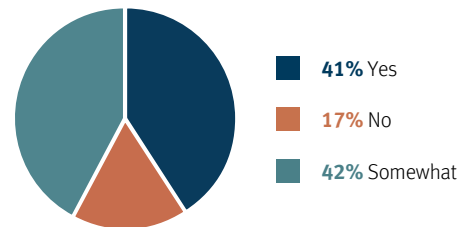
74% of respondents use their electronic health record (EHR) systems alongside other technology for data analytics.

EHR systems can be vital to how one executes their data strategy. In fact, 20% of respondents reported they *only* use their EHR for data analytics, and no additional tools, while 6% use technology outside of their EHR for business intelligence. The reliance on EHR systems underscores their critical role in enabling actionable data insights. However, the reliance on external tools often reveals gaps in usability and reporting capabilities. Other challenges include data extraction, accuracy, and real-time reporting capabilities. This demonstrates a growing recognition of the need for more robust data analysis tools.

One strategy: Look to partner with EHR companies in the process of creating products that funnel data directly to the EHR. There are many benefits of having a single data warehouse repository so all your data can be consolidated in one, streamlined system, and seamlessly integrated. This drives more efficient regulatory data analytics, benchmarking, and reporting via customizable tools that analyze data on demand.

Confidence in UDS+ Impact on HRSA Funding

Are you confident in your understanding of how UDS+ will affect your funding from HRSA going forward?



Only **41% of respondents** are confident in understanding how UDS+ changes will impact HRSA funding.

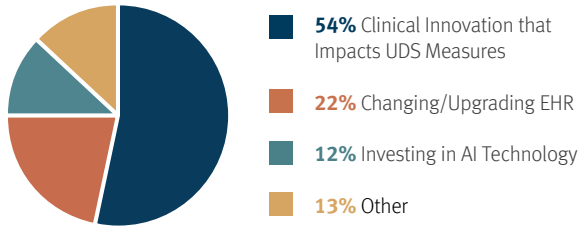
The remaining express uncertainty, highlighting a critical gap that may lead to funding risks if not addressed through targeted education and communication efforts. Challenges include complexity in regulatory requirements, insufficient training or resources, and variability in how changes are communicated across organizations. For instance, staying compliant with HIPAA, CMS guidelines, and state-specific regulations requires constant vigilance and updates.

To improve organizational efficiency, consider providing targeted training sessions tailored to HRSA guidelines to educate your workforce, simplifying data analytics through advanced data warehouse solutions, and hosting webinars or focus groups to share best practices and clarify uncertainties.

Respondents involved in HRSA initiatives, such as the UDS Test Cooperative (UTC), are more likely to report higher confidence levels, underscoring the importance of these programs.

Investment in Clinical Innovation

What innovative projects would you invest in with the additional HRSA funding?



54% would invest in clinical innovation to improve UDS measures.

To drive innovation and improve patient outcomes:

- Prioritize initiatives that bridge clinical workflows and data reporting
- Adopt predictive analytics to enhance patient care metrics
- Encourage collaboration between clinical and IT teams

Technological upgrades, such as upgrading or replacing existing EHR systems, are a common focus, emphasizing the need for systems that better support data reporting and interoperability. Investments in AI-driven technologies are gaining traction, as participants recognize their potential to automate processes and enhance predictive capabilities. Additionally, operational efficiency projects, including streamlined reporting workflows and reduced administrative burdens, have emerged as key areas for resource allocation.

Addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) data within the EHR is also a critical component of improving clinical outcomes and aligning with UDS measures.

Dedication to Data Analytics

52% are highly committed to adopting new data analytics for UDS reporting.

Advanced analytics empower providers to identify care gaps and take actionable steps to improve outcomes. A vision for the future includes investing in AI-driven analytics, enhancing interoperability between EHR systems and external databases, and fostering a data-driven culture within CHCs to optimize reporting accuracy and efficiency.

There's much optimism about leveraging advanced analytics to identify care gaps, improve patient outcomes, and secure funding through precise UDS reporting. Promoting success stories and quantifiable benefits of advanced analytics can help increase adoption rates among less committed organizations.

As a company focused on healthcare IT, the impact of streamlined technology in the UDS+ reporting space is one of NextGen Healthcare's main areas of focus—charting a new course alongside HRSA and health centers by making strides in data orchestration, cloud-based solutions, and interoperability to respond to new reporting standards.

Engagement in HRSA's UDS Test Cooperative

42% are involved in the UDS Test Cooperative.

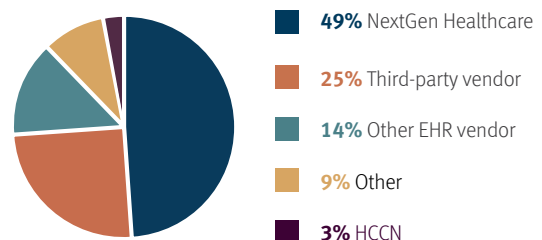
Participating in the UDS Test Cooperative (UTC) provides participants with early access to vital updates and the chance to influence future reporting standards. Increased participation is key to shaping the development of UDS+ reporting standards.

Those engaged in the UTC reported greater preparedness for UDS+ requirements compared to non-participants, illustrating the program's value. For those not involved, time constraints and lack of awareness can be primary barriers, suggesting an opportunity to expand outreach and participation.

To streamline the typical Electronic Handbook (EHB) reporting process, NextGen Healthcare created a prototype that relieves the administrative burden of transferring spreadsheet data to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This was done to support the initial testing during Cohorts 1 and 2. While progress is still ongoing, it is important to understand that the final product aims to leverage a more robust and complete data source for users. By actively developing this prototype throughout Cohorts 1 and 2, the development team has been able to test progress with client feedback so the end result stays true to the needs of health centers.

The NextGen Healthcare Advantage

How are you planning to submit your UDS+ data?



49% of respondents plan to submit UDS+ data using NextGen Healthcare solutions.

Why NextGen Healthcare?

- Comprehensive reporting tools
- Seamless integration with HRSA's requirements
- A robust infrastructure built on cutting-edge platforms like Snowflake

As a leader in the FQHC and community health center space, NextGen Healthcare continues to respond to the call from HRSA to innovate thorough patient-level reporting. To do this, they collaborate daily with partners such as HRSA, ONC, NACHC, and health center staff. Doing so ensures that they stay up to date with UDS+ requirements and the lived experience of health center staff who do the all-important work of patient care. NextGen Healthcare team members also are active monthly participants in UTC, the community learning space for all UDS+ stakeholders.

The UDS Modernization effort will be successful when health centers streamline a unified data platform. **Jill Meredith, product leader at NextGen Healthcare, emphasizes the impact EHR companies have in creating products that funnel data directly to the EHR.** This ensures health centers get clean data within their EHR. NextGen Healthcare is the only EHR vendor to fully pass through Cohort 1, a testament to a meticulous commitment to innovation that achieves the best outcomes for health centers.

NextGen Healthcare's intuitive platform makes the transition to UDS+ seamless and efficient—and the availability of customer support is a key differentiator of the NextGen Healthcare experience.

Conclusion: Turn Insight into Action

The results of this survey highlight the critical role of technology, training, and innovation in UDS reporting. With a significant portion of CHCs relying on NextGen Healthcare, the opportunity to lead the industry in data-driven care has never been greater. By addressing confidence gaps, fostering clinical innovation, and enhancing engagement in cooperative initiatives, we can collectively drive impactful changes in healthcare reporting.

The findings also emphasize the importance of continuous education and collaboration among healthcare organizations to ensure that CHCs are not only meeting but exceeding reporting standards. By adopting cutting-edge tools and embracing innovation, CHCs can improve patient outcomes, streamline workflows, and secure necessary funding with greater efficiency.

NextGen Healthcare stands ready to be a trusted partner in this journey, offering the expertise, technology, and support needed to empower CHCs to navigate the complexities of UDS+ reporting confidently. Together, we can transform the healthcare landscape by ensuring data-driven decision-making becomes the norm, ultimately benefiting the communities we serve.

Recommendations:

Strengthen Education on UDS+: Provide targeted training and resources to increase confidence in those uncertain about UDS+ funding impacts.

Promote Technology Integration: Encourage adoption of advanced analytics tools to improve data insights and reporting efficiency.

Leverage HRSA Programs: Increase participation in the UDS Test Cooperative to boost preparedness and foster best practices among FQHCs.

Focus on Innovation: Direct additional funding towards projects that align with both operational improvements and strategic priorities, such as AI technology and clinical innovations.

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