



NEBRASKA LAB CENSUS 2012

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As part of the ongoing evaluation by to the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), all State Health Information Exchanges are required to conduct a census of hospital and independent laboratories within their respective states. The primary objective of the report was to determine the number of labs sending electronic results to ambulatory providers outside of their organization in a structured format in 2012. In addition, the ONC required each lab to report whether they comply with the Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) standards.

Telephone survey of all laboratories in Nebraska was conducted by a single trained caller and a script adapted from the NORC survey. Labs which had reported not sending results to ambulatory providers electronically in a structured format, or which had not completed an interview during the last census, were contacted to determine the number of new users.

Summation of Key findings between 2011 and 2012:

- **Labs sending results to ambulatory providers outside of their organization electronically in a structured format**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Hospital Labs	17/93 (18.3%)	35/93 (37.6%)	+19.3%
Independent Labs	25/37 (67.6%)	26/37 (70.3%)	+2.7%

- **Labs following LOINC standards for test results sent to ambulatory providers outside of their organization**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Hospital Labs	13/93 (13.9%)	25/93 (26.9%)	+13.0%
Independent Labs	3/37 (8.1%)	3/37 (8.1%)	0%

***Total lab denominators of 93 hospital labs and 37 independent labs were utilized from those identified as unique, operating laboratories from the CMS OSCAR system during the first census*

The results were as follows:

75 Hospital labs were identified from the results of the 2011 survey as non-users:

7 Labs were unable to be contacted, of which:

2 were wrong numbers

5 calls were never answered

68 Unique, operating, hospital laboratories were contacted

1 Lab (1.5%) refused to participate

7 Labs (10.3%) stated they were too busy

5 Labs (7.4%) reached answering machines

55 Labs (80.9%) completed the survey

Of the 55 completed surveys:

Labs sending results to ambulatory providers outside of their organization electronically in a structured format in calendar year 2012:

Yes – 18 (32.7%)

No – 36 (65.5%)

Did not know – 1 (1.8%)

Labs following LOINC standards for test results sent to ambulatory providers outside of their organization in calendar year 2012

Yes - 12 (21.8%)

No - 18 (32.7%)

Did not know – 25 (45.5%)

Of the laboratories submitting structured electronic results, 6 out of 18 (33.3%) followed the LOINC standards on at least some of the results sent during 2012.

Of those submitting structured electronic results (n = 18), the proportion of results being sent to EHRs and web portals were:

	EHR	Web Portal
0%	0 (0%)	7 (38.9%)
1-24%	1 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
25-49%	0 (0%)	2 (11.1%)
50-74%	2 (11.1%)	0 (0%)
75-99%	7 (38.9%)	0 (0%)
100%	7 (38.9%)	2 (11.1%)
Do not know	1 (5.6%)	7 (38.9%)

Hospital Laboratories Stratified by billable test volume:

Billable Tests	Labs	Sending Results Electronically in a Structured Format
<100,000	45	12/45 (26.7%)
100,000-499,999	7	5/7 (71%)
500,000-999,999	1	1/1 (100%)
Do not know	2	0/2 (0%)
	Total: 55 labs	Total: 18 labs

Out of the 55 responders, 3 (5.5%) reported using the LRI guide, 14 (25.5%) reported not using the LRI guide, and 38 (69.1%) did not know.

1 of 3 labs (33.33%) that indicated they had implemented the LRI guide, were also sending lab results electronically in a structured format. Four out of 14 labs (28.6%) that indicated they *did not* use the LRI guide also were sending lab results electronically in a structured format. Also, 13 out of 38 labs (34.2%) which *did not know* whether they used the LRI guide, also sent lab results electronically in a structured format.

Of hospital labs that completed the census 11 out of 55 (20.0%) reported following Health Level 7 (HL7) message standards; only 1 lab (1.8%) identified the version as HL7 2.5.1, the remaining 10 labs were unaware of the HL7 version used. Six of the 11 (54.6%) labs using HL7 message standards also transmitted lab results electronically in a structured format.

Results of Independent laboratories:

8 Independent laboratories were identified from the results of the 2011 survey as being non-users:

8 Independent laboratories were contacted:

2 Labs (25%) did not respond to repeated contacts

6 Labs (75%) completed the survey

Of the 6 completed responses:

Labs sending results to ambulatory providers outside of their organization electronically in a structured format in calendar year 2012:

Yes - 1 (16.7%)*

No - 5 (83.3%)

Did not know - 0 (0%)

*This lab reported “yes”, but also specified they did not send labs outside of their own medical system; it should probably be excluded from the numerator and denominator in the future.

Of those that completed the survey (n=6), the proportion of results being sent to EHRs and web portals were:

	EHR	Web Portal
0%	5 (83.3%)	6 (100%)
1-24%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
25-49%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
50-74%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
75-99%	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
100%	1 (16.7%)*	0 (0%)
Do not know	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

*The same lab reported sending lab results electronically

Labs following LOINC standards for test results sent to ambulatory providers outside of their organization in calendar year 2012:

Yes – 0 (0%)

No – 4 (66.7%)

Did not know - 2 (33.3%)

Of the 6 independent laboratories which responded, 5 (83.3%) did not know whether they implemented the LRI guide and 1 (16.67%) reported that their lab had not.

None of the 6 labs that completed the census could confirm the use of HL7 standards, only 1 respondent had heard of HL7 standards (16.67%) . In additon, 1 (16.7%) of the labs reported the use of completely hand written results.