SNOMED CT Survey: An Assessment of Implementation in EMR/EHR Applications

Kathy Giannangelo, MS, RHIA
Susan H. Fenton, PhD, RHIA
American Health Information Management Association
Foundation of Research and Education
Chicago, Illinois USA

FORE Foundation of Research and Education of AHIMA

Vision ONE Voice Future

AHIMA American Health Information Management Association®

Introduction

- Electronic health record (EHR)
  - Component – the source or clinical information systems (CISs) that capture data to directly support patient care and the EHR infrastructure
    - CISs use a number of applications often focused on clinical function to enable the collection, storage, and processing of **discrete or structured** data for various purposes
      - Terminologies supply the **discrete or structured** data
        - » SNOMED CT is a reference terminology which can be used to encode discrete clinical information

© Copyright AHIMA 2008

Objectives

- Identify the universe of HIT vendors working with SNOMED
- Determine the prevalence of SNOMED CT integration in EHR products
- Learn what prompts vendors to include SNOMED CT in EHR systems
- Identify the available and potential future applications for SNOMED CT in EHR systems

© Copyright AHIMA 2008

Methodology

- Descriptive study
  - Study sample
    - Health Information Technology (HIT) vendors
  - Study tool
    - Web-based survey

© Copyright AHIMA 2006

Methodology: Study Sample

- Sources for HIT EHR vendors
  - HIMSS EHR Vendor's Association
  - EHRs certified by CCHIT
  - Winners of TEPR awards for the past five years
  - AC Group's 2006 EHR/PMS survey
  - EHR/EMR category of the Healthcare Informatics 2006 Resources Guide
  - EMR category of the Health Management Technology Online Resource Guide
  - 2006 13th annual Healthcare Informatics 100
  - Exhibitors at the 2006 HIMSS Exhibition
  - AHIMA vendor director
  - Commercial sites

© Copyright AHIMA 2006

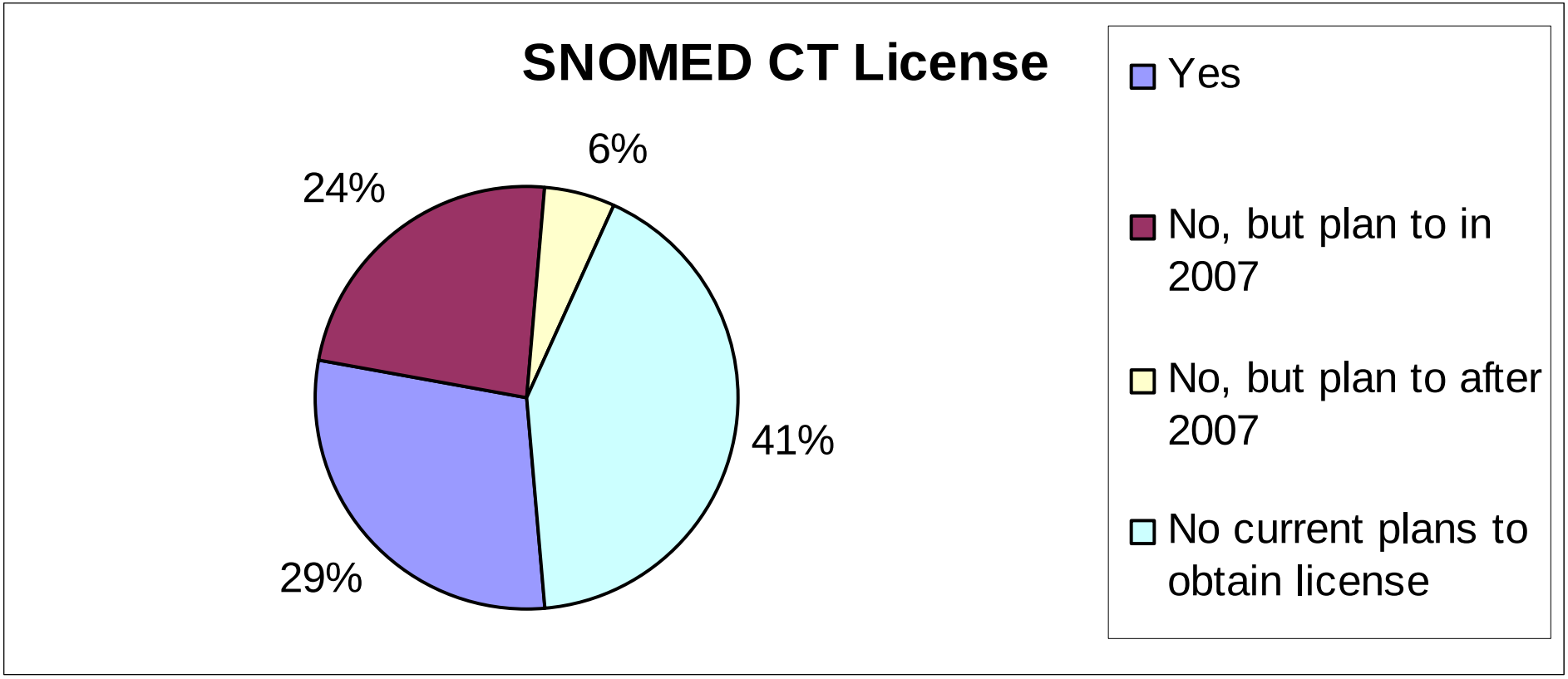
Results

- Number of surveys sent: 408
- Number received: 72
- Response rate: 18%

© Copyright AHIMA 2006

Results

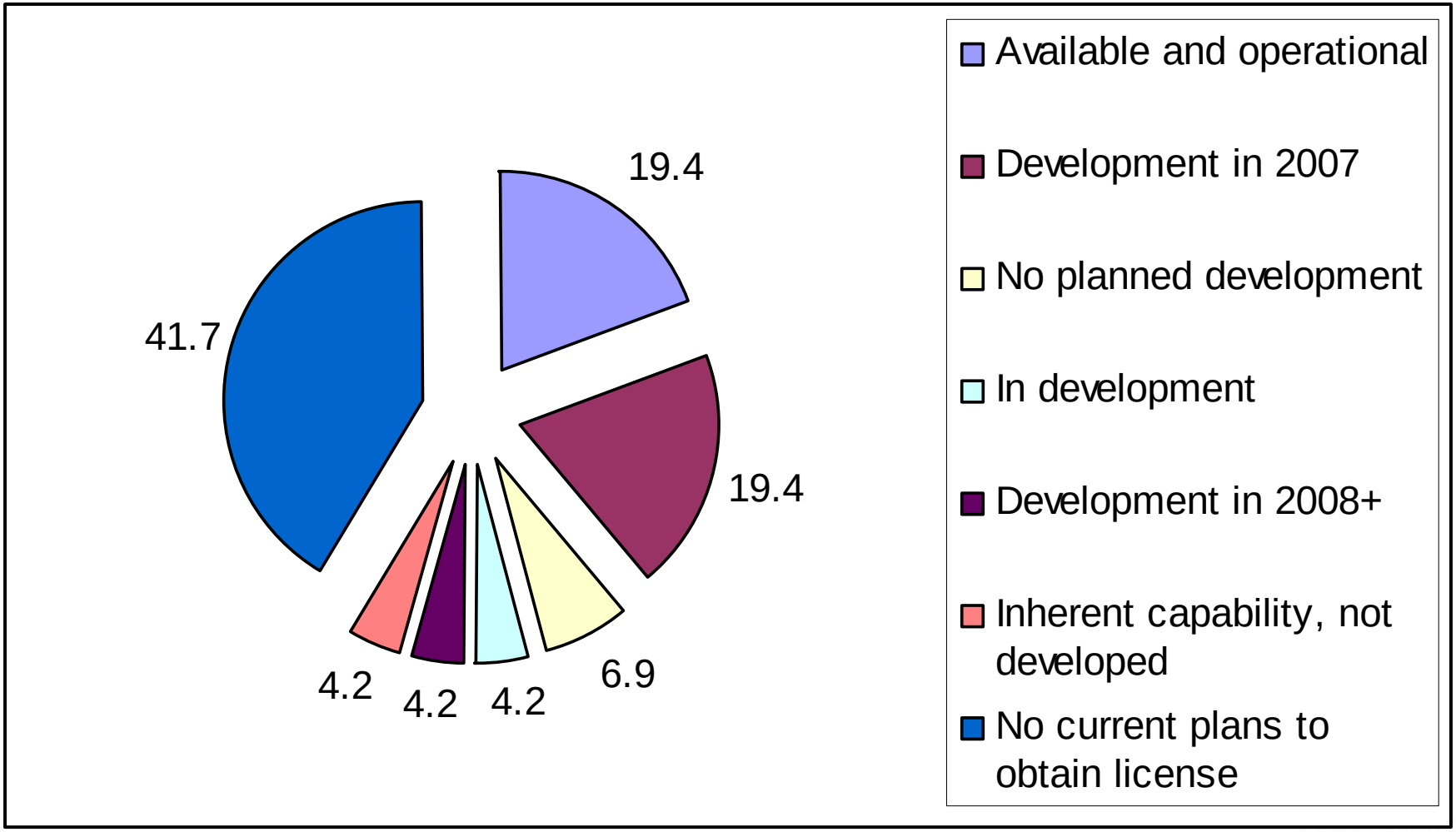
Universe of HIT vendors with SNOMED CT License



© Copyright AHIMA 2006

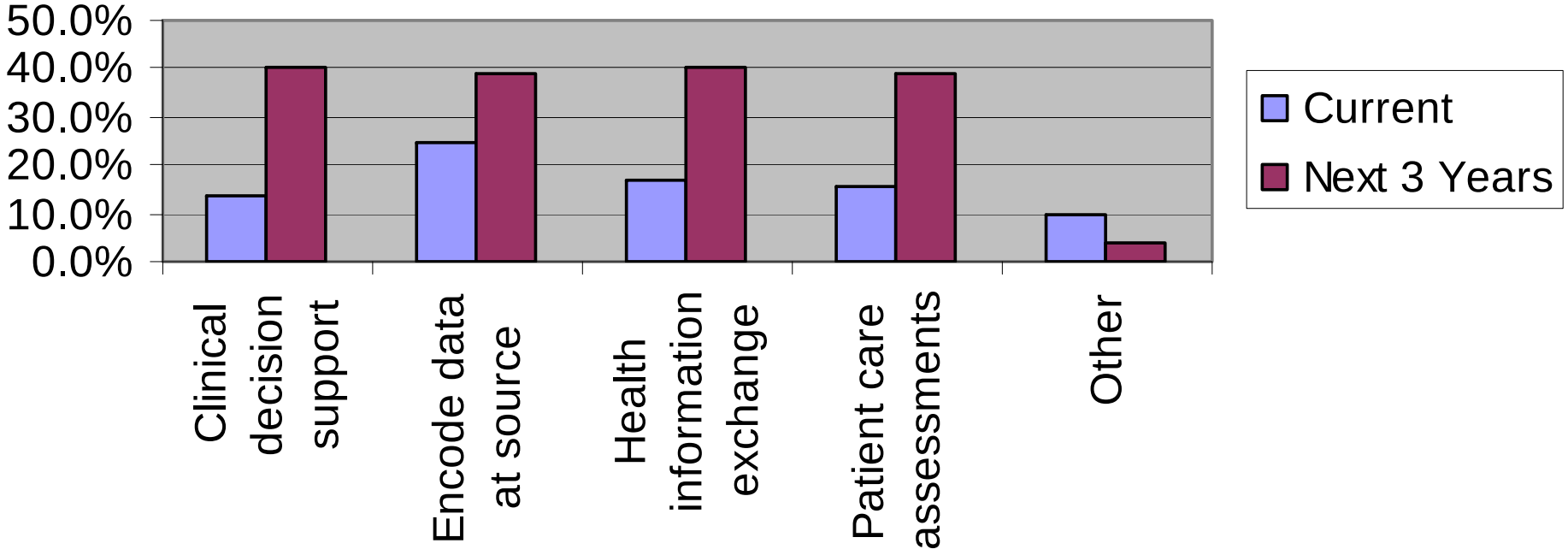
Results

Prevalence of SNOMED CT Integration



Results

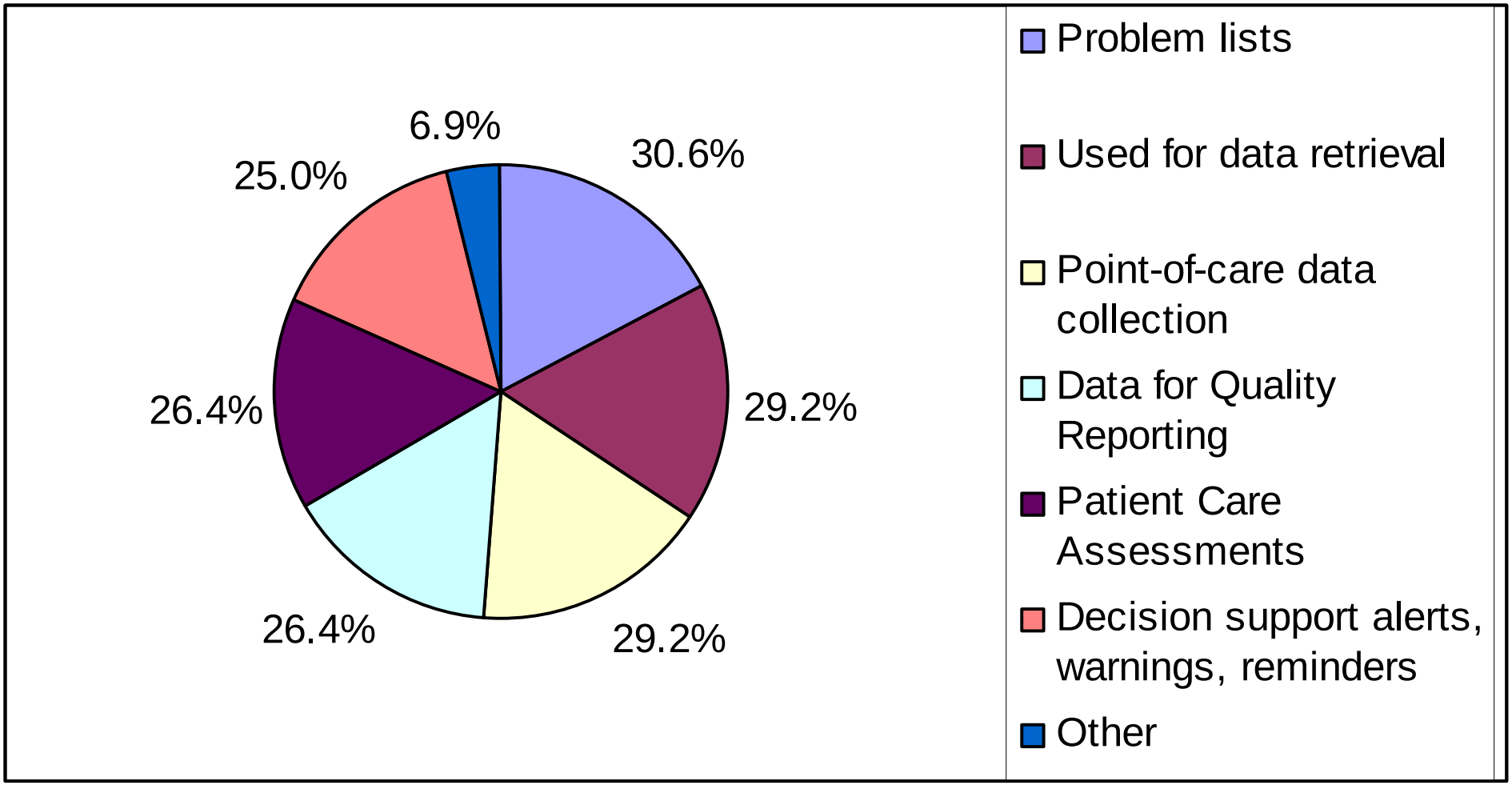
Applications for SNOMED CT in EHR Systems



© Copyright AHIMA 2006

Results

SNOMED CT Uses in EMR/EHR Applications



Discussion

- Less than half, 47.2%, of the respondents have incorporated or plan to incorporate SNOMED CT
- Lack of incentives or drivers to implement
  - Most common reason for not making plans to obtain a SNOMED CT license
    - No market demand
- Vendors need a business reason (mandate or end-user demand) to implement SNOMED CT
  - Certification requirement, e.g., CCHIT
  - Named as a terminology standard for specific use cases, e.g., HITSP

© Copyright AHIMA 2008

Questions, concerns, additional information contact:

Kathy Giannangelo, MA, RHIA, CCS, CPHIMS
Director, Practice Leadership
American Health Information Management Association
Chicago, Illinois USA
kathy.giannangelo@ahima.org

© Copyright AHIMA 2006