

Health IT Priorities in 2025

Cybersecurity, AI, and Budget Constraints: Insights from CIOs

Healthcare executives, all CHIME (College of Healthcare Information Management Executives) members, shared feedback in an [online survey*](#) about IT priorities and pressures facing their health system.

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SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC

53% Chief Information Officer (CIO)
55% ≥250 beds

TOP IT INITIATIVES (ranked no. 1)



Cybersecurity

30%

4% of those surveyed listed **patient and consumer engagement** technologies in the top three most critical initiatives for their organization, compared to 31% in 2024.

EHR/EPR implementation

16%

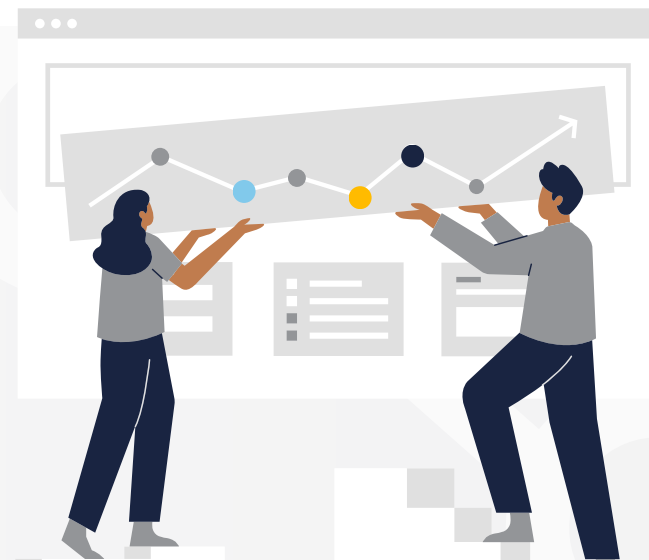
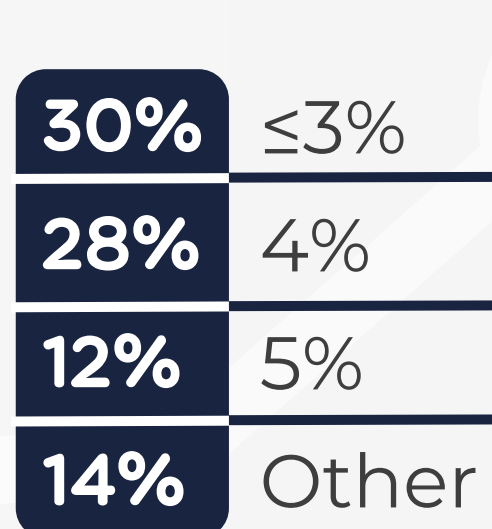
Artificial Intelligence (AI)

14%

IT BUDGET REMAINS CONSTRAINED

Q: Approximately what percentage of your organization's net patient revenue is budgeted for IT?

IT budget allocation shifts towards operational expenses.



2023

40% allocated 75 to operational expenses, 25 to capitol expenses.

2024

52% now allocate 75 to operational expenses, 25 to capitol expenses.

TECHNICAL DEBT IS A RISING CONCERN

29% of CIOs are **more concerned** about technical debt than in previous years.



What is technical debt?

McKinsey has defined technical debt as "the off-balance sheet accumulation of all the technology work a company needs to do in the future."

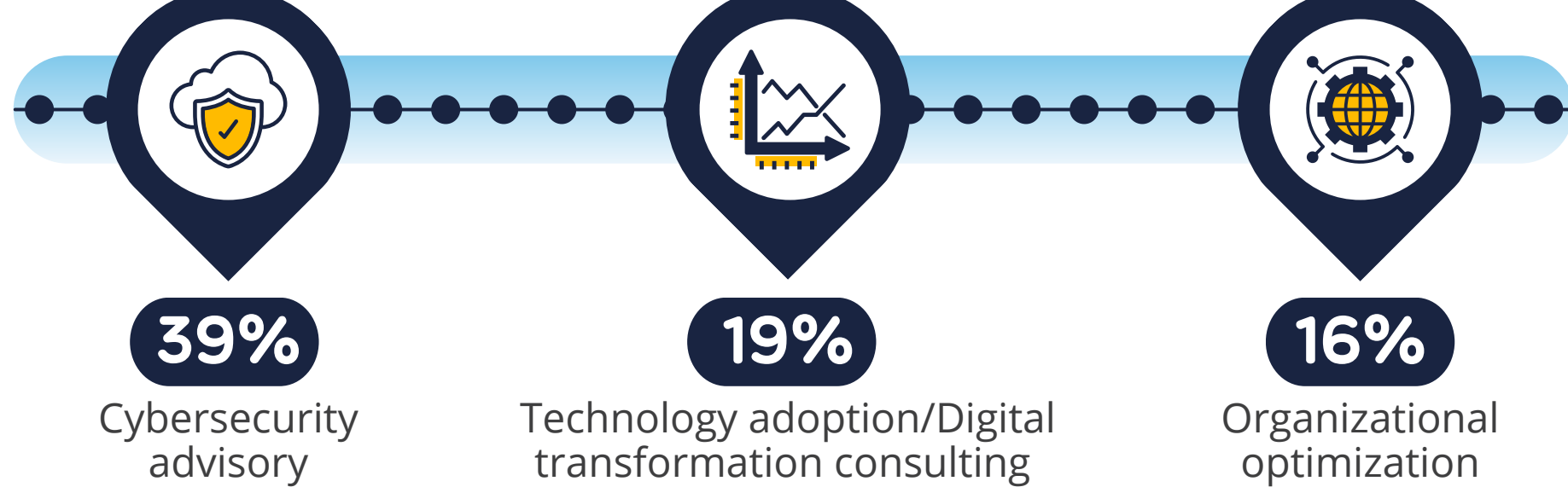
However, CIOs are taking the right steps to prevent technical debt by...

- 64%:** Mature upgrade and system maintenance processes
- 55%:** Ongoing professional development and certification programs
- 55%:** Roadmap for technical refresh and lifecycle maintenance
- 55%:** Routine monitoring and analysis to prevent downtimes and disruption

→ Understand what tech debt could mean for your organization in this eBook [Technical Debt and the Patient](#).

PLANNING FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

Top-ranked strategic guidance needs (ranked no. 1).



→ Visit our [assessments page](#) to evaluate your organization's needs and develop a tailored roadmap for success.

NAVIGATING THE IT TALENT GAP

Top strategies for IT staffing challenges (ranked no. 1).



- 66%** Hire a contractor for a specific, short-term project
- 55%** Reassign work or reorganize current IT staff
- 45%** Hire remote employee because local talent is not readily available
- 45%** Contract with a partner for partial IT outsourcing

→ Compare the pros and cons of alternate IT staffing models in this eBook [Managed Services vs. Staffing Decision Guide](#).

65% of organizations surveyed report **less than 5% turnover rate** for their IT positions.



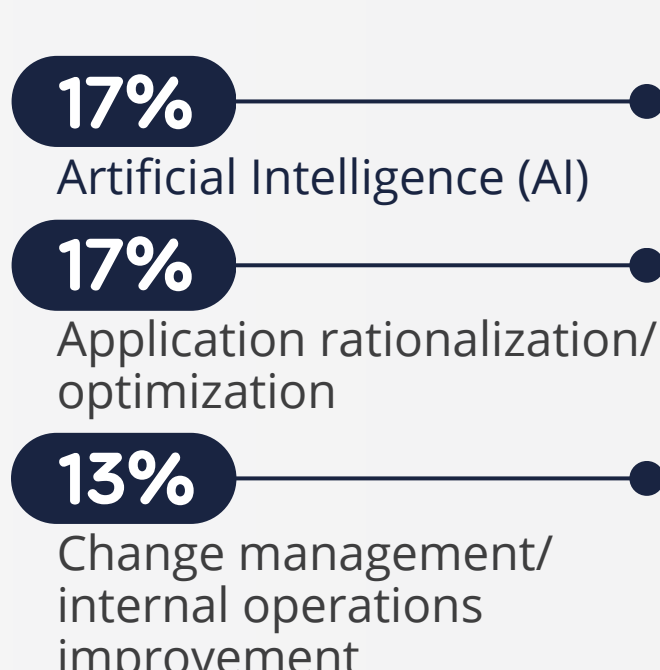
Yet some high-demand skills are still proving difficult to secure.

- 46%** Cybersecurity
- 29%** IT leadership
- 24%** Development
- 24%** Infrastructure/technical

Outsourced IT functions	56% Cybersecurity (SOC)	42% Help/service desk	39% Hosting
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→ For more information on service desk management, check out our eBook [In Sync with Care: The Future of IT Service Desks](#).

HOW ARE CIOs DRIVING COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY INSIDE THEIR HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS?



The Revenue Cycle Maturity Technology Adoption Model assessment examines the technologies and processes across the entire cycle and can support both application rationalization and operations improvement initiatives. [Learn more about this tool.](#)



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Healthcare IT leaders are navigating a complex landscape where cybersecurity dominates priorities while budgets remain tightly constrained.

This financial pressure is driving a significant shift toward operational expenses, as organizations are now allocating larger portions to operational expenses. Meanwhile, technical debt remains a growing concern for CIOs, though many are implementing solutions to mitigate this risk.

The IT talent landscape poses an interesting contradiction,

while turnover rates remain remarkably low, critical skill gaps pose as a constant challenge. This disconnect is driving organizations to turn to partnerships for IT sourcing to find rare talent.

This survey highlights the need for a *partnership rooted in an expert understanding* of healthcare operations to navigate challenges. Partners can help maximize budgets, ensuring that organizations can tackle both immediate needs and long-term goals.



*The 2025 online survey and the data reported is based on responses from 46 healthcare executives, all CHIME members, sponsored by CereCore.

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