Partner Toolkit: Leveraging Digital Health Tools to Advance Health Equity:

Digital Health Tools Study found that Adoption and Use are Widespread, but Health Equity Remains Elusive

Report Released by Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care

Researchers at Morehouse School of Medicine's (MSM's) National Center for Primary Care (NCPC), in partnership with the United Health Foundation (UHF) have released *Leveraging Digital Health Tools to Advance Health Equity*. This report summarizes findings from the Digital Health Tools Study (DHTS), which assessed adoption and use of digital health tools (DHTs) and barriers and opportunities for leveraging DHTs to advance health equity. From October 2019 to July 2021, the DHTS assessed adoption and use of DHTs by more than 1,200 primary care clinicians working primarily in four Southeastern states: Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

You can find the report on Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care's website under the "Reports" section: https://www.msm.edu/Research/research_centersandinstitutes/NCPC/DigitalTechnologySurvey/index.php.

Shortened link: bit.ly/DHTstudy (this link is case-sensitive)

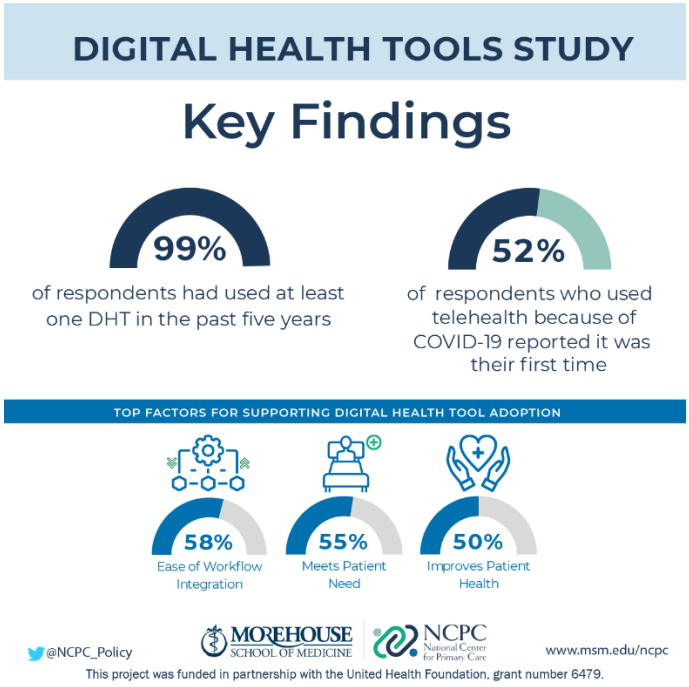
This toolkit is intended to serve as a resource so that you can share this report broadly. The toolkit includes Key Social Media Handles, Suggested Tweets, Sample Newsletter Entry, and Additional Resources. Please reach out to Mitchell A. Blount (mblount@msm.edu) if you have any questions.

Key Social Media Handles:

	National Center for Primary Care	Morehouse School of Medicine
Twitter	@MSM_NCPC @NCPC_Policy	@MSMEDU
Facebook	@MSMNCPC	@MorehouseSchoolofMedicine
LinkedIn	Morehouse School of Medicine National Center for Primary Care	Morehouse School of Medicine
Instagram		@morehouseschoolofmedicine

Suggested Tweets:

- Our friends @NCPC_Policy from @MSMEDU released their findings from the Digital Health Tools Study which surveyed 1200+ clinicians to understand the factors supporting and hindering digital health tool use. More info: bit.ly/DHTstudy



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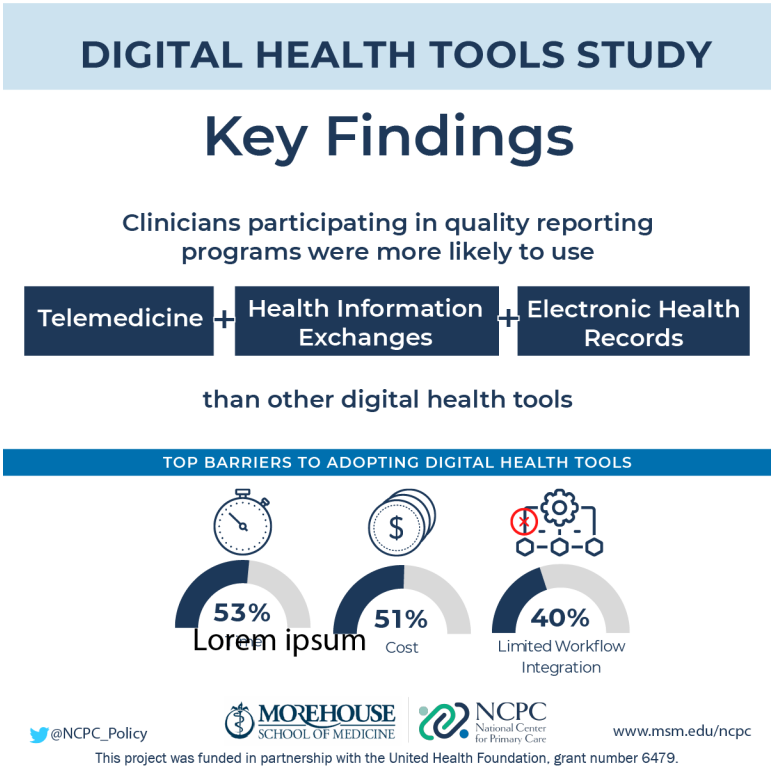
Alt text: Key Findings from the Digital Health Tools Study. 99% of respondents had used at least one DHT in the past five years. 52% of respondents who used telehealth because of COVID-19 reported in was their first time. Top factors for supporting digital health tool adoption: 58% ease of workflow integration, 55% meets patients need, and 50% improves patient health.

- Since 2019, our partners @NCPC_Policy have been conducting the Digital Health Tools Study to assess adoption and use of #digitalhealthtools, as well as leveraging these tools to advance #healthequity. Their final report is out now! More info: bit.ly/DHTstudy



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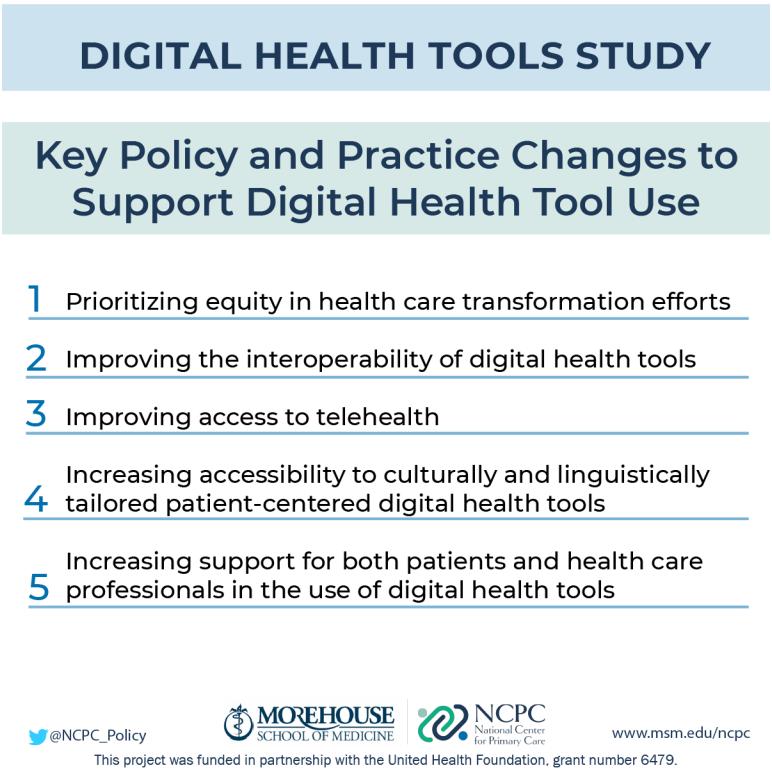
Alt text: Key Findings from the Digital Health Tools Study. Clinicians participating in quality reporting programs were more likely to use telemedicine, health information exchanges, and electronic health records than other digital health tools. Top barriers to adopting digital health tools: 53% time, 51% cost, 40% limited workflow integration.

- Our partners at @NCPC_Policy have released a new report describing how digital health tools can be leveraged to advance #healthequity. This report, developed in partnership with United Health Foundation, puts forth key policy recommendations. More info: bit.ly/DHTstudy



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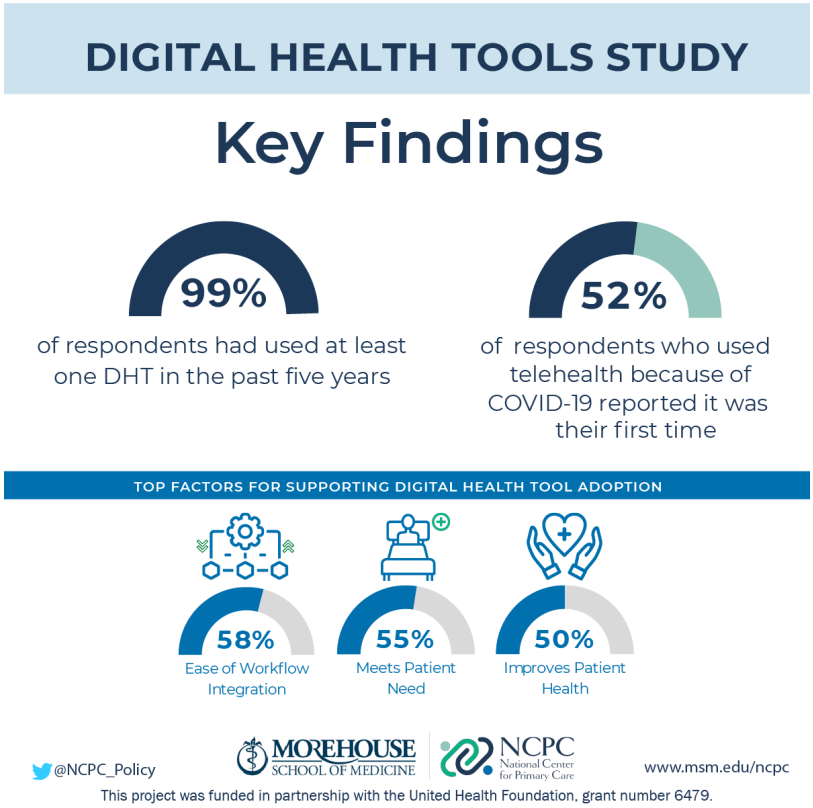
Alt text: Key Policy and practice changes to support digital health tool use from the Digital Health Tools Study: 1) prioritizing equity in health care transformation efforts; 2) improving the interoperability of digital health tools; 3) improving access to telehealth; 4) increasing accessibility to culturally and linguistically tailored patient centered DHTs; 5) increasing support for both patients and health care professionals in the use of DHTs.

Sample Newsletter Entry:



Researchers at Morehouse School of Medicine's (MSM's) National Center for Primary Care (NCPC), in partnership with the United Health Foundation (UHF) have released *Leveraging Digital Health Tools to Advance Health Equity*. This report summarizes findings from the Digital Health Tools Study (DHTS), which assessed adoption and use of digital health tools (DHTs) and barriers and opportunities for leveraging DHTs to advance health equity. From October 2019 to July 2021, the DHTS assessed adoption and use of DHTs by more than 1,200 primary care clinicians working primarily in four Southeastern states: Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. It suggests several policy and practice changes that could support and expand use of DHTs by primary care clinicians and are needed to maximize the potential for DHTs to promote health equity for patients receiving services in primary care settings. These changes include:

1) prioritizing equity in health care transformation efforts;
2) improving the interoperability of digital health tools;
3) improving access to telehealth;
4) increasing accessibility to culturally and linguistically tailored patient centered DHTs;
5) increasing support for both patients and health care professionals in the use of DHTs.

Additional Resources:

If you'd like to learn more about the National Center for Primary Care and its divisions, please visit: https://www.msm.edu/Research/research_centersandinstitutes/NCPC/index.php