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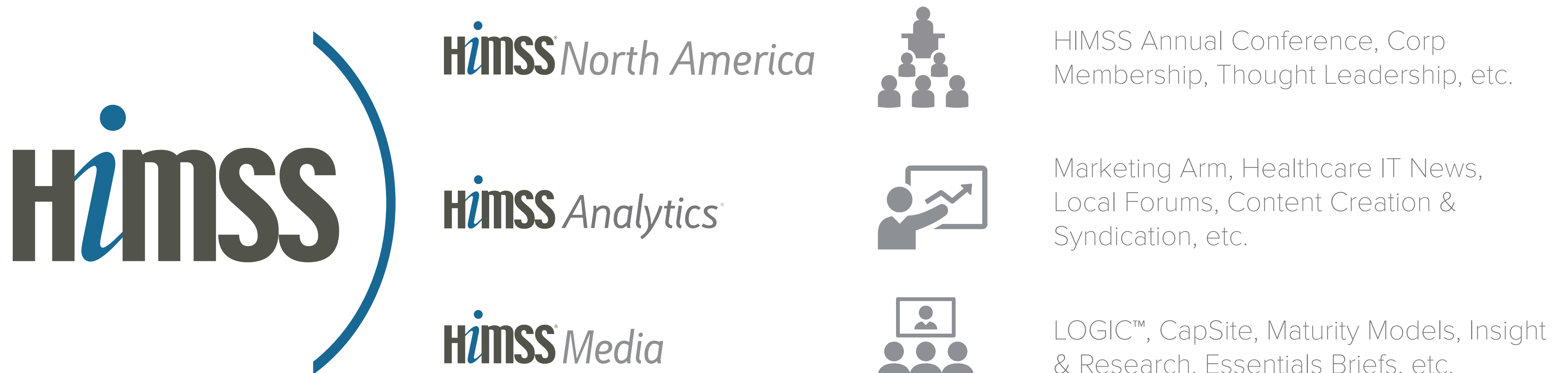# 2017 Essentials Brief: Cloud

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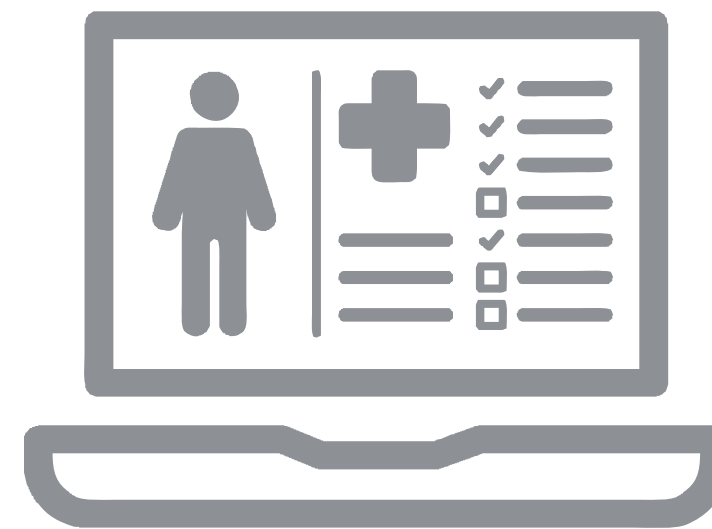
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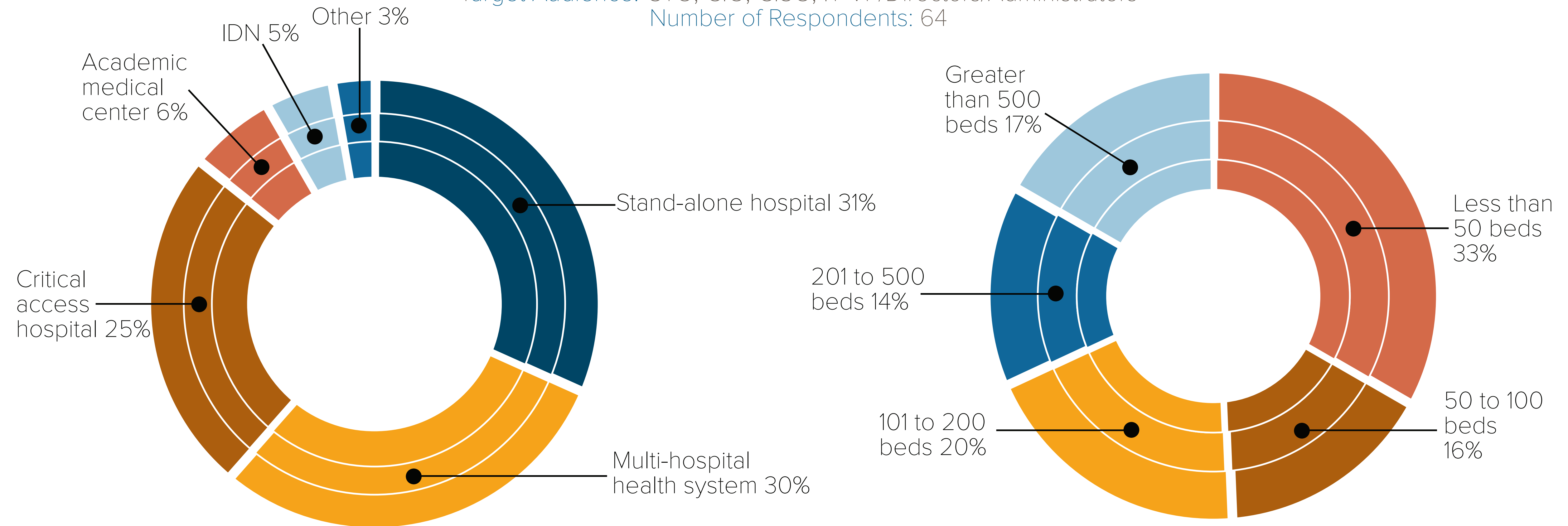# 2017 Essentials Brief: Cloud Study

Study Methodology & Demographics

Methodology 1: Web based survey
Dates of Data Collection: 1/12/17 − 1/18/17
Target Audience: CTO, CIO, CISO, IT VP/Directors/Administrators
Number of Respondents: 64

Academic medical center 6%

IDN 5%

Other 3%

Stand-alone hospital 31%

Critical access hospital 25%

Multi-hospital health system 30%

Greater than 500 beds 17%

Less than 50 beds 33%

201 to 500 beds 14%

50 to 100 beds 16%

101 to 200 beds 20%

Vendors Mentioned in this Study
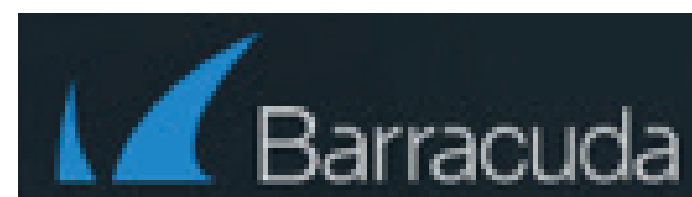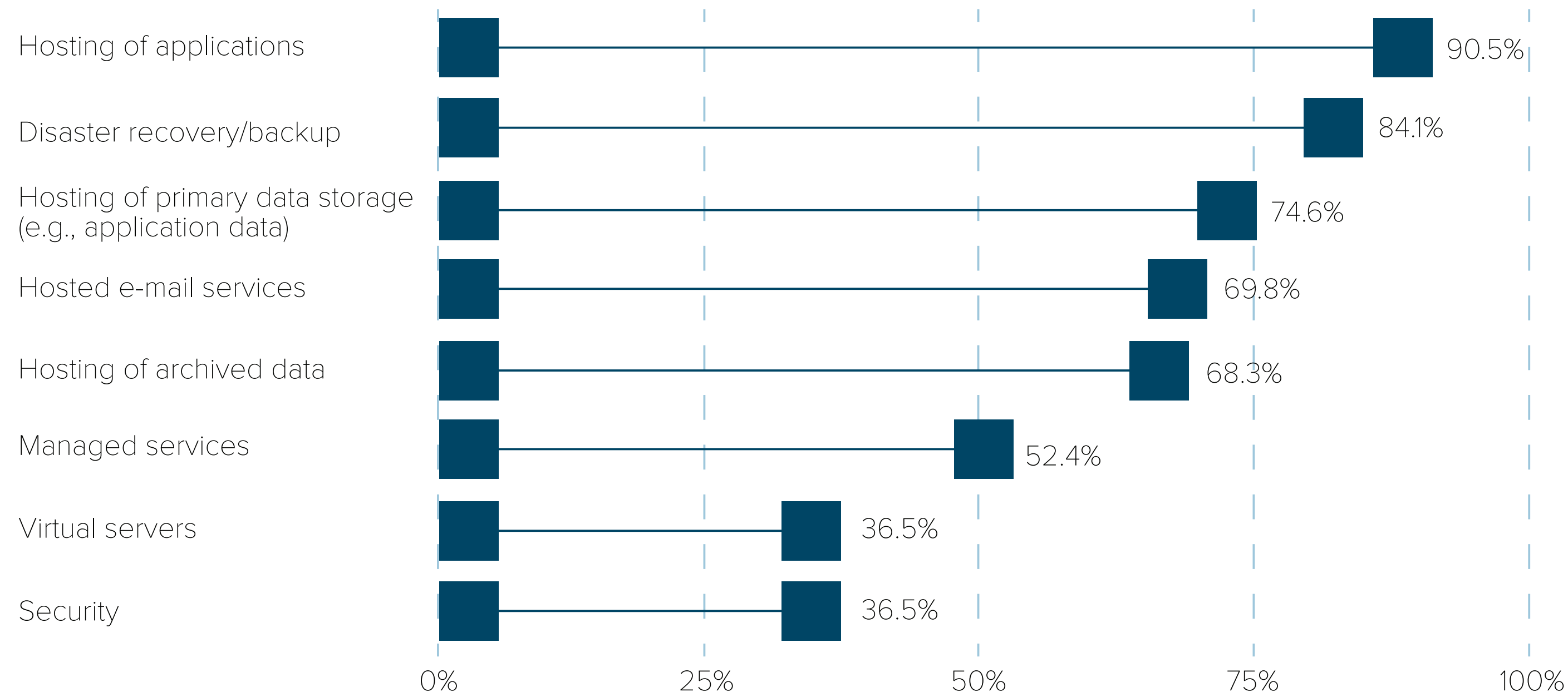
Hosting applications is most likened to the cloud or cloud services

When you think of the cloud or of cloud services, which of the following areas or functions come to mind? (please select all that apply)

| Function	Percentage
Hosting of applications	90.5%
Disaster recovery/backup	84.1%
Hosting of primary data storage (e.g., application data)	74.6%
Hosted e-mail services	69.8%
Hosting of archived data	68.3%
Managed services	52.4%
Virtual servers	36.5%
Security	36.5%

(x-axis: 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%)

Prior to providing our definition of the cloud or cloud services in healthcare, study respondents were asked what they felt were the top functions when they thought of the cloud. Roughly 90 percent of respondents still primarily see the cloud as a way to host applications. This falls in line with the HIMSS Analytics Cloud Study in 2014 as just over 86 percent chose the hosting of applications as the primary function.

Secondary to hosting of applications disaster recovery and backup, which is essential to healthcare organizations as they continue to compile large amounts of data each day.

What stands out most of all is how study respondents still do not think of secure environments when considering the cloud or cloud services.

High level of cloud usage, but mainly limited to specific functions

Does your organization currently utilize the cloud or cloud services?
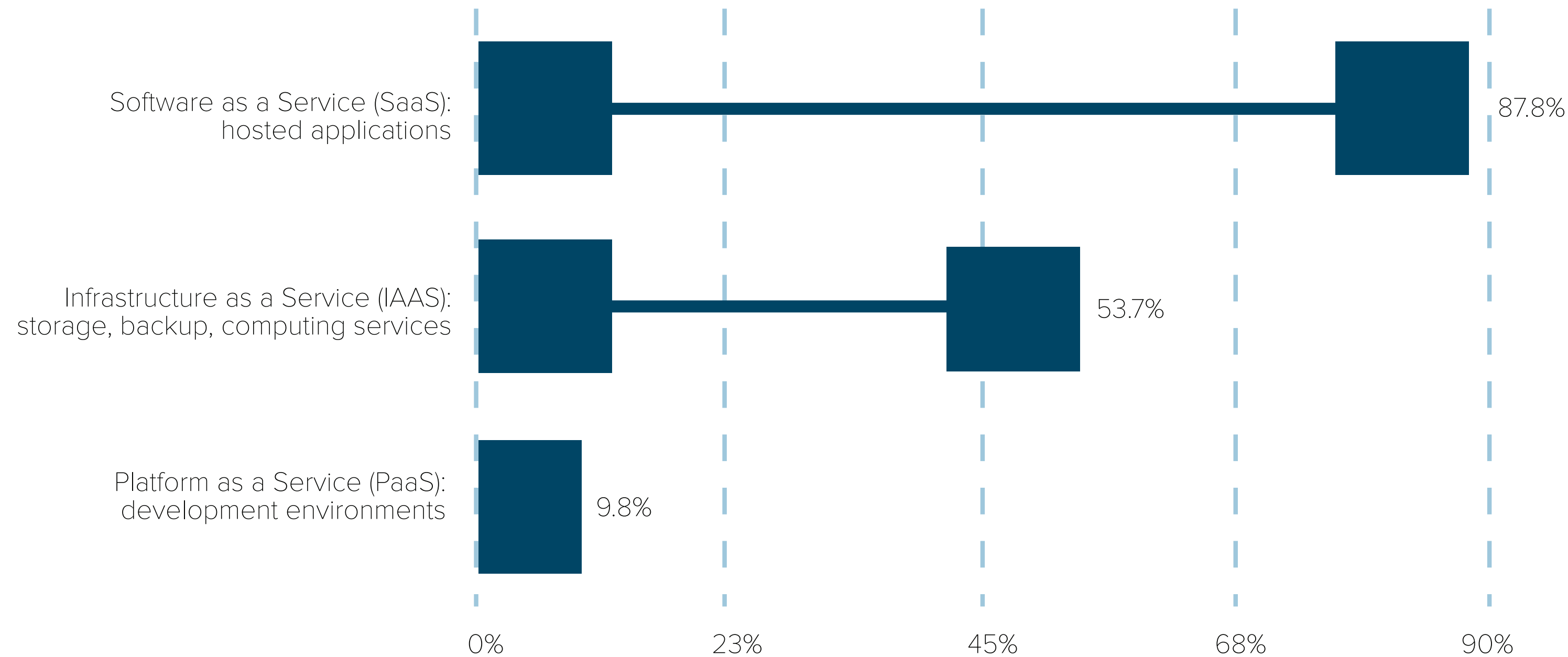
Unsure 3%

No 32%

Yes 65%
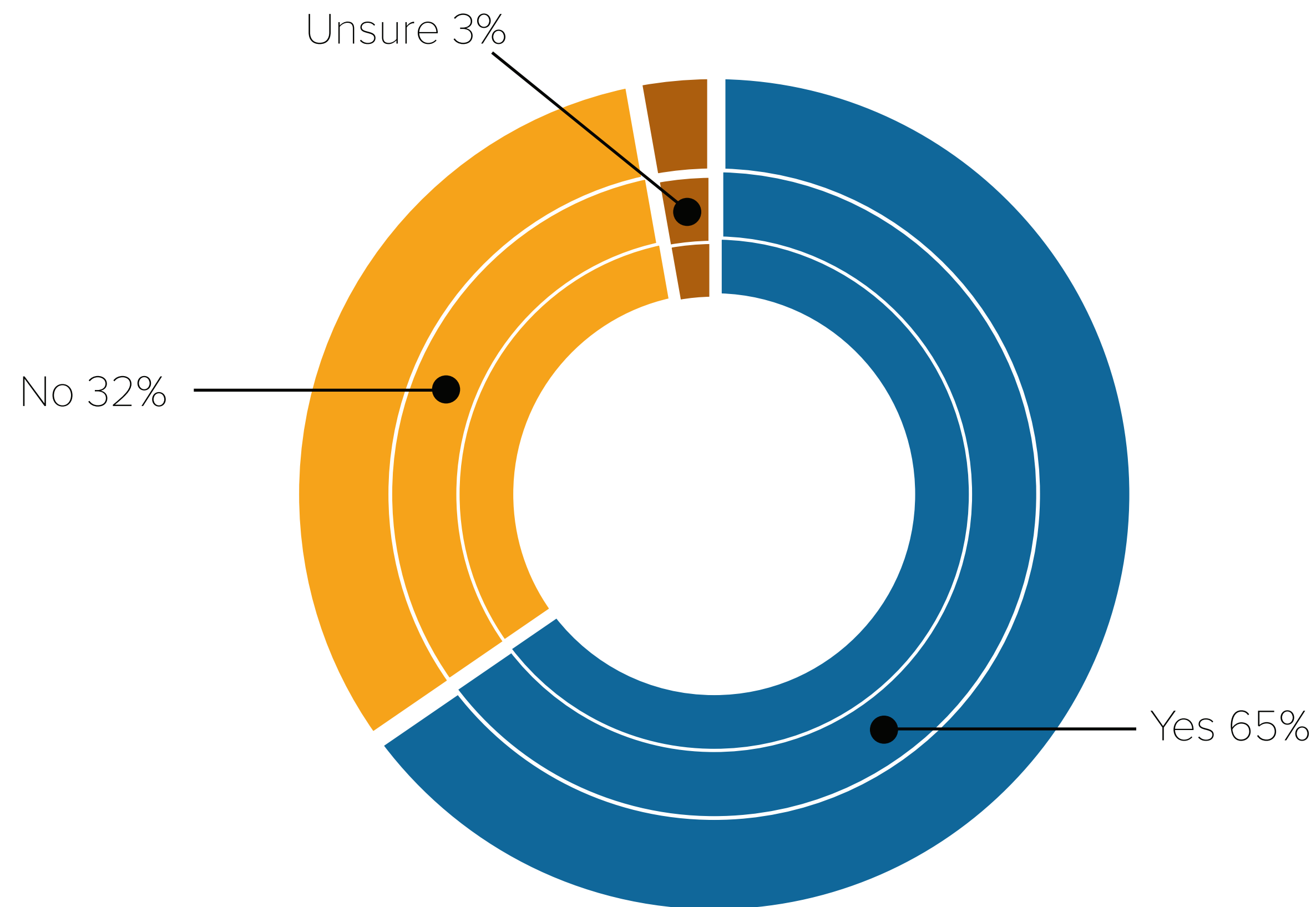
For the purposes of this study, the Cloud was defined as a model of networked online storage where data is stored in virtualized pools hosted by third parties and accessed through a web service application programming interface (API), a cloud storage gateway or via a Web-based user interface. Use cases of the cloud in healthcare include hosting of applications, disaster recovery/back up and hosting of primary data storage.

Roughly 65 percent of study respondents currently utilize the cloud or cloud services within their organization. Much of the usage leans toward clinical application and data hosting, data recovery and backup, and the hosting of operational applications.

Organizations are looking to become more flexible and scalable with IaaS

What is the current usage model for your organization's cloud services?

Software as a Service (SaaS):
hosted applications — 87.8%

Infrastructure as a Service (IAAS):
storage, backup, computing services — 53.7%

Platform as a Service (PaaS):
development environments — 9.8%

0%   23%   45%   68%   90%

Nearly 88 percent of respondents using the cloud do so through the Software as a Service (SaaS) model, which has become a preferred deployment method for many clinical application vendors. This compares to roughly 67 percent in the 2014 study.

However the largest uptick in adoption from the previous study is in Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). Healthcare organizations seem to be moving more toward this virtualized resource model to allow for additional flexibility and scalability in a number of areas, such as storage, data backup and computing services.

Lack of single dominant vendor
in the healthcare space

Which of the following vendor(s) does your organization use for cloud services?

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Cloud usage is focused on hosting clinical applications and disaster recovery

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Organizations beginning to see
the value of IT scalability and flexibility

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Potential increase in Infrastructure as a Service for cloud services

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Highlights from the 2017 Cloud Study include:

- Current usage statistics of healthcare organization cloud solutions
- The primary drivers of cloud solution adoption
- Growth opportunities in the cloud solution market

Purchase the Study