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Are There Disparities in Health Information Access Among New Mexico Practitioners? Results of a Study

Patricia Bradley

Gale G. Hannigan

Christina M. Getrich

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QUESTIONS

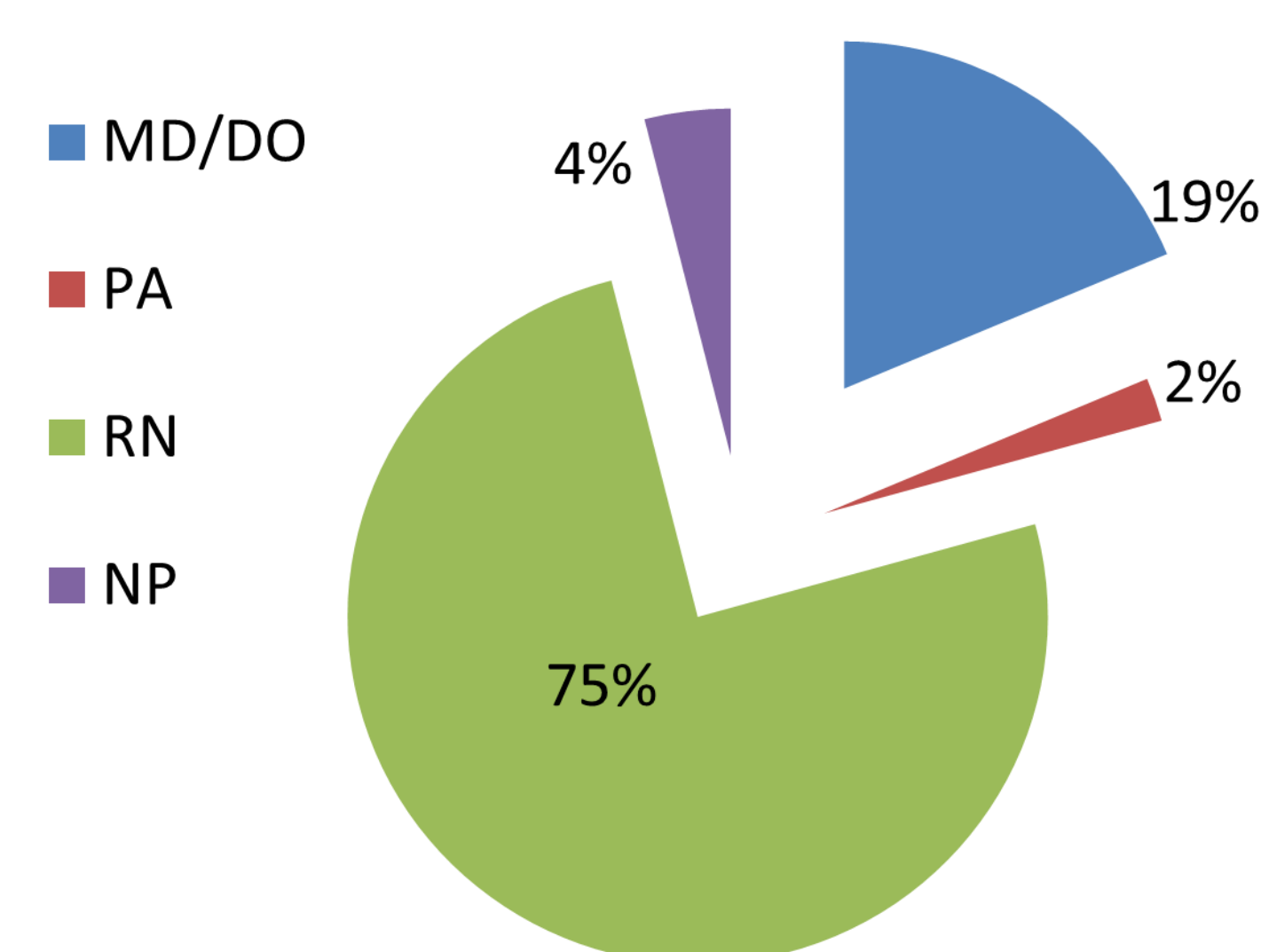
- What information resources are available to New Mexico health care practitioners not currently affiliated with the University of New Mexico (UNM)?
- Are there disparities in access to information among health care practitioners in New Mexico?

BACKGROUND

New Mexico

- Rural, all but one county Medically Underserved
- One academic health sciences library
- Practitioner must be affiliated with UNM to access library resources

New Mexico Providers by Type of Practice



<http://hsc.unm.edu/community/InTheCommunity/common/docs/CountyReportsFY13.pdf>

FUNDING

- UNM Community Engagement Mini-Grant
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine, South Central Region Outreach Subcontract

METHODS

- Exploratory research design
- Purposive sample
Physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, pharmacists
- Semi-structured interviews; with UNM IRB approval
Conducted onsite, statewide
- Recorded on an iPad
- Data analysis using qualitative coding software (NVivo, version 9, QSR International)

RESULTS

51 interviews: 21 MD/Dos, 13 Nurses, 9 NPs, 7 PAs, 1 Pharmacist from all quadrants of NM

Responses to Questions

- Practitioners seek information online about a broad spectrum of clinical topics
- Many report having access to UpToDate, a point-of-care information resource
- Most practitioners attempt to answer clinical questions during clinical encounters
- Basically satisfied with clinical resources
- Not satisfied with information for patients
- Would like access to additional resources

RESULTS

Emergent Themes

- Institutionalization of computer-based resources in clinics, often integrated into electronic health records systems
- Patient education and shared decision making part of clinical encounter
- Need for additional resources for clinical care and patient education
- Time constraints not cited as barrier to seeking additional information for decision making

DISCUSSION

- Limitations
Small sample, but early data saturation
Self-reported information
- Prevalence of electronic health records systems
- UpToDate a popular point-of-care resource

CONCLUSIONS

- New Mexico health care providers routinely seek information from electronic resources during clinical interactions.
- They would like access to additional information resources and better patient education resources.