

## Need for Project

As the only National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) resource library in North Dakota, the UND Health Sciences Library provides health information to professionals and the general public in the state. However, there is limited data showing the information resources available to the rural and medically underserved regions of the state. Therefore, this project aims to assess information needs by directly contacting health professionals across North Dakota so that Health Sciences Librarians at UND will have a clear understanding of how these needs are and are not being met.

## Methods

Librarians created a brief online survey to learn about health professionals' information needs. The survey was distributed through 13 professional organizations in North Dakota (ND Academy of Family Physicians, ND Center for Nursing, ND Hospital Association, and more). Approximately 300 health professionals completed the survey.



## UND Medical School Librarians Conduct an Information Needs Assessment for ND Health Professionals

Erika Johnson, Presenter



## Results

Interestingly, approximately 60% of the returned surveys were completed by allied health professionals. Of these, approximately 60% practice in rural communities. These professionals are looking primarily for patient care and drug information. Librarians asked what specific information sources they wished they could access, and many demonstrated that they are not aware of the free, high quality information sources that are provided by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the National Institute of Health (NIH).

## Future Directions

UND Health Sciences Librarians now have some basic data about information needs across the state of North Dakota, and specifically in rural and medically underserved areas. The next phase of this project will involve additional conversations with health professionals regarding how they would like to receive communication and instruction about information sources that are already freely available.

### Contact the librarians with questions:

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