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Addressing Maternal Health Disparities with Hospital Library Services:

Information-Seeking Behavior of Maternal Health Care Providers in Resolving Clinical Questions Related to Diverse Populations

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"Critical librarianship in a hospital library setting directly impacts patient care to a growing diverse population and how the care is delivered. When hospital librarians provide users with information pertaining to the clinical questions, they also incorporate elements addressing diversity, equity, cultural and socio-economic factors that can affect patient outcomes and treatment plans. This impacts healthcare beyond the clinical setting and brings a personalized medical approach to each patient"¹.

BACKGROUND

- Maternal health care providers need access to evidence-based resources to guide patient care and clinical decision-making during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.
- There is a gap in the literature on information-seeking behavior specific to specialty care and the care of diverse populations.
- Existing literature has not assessed the types of questions raised and pursued related to specific patient populations.

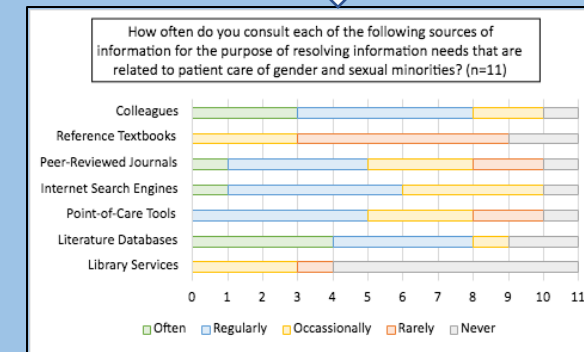
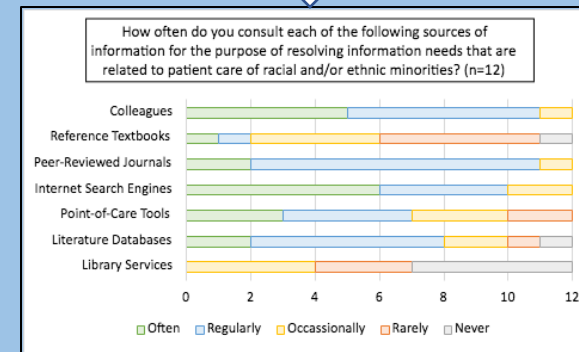
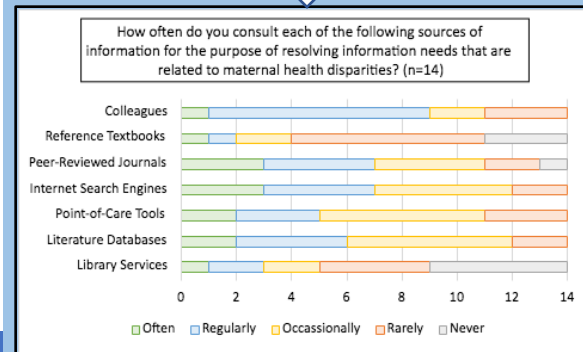
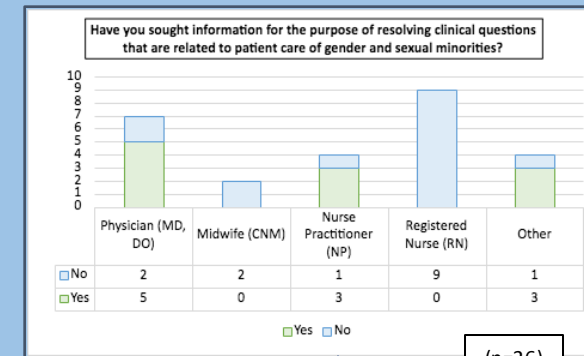
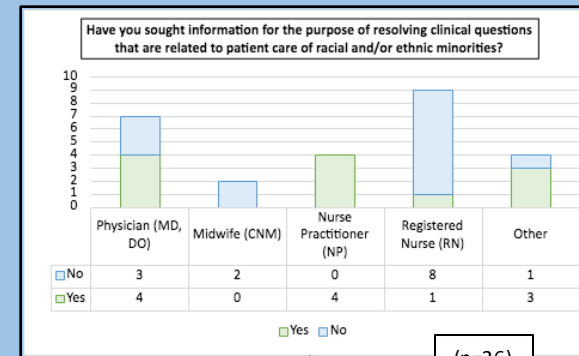
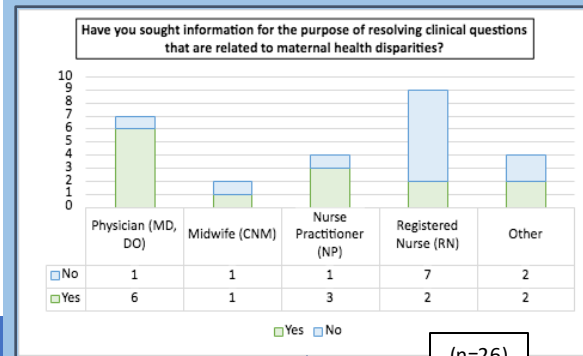
METHODS

- Survey questions were developed to address familiarity with information resources; identifying and responding to clinical information gaps; and frequency of consultation to specific inquiries.
- The survey was disseminated through email distribution to Regional Women & Childrens Services in Oregon to recruit participants who provide patient care before, during, and after pregnancy.
- Data was collected through REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture), a web-based HIPAA-compliant data collection platform. Data analysis was performed in Microsoft Excel.
- Survey timeline: January 5th to March 25th, 2022.

CONCLUSION

- In comparison to nurses, physicians are more likely to seek information on maternal health disparities.
- 46% of providers have sought information specific to racial/ethnic minorities and 42% for information on sexual/gender minorities.
- Literature databases, internet search engines, peer-reviewed journals, and colleagues are most often and regularly used.

RESULTS



System Library Services can engage in critical librarianship by increasing outreach, awareness, and support of resources related to diversity and equity in maternal care. Through these efforts, the use of library services may increase for maternal health care providers in fulfilling their information needs.

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