

# The Information-Seeking Behavior of Providers at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN): A Cross Sectional Study.

Maria Karagias  
*Lehigh University*

Robert Postlethwaite  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network*

Angela Davis  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, [angela.davis@lvhn.org](mailto:angela.davis@lvhn.org)*

Bryan G. Kane MD  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, [bryan.kane@lvhn.org](mailto:bryan.kane@lvhn.org)*

Rahul Mhaskar MD, PhD  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, [rmhaskar@health.usf.edu](mailto:rmhaskar@health.usf.edu)*

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/research-scholars-posters>

---

## Published In/Presented At

Karagias, M., Postlethwaite, R., Davis, A., Kane, B., Mhaskar, R., Barraco, R., (2017, July, 31) *The Information-Seeking Behavior of Providers at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN): A Cross Sectional Study*. Poster presented at: LVHN Research Scholar Program Poster Session, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).

---

**Authors**

Maria Karagias; Robert Postlethwaite; Angela Davis; Bryan G. Kane MD; Rahul Mhaskar MD, PhD; and Robert D. Barraco MD, MPH

# The Information-Seeking Behavior of Providers at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN): A Cross Sectional Study

Maria Karagias, Robert Postlethwaite, Angela Davis, Bryan Kane, MD, Rahul Mhaskar, MD, PhD, and Robert Barraco, MD

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

## BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

- Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) is when health care providers appraise evidence to aid them in making a decision to help their patient when there is lack of knowledge (1)
- Via the internet, public accessibility of medical information has expanded drastically (2)
- Providers must appraise a significant volume of literature to stay current (3)
- The goals of this study are to explore, via a structured 20-30 minute interview, the satisfaction of providers with their current information searching behaviors and their openness to training and shared decision making (SDM) needs

## METHODS

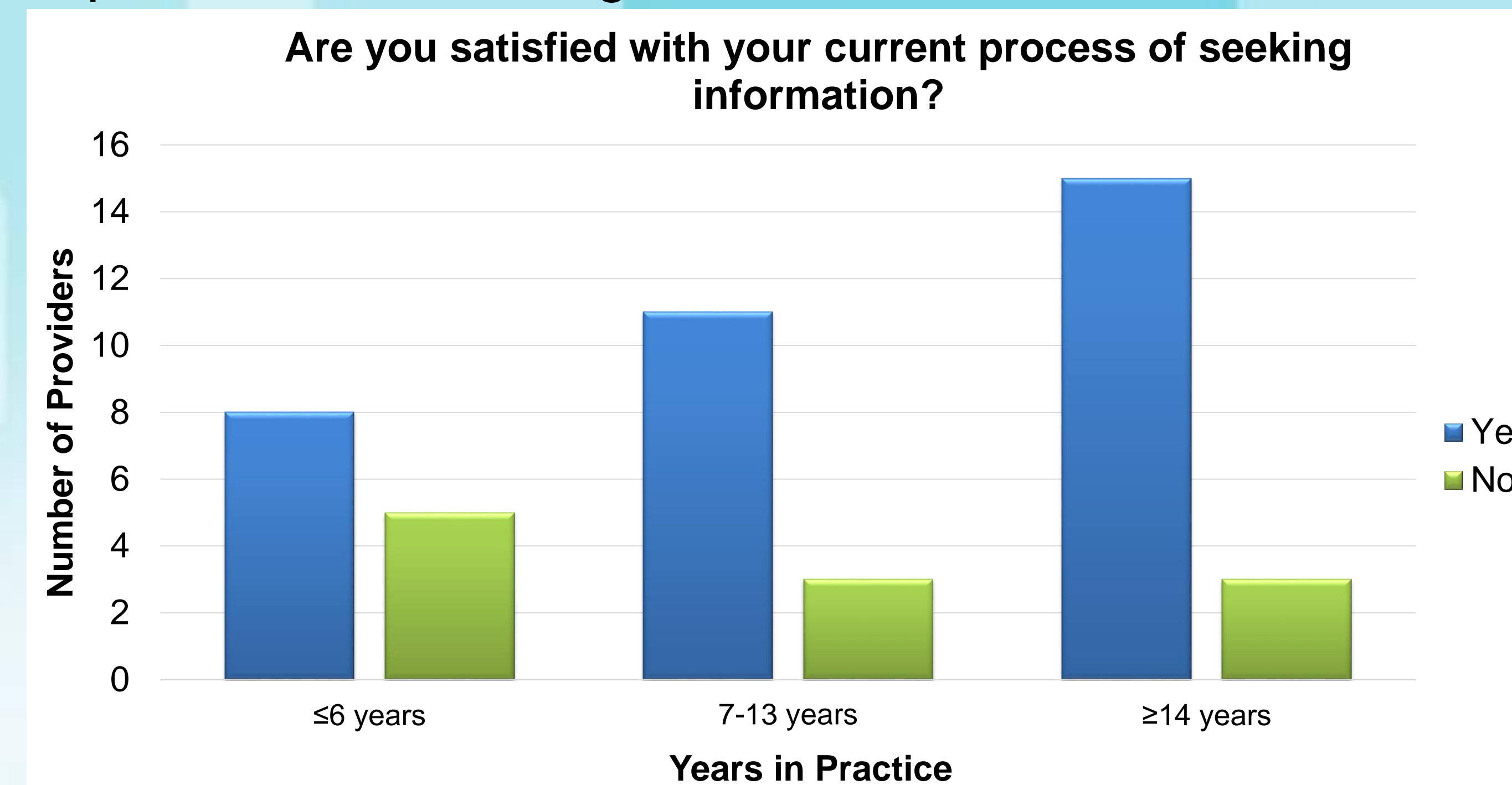
- Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians (APCs) from eight specialties contribute to the study: Dental Medicine, Emergency & Hospital Medicine, Family Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery



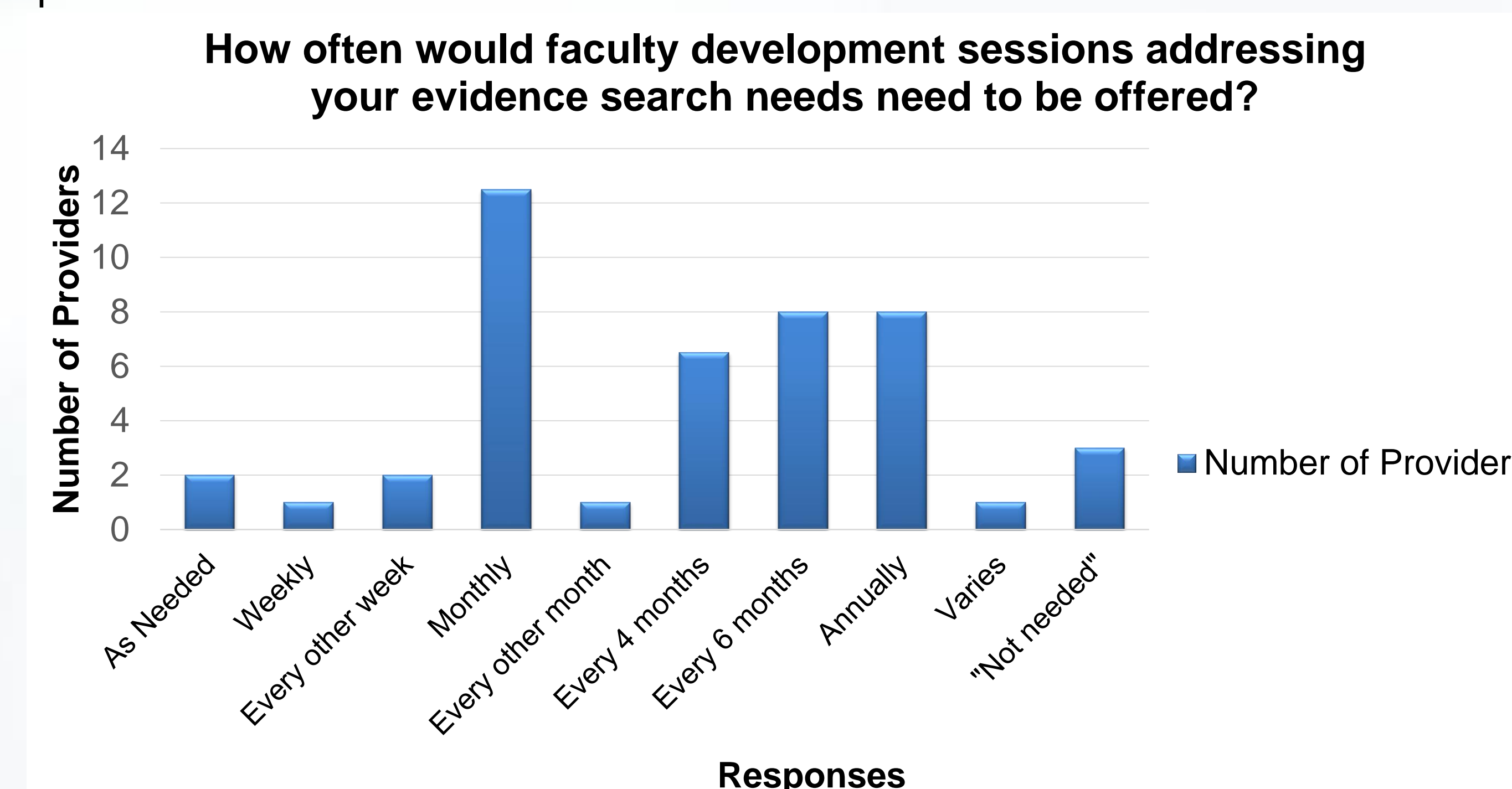
- The interviews are analyzed by extraction of themes relevant to each question and participants are compared amongst one another

## RESULTS

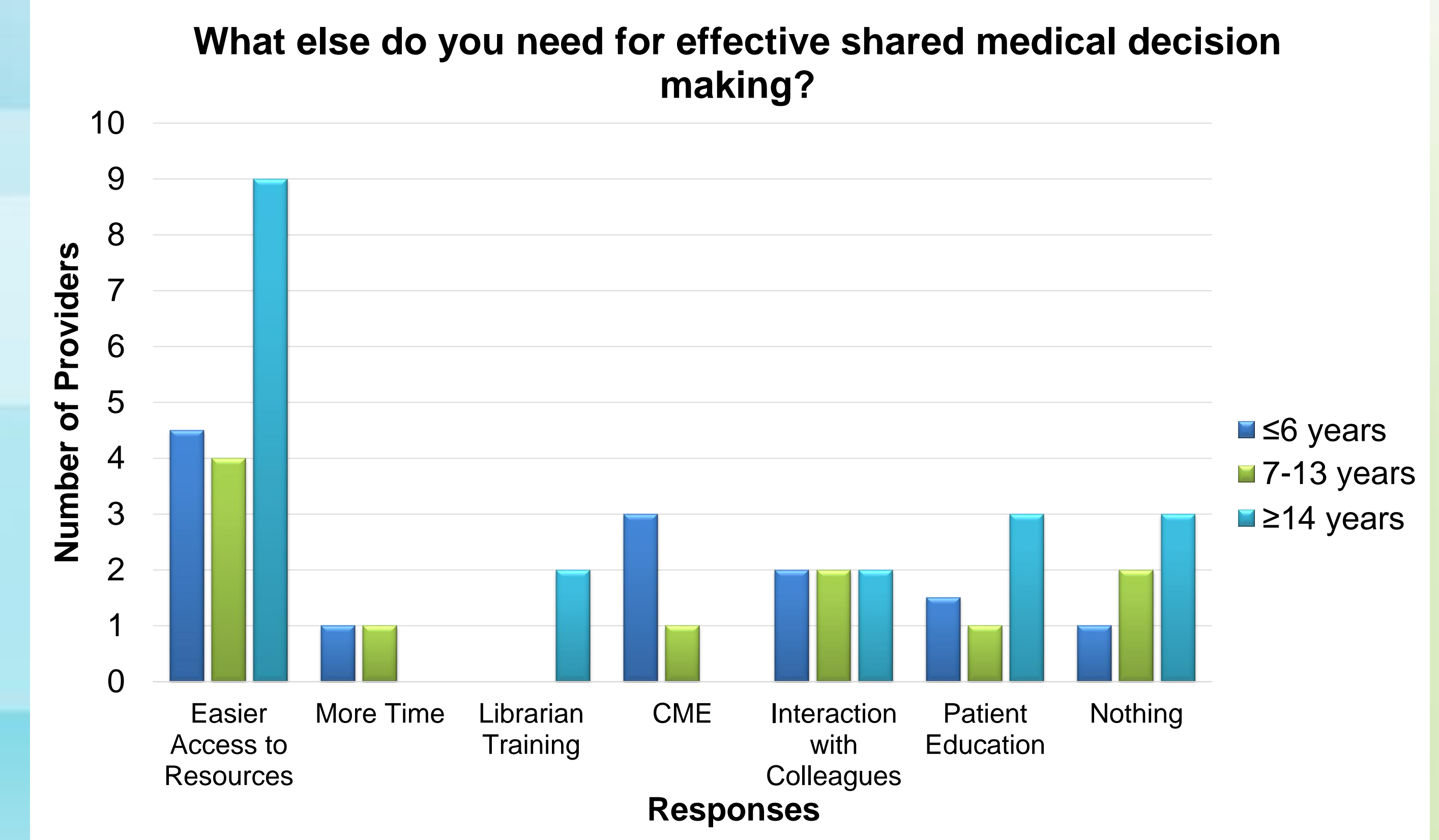
Questions 22 through 27 in the interview were related to provider satisfaction with current EBM skills and openness to further skill development training. Results for Questions 23, 25, and 27 are presented in Figures 1, 2, and 3. 45 providers enrolled from all the specialties in the study thus far except Obstetrics and Gynecology, and represent the following stratification:



**Figure 1- Are you satisfied with your current process of seeking information?** Responses of all participants to the question “Are you satisfied with your current process of seeking information?” during their interview. The data is categorized into groups based on the number of years the provider has been in practice



**Figure 2- How often would faculty development sessions addressing your evidence search needs need to be offered?** Responses of all participants to the question “How often would faculty development sessions addressing your evidence search needs need to be offered?” during their interview



**Figure 3- What do you need for effective shared medical decision making?** Responses of all participants to the question “What do you need for effective medical decision making?” during their interview. The responses were separated into groups based on the number of years the provider has been in practice

## CONCLUSIONS

- In this single network cohort, it appears that there is an association between years in practice and satisfaction with EBM
- While 75% of participants say they were satisfied with their current process of seeking information, 82% were open to improve their EBM and SDM skills.

### References

1. Schuers, M., Griffon, N., Kerdelhue, G., Foubert, Q., Mercier, A., & Darmoni, S. J. (2016). Behavior and attitudes of residents and general practitioners in searching for health information: From intention to practice. *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 89, 9-14. doi:10.1016/j.ijmedinf.2016.02.003
2. Dulit R., & Adler, D.A. (2002). Patient Care and the Information Explosion. *Psychiatric Services*. 53(6), 657.
3. Helft, P. R., Hlubocky, F., & Daugherty, C. K. (2003). American Oncologists' Views of Internet Use by Cancer Patients: A Mail Survey of American Society of Clinical Oncology Members. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 21(5), 942-947. doi:10.1200/jco.2003.08.007

© 2017 Lehigh Valley Health Network

610-402-CARE LVHN.org

We would like to acknowledge the following for their support in our project: **Anderson Trust**

