

## Rural VIP No. 16: Allied Health-care Professionals

The sixteenth survey for the members of the Rural Voice Information Panel (Rural VIP) was sent out February 4, 2021 to 224 members.

The purpose of the survey was to assess general understanding of allied health-care professionals and to determine if and how allied health-care professionals are included in rural attraction and retention strategies.

According to Alberta Health Services, the following allied health professionals are most likely to be found in a rural Alberta community: respiratory therapists, therapy assistants, social workers, speech language pathologists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists.

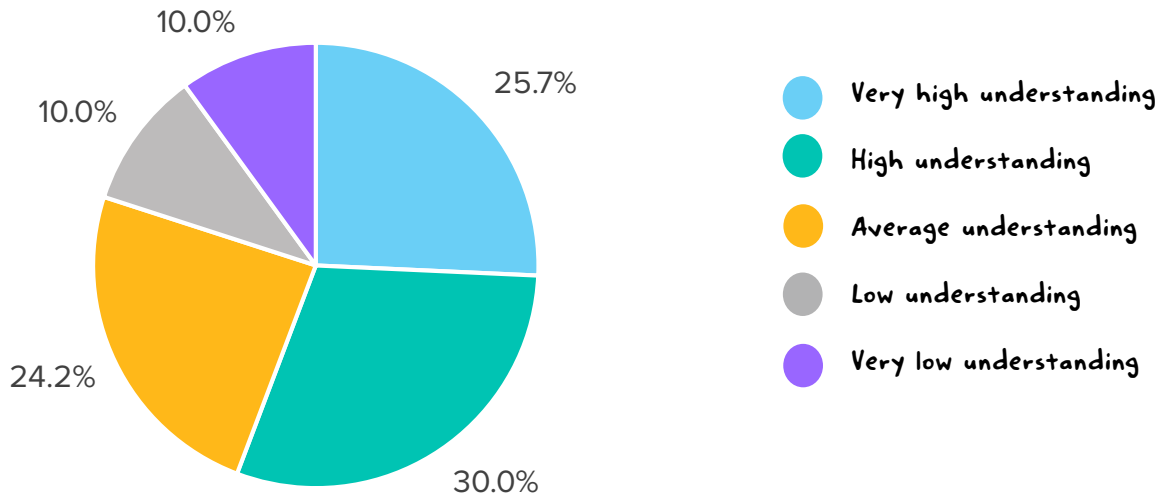
This document provides a summary of the responses.

### Key Learnings

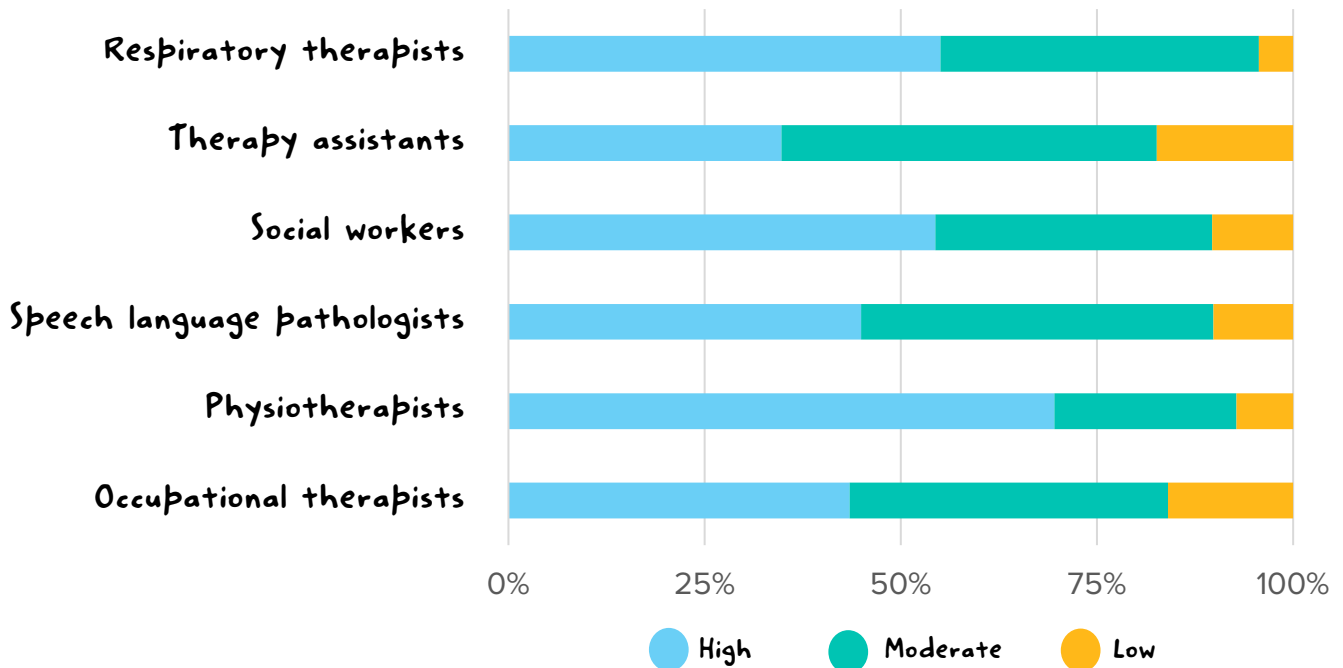


- **Q1:** Most respondents indicated that they have a high understanding of the difference between allied health-care professionals and other health providers. Respondents were also more likely to have a high understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each allied health-care profession.
- **Q2:** Respondents are more likely than not to have access to a range of allied health-care professionals within their community.
- **Q3:** 26 per cent of respondents have indicated that their community currently includes allied health-care professionals in attraction and retention activities. Examples of these activities are skills days and weekends, welcoming cards and activities, and appreciation events.

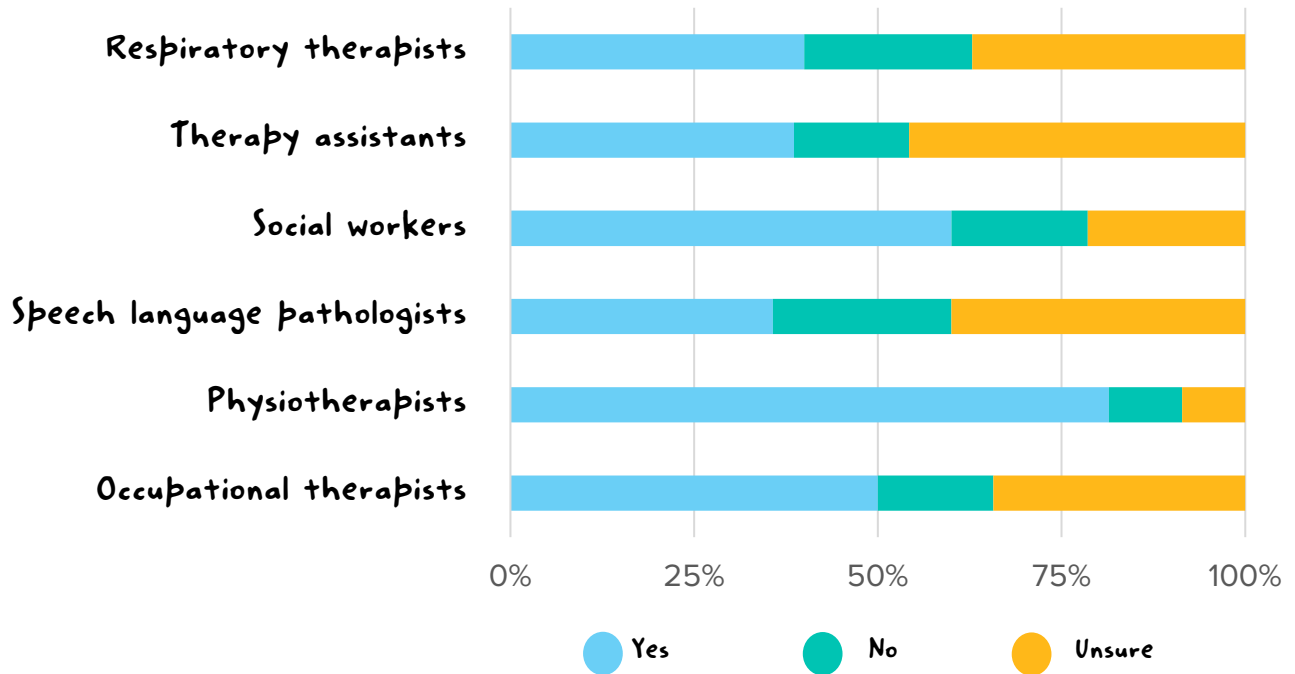
1. Generally, how well do you understand the difference between allied health-care professionals and other health providers (physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives)?



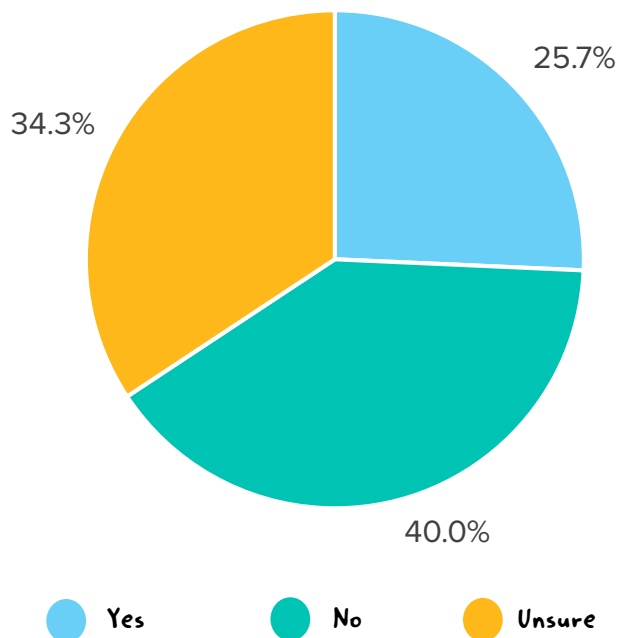
2. Overall, what is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities for the following allied health-care professionals?



**3. To your knowledge, do members of your community have local access to the following allied health-care professionals?**



**4. Does your community include allied health-care professionals in their attraction and retention activities?**



Respondents provided the following examples of how their communities include allied health-care professionals in their attraction and retention activities:

- Skills days and weekends
- Appreciation events
- Honoring their professional organization week
- Welcoming cards and activities
- Student training and placements

- 3 -

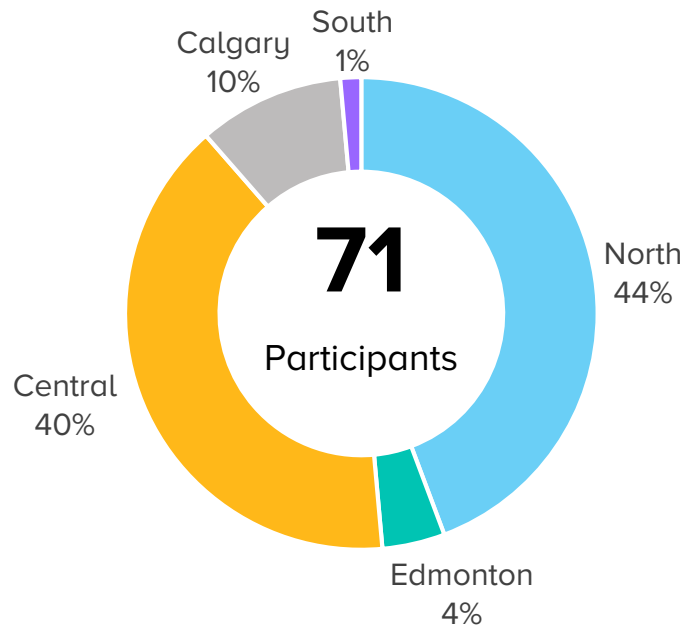
## 5. What further information would you like to know about allied health-care professionals?



### What you said:

- “What are the **roles and responsibilities** of the various professionals and how do local community members **access** their services?”
- “What is the **need in the community** and the difficulty of getting [allied health-care professionals] to a small community?”
- “I think a **broader public education** push on all aspects of what is a health-care provider... as nurse and doctors seem to [be] where many people stop when thinking of health professionals.”
- “**Attracting more allied professionals** to remote and rural areas.”

**6. In which AHS (Alberta Health Services) zone do you live?**



*\* Totals may not add due to rounding*

## What will we do with this feedback?

Your input helps us determine the Rural VIP's awareness and understanding of allied health-care professionals and how allied health-care professionals are included in attraction and retention activities. Thank you for participating in our survey.

RhPAP also shares learnings and feedback from the Rural VIP with health-care leaders, including Alberta Health, and the RhPAP Board of Directors, who represent the following organizations: Alberta Health Services, Alberta Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta.

To view the results of past Rural VIP surveys, click [here](#).

## Questions about RhPAP's Rural Voice Information Panel?

Email us at [ruralVIP@rhpap.ca](mailto:ruralVIP@rhpap.ca)