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Research Skills
Primary vs Secondary Research
Articles in Health Sciences

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### Primary Sources

Report the results from a research study

Typically contain the following sections

**Abstract:**
A summary of the study and results

**Introduction:**
States the study’s purpose

**Methodology:**
Describes how the study was conducted. This section may also be called *Methods*, or *Materials & Methods*, or something similar

**Findings/Results:**
Reports and interprets the data gathered by the study. Usually has graphs, charts, tables, or statistics

**Conclusion/Discussion:**
Discusses the implications of the results

**Works Cited/References/Bibliography:**
A list of the sources cited by the author(s) of the article

### Secondary Sources

Analyze and synthesize data from primary research studies

Synthesize primary research articles

**Examples:**

**Systematic Review**
- These will have similar sections as primary research articles...
- ...but will clearly say it’s a **systematic review**.
- Generally considered to be a high **level of evidence** when similar studies are analyzed as a group

**Narrative Review**
- Summary of research in a topic area
- **Is not itself analyzing data** from multiple articles
- Less likely to have data charts, graphs or tables
- More likely to be biased as it may not be examining all the available research on a certain topic