

Health Literacy & Consumer Health Information

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What is Health Literacy?

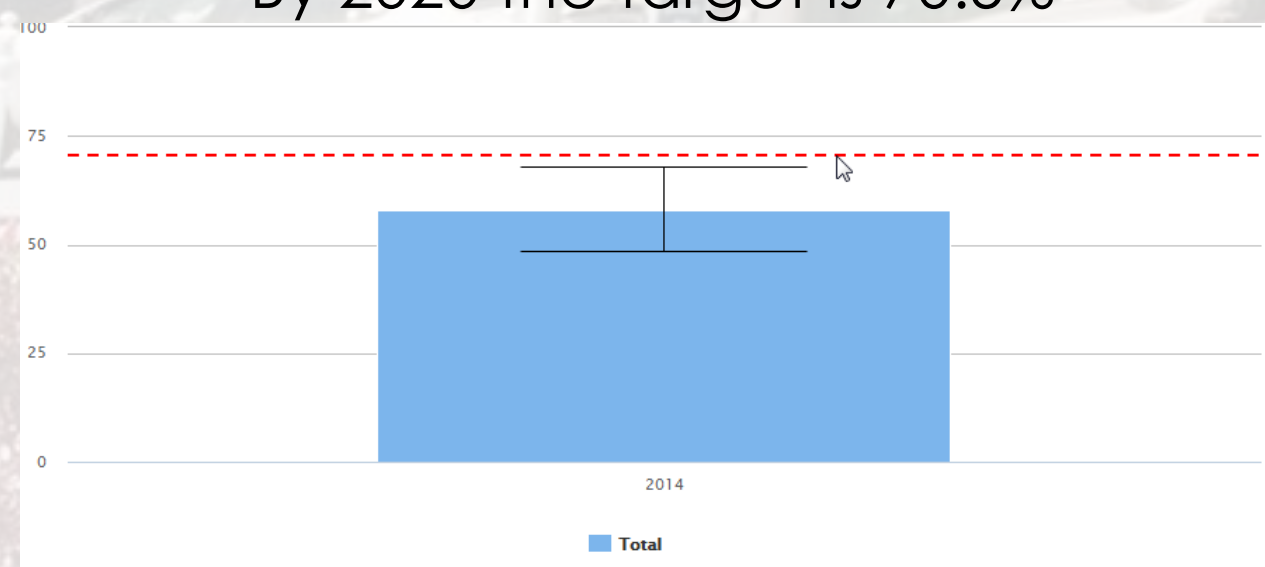
Health literacy is the degree to which a person has the capacity to obtain, communicate, process, and understand basic health information and services in order to make appropriate health decisions.

NIH Findings

- Everyone, regardless of the level of education, can misunderstand health information. Especially in emotionally charged situations.
- In almost all cases, physicians and other health professionals, try to and believe they are, communicating accurate information.
- Patients are sometimes embarrassed to ask questions to confirm they have actually understood the information
 - It is increasingly difficult for people to separate evidence based information, especially online, from misleading ads and gimmicks

Healthy People 2020 Objective:

In 2014, 58% of websites met 3 or more evaluative criteria for accessing info. reliability.
By 2020 the target is 70.5%



National Library of Medicine:

Provides funding for research in the area of health literacy, maintains and promotes several consumer health resources.



Outreach:

Health Sciences Library staff conducting outreach to inform patients about consumer health resources.



National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Middle Atlantic Region :

"improve the public's access to information so they can make informed decisions about their health."

Stony Brook University Health Sciences Library:

Future outreach plans to provide reliable health information to our community include;

- Partnership with CAPS
- Workshops/presentations
- Instruction to Clinicians
- Attend community health events
- Participate in local Health Literacy Initiatives



Partnership with Patient Advocacy at Stony Brook University Hospital. Provide Libguide for patient education.

<http://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/patient-ed>



References:

- Healthy People 2020. (2014, October 9, 2015). Chart:HC/HIT-8.1:Total Retrieved October 12, 2015, from <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data/Chart/4544?category=1&by=Total&fips=-1>
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- National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Middle Atlantic Region (MAR). About the Middle Atlantic Region (MAR). Retrieved October 12, 2015, from <http://nmlm.gov/mar/about>
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Middle Atlantic Region. Consumer Health Outreach. Retrieved October 12, 2015, from <http://nmlm.gov/mar/consumer>