



Health Literacy: Assessing Your Practice

Cindy Brach, MPP
Darren DeWalt, MD, MPH
Laura Noonan, MD



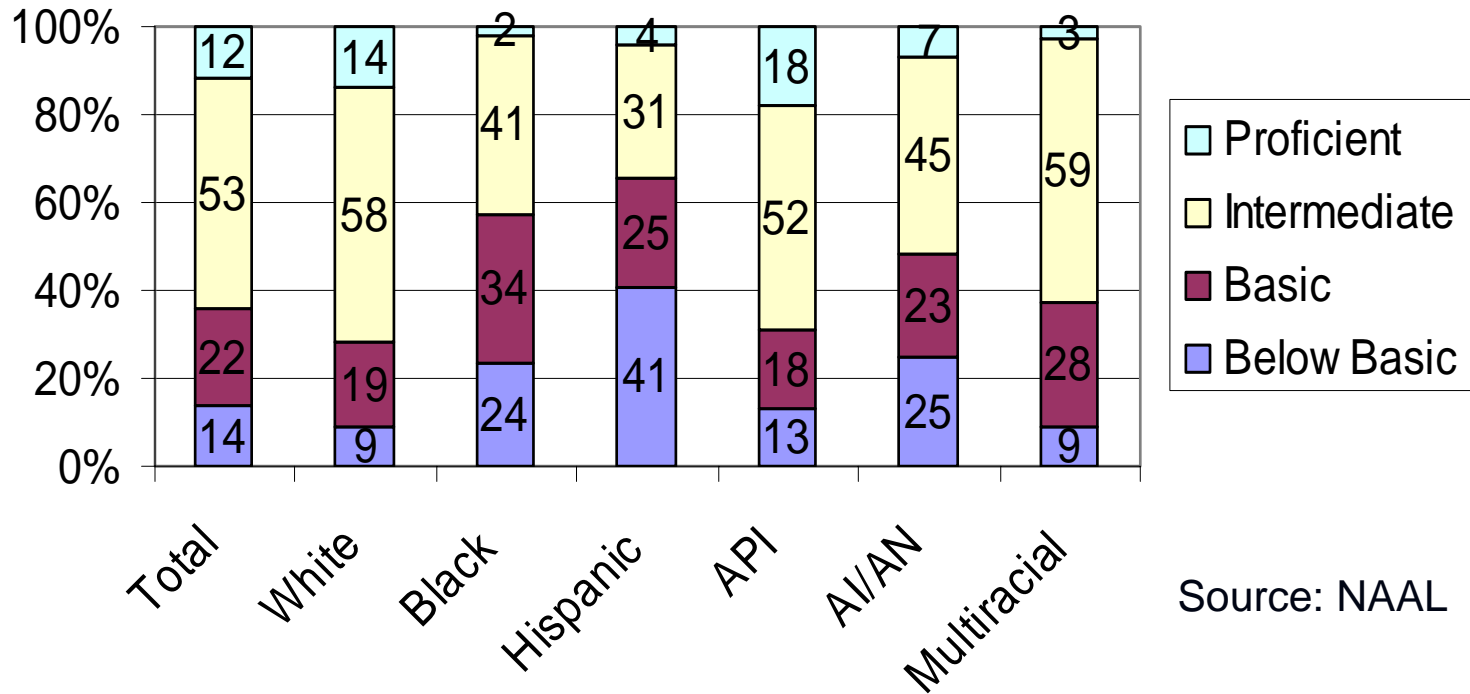
Definition of Health Literacy

“The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.”

Healthy People 2010, Institute of Medicine
(2004)

Prevalence & Disparities

Percentage of adults in each health literacy level, by race/ethnicity, 2003



Source: NAAL

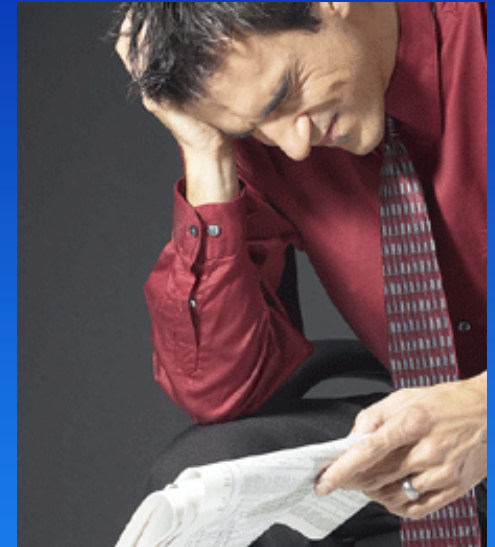
Health Literacy Equation



X



=



Skills/Abilities x Demand/Complexity = Health Literacy



Health Literacy Universal Precautions

- Structure the delivery of care as if every patient may have limited health literacy.
- You can't tell by looking.
- Everyone may have difficulty understanding some things, some of the time.



Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit

- Beyond recognition – what do we do?
- Busy practices, competing demands
- AHRQ commissioned Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit through Practice-Based Research Networks.