

# HEALTH INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIORS IN ADULTS WITH BELOW AVERAGE LITERACY, NUMERACY AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

RESULTS FROM THE 2012 PIAAC US DATASET

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KNOWING HOW ADULTS WITH LOW LNPS  
ENGAGE IN HISB IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE  
*THOSE WHO ACTIVELY SEEK HEALTH  
INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF  
SOURCES ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE  
COGNITIVELY AND PSYCHO-SOCIALLY  
PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN MEDICAL  
DECISION-MAKING* AND WITH THE MEDICAL  
SYSTEM

# HEALTH LITERACY & HEALTH INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIORS (HISB)

- **Patient Centered Care**
- **Complex and Situational Demands of Health Literacy**
- **Seeking information as the first step in using information**

## LITERACY, NUMERACY, & PROBLEM SOLVING

- **Reading & Writing**
- **Using numbers for health**
- **Challenges of digital literacy**

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

**RQ1:**

**What sources do people with below average LNPS utilize when seeking health information?**

**RQ2:**

**When looking at Gender, Age, Race, Educational Attainment, Health Status, Use of Preventive Measures and Facilities in Reading, Writing, and Speaking/Understanding Spoken English, which of these factors predict different health information sources for people with below average LNPS?**

# US PIAAC DATA SET

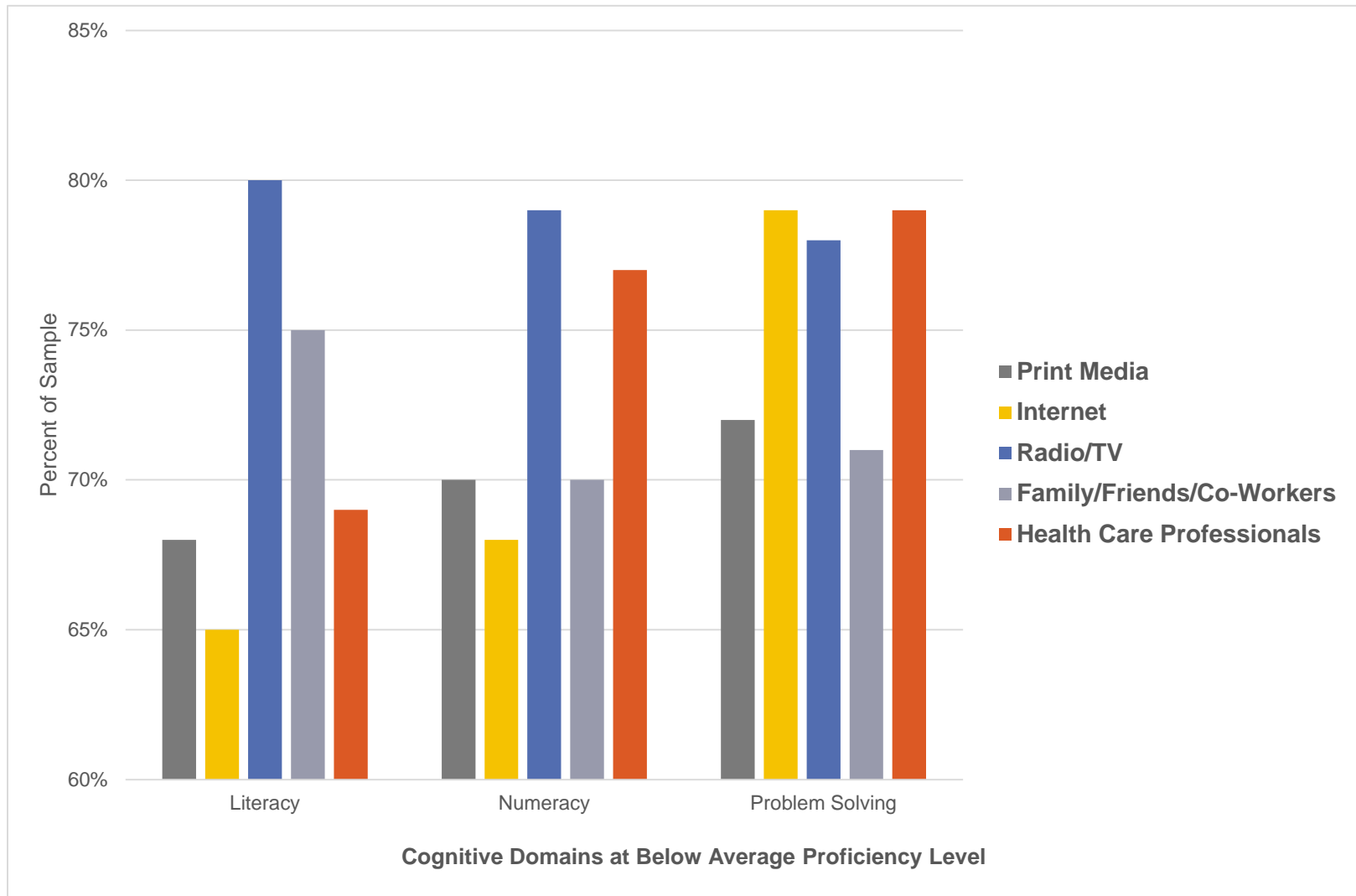
- **Health Related Measures**
  - Sources of Health Information (DV)
  - Health Status
  - Use of Preventive Health Measures
- **Background Information**
  - Age, Gender, Race
  - Educational Attainment
- **Facilities in English**
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Speaking/Understanding Spoken

# SAMPLE: BELOW AVERAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS DEFINED ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **Literacy (n=2270)**
  - Below Level 1, Level 1, Level 2
  - Cut Score 275
- **Numeracy (n= 2810)**
  - Below Level 1, Level 1, Level 2
  - Cut Score 275
- **Problem Solving (n= 2270)**
  - Below Level 1, Level 1
  - Cut Score 290

# RESULTS RQ1:

## USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION BY COGNITIVE DOMAIN



# RESULTS RQ2:

## PREDICTING USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION

	Print Media	Internet	Radio /TV	Social	Health Professional
Gender	Female	Female	Female		Female
Age	Older	Younger	Middle		Older
Race	BAH	HA	BH		B
Education	HS	HS			
Health Status	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Preventive	+	+		+	+
Reading	High	High	High		
Writing		High		High	High
Speaking					



# KEY FINDINGS

- **Those who seek health information are more likely to report better health.**
- **Participants use multiple sources of health information.**
- **Oral sources (Radio/TV, Health Professionals, Friends/Family/Co-Workers) are generally used more frequently than written sources (Print Media, Internet)**
- **Those who report a high Facility in Writing are more likely to use Health Professionals and the Internet.**

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH

- **How does native language status affect HISB?**
- **How do individuals use the information they acquire from different sources?**
- **Impact of writing skills on use of the Internet**
- **Impact of writing skills on use of Health Professionals**

# IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY & PRACTICE

- **Facility in written and spoken English and the most readily modifiable factor that predicts health information utilization**
- **Cost-effectiveness of ABE funding**
- **Low literacy / Numeracy / Problem Solving equivalent importance across types of access**
- **Implications for content, curricula of Adult Basic Education**