Abstract Information

**Abstract ID: 307**

**Health Literacy Knowledge and Perceptions Among College Students**

**Author Information:**
Authors List:
Presenting Author: Brenda Matzke
Additional Author: Elaine Marshall
Additional Author: Bridget Melton
Additional Author: Joanne Chopak-Foss

Presenting Author: Brenda Matzke
Address: Box 8158 - School of Nursing Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia 30460
USA
Ph: 912 478-7163
Fax: 912 478-0536
Email: bmatzke@georgiasouthern.edu
Institution: Georgia Southern University

Additional Author: Elaine S. Marshall
Address: Box 8158 - School of Nursing Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia 30460
USA
Ph: 912 478-0390
Fax: 912 478-0536
Email: elainemarshall@georgiasouthern.edu
Institution: Georgia Southern University

Additional Author: Bridget Melton
Address: Department of Health & Kinesiology Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia 30461
USA
Ph: 912 478-1973
Fax:
Email: bmelton@georgiasouthern.edu
Institution: Georgia Southern University

Additional Author: Joanne Chopak-Foss
Address: Box 8076 - Department of Health & Kinesiology Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia 30460
USA
Ph: 912 478-1530
Fax: 912 478-0381
Email: jchopak@georgiasouthern.edu
Institution: Georgia Southern University

**Abstract Information**

Presentation Preference: SNRS  Poster Presentation

Abstract Categories: Interest Group: Health Promotion/ Self-care
Thematic Areas: Healthy People 2010

Introduction:
Health literacy is the ability to read, understand, and use health care information to make appropriate health care decisions. It is the optimal currency for understanding and navigating the health care system. Ninety million Americans lack adequate levels of health literacy. Little research has been done on health literacy among citizens of the southeast United States, particularly young adults. Further, studies that have measured health literacy and its impact on the use of health care services and health outcomes have not included college students. Since
young adult college students are just beginning to make lifelong health care decisions, the university setting is ideal for studying and promoting health literacy. The purpose of this study was to examine knowledge and perceptions related to health literacy in a sample of college students. This research will enable the development of effective interventions to address deficits in health literacy for this population.

Method(s): Following a descriptive design, college students, 18 years of age or older, (n=100) participated in the study. Participants completed the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (STOFHLA), open ended descriptive questions, and demographic questions. The STOFHLA includes two functional health reading comprehension passages and has a 0.97 Chronbach’s Alpha (0.94 for passage A and 0.97 for passage B). An online survey method was used to collect data.

Results: Correlations and multiple regression analyses identified significant relationships among demographic variables, specific life experiences, and levels of health literacy. Qualitative analyses also revealed themes unique to young adults among data from the open ended descriptive questions.

Discussion: Information on health literacy among college students is important to understand needs for health promotion and self-care. This research will enable the development of effective interventions to address such deficits in health literacy.

Research Completed: Yes
Abstract History: NA
Financial Disclosure: Have a financial arrangement or affiliation with commercial companies whose products may be mentioned in this material?
FDA Disclosure: Cleared: Yes
Non-Exclusive License: Accepted Terms: Yes
Submitted By: elainemarshall@georgiasouthern.edu