

Health-Literacy Resources:

Health Literacy and Mortality among Elderly Persons

Arch Intern Med. 2007;167:1503-1509.

July 23, 2007

<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/167/14/1503>

“Conclusions - Inadequate health literacy, as measured by reading fluency, independently predicts all-cause mortality and cardiovascular death among community-dwelling elderly persons. Reading fluency is a more powerful variable than education for examining the association between socioeconomic status and health.”

Child and Youth Well-Being Index (CWI), 1975-2005, with Projections for 2006

The Foundation for Child Development

April 17, 2007

http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/resources_show.htm?doc_id=472847

“The most disturbing finding in the domains of the CWI is that children's health has sunk to its lowest point in the 30-year history of the Index, driven largely by an alarming rise in the number of children who are obese and a smaller decline in child mortality rates than achieved in recent years.”

The Costs and Benefits of an Excellent Education for All of America's Children

Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University

January 2007

http://www.cbcse.org/media/download_gallery/Leeds_Report_Final_Jan2007.pdf

Includes a section on the Effects of Health Status and Expenditures, Education and Health: “High school graduates have improved health status and lower rates of mortality than high school dropouts (Cutler and Lleras-Muney, 2006). Those with college education fare even better. One might therefore anticipate significant savings to the public health care system as education levels increase.” Page 9

Literacy and Health in America

Educational Testing Service

April 2004

<http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICHEATH.pdf>

ETS for the U.S. Department of Education used information collected from existing surveys, the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS) and the International

Adult Literacy Survey (IALS). Findings include that among adults who had not completed high school about half scored at or below lower health literacy levels.

Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

April 2004

<http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/19/726/health%20literacy%20final.pdf>

“Health literacy is the degree to which individuals can obtain, process, and understand the basic health information and services they need to make appropriate health decisions. But health literacy goes beyond the individual. It also depends upon the skills, preferences, and expectations of health information and care providers: our doctors; nurses; administrators; home health workers; the media; and many others.”

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

US Dept of Health and Human Services

2004

<http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/>

“The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, which began in 1996, is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers (doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, etc.), and employers across the United States. MEPS collects data on the specific health services that Americans use, how frequently they use them, the cost of these services, and how they are paid for, as well as data on the cost, scope, and breadth of health insurance held by and available to U.S. workers.” (from “survey background”)

Parsing the Achievement Gap

Educational Testing Service

October 2003

<http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICPARSING.pdf>

ETS’s synthesis of research on achievement that finds connections between student achievement and core factors often related to students' racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic status, including information on birth weight and nutrition.

Statistics from ProLiteracy Worldwide:

Globally

- Teaching mothers to read can lead to a decrease in infant mortality of up to 50%.

In the U.S.

- Annual health care costs in the U.S. are four times higher for individuals with low literacy skills than they are for individuals with high level literacy skills.
- Women in the U.S. who have little formal education are more likely than educated women to be in abusive relationships.
- One-half of all adults in U.S. federal and state correctional institutions cannot read or write at all; 85% of juvenile offenders have reading problems.

(From ProLiteracy Worldwide: Facts about Literacy, www.proliteracy.org)

From Alliance for Excellent Education:

- Male and female students with low academic achievement are twice as likely to become parents by their senior year of high school compared to students with high academic achievement.
- For juveniles involved in quality reading instruction programs while in prison, recidivism was reduced by 20 % or more.

(From Alliance for Excellent Education: <http://www.all4ed.org/publications/FactSheets.html>)

From America SCORES:

- Children in families below poverty are less likely than higher-income children to have a diet rated "good." For children ages 2 to 5, 19% of those in poverty had a good diet in 1994-96, compared with 28% of those living above the poverty line.

(From America SCORES Literacy Facts and Figures: www.americascores.org)

Compiled by *International Reading Association*, a community of reading professionals with over 80,000 members and institutional subscribers in more than 100 countries. IRA is committed to promoting higher achievement levels in literacy, reading, and communication by continually advancing the quality of instruction and research worldwide. www.reading.org

Useful links:

http://www.sabes.org/northeast/Health/low_literacy-print.html

<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2002/UniversalEducationSeenasCrucialinAIDSFight.aspx?p=1>
http://data.unaids.org/GCWA/GCWA_FS_GirlsEducation_Sep05_en.pdf

http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/page/-/PDFs/Education_factsheet_new.pdf

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001400/140073e.pdf>

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=41542&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099080042112/sourcebook_hiv_aids.pdf

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099080042112/Ed_Response_AIDS_Africa_Aug05.pdf

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTEDUCATION/0,,contentMDK:20756183~menuPK:1342884~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:282386,00.html>