

Examination of Functional Health Literacy in Adult Refugees Within 90 Days of Resettlement

A Custer¹, K Iles¹, S Ventre¹, C Lupone¹, K Jessamy¹,
P Cronkright MD¹

¹SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY



What is STOFHLA?

Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults

Seven-minute timed test

Graded on a 36-point scale:

inadequate (0-16)

marginal (17-22)

adequate (23-36)

Sample STOFHLA Passages

PASSAGE A

Your doctor has sent you to have a _____ X-ray.

- a. stomach
- b. diabetes
- c. stitches
- d. germs

You must have an _____ stomach when you come for _____.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| a. asthma | a. is. |
| b. empty | b. am. |
| c. incest | c. if. |
| d. anemia | d. it. |

The X-ray will _____ from 1 to 3 _____ to do.

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| a. take | a. beds |
| b. view | b. brains |
| c. talk | c. hours |
| d. look | d. diets |

THE DAY OF THE X-RAY.

Do not eat _____.

- a. appointment.
- b. walk-in.
- c. breakfast.
- d. clinic.

Do not _____, even _____.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| a. drive, | a. heart. |
| b. drink, | b. breath. |
| c. dress, | c. water. |
| d. dose, | d. cancer. |

If you have any _____, call the X-ray _____ at 616-4500.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. answers, | a. Department |
| b. exercises, | b. Sprain |
| c. tracts, | c. Pharmacy |
| d. questions, | d. Toothache |

Your doctor has sent you to have a _____ X-ray.

- a. stomach
- b. diabetes
- c. stitches
- d. germs

You must have an _____ stomach when you come for _____.

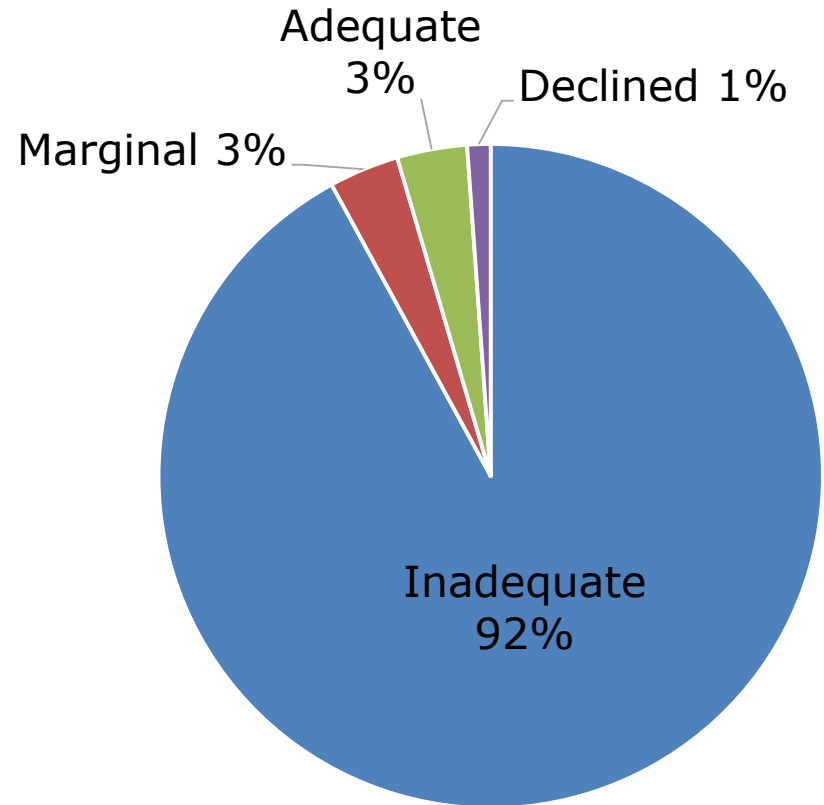
- a. asthma
- b. empty
- c. incest
- d. anemia

- a. is.
- b. am.
- c. if.
- d. it.

Health Literacy Results

Categories of Functional Health Literacy (N= 88)

Category	N	%
Inadequate	81	92%
Marginal	3	3%
Adequate	3	3%
Declined	1	1%



Functional Health Literacy by Country of Origin

Country	Adequate	Marginal	Inadequate	Declined
Iraq	3	1	11	1
Somalia	0	1	29	0
Other	0	1	42	0
Total	3	3	81	1

Country of Origin

Country	N	%
Iraq	15	17%
Somalia	30	34.1%
Other	43	48.9%

Functional Health Literacy

- High prevalence (92%) of inadequacy
- Correlates with country of origin
- Need to inform healthcare providers to assess functional health literacy
- Identify impact on patient care

Questions?