

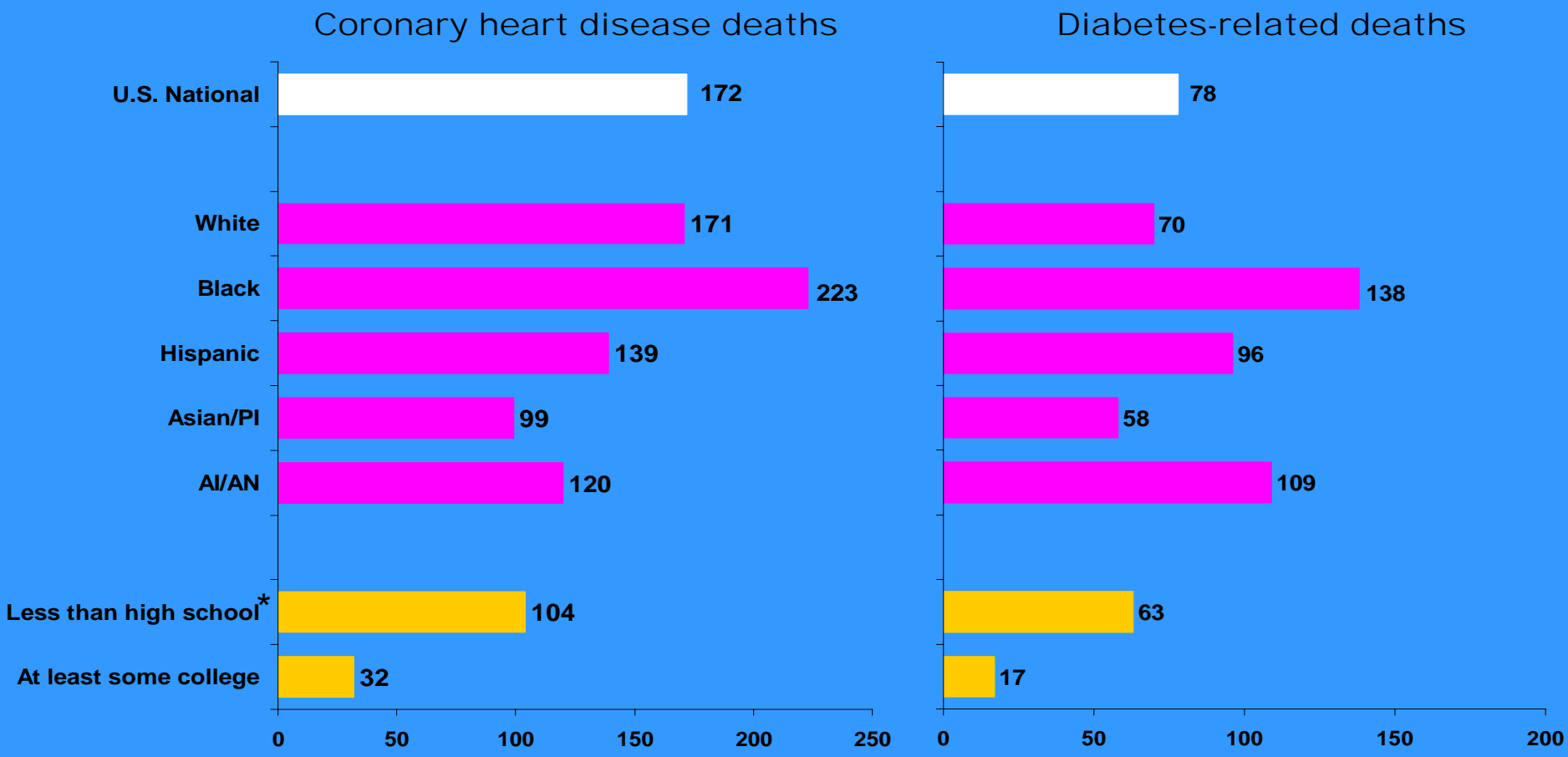
**American College of
Physicians Foundation
Health Literacy Conference
Washington, DC
November 29, 2006**

**The IOM Roundtable on
Health Literacy**

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Chief Health Officer
HealthPartners, Minneapolis, MN
October 3, 2006*

Coronary Heart Disease and Diabetes-Related Mortality, by Race/Ethnicity and Education Level, 2003

Age-adjusted per 100,000 population



* Total of 43 reporting states and D.C. for people ages 25–64.

PI = Pacific Islander; AI/AN = American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Data: National Vital Statistics System—Mortality (Retrieved from DATA2010 at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/data2010>).

Low Health Literacy Leads to Worse Health Outcomes

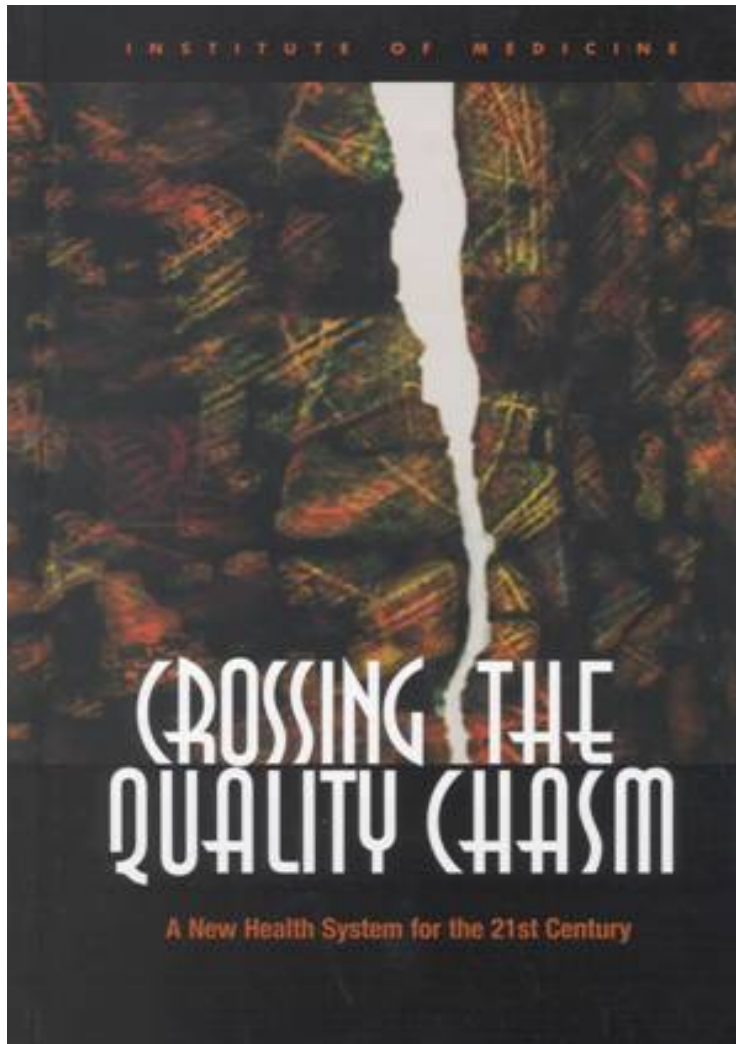
- Higher emergency department use
- More Hospitalizations
- Worse self-reported physical health and limitations in activities of daily living
- Higher mortality, especially CV disease
- These associations are not spurious
 - Causal association likely, pathways unclear

Source: David W. Baker, MD, MPH Surgeon General's Workshop on Improving Health Literacy, September 7, 2006

The Causal Pathways Leading to this Association are Complex

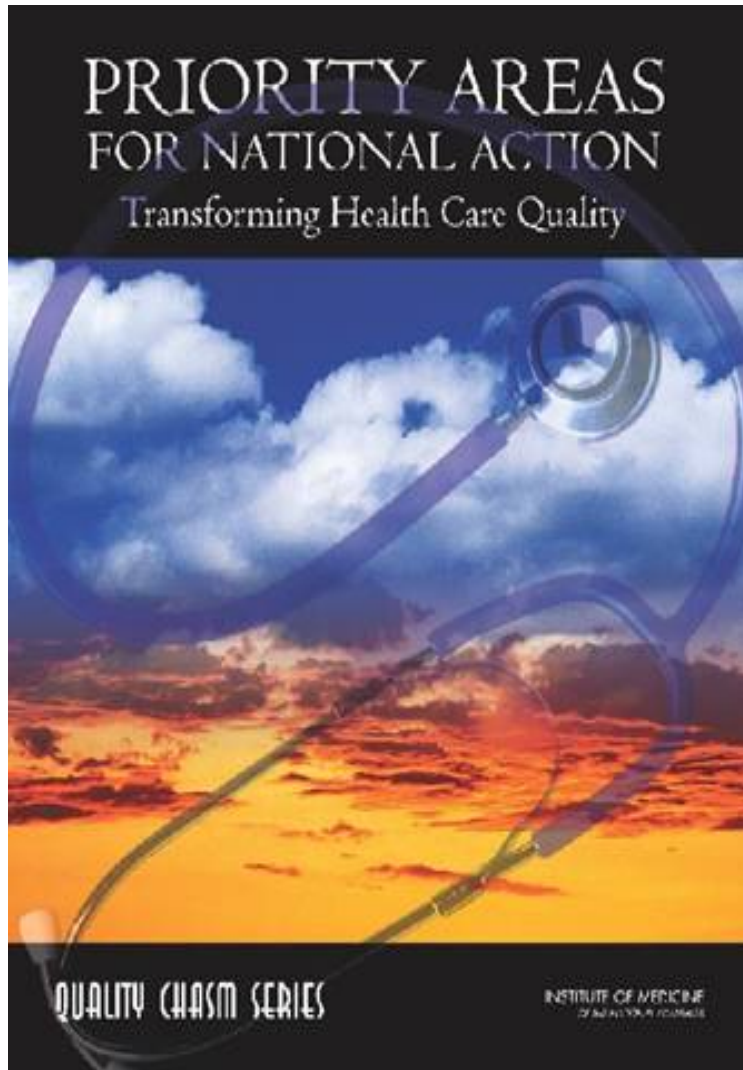
- Worse knowledge
- Worse self-management skills
- Lower use of preventive care
- Medication errors
- Worse access, delays in seeking care?
- Cognitive function?

Source: David W. Baker, MD, MPH Surgeon General's Workshop on Improving Health Literacy, September 7, 2006



“The American health care delivery system is in need of fundamental change. The current care systems cannot do the job. Trying harder will not work. Changing systems of care will.”

Released, 2001

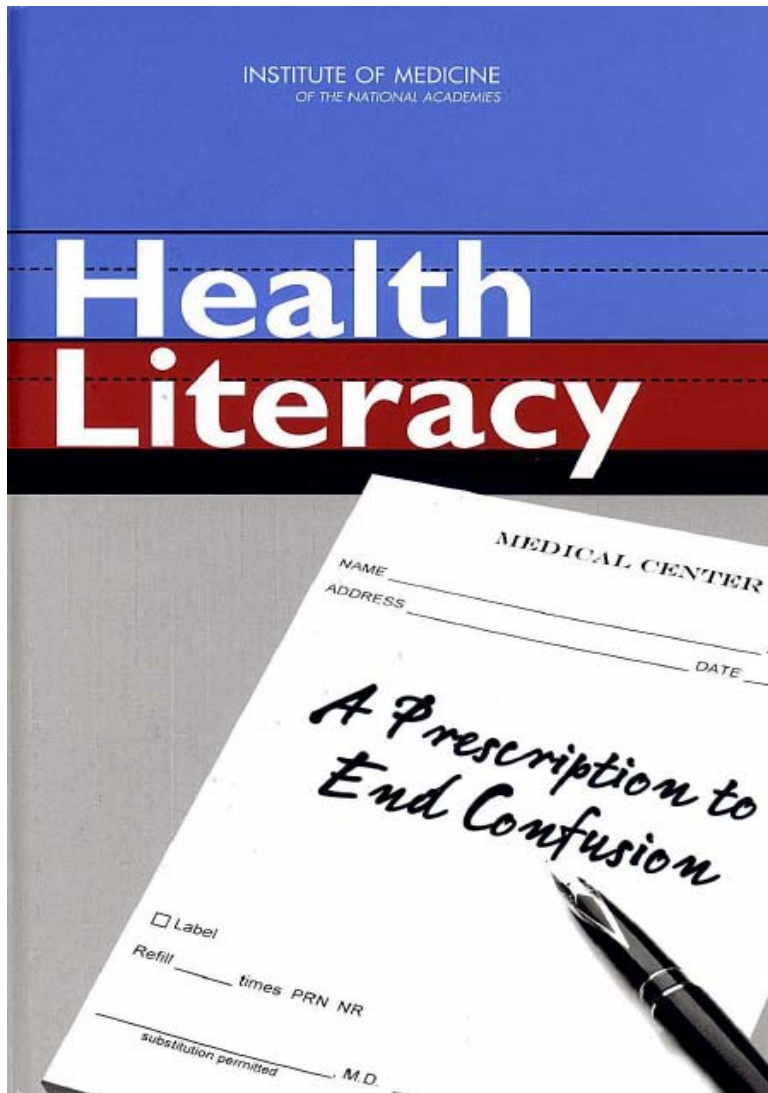


Charge:

- Define a Process,
- Develop Criteria,
- Select Priorities

“A Short Study”

Released January,
2003



- 90 million have difficulty understanding and acting on health information
- ... health literacy may affect the health of Americans and the ability of the health care system to provide effective high quality health care

Released April, 2004

Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Health Literacy

The mission of the roundtable is to move forward the field of health literacy and improve the translation of research findings to health care, education, and policy.

The Roundtable on Health Literacy

- Organized in September/October 2005
- 27 members
 - Academia
 - Industry
 - Media
 - Government
 - Foundations and associations
 - Representatives of patient and consumer interests
- Meetings held in January, April, and September
- www.iom.edu/healthliteracyroundtable

Roundtable Sponsors

- HHS/Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- National Cancer Institute
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service
- Kaiser Permanente
- Affinity Health Plan
- Academy for Educational Development
- American College of Physicians Foundation
- American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation
- American Heart Association
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Pfizer
- Merck

The Roundtable on Health Literacy will:

- Discuss challenges facing health literacy research and practice, and identify approaches to promote health literacy through mechanisms and partnerships in both the public and private sector.
- Provide a convening mechanism for interested parties from the academic, health care, consumer, and federal perspectives to meet and discuss difficult issues of mutual concern in a neutral setting.
- Sponsor workshops for members and the public to discuss approaches to resolve key challenges identified by roundtable members.
- Strive to enhance mutual understanding of health literacy among the health community and the general public, and to provide a mechanism that fosters collaboration among stakeholders.

Some Roundtable Discussion Topics From our Early Meetings

- Health literacy and patient activation
- Head start and health literacy
- HIV in border states and health literacy
- Hospital based health literacy collaboration in Canada
- Information Therapy
- Informed consent for populations with low health literacy
- Implementing the national health education standards in K-12
- Addressing Health literacy through professional activities

Possible Areas for Roundtable Action to Implement a Vision for a Health-Literate America

Health Care System

- Access to care/provider
- Access to reliable, understandable information and materials
- Infrastructure support for good patient-provider interaction
- Clear communication at all levels
- Health law, patient rights and responsibilities
- Technology

Society

- Community-based supports and infrastructure, engagement with other sectors (education, healthcare, etc)
- Support for individuals' role in home-based health care

Government

- Health plan purchasing
- Drug labeling and advertising
- Regulatory role
- Health education role

Improved Health Literacy and Health Outcomes

Media

- Access to reliable, understandable information through variety of media channels

Business

- Employee health and safety and literacy programs
- Health plan purchasing
- Partnership with other sectors
- Role of PHARMA in health literacy

Education

- Literacy Education
- Health & science in K-12 curriculum
- Adult education
- Health professionals education

Moving forward

- Roundtable website
 - links to health literacy programs and resources
- Further Development of “Friends of the Roundtable” (FORT) group
- We will discuss Implementing Strategies to Improve Health Literacy in Health Care Organizations at our next meeting.
- We will be publishing workshop proceedings

Isham's Personal View on Health Literacy

- This is a critical issue for prevention and health care
- We need more research
- We need to understand more clearly and specifically the role of health literacy in health promotion, disease prevention, and acute and chronic care management
- We need better “evidence based interventions” for dealing effectively with health literacy
- We need a transformed, sensitive, caring and “user friendly” health system (including prevention) for those with all levels of health literacy
- We need a better collective sense of a national strategy for dealing with health literacy