

Building Health Literacy for Immigrants in the US: A Scoping Study

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RATIONALE

The purpose of this scoping study is to examine and compare educational interventions that cultivate health literacy (HL) in adult migrants living in the United States. This study focuses on educational interventions that provide detailed information on the type of intervention and the outcomes of the study.

METHODOLOGY

- A database search included the keywords “health literacy,” “migrants” and “intervention”
- Initial searches yielded **700 articles**
- Upon removal of duplicates **502** articles remained for screening.
- 84** abstracts were eligible for full-text review.
- 40** articles based in the US remained
- An additional **19 studies** were removed for relevance.
- The remaining **21** articles, each reporting a unique program, are included in this study.

KEY FINDINGS

- 20 articles cited social factors like culture and language in their rationale
- 8 articles used randomized control designs
 - 4 studies reported marginal differences between control and intervention groups
- 12 studies reported successful outcomes in improving the HL of participants.
- 9 studies reported improved patient engagement
- Multilingualism was encouraged by most studies, but others focused on English (Table 1).
- Improvements were measured quantitatively, and qualitatively with surveys and interviews.
 - TOFHLA and other tools measured HL.
- Statistical analysis conducted when possible

DISCUSSION

- Studies used HL interventions to overcome language and social barriers to healthcare.
- Educating immigrants in general subjects may help improve HL.
- Classroom interventions were most common, but other interventions were successful (Figure 2).
- The studies were measured in different ways, but each intervention had accomplished some success

LIMITATIONS

- The studies varied in format and used different tests, making it difficult to uniformly measure success.
 - Attempts to identify the most successful intervention would be subjective
- Figures 1 and 3 show that the studies were limited to particular areas and groups
 - Many of the studies focus on a single ethnic and linguistic group.

CONCLUSION

There is still a lot that we do not know about HL for undocumented and various ethno-linguistic groups.

Types of Intervention

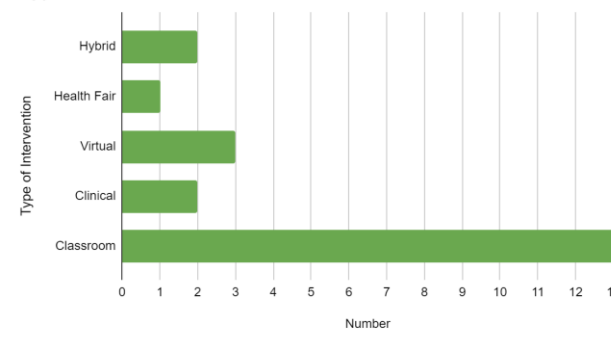


Figure 2: Types of HL interventions

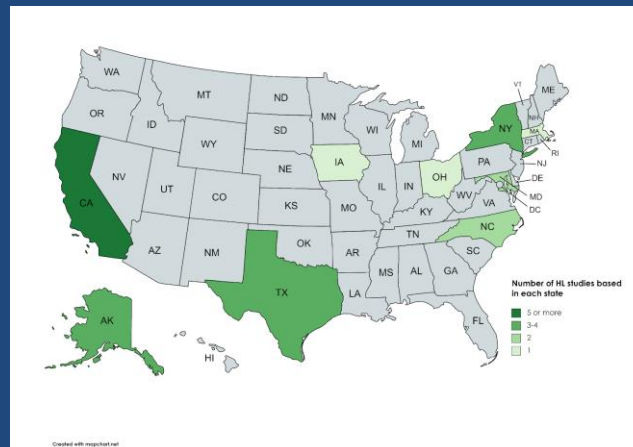


Figure 1: Common locations of study interventions

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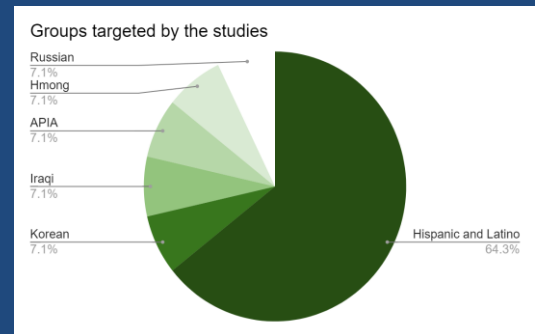


Figure 3: Target groups of the studies



References



Appendix

How was multilingualism supported? ▼	Number of Studies
Mediators & Translators	8
Material translation	10
"Limited English Proficiency" focus	3

Table 1: Language accommodation in studies