



Health Literacy and Informational Support of Patient-Family in Critical Care Settings

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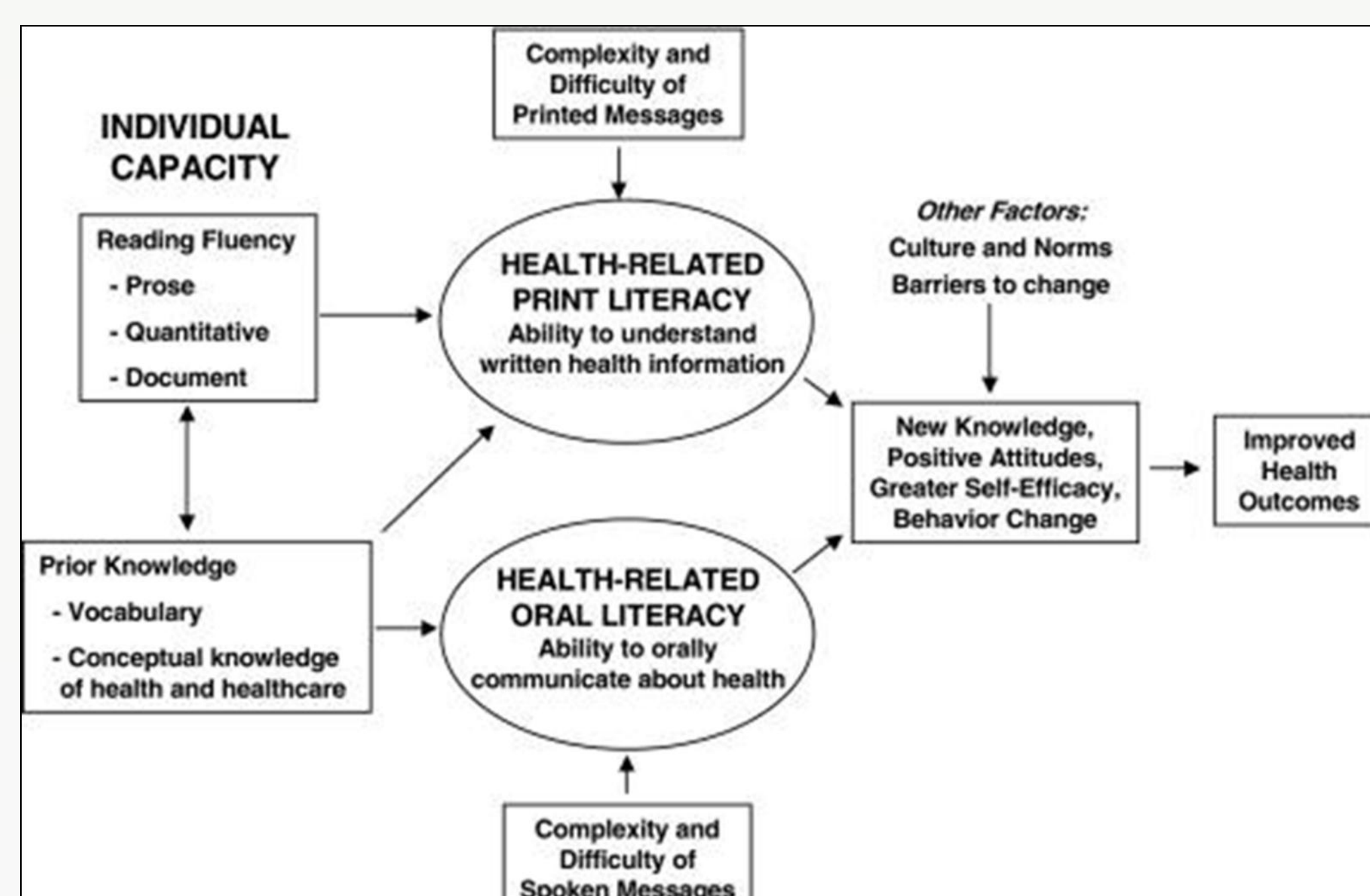
Health Literacy

The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions

Background

- Limited health literacy is associated with poor health status
- Complex decisions need to be made in time of stress
- Reading and writing printed materials, numeracy, listening, and speaking skills are needed
- 50% of what is remembered by patients is incorrect information
- HCPs often lack awareness of patient inability to understand treatment plan
- Stronger predictor of health outcomes than race/ethnicity age, income, or education
- Critical care units are highly stressful and complex environments

Framework



Purpose

- Examine the relationship between health literacy and informational support in family members of patients in critical care
- Identify barriers and facilitators to patient-family understanding in critical care areas

Research Questions

- What is the relationship between health literacy and informational support in family members of patients in critical care units?
- What are the facilitators to promoting family understanding of information provided related to patient care in critical care units?
- What are the barriers to family understanding of information related to patient care in critical care units?

Method

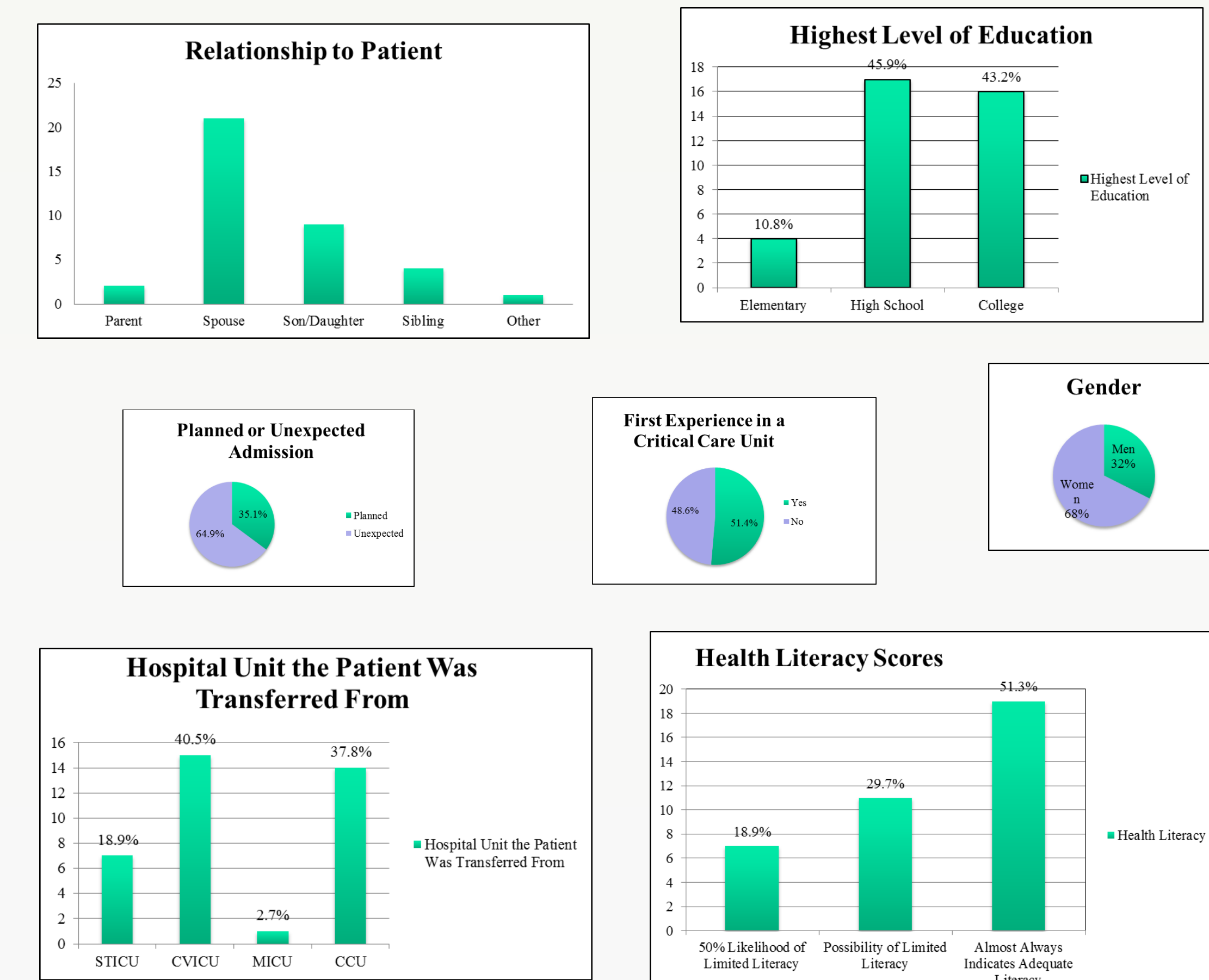
- Pilot Study
- Cross-sectional, correlational descriptive design
- Sample of 37 patient-family members
- Primary support person and designated to receive patient care information
- Transferred from critical care unit within the past 3 days

Measures

- Demographic Survey
- Health literacy – Newest Vital Sign
- Informational Support Questionnaire
- Semantic Differential Scale – Informational Understanding
- Facilitators and Barriers to Understanding

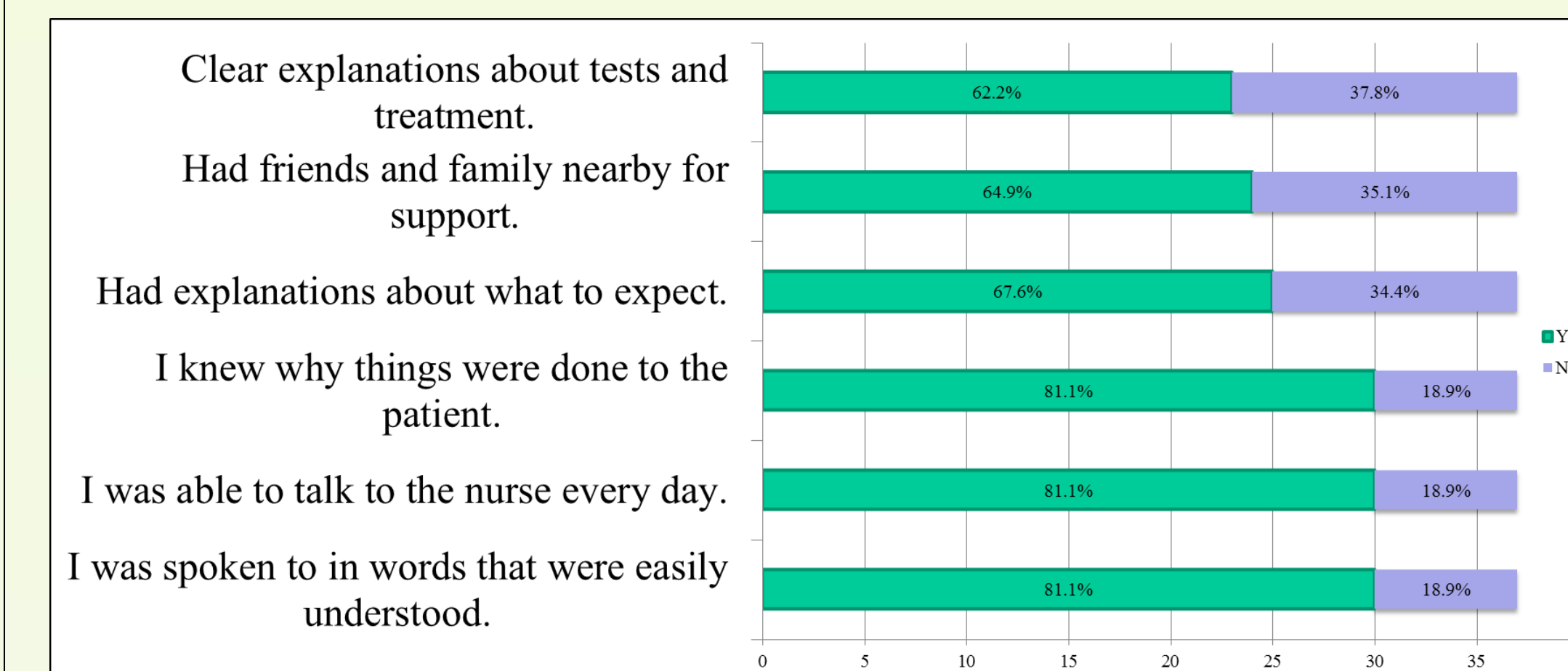


Demographic Data

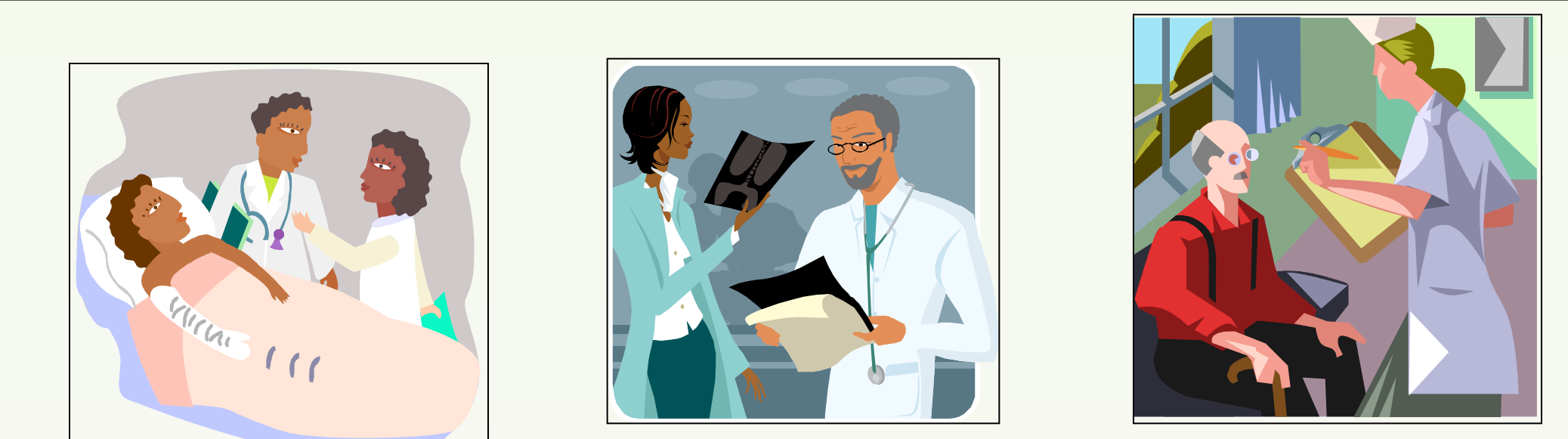
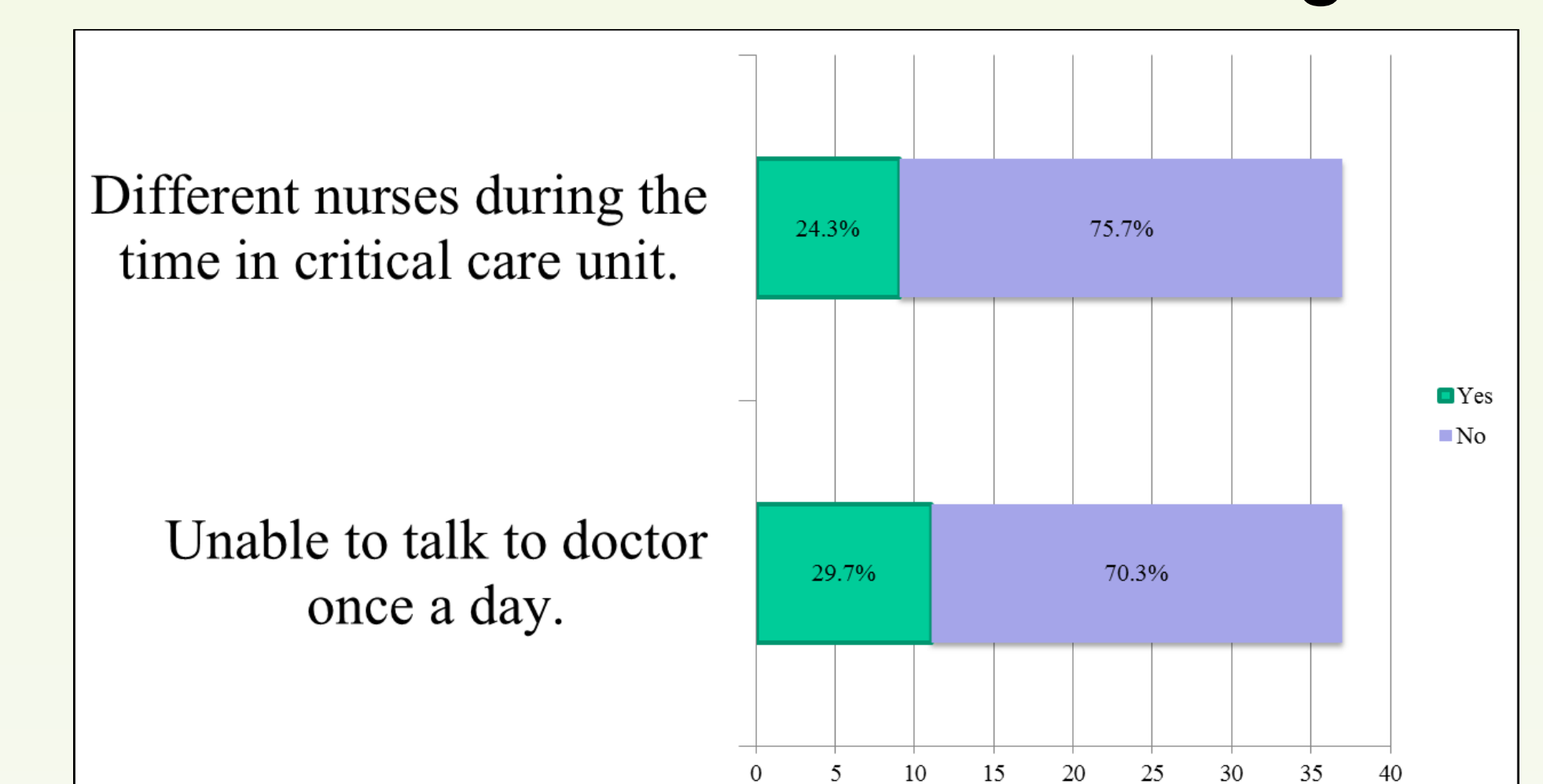


Results

Promote Understanding



Barriers to Understanding



Implications

- Significant positive relationship between health literacy and perceived level of understanding
- No significant relationship between health literacy and patient-family understanding
- Further research examining health literacy and informational support in critical care settings is essential to promote patient-family autonomy and beneficence
- Nurses are a critical element to implementing these changes