

Health literacy and prevention practices for COVID-19: a cross-sectional study in Brazilian adults

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Was to assess the health literacy of the population in the city of Jundiaí in relation to the adoption of practical measures to prevent the disease COVID-19. Methodology: Cross-sectional study with 290 adults of epidemiological survey about COVID-19, being 150 with negative tests and 140 with positive tests. Through phone calls, it was applied the Health Literacy Scale (HLS-14), between October 2020 and April 2021. The Chi-Square test ($p < 0,05$) was performed. Results: The majority of the sample was between 18 to 39 years old (46,6%, $n=135$), women 63,1% ($n=183$), with higher education 43,4% ($n=126$) and income of 3 or more minimum waged 49,3% ($n=143$). As for the routine, 62,1% ($n=180$) didn't go out or just did it when necessary, 83,4% ($n=242$) followed with their families preventive measures and 68,3% ($n=198$) followed social distancing orientation. Low Health literacy was found in 48,6% ($n=141$) and it was associated with older age ($p=0,004$) and also with not understanding social distance as a preventive measure for COVID-19

($p=0,047$). Conclusion: The results showed a connection between low health literacy and lack of awareness about social distance being a preventive measure, demonstrating how important is to invest in public policies of health literacy in order to control the pandemic.

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