

Do Health Literacy Disparities Explain Racial Disparities in Family Centered Care for Youths with Special Health Care Needs?



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Background

- The Teen Literacy in Transition Study (TeenLit) explores the role of teen and parent health literacy in information seeking, disease self-management, and transition readiness in youth with special health care needs (YSHCN)
- One important healthcare characteristic being studied is family centered care (FCC).

Youth with Special Health Care Needs (YSHCN)

- Criteria (National Survey on Children with SHCN):
 - Prescription medications
 - Medical care, mental health services, or education services
 - Emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem
 - Limitation compared to other children of same age
 - Special therapy

Family Centered Care (FCC)

- FCC is an approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded in partnerships among providers and patients and their families
- FCC is associated with improved health outcomes for YSHCN

Racial Disparities in FCC

- Persistent racial disparities in FCC may exacerbate disparities in health outcomes

Objectives

- Examine racial differences in health literacy (HL) and teen-assessed FCC
- Test whether HL moderates the relationship between race and FCC.

Methods

- Study population: 384 YSHCN ages 12-18 enrolled in pediatric Medicaid ACO and their healthcare responsible parent/guardian
- HL assessed using Rapid Estimate of Adult Literacy in Medicine (REALM) (standard and teen versions)
- FCC measured using an index: time spent with patients, careful listening, cultural sensitivity, provision of specific information, and engaging the patient as a partner

Analyses

- Group differences in HL and in FCC by race was explored for parents and teens
- A moderation analysis using logistic regression also explored whether racial disparities in FCC differs by level of HL

Sample Characteristics

Table 1: Teen demographics by race

	n (%)	AA%	NHW%
Total	384	134 (34.9)	250 (65.1)
Gender			
Female	197 (51.3)	79 (58.96)	118 (47.2)

Differences Among HL and FCC by Race

Table 2: Chi-square differences among measured health literacy and FCC among AA and NHW teens with chronic illness and their parents

	Teens		Parents	
	AA (%)	NHW (%)	AA (%)	NHW (%)
Measured health literacy				
REALM adequate	41.8**	56.4	71.3**	85.5
FCC clinical communication (usually or always). During the past 12 months, how often...				
1.Did providers spend enough time with you?	41.0**	60.8	62.0**	77.2
2.Did providers listen carefully to you?	76.1	80.0	84.5	85.9
3.Did you get information from providers?	59.7	68.8	77.5	79.2
4.Were providers sensitive to your family's values?	58.2	67.6	81.4	82.3
5.Did providers help you feel like a partner?	62.7	68.8	82.2	84.3
FCC composite measure	20.9**	35.2	49.6 ⁺	59.2

+ p<0.10, *p<0.05, **p<0.01

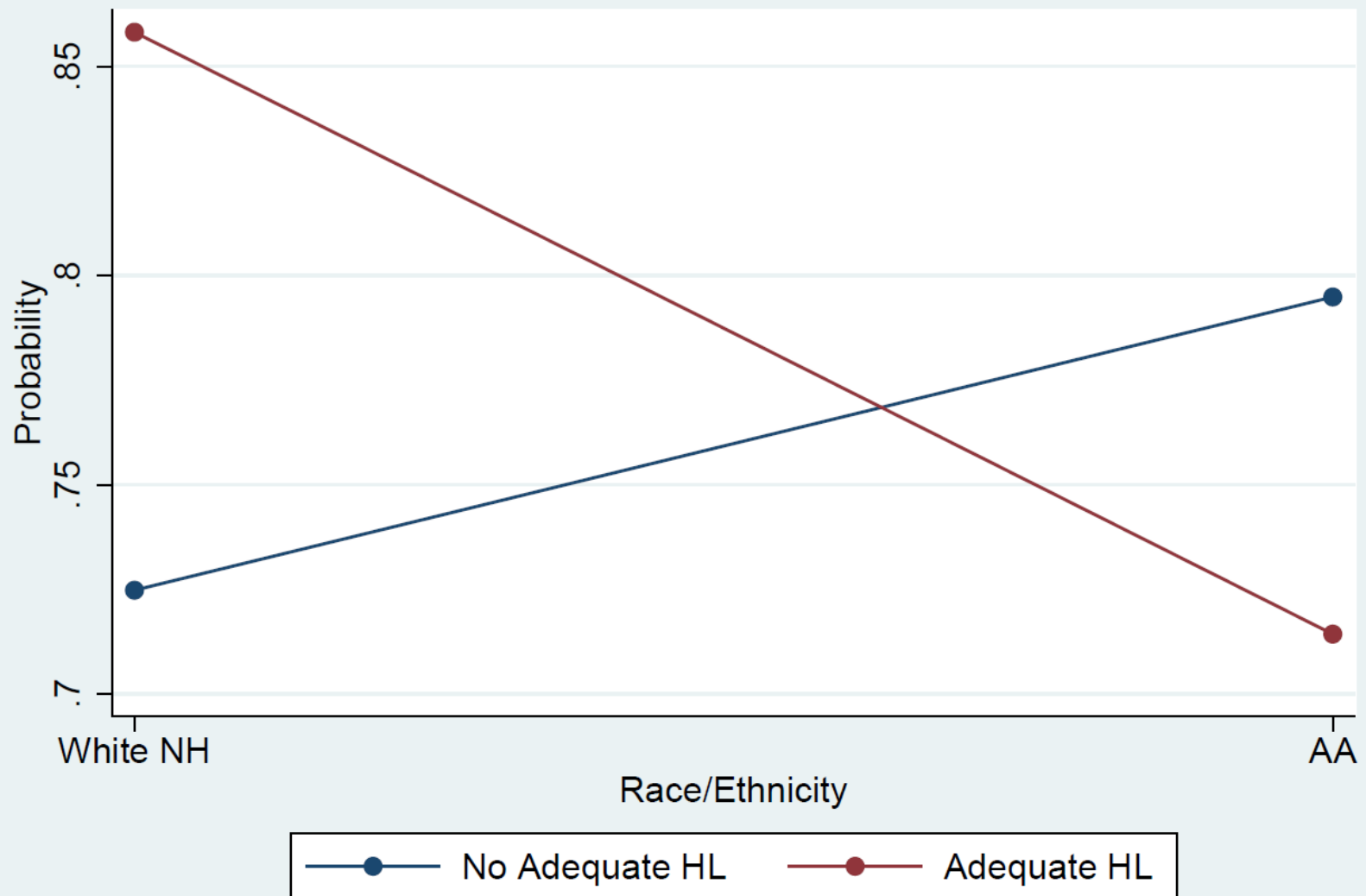
Moderation Analysis

Table 3: Health literacy moderators of racial disparities in perceptions of FCC among teens

How often did providers spent enough time with you?	Coeff.	SE	z	p-value
Intercept	0.166	0.19	0.861	0.389
Adequate HL	0.496	0.26	1.894	0.058
AA race	-0.423	0.30	-1.418	0.156
Adequate HL x AA race	-0.749 ⁺	0.44	-1.688	0.091
How often did providers listen carefully to you?				
Intercept	0.968**	0.21	4.515	0.000
Adequate HL	0.832**	0.32	2.576	0.010
AA race	0.386	0.35	1.094	0.247
Adequate HL x AA race	-1.270*	0.52	-2.442	0.015*
How often did providers help you feel like a partner in your care?				
Intercept	0.428*	0.20	2.186	0.029
Adequate HL	0.680*	0.28	2.459	0.014
AA race	0.151	0.31	0.493	0.622
Adequate HL x AA race	-0.824 ⁺	0.45	-1.811	0.070

+ p<0.10, *p<0.05, **p<0.01

Adjusted Probability of Doctor Listening Carefully (Usually/Always)



Discussion

- African American teens have disproportionately low experiences of FCC, a key component of the medical home and a predictor of health outcomes.
- Reducing disparities in FCC, which has the potential to reduce disparities in outcomes, will requires multifaceted approaches, policies, and programs that consider culture, HL, and communication needs.

References

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