HEALTH LITERACY ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS OF COMMUNITY-BASED DENTAL CLINICS IN MD

Clinic forms rated with SMOG readability formula were generally above 8th grade level, included jargon, and used small fonts.

1/3 of assessed oral health print materials were rated not suitable or adequate.

LISTENING TO MOMS

Only 20.6% of women (n=734) reported seeing the dentist during the first 13 weeks of their pregnancy.

58.8% (n=2034) of women reported not seeing a dentist during their entire pregnancy.

MARYLAND MODEL OF HEALTH LITERACY

Almost all respondents (97.9%, n=754770) reported awareness of fluoride, but only 57.8% (n=445) knew its purpose, to prevent cavities.

Those with lower levels of education were less likely to have a dental appointment in the past 12 months.

MARYLAND DENTISTS' KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO ORAL CANCER PREVENTION & EARLY DETECTION

Only 7% (n=121169) of dentists strongly agreed that their knowledge of oral cancers was current.

Results suggest dentists may not have strong knowledge about signs, symptoms, and risk factors for oral cancers.

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HEALTH LITERACY TECHNIQUES

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In a survey of 60 dentists on their routine use of recommended communication techniques:

Only 29% reported regularly using teach back method, 80% speak slowly, and 87% limit to 2 or 3 concepts at a time.

Research studies on oral health and health literacy are listed on the Center's website: sph.umd.edu/hchl