

HEALTH LITERACY ASSOCIATED WITH POSTOPERATIVE OUTCOMES IN BARIATRIC SURGERY

Introduction



- Health literacy (HL) has limited studies on its impact on the bariatric surgery population

We hypothesized that low HL would be associated with higher rates of loss to follow up, readmission, and more postoperative phone calls

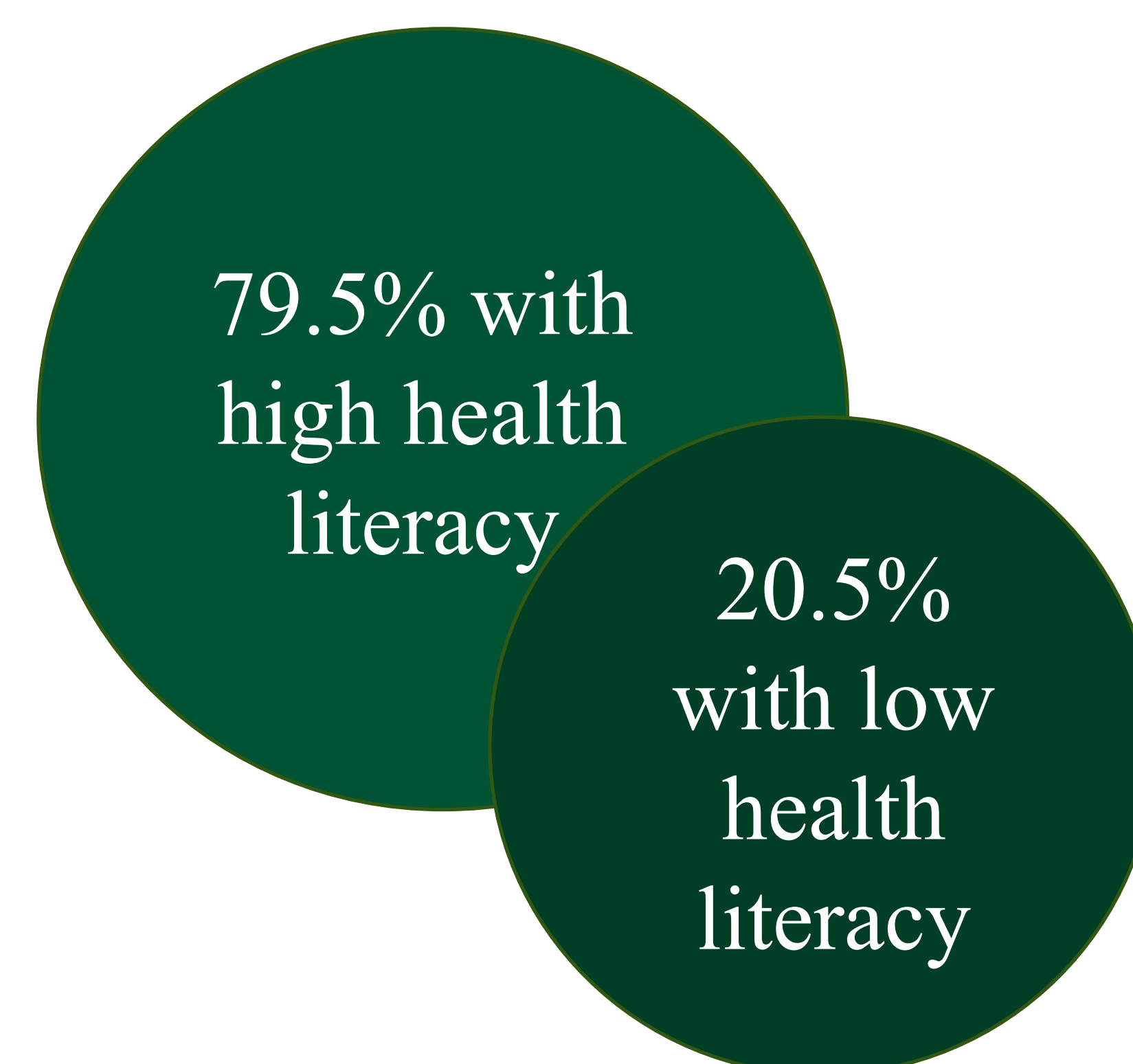
Methods

- Patients enrolled in the bariatric surgery program were recruited from 2023-2025
- Completion of the NIH PhenX tool kit survey which includes social determinants of health including HL
- Clinical outcomes data collected
- Comparison of high versus low HL and patient outcomes



Results

83 patients completed the preoperative survey and underwent primary bariatric surgery



- Education level and income did not correlate with HL



Outcome	High HL	Low HL
%TWL at 6 months	24%	18.8%
Postop complication 30 days	3%	17.6%
Loss to follow up at 1 year	45.5%	64.7%

Conclusions

- Lower HL patients had **higher postoperative complication rates** and **less weight loss** and **more loss to follow up** at 1 year
- Importantly, education level and income **did not correlate** to HL
- One in five** patients have low HL
- We need to be thoughtful and not assumptive in our perioperative education and care

