

## ABSTRACT

### READABILITY ASSESSMENT OF WRITTEN DIABETES EDUCATION MATERIALS

Healthcare providers disseminate written health information to reinforce information given during medical visits. These providers assume that the patients who receive the written materials read English at a level of proficiency sufficient to understand the materials. However, the literature demonstrates that the readability level of some health information does not match the literacy level of the intended users.

This descriptive study explored readability levels of 81 written health education materials on the subject of diabetes available from healthcare providers in Fresno, California. The SMOG readability formula was found to give more accurate reading grades than the Fry Graph. The information obtained from the statistical analysis showed that written diabetes education materials provided by government-funded programs tend to be easier to read than those provided by nonprofit organizations, but they are generally above the reading level of a large portion of the population they are intended to reach.

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