

HEALTH DISPARITIES AS A FUNCTION OF INSURANCE, HEALTH LITERACY, AND SUBJECTIVE SOCIAL STATUS

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Research suggests that racial and ethnic disparities in health can partly be explained by differences in socioeconomic and insurance status. The present study investigated the relationship of insurance coverage, health literacy, and subjective social status to health status in Hispanic women. Participants were 493 Hispanic women from the greater San Diego area. Participants completed a battery of self-report questionnaires; 248 completed questionnaires in English and 245 completed questionnaires in Spanish. Statistical analysis have shown poorer health is related to not having insurance, having Medicaid instead of other types of insurance, lower health literacy, and lower subjective social status in this particular Hispanic sample.