

## 1. Facts and Figures: United States

### Did you know that in the United States...

- The rate of death from cardiovascular disease is about 30% higher for African American adults than white adults?
- Diabetes is 70% more prevalent in African Americans and nearly 100% more prevalent in Hispanic Americans than among whites?
- While African Americans and Hispanics make up 25% of the U.S. population, in 2000 they made up about 75% of all adult AIDS cases, and 81% of all pediatric AIDS cases?
- Low health literacy can occur in people who are otherwise highly functionally literate?
- The majority of U.S. adults with low literacy are thought to be white, native-born Americans?
- A study of hospital patients aged 60 and older found that 81% couldn't read and understand basic medical information?
- In a study of doctors in a women's health clinic, the doctors could only identify 30% of their patients who read below the third grade level?
- According to a recent survey by the American Medical Association Foundation, only 33% of U.S. doctors are aware of the health literacy problem?
- The AMA Foundation estimates that patients with low health literacy pay an extra \$73,000,000,000.00 annually for doctor visits, unnecessary or repeated tests and extended hospital stays?

#### Sources

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