

Supplementary Table S1: Included studies, sorted by central concept as indicated in the original articles.

Reference	Central concept	Jurisdiction	Aims and scope	Definitions	Measures
[1]	Economic literacy	Italy	Compare indicators of economic literacy across countries	Knowledge of finance issues	Knowledge of financial concepts/systems, math knowledge
[2]	Financial literacy	Sweden	Examine relation FL and retirement planning	Knowledge of financial issues	Three questions to evaluate peoples' knowledge of numeracy/capacity to do calculations, understanding of inflation, understanding of risk diversification.
[3]	Financial literacy	Sweden	Comment on conceptualization of FL	Situational definition	-
[4]	Financial literacy	US	Financial education for older people	-	-
[5]	Financial literacy	US	Examine definitions of FL, why it matters, where the public has accessed FL education, and difficulties encountered in providing education	Different definitions are explored, commonly focusing on ability to find financial information and ability to make financial decisions	-
[6]	Financial literacy	US	Examine literature to identify obstacles and propose an approach to develop more standardized measure of FL	"How well an individual can understand and use personal finance-related information"	Proposes that a measure need to include items on knowledge and application.
[7]	Financial literacy	Italy	Associations FL, assets, etc. Tests relation between math skills in younger ages and FL in adults.	Knowledge of financial issues	Three questions to evaluate peoples' knowledge of numeracy/capacity to do calculations, understanding of inflation, understanding of risk diversification.
[8]	Financial literacy	US	Assess literature, theoretical and empirical	"Peoples' ability to process economic information and make informed decisions about financial planning, wealth accumulation, debt, and pensions"	Three questions to evaluate peoples' knowledge of numeracy/capacity to do calculations, understanding of inflation, understanding of risk diversification. Also adds a subjective measure, self-assessed FL.

[9]	Financial literacy	US	Discuss how to measure FL and links to retirement planning	Knowledge of financial issues	Three questions to evaluate peoples' knowledge of numeracy/capacity to do calculations, understanding of inflation, understanding of risk diversification.
[10]	Financial literacy	US	FL in the US	Knowledge of financial issues	Three questions to evaluate peoples' knowledge of numeracy/capacity to do calculations, understanding of inflation, understanding of risk diversification. Further questions on "advanced FL", which are more detailed.
[11]	Financial literacy	International	Framework for PISA study	Financial literacy is knowledge and understanding of financial concepts and risks, and the skills, motivation and confidence to apply such knowledge and understanding in order to make effective decisions across a range of financial contexts, to improve the financial well-being of individuals and society, and to enable participation in economic life.	Several domains
[12]	Financial literacy	Germany	Describes how theoretical constructs can be validated through Rasch-modelling and SEM models	Knowledge/competence in financial matters	
[13]	Health insurance literacy	US	Commentary on the US and international interest for health insurance literacy	Understanding of health insurance	-
[14]	Health insurance literacy	US	Study relationship between tobacco use and coverage of health insurance	Understand, compare, choose and use coverage	Factual questions on coverage options, plus demographics, experiences with health care system, risk taking, tobacco use, numeracy, health status, discount rates

[15]	Health insurance literacy	US	Development of health insurance literacy educational tool	-	-
[16]	Health insurance literacy	Israel	Identify disparities between Jews and Arabs in their knowledge and understanding of supplementary health insurance	Knowledge and understanding of health insurance coverage	8 questions on system knowledge (whether certain aspects are included or not), behaviors and use of health insurance and reasons for purchasing insurance
[17]	Health insurance literacy	US	To review literature and curricula on health insurance literacy	"The extent to which consumers can make informed purchase and use decisions", "knowledge, ability, and confidence to effectively choose and use health insurance"	-
[18]	Health insurance literacy	US	Develop instrument	-	10 items on knowledge of health insurance terminology, 17 items proficiency using the Medicare system.
[19]	Health insurance literacy	US	Evaluation of effects of educational programs	-	-
[20]	Health insurance literacy	US	Develop measure for HIL	"Consumers' ability to select and use private health insurance"	Knowledge, information seeking, document literacy, cognitive skills, self-efficacy
[21]	Health insurance literacy	US	Examine gaps in HIL that can impede young adults' access to timely care when changing insurance	Ability to obtain, process and understand health insurance information	Interview guide on why young adults change or use insurance, who is most vulnerable to churning, how churning affects continuity of care, factors facilitating access.
[22]	Health literacy	Germany	Evaluate status quo of HL measurement	Peoples' knowledge, motivation and competencies to access, understand, appraise and apply health information in order to make judgements and take decisions in everyday life concerning health care to maintain or improve quality of life during the life course	Reviews 17 instruments published 2009-2013
[23]	Health literacy	US	Present history of literacy and HL research and discuss definition and measurement	Several discussed	-

[24]	Health literacy	US	Describe 10 attributes of health literate organizations	Several discussed	-
[25]	Health literacy	Germany	Overview and synthesis of current understandings of HL in childhood and youth	Several definitions discussed	-
[26]	Health literacy	UK	Interrogate the critical HL concept	Defines critical HL as three domains: critical analysis of information, understanding of social determinants of health, and engagement in collective action.	-
[27]	Health literacy	UK	To identify the optimal measurement for assessing HL in a clinical setting	Based on Nutbeam's functional/interactive/critical HL	Several measures are assessed in terms of validity and coverage.
[28]	Health literacy	US	Develop a HL organizational assessment tool for health plans, and evaluate it	Focuses on functional HL	Six evaluation areas: 1) information for members/navigation, 2) member services/communication, 3) web navigation, 4) forms, 5) nurse call line, 6) case/disease management
[29]	Health literacy	Spain	Pilot assessment of literacy issues in a hospital setting	-	Toolkit focusing on assessment of navigation, written, and oral communication.
[30]	Health literacy	US	Description of an online resource for HL instruments	The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions	The online toolshed contains 129 instruments
[31]	Health literacy	US	Examine variations across three brief HL instruments	The capacity to obtain, process and understand the basic health information and access services needed to make appropriate health decisions	Compares 3 instruments: S-TOFHLA, REALM, BRIEF
[32]	Health literacy	US	Present results from workshop on HL measures	The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions	Several measures presented

[33]	Health literacy	Slovakia	Examine psychometric properties of Slovak version of HLQ	Cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health	HLQ, Slovak version
[34]	Health literacy	US	Address HL among patients in a free clinic for the uninsured	The ability to access, read and comprehend health information including numbers	-
[35]	Health literacy	US	Estimate relationship low HL and difficulty obtaining care	-	Individual-oriented measures
[36]	Health literacy	US	Discuss the different definitions of HL	Several definitions discussed	-
[37]	Health literacy	Canada	Explore differences and similarities in definitions	Several definitions discussed	-
[38]	Health literacy	US	Conceptual analysis of HL	A complex set of abilities needed to understand and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture – alphabets, numbers, visual icons – for personal and community development. The nature of these abilities, and the demand for them, vary from one context to another.	-
[39]	Health literacy	US	Discuss need for attention to HL in insurance expansion (Obamacare) in the US	-	-
[40]	Health literacy	Sweden	Explore how HL is described and used in literature and synthesize	Describes different definitions/conceptualizations	-
[41]	Health literacy	Sweden	Explore/describe womens' experiences of factors contributing to ability to make informed decisions in return to work	Functional, interactive and critical skills to use and act on health information	-
[42]	Health literacy	US	Overview of measurements of HL at the individual level	-	-
[43]	Health literacy	US	Review of literature on oral and aural literacy and the oral exchange. Oral/aural literacy defined as speaking/listening skills among patients and providers.	Defines oral exchange as spoken communication between providers and patients.	-

[44]	Health literacy	Australia	Discuss different developments of the HL concept	HL as risk or asset are discussed	-
[45]	Health literacy	Australia	Presents a model of social determinants of health where HL is a key health promotion outcome	"Personal, cognitive and social skills which determine the ability of individuals to gain access to, understand, and use information to promote and maintain good health"	-
[46]	Health literacy	Germany	Identify, retrieve, analyze and assess available generic HL measurement instruments for children and adolescents	The skills, knowledge and motivation to access, understand and appraise health-related information in order to apply informed health-related decisions in everyday life	Overview of measures presented
[47]	Health literacy	Australia	Develop a comprehensive measure of health literacy capable of diagnosing health literacy needs across individuals and organizations by utilizing perspectives from the general population, patients, practitioners and policymakers.	Starts with the WHO 1998 definition: "the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health"	HLQ, comprising 9 scales and 44 items. Scales correspond to Nutbeams distinctions.
[48]	Health literacy	Australia	Discuss HL in relation to health promotion	Accessing, understanding and using information to make health decisions	-
[49]	Health literacy	Austria	Differences in measuring HL for purposes of public health and for healthcare services. Presents EU data.	Health literacy is linked to literacy and entails peoples' knowledge, motivation and competences to access, understand, appraise, and apply health information in order to make judgments and take decisions in everyday life concerning healthcare, disease prevention and health promotion to maintain or improve quality of life during the life course	HLS-EU. 47 items in total, developed also into two shorter variants, with 16 and 6 items, using Rasch modeling.
[50]	Health literacy	International	Present results from EU study on HL using the HLS-EU scale	Health literacy is linked to literacy and entails peoples' knowledge, motivation and competences to access, understand, appraise, and apply health information in order to make judgments and take decisions in everyday life concerning	HLS-EU, also compared with NVS

				healthcare, disease prevention and health promotion to maintain or improve quality of life during the life course	
[51]	Health literacy	International	Proposes a new definition	Proposes orientation for a new definition but offers no such definition	-
[52]	Health literacy	US	Describes a process of online discussion with HL professionals about measurement	Discusses HL as both skill and health behavior.	Discusses the various aspects needed to be included in a comprehensive measure of HL.
[53]	Health literacy	US	Discuss the need for a new consensus-based measure of HL	Development of definitions are discussed. Promotes the def from the Calgary Charter on Health Literacy: "Health literacy allows the public and personnel working in all health-related contexts to find, understand, evaluate, communicate, and use information. Health literacy is the use of a wide range of skills that improve the ability of people to act on information in order to live healthier lives. These skills include reading, writing, listening, speaking, numeracy, and critical analysis, as well as communication and interaction skills."	Several measures discussed and compared
[54]	Health literacy	US	Evaluate conceptual and empirical distinctiveness of HL	The ability to obtain, process and understand basic information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions	3 measures of HL, focused on individual skills (REALM, S-TOFHLA, NVS). 6 tests of cognitive ability.
[55]	Health literacy	US	Discussion about problems with restricted definitions	Discusses definitions, argues for a broad concept including institutional and system norms, policies and regulations	-
[56]	Health literacy	US	Discuss HL and needs for development	-	-
[57]	Health literacy	US	Provide toolkit for assessing and improving hospital environments	-	Toolkit presented, same as [29]
[58]	Health literacy	US	Presents definitions, statistics and demographics	-	-
[59]	Health literacy	The Netherlands	Provide overview of HL definitions	Explores different definitions	-

[60]	Health literacy	The Netherlands	Review definitions and models on HL to develop integrated definition and conceptual model	17 definitions was combined into a new "all inclusive" definition: "Health literacy is linked to literacy and entails peoples' knowledge, motivation and competences to access, understand, appraise, and apply health information in order to make judgments and take decisions in everyday life concerning healthcare, disease prevention and health promotion to maintain or improve quality of life during the life course."	-
[61]	Health literacy	UK	Analyze the concept of critical health literacy	Critical HL defined as "cognitive and skills development outcomes which are oriented towards supporting effective social and political action as well as individual action"	-
[62]	Health literacy	International	Distil evidence and identify policy implications and action points	HL as a relational, interactive concept covering both individual skills and abilities, and demands and complexity of the context	-
[63]	Health literacy	Canada	Investigate strategies/interventions, contextual factors and mechanisms that influence the capacity of organizations to plan, implement and sustain health literacy activities. Review on planning of interventions	"The degree to which people are able to access, understand appraise, and communicate information to engage with the demands of different health contexts in order to promote and maintain good health across the life course"	-
[64]	Health literacy	Sweden	Testing of translated version of Japanese communicative and critical HL measure	Functional, interactive and critical HL	Japanese C & C HL scale, 5 items measuring views on communication and critical HL aspects.
[65]	Health literacy	Sweden	Determine functional and comprehensive HL in refugees	Functional and comprehensive HL (involving using information for disease prevention and health promotion)	Swedish functional HL scale, HLS-EU-Q16
[66]	Health literacy	Sweden	Develop Swedish functional HL scale and test it	Functional HL: skills necessary for being compliant with medication regimens, etc.	Swedish functional HL scale, based on Nutbeams definition, five items

[67]	Health literacy / financial literacy	US	To examine the association of health and financial literacy with decision making in older adults	"The ability to access, understand and utilize health and financial information and concepts in ways that promote good health and financial outcomes"	9 items on HL, 23 on FL. Mostly knowledge of specific issues and details.
[68]	Health literacy / health insurance literacy	US	Assess impact of HL and HIL on health insurance status and access to health care services for Spanish-speaking communities in Massachusetts	HIL: Ability to seek, obtain and understand health insurance plans and use to seek appropriate health services	Terminology, cognitive skills, plus 18-item scale on HL. Interview questions on barriers/facilitators to health care access
[69]	Health literacy / legal capability	Canada	Literature review of health literacy and legal capability, and health information practices	General literacy: "The ability to understand and use reading, writing, speaking and other forms of communication as ways to participate in society and achieve one's goals and potential". Health literacy: The cognitive and social skills which determinate the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand, and use information in ways which promote and maintain good health" (WHO). Legal capability/literacy: Abilities that a person needs to deal effectively with law-related issues ... beyond knowledge of the law, to encompass skills like the ability to communicate plus attitudes like confidence and determination.	Health literacy is divided into functional, interactive and critical HL (Nutbeam). Legal capability into knowledge, skills and competence/psychological readiness (Law for life).
[70]	Legal capability	Canada	Online scan of existing research on legal capability	-	-
[71]	Legal capability	Canada	Summarized presentation of strategies to improve legal capability	"The knowledge, skills, and personal characteristics and circumstances that affect what people can do to resolve legal problems"	-
[72]	Legal capability	UK	Description of legal capability	Abilities that a person needs to deal effectively with law-related issues	-
[73]	Legal capability	Australia	Examine three reasons for not taking legal action: "didn't know what to	The personal characteristics or competencies necessary for an individual to resolve legal problems effectively	-

			do", "would be too stressful", "would cost too much"		
[74]	Legal capability	Australia	Examines whether multiple disadvantage is associated with lower legal capability to resolve legal problems. Examines the use of self-help resources.	The personal characteristics or competencies needed to effectively resolve legal problems. Includes personal skills, abilities and resources. Legal capability is also affected by systemic and structural factors, such as geographic location and local service environment.	Disadvantage measured with nine indicators. Six types of legal problem-solving strategies.
[75]	Legal empowerment	US	Literature review on legal empowerment	Giving people the power to understand and use the law	-
[76]	Legal literacy	UK	Evaluate outcomes for practice of teaching, learning and assessment of law in social work education and medical education	Knowledge of laws and rules relevant to professional work	-
[77]	Legal literacy / health literacy	Canada	Debate piece based on literature on challenges associated with rights to access to health care for migrants	-	-
[78]	Literacy	UK	Discussion about the development of "New Literacy Studies"	Literacy as a social practice rather than individual skill	-
[79]	Public health literacy	US	Define public health literacy	"The degree to which individuals and groups can obtain, process, understand, evaluate, and act on information needed to make public health decisions that benefit the community."	-
[80]	Social security literacy	US	Knowledge of insurance rules and relation to retirement/savings decisions	Knowledge of rules and systems	Knowledge of rules and how knowledge was acquired, financial literacy, demographics
[81]	Social security literacy	US	Explore hispanics' understanding of social security and retirement planning	Knowledge of social security programs and benefits, and preferred ways of receiving program-related information	Qualitative questions in focus groups, and quiz-like survey questions on knowledge of systems
[82]	Social security literacy	US	Knowledge of insurance rules and relation to retirement/savings decisions	Knowledge of rules and systems	Knowledge of rules and how knowledge was acquired, financial literacy, demographics

[83]	Social security literacy / financial literacy	US	Knowledge of insurance rules and relation to retirement/savings decisions	Knowledge of rules	Knowledge of rules and how knowledge was acquired, financial literacy, demographics
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