

# ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF LITERACY IN HEALTH IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE IN TREATMENT WITH HEMODIALYSIS



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## ✓ INTRODUCTION

Health Literacy (HL) is defined as "the social and cognitive skills that determine the level of motivation and ability of a person to access, understand and use health information in a way that promotes and maintains good health."

The HL has a significant impact on individual health, especially in elderly patients, chronically ill or polymedicated patients, characteristics present in the patient on hemodialysis (HD).

A low HL conditions worse health results.

## ✓ AIMS

- To assess the level of HL in patients under treatment with hemodialysis.
- To compare the level of HL of the population in hemodialysis with the general population and with another chronic pathology.

## ✓ MATERIALS AND METHODS

A prospective descriptive study was conducted in 37 patients, older than 18 years, who were in chronic hemodialysis therapy for more than a month.

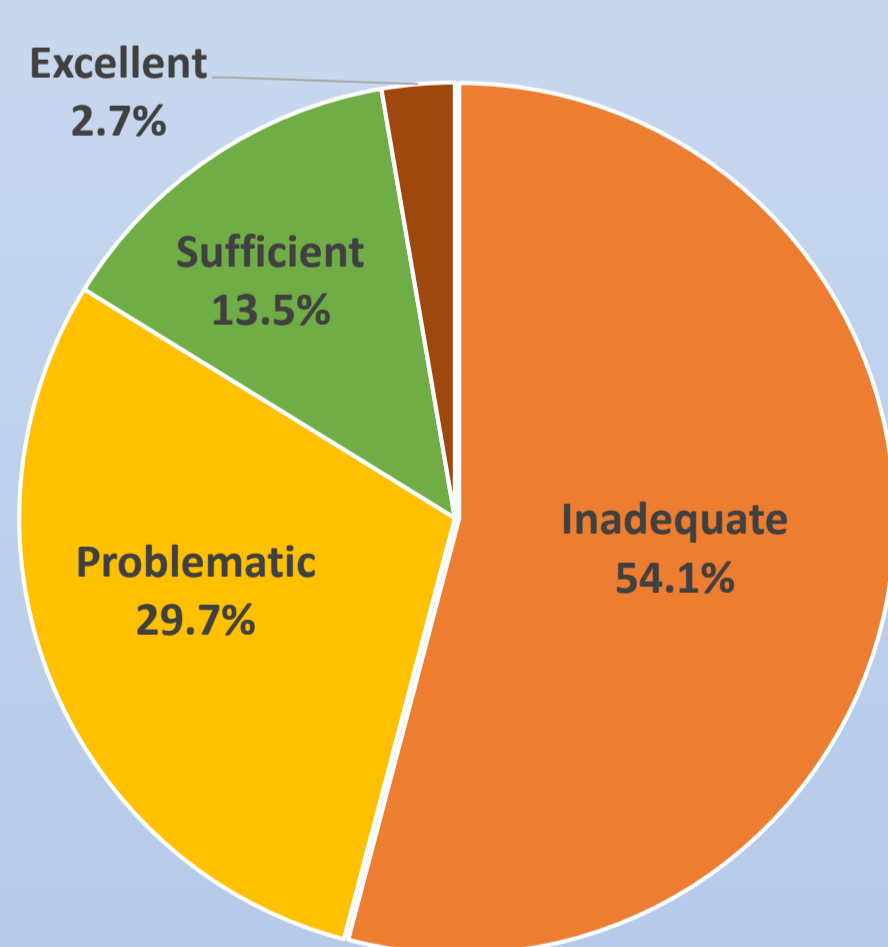
The level of HL was assessed using the Health Literacy Survey-European Union (HLS-EU) questionnaire. According to the score reached, 4 levels of HL are established: INADEQUATE, PROBLEMATIC, SUFFICIENT and EXCELLENT.

For comparison with the general Spanish population, data was taken from the Soresensen 2015 study; it was also compared with the Spanish population with heart failure (Santesmases 2016).

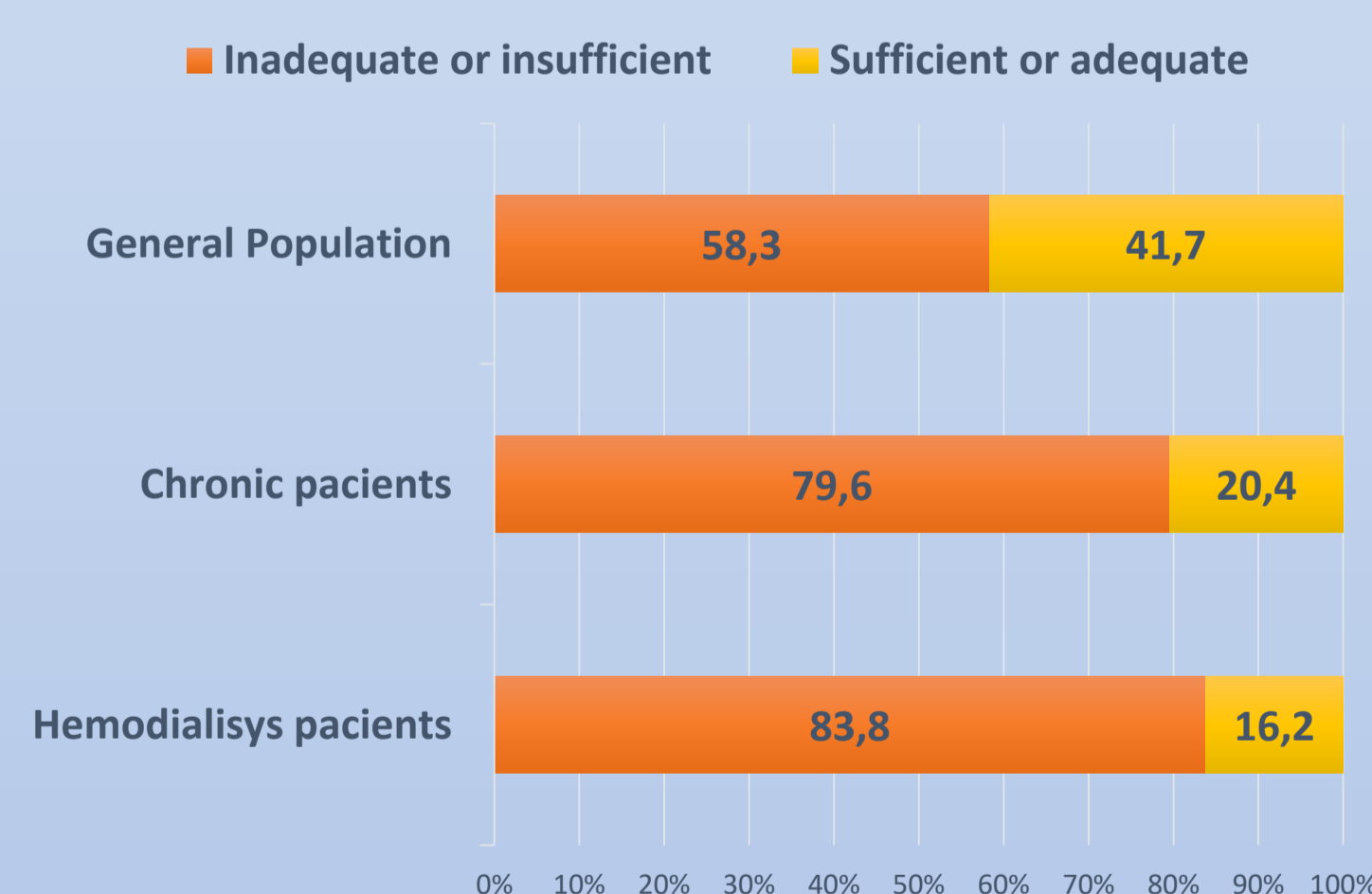
A descriptive and inferential analysis (ANOVA and Z test) was carried out using the statistical package SPSS v20.0 and EpiDat 4.2.

## ✓ RESULTS:

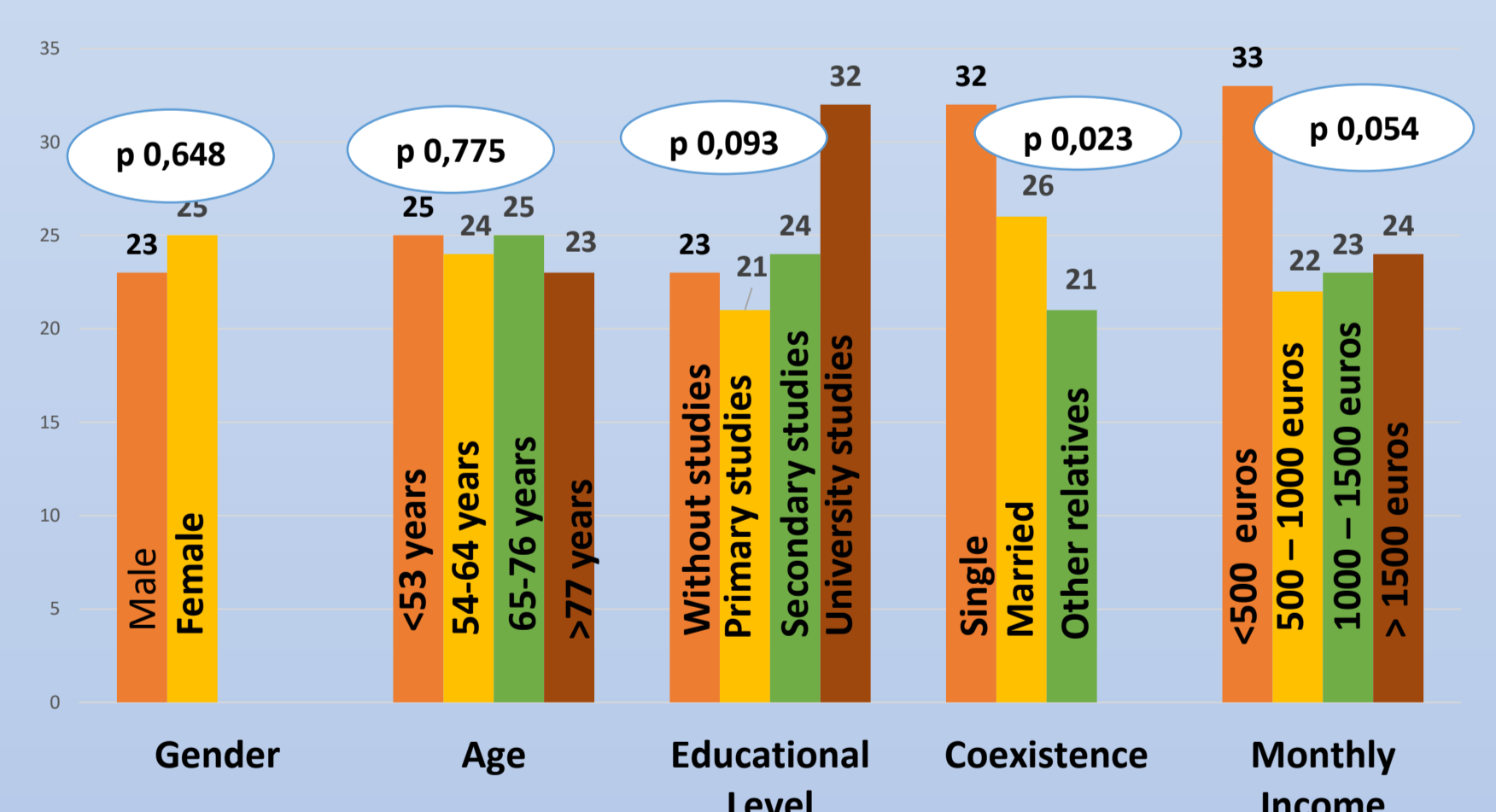
LEVEL OF LITERACY IN HEALTH IN HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS



COMPARISON OF THE LEVEL OF HEALTH LITERACY WITH OTHER POPULATIONS



OTHER VARIABLES TO CONSIDER



## ✓ CONCLUSIONS:

The data obtained reflects a problematic or inadequate level of HL, which makes it difficult for patients to correctly understand and interpret the information provided to them.

The population in hemodialysis presents lower levels of HL than the general population and other chronic diseases.

