

5-2021

## Health Communication Support in Baseline Health Literacy Research

Owen Manahan  
owenmanahan@uri.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/srhonorsprog>



Part of the [Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Health Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Manahan, Owen, "Health Communication Support in Baseline Health Literacy Research" (2021). *Senior Honors Projects*. Paper 911.

<https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/srhonorsprog/911><https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/srhonorsprog/911>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors Program at the University of Rhode Island at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senior Honors Projects by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu).



# Health Communication Support in Baseline Health Literacy Research

Owen Manahan - Health Studies

Steven Cohen - Faculty Advisor

## Introduction

Health literacy refers to the ability to obtain, understand, and use health information to make good health decisions.

Improving health outcomes in Rhode Island requires removing health literacy barriers.

In the spring of 2019, researchers from URI and RIC began an ongoing project assessing baseline health literacy in Providence Medicaid beneficiary outpatient clinics.

## Focus Areas

### Data Briefs

- Summarize health center specific data
- Report on: BRIEF & SAHL scores, key qualitative responses, patient confidence, health information sources, and demographics

### Video

- Develop a video as part of a pilot intervention that introduces the functionality of health literacy

### Modified health literacy assessment

- Collect self-reported data on patients' health status
- Measure patient confidence in accessing health information
- Measure patient confidence in making health decisions
- Record patients' feedback for improving cultural competence among medical providers

## Research Goals

- 1) Measure health literacy among Medicaid beneficiaries in RI.
- 2) Compile a summary report with results and strategies to build HL skills and capacity in patients and the healthcare workforce.
- 3) **Communicate the report in ways that inform new projects, services, and policies that promote health.**
- 4) Pilot HL interventions to build health literacy skills.

## Deliverables

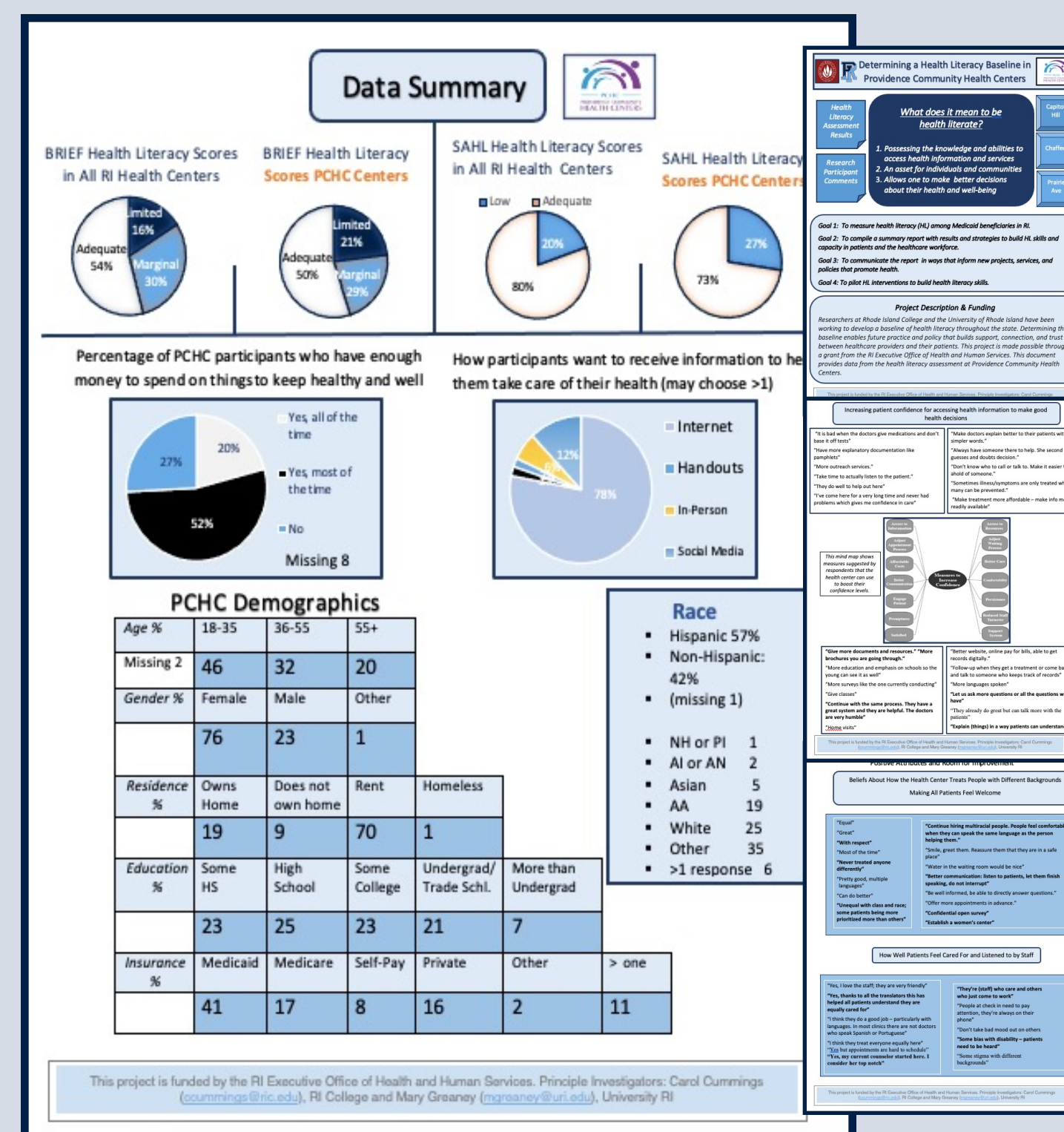


Photo 1



Photo 2

## Data Briefs

After initial data collection, briefs were developed to relay our findings to partners.

Multiple rounds of edits were conducted in collaboration with our data analyst and principal investigators to ensure quality of information and presentation.

## Pilot Intervention Video

This video was developed as a tool to increase the understanding of health literacy in patients with low health literacy scores.

This video introduces the concept of health literacy and uses practical examples to illustrate its role in fostering good health outcomes.

## Discussion

Identified from our research, there is a clear need to build health literacy skills among patients so they can feel confident in themselves to get the health information needed to live healthy lives.

Health materials, like data briefs and educational videos, play an important role in the communication of measures to increase confidence so patients are informed and able to make healthy decisions.

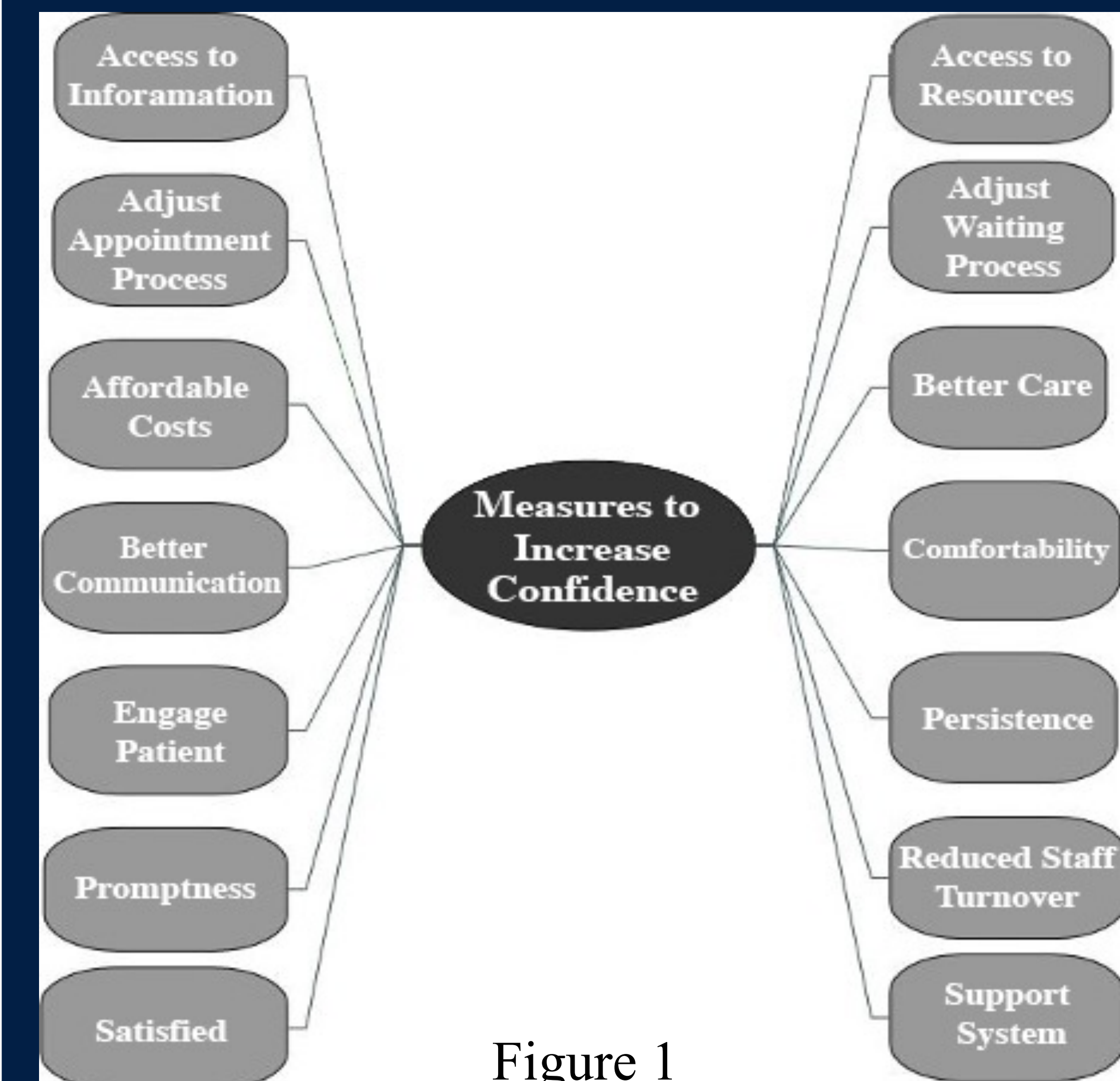
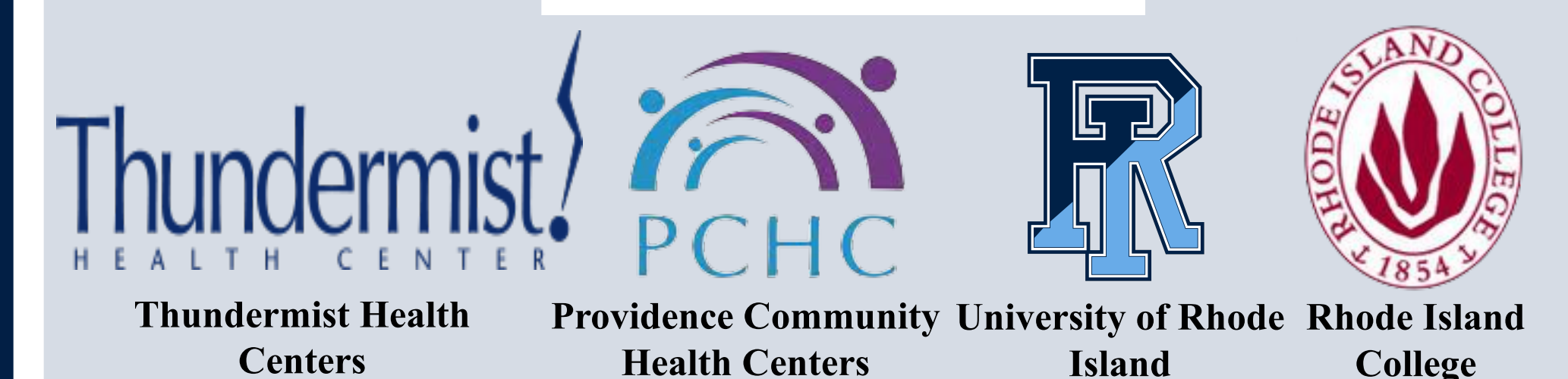


Figure 1

## Partners



Funding for the project is being provided by the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services