

Limited English Proficiency: Addressing the Challenges to Health Care Workers

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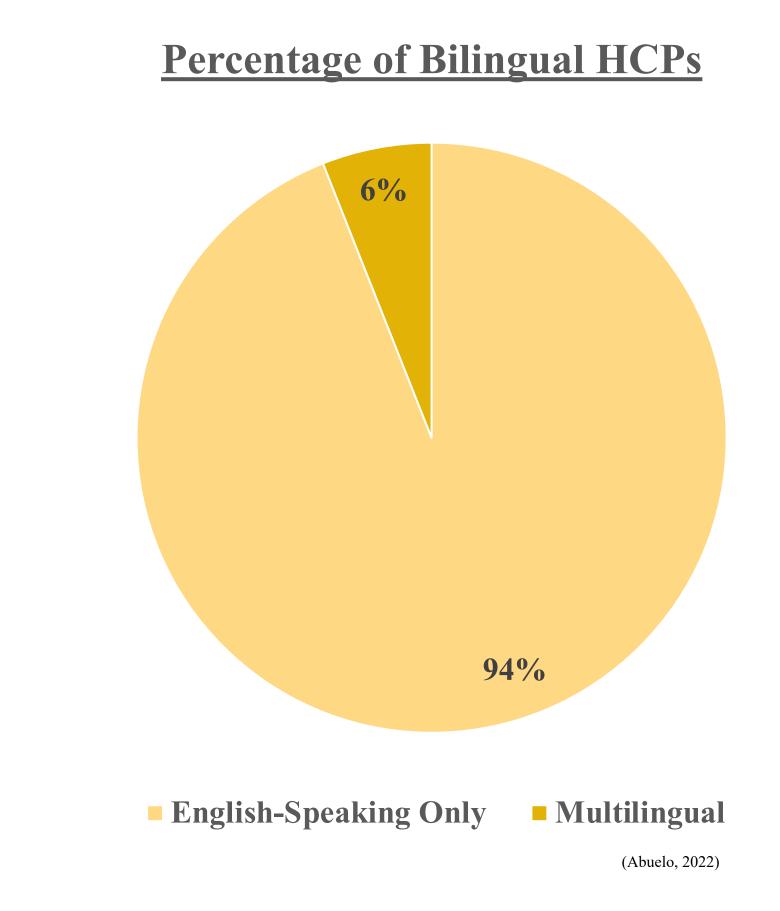
Abstract

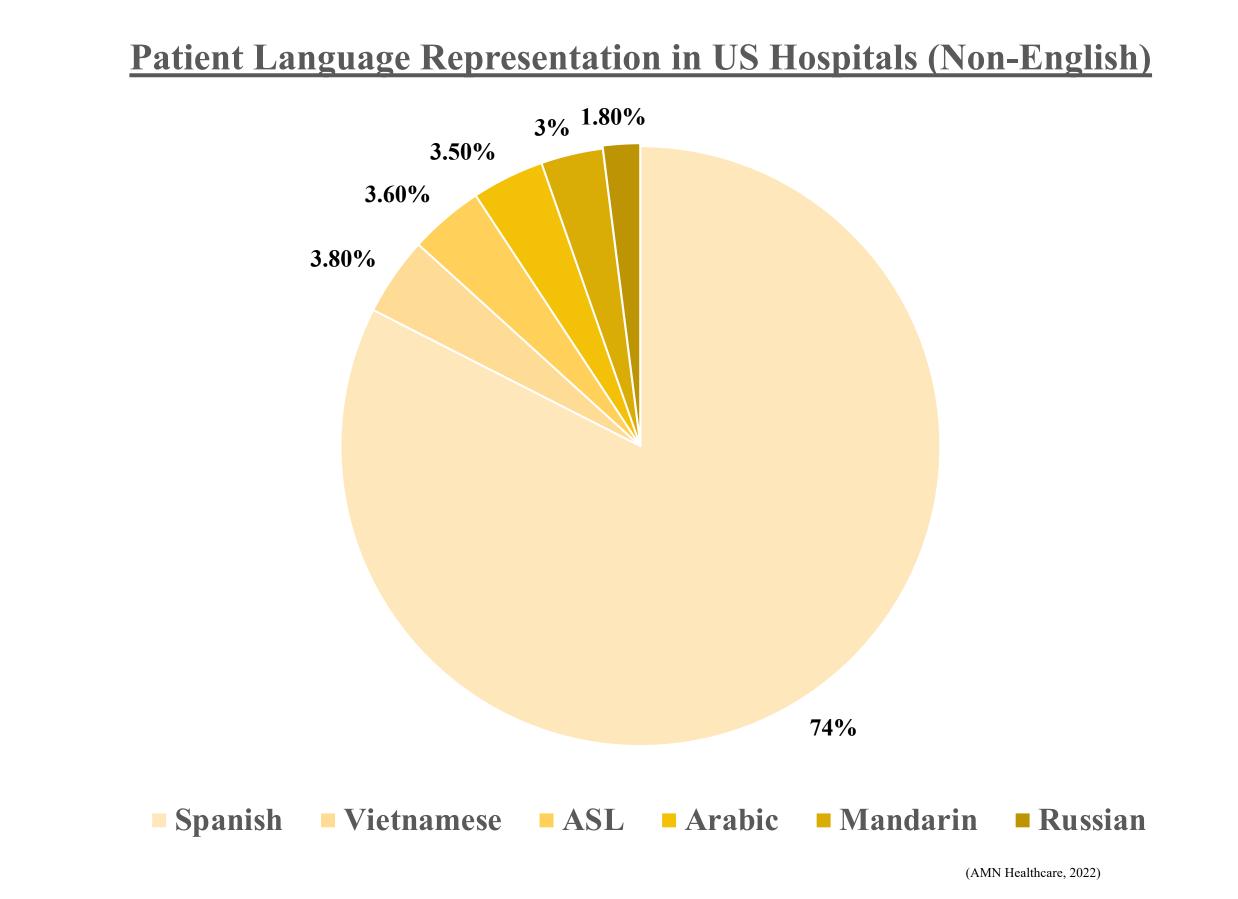
- **Purpose**: Analyze the experiences and boundaries to healthcare that LEP patients experience in US Healthcare
- **Method**: Literature review of 54 current and peer-reviewed scientific articles from reputable journals that discuss LEP and its effects on healthcare organizations and patient outcomes.
- **Results:** Patients with LEP may receive inferior quality of care, increased readmission rates, inconsistency with care outcomes, increased incidences of diagnostic tests, and experience greater levels of communication anxiety.
- Changes to Practice: increasing transcultural awareness among hospital staff, increased utilization of quality interpretative services, transcultural and language training (simulation, trips, etc.) for nursing students, development of a multi-vocational team that is transculturally trained and bilingual that can come to the scene of every LEP patient's medical emergency or hospital stay and care for them appropriately.

While the LEP population may be seen as a problem in modern healthcare, we should humble ourselves and take up the challenge of education reform and organizational creativity to better cater to this disadvantaged patient population.

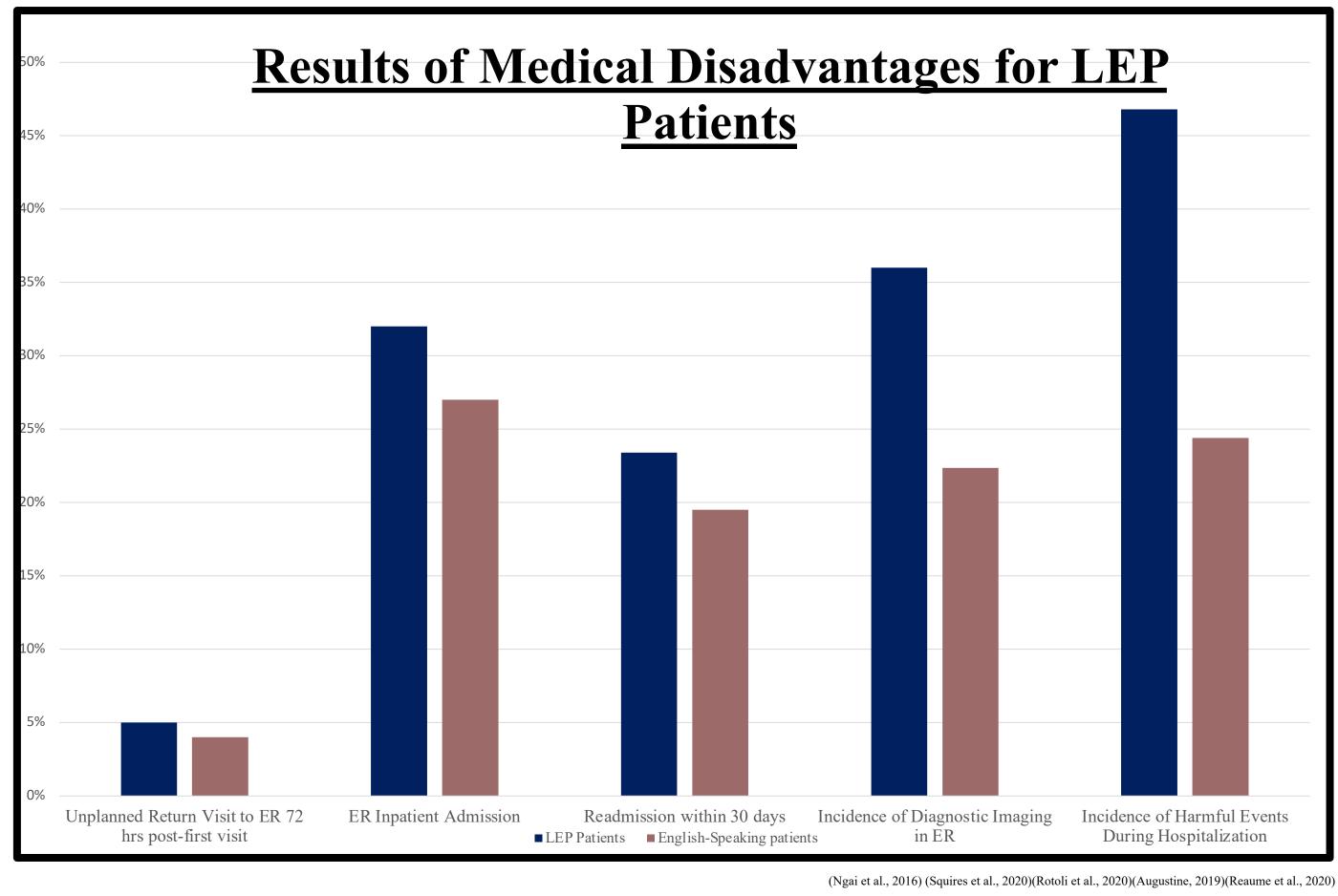
Methods

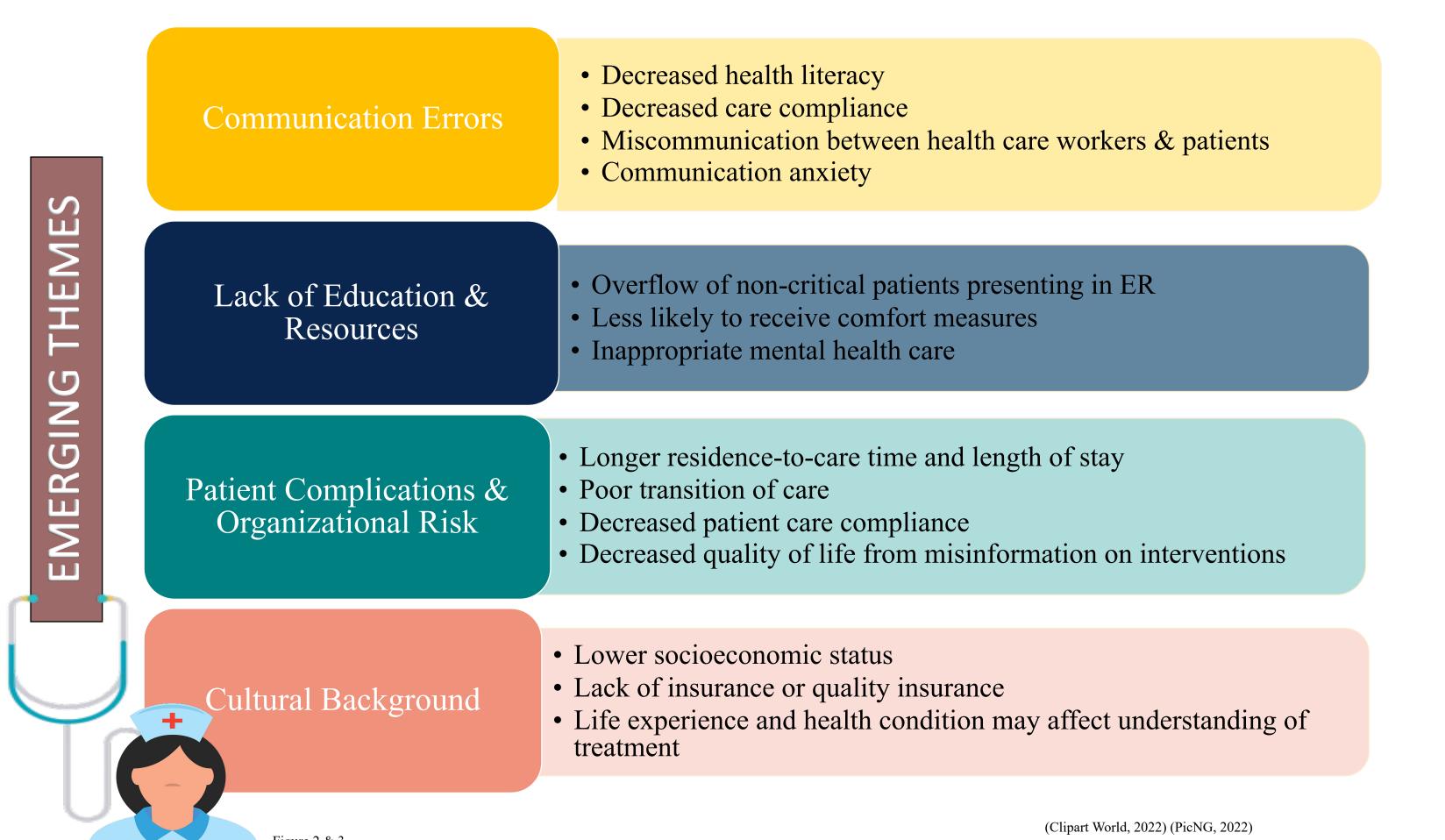
- Search Terms used: LEP, limited English proficiency, ESL, interpretation, healthcare, translation
- Databases used: Google Scholar, HRSA< and CINAHL
- Inclusion Criteria: peer-reviewed, published within 15 years, English as primary language of HCP, have a clear connection to the purpose, discussion, and conclusion of the manuscript
- Literature review of 54 current and peer-reviewed articles were reviewed
 - Data Reports/Surveys (10)
- Cohort Studies (10)
- Literature Reviews (5)
- Interviews (5)
- Other (24)











Results & Solutions

Results:

- 5% of patients with LEP return to ER within 72 hours of their first visit (Schulson et al., 2018)
- 32% of patients with LEP presenting to the ER get inpatient admission (Schulson et al., 2018)
- 23% of patients with LEP get readmitted within 30 days of original discharge (Rawal et al., 2019)
- Patients with LEP have a 36% higher incidence of diagnostic imaging in the ER (Schulson et al., 2018)
- Patients with LEP have a 47% higher incidence of harmful events during hospitalization (Schulson et al., 2018)

See emerging themes table for further findings

Proposed Solutions:

- Implications for Practice:
 - Raising transcultural awareness for healthcare staff
 - educating staff members on resources and interpretative services for patients with LEP, organizing organization limitations.
 - Interpretative and Communicative Services
 - Using simple language and interpretative technology
- Implications for Education:
- Teaching different languages, simulation experiences,
 international travel, collaborative community education and
 cultural education

Gaps & Future Research

Gaps in the Literature:

- No track of cultural awareness progression for healthcare providers
- Standardized assessments?
- No research into the quality of life after discharge of LEP patient
- Lack of cultural identification and grouping
 - No systematic way to collect information on race, ethnicity, and language data

Future Research:

- Explore the experiences of patients with LEP in collaboration with other language departments, such as interpretative services
- Examine the effectiveness of teach-back and return demonstration for LEP patients in high-intensity critical care situations
- Investigate cheaper more accessible interpretative services for healthcare workers

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See additional page for full citation list

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