Factors That Determine Perceived Concern & Knowledge About Colorectal Cancer

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Objective

- Colorectal cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer in the world[3] but it can be prevented or caught at an early stage through colonoscopy.
- This study analyzed possible barriers to receiving a colonoscopy and follow up care relating to patient factors.

Methods

Participants were recruited from two large university-based urban clinics in Maryland (n=114) on the morning of their colonoscopy. Survey questions included demographics, perceived health literacy and perceptions relating their upcoming colonoscopy.
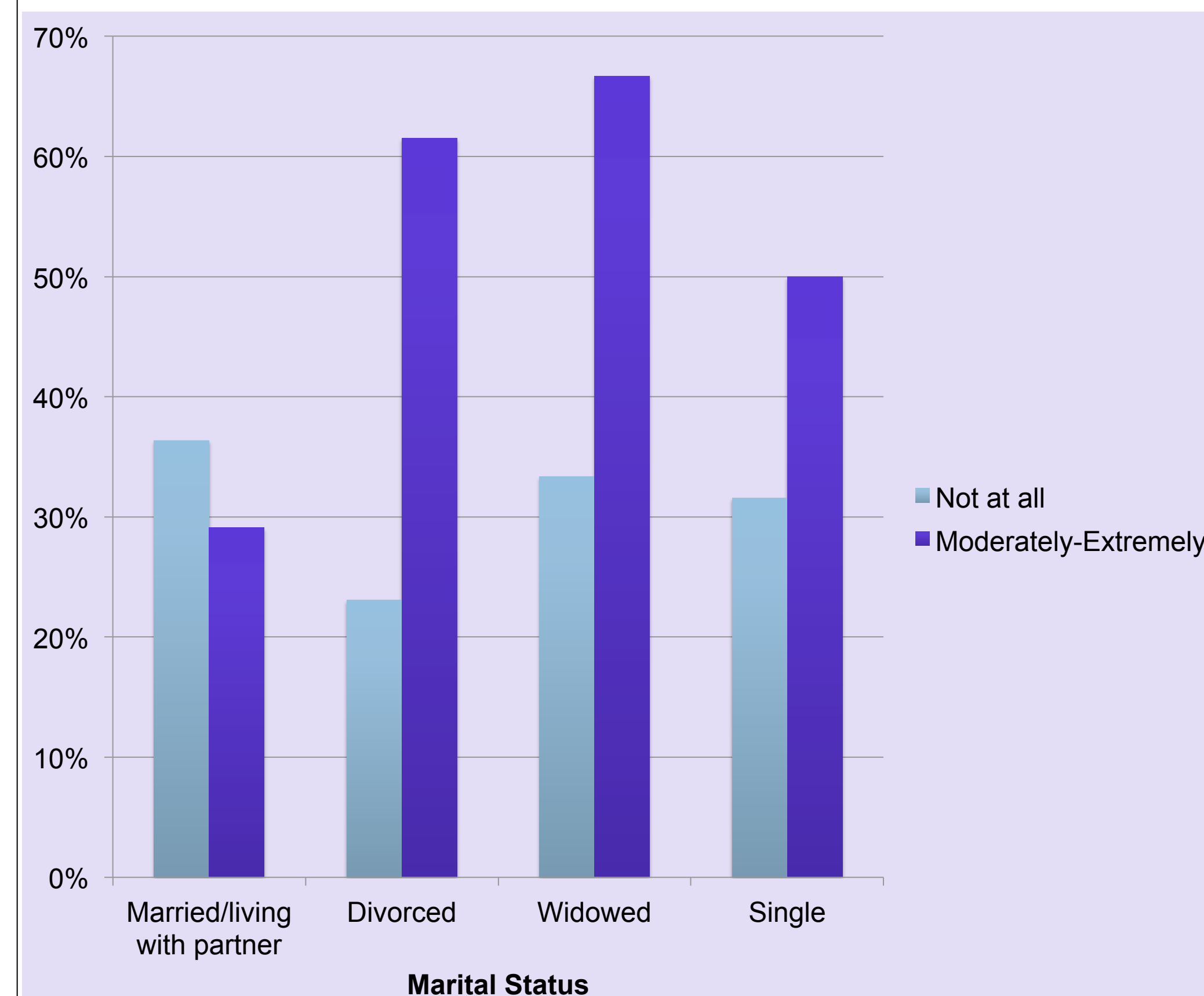
Demographics

Table 1: Sample Information (N=114)

Variable	N	Concerned	Informed
Sex		$\chi 2 = 4.0*$	$\chi 2 = 6.0*$
Male	56	47%	50%
Female	58	36%	72%
Age (Mean = 56.3)		NS	NS
49 and Under	19	37%	63%
50-64	69	42%	62%
65 and over	26	44%	58%
Perceived Health Literacy		NS	$\chi 2 = 23.0****$
Low	15	47%	27%
Medium	20	35%	30%
High	79	42%	76%
Race		NS	NS
Caucasian	49	35%	71%
African American	57	48%	53%
Other	8	38%	63%
Employment		$\chi 2 = 11.4***$	$\chi 2 = 6.0*$
Yes	50	24%	74%
No	64	56%	52%
Marital Status		$\chi 2 = 8.3*$	NS
Married/Lives with partner	55	29%	62%
Divorced	13	62%	69%
Widowed	6	67%	71%
Single	38	50%	55%
Yearly Income		$\chi 2 = 12.9***$	$\chi 2 = 9.2**$
Less than $20,000	29	66%	55%
20,000-39,999	25	48%	44%
40,000-59,999	12	25%	67%
60,000 or more	39	26%	82%
Educational Level		$\chi 2 = 6.2*$	$\chi 2 = 22.2****$
Elementary	18	67%	33%
High School & GED	31	42%	48%
College	35	40%	63%
Graduate	27	30%	96%

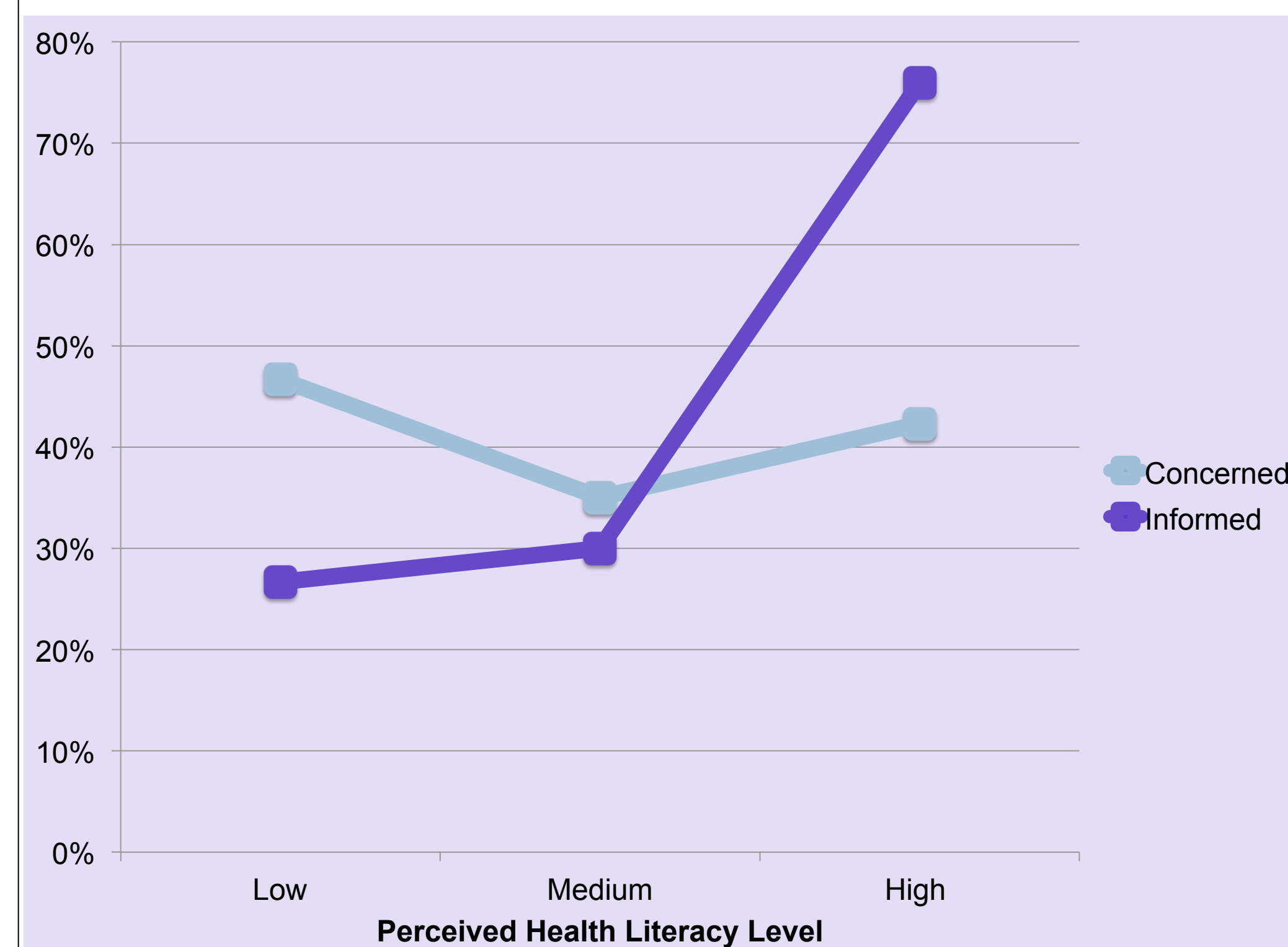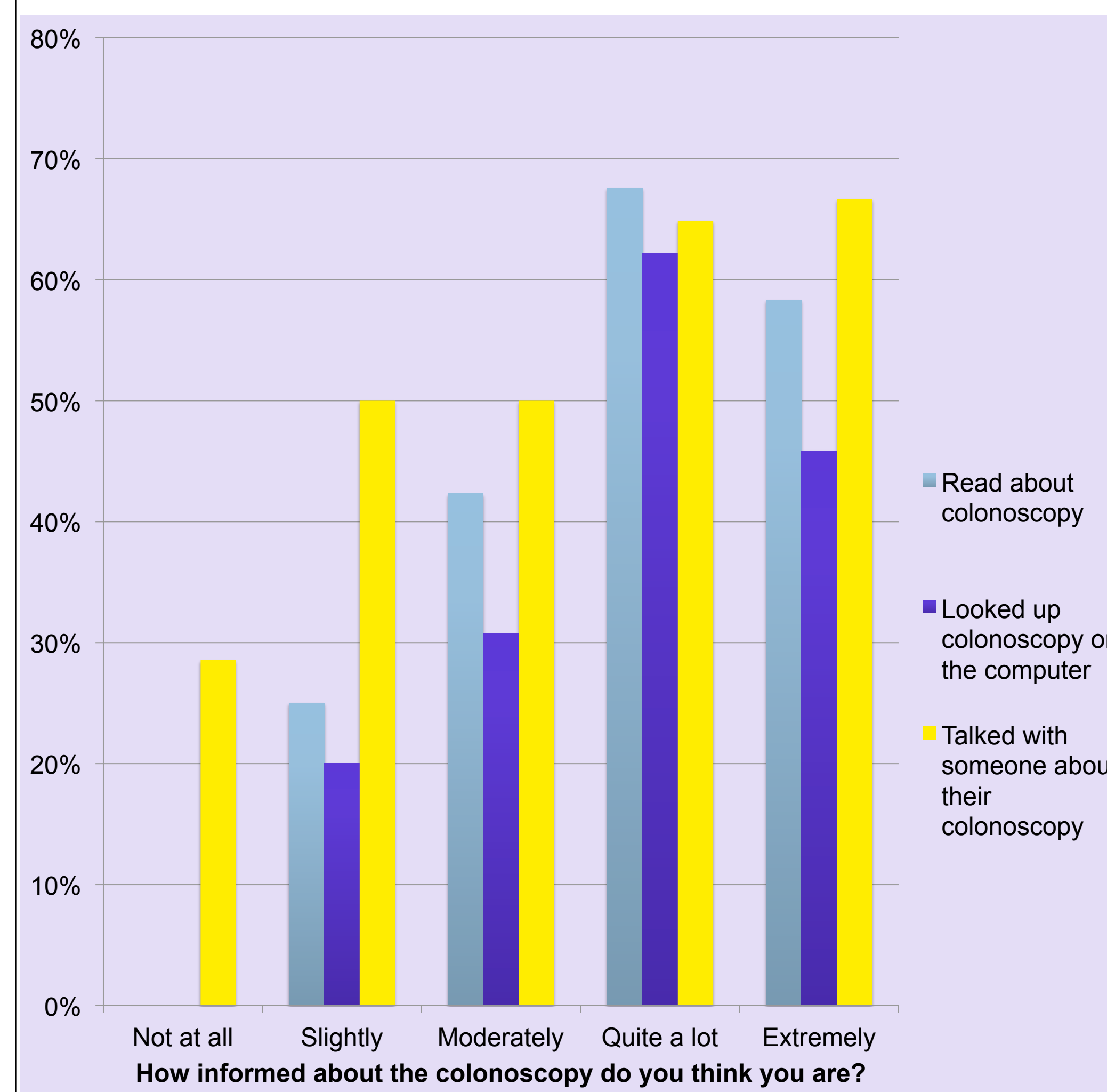*P<.05 **P<.01 ***P<.001 ****P<.0001

Results

Marital Status Effect on Colorectal Cancer Concern

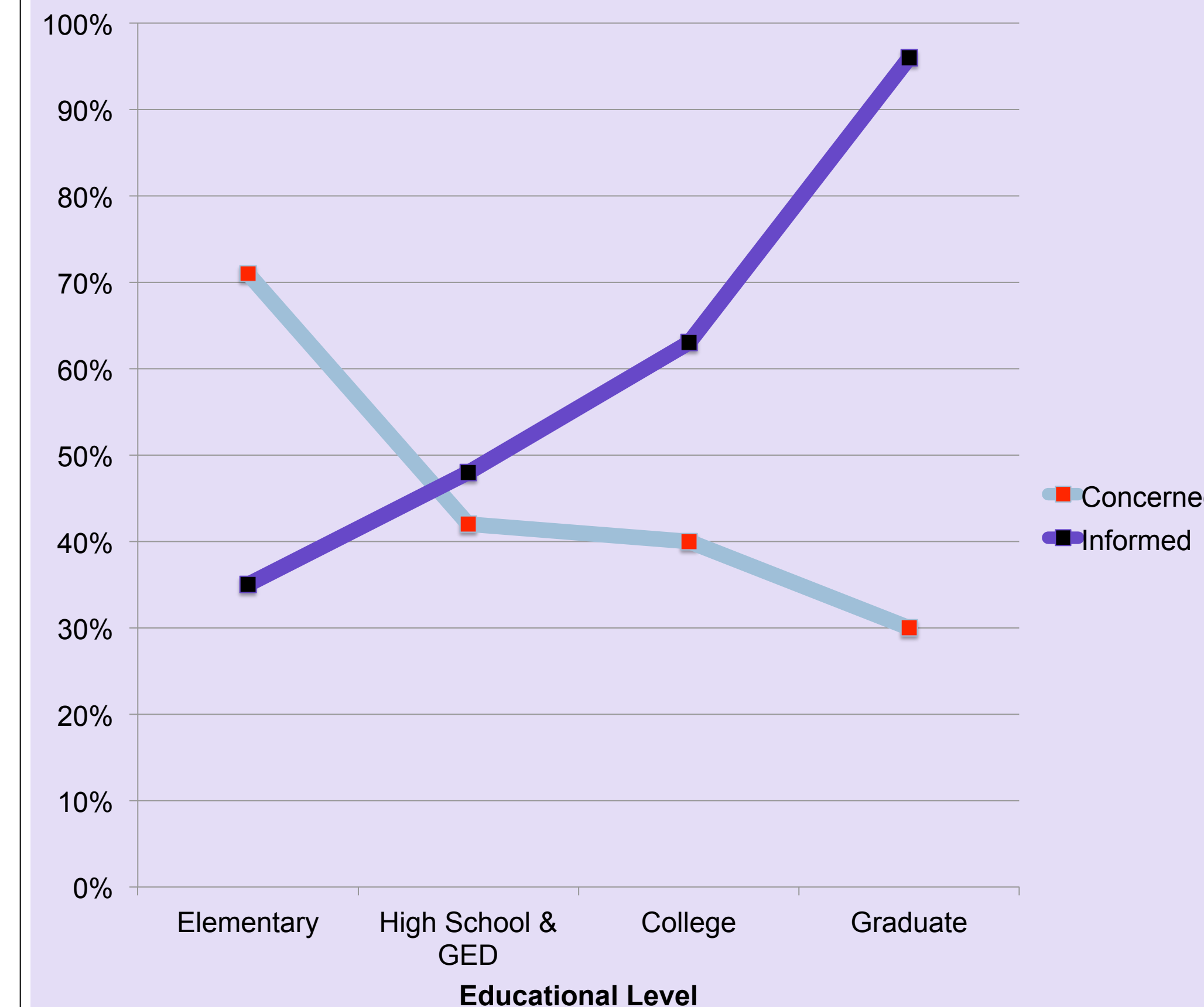### Perceived Health Literacy Effect on Perceived Colorectal Cancer Concern & Knowledge

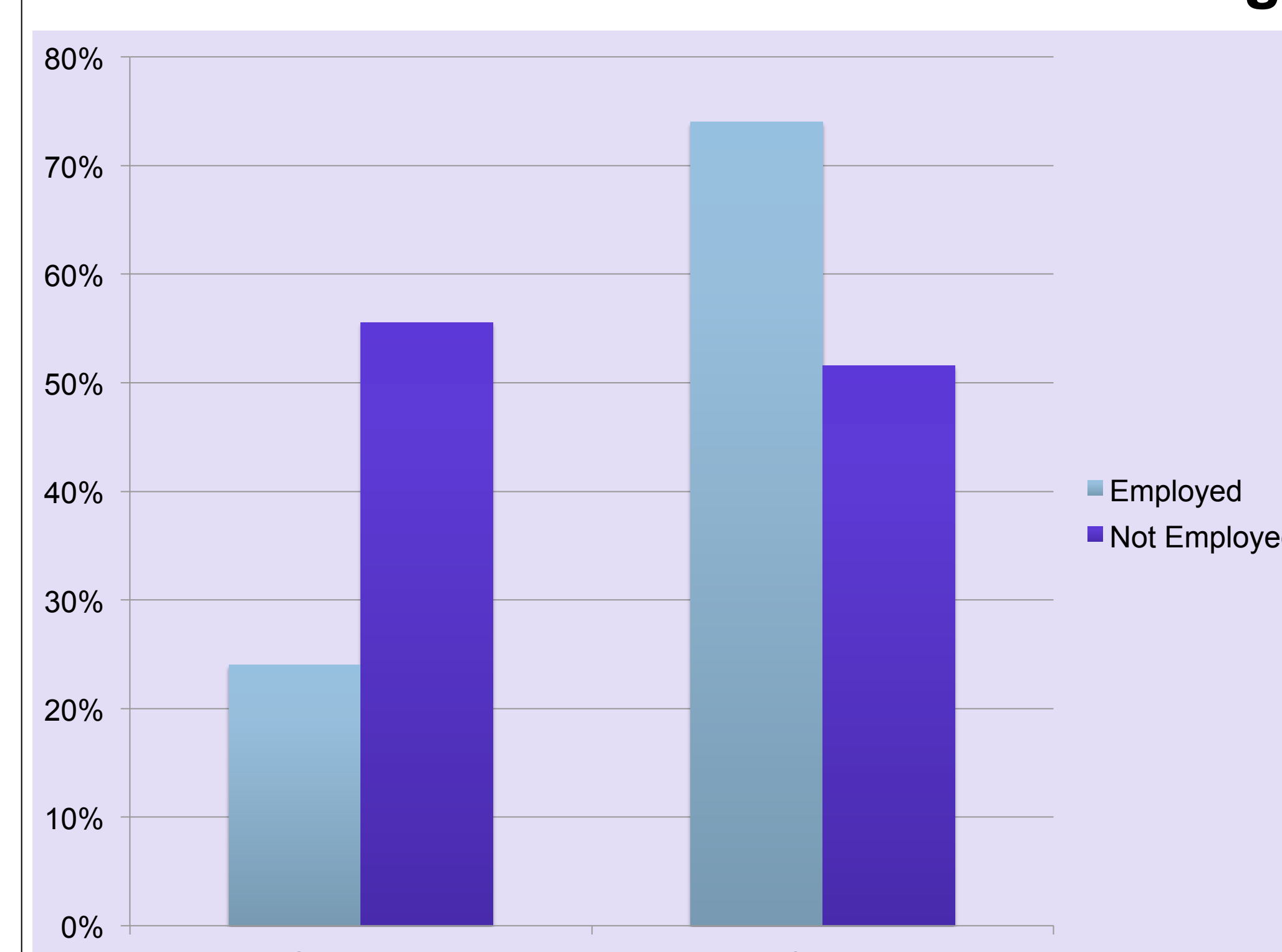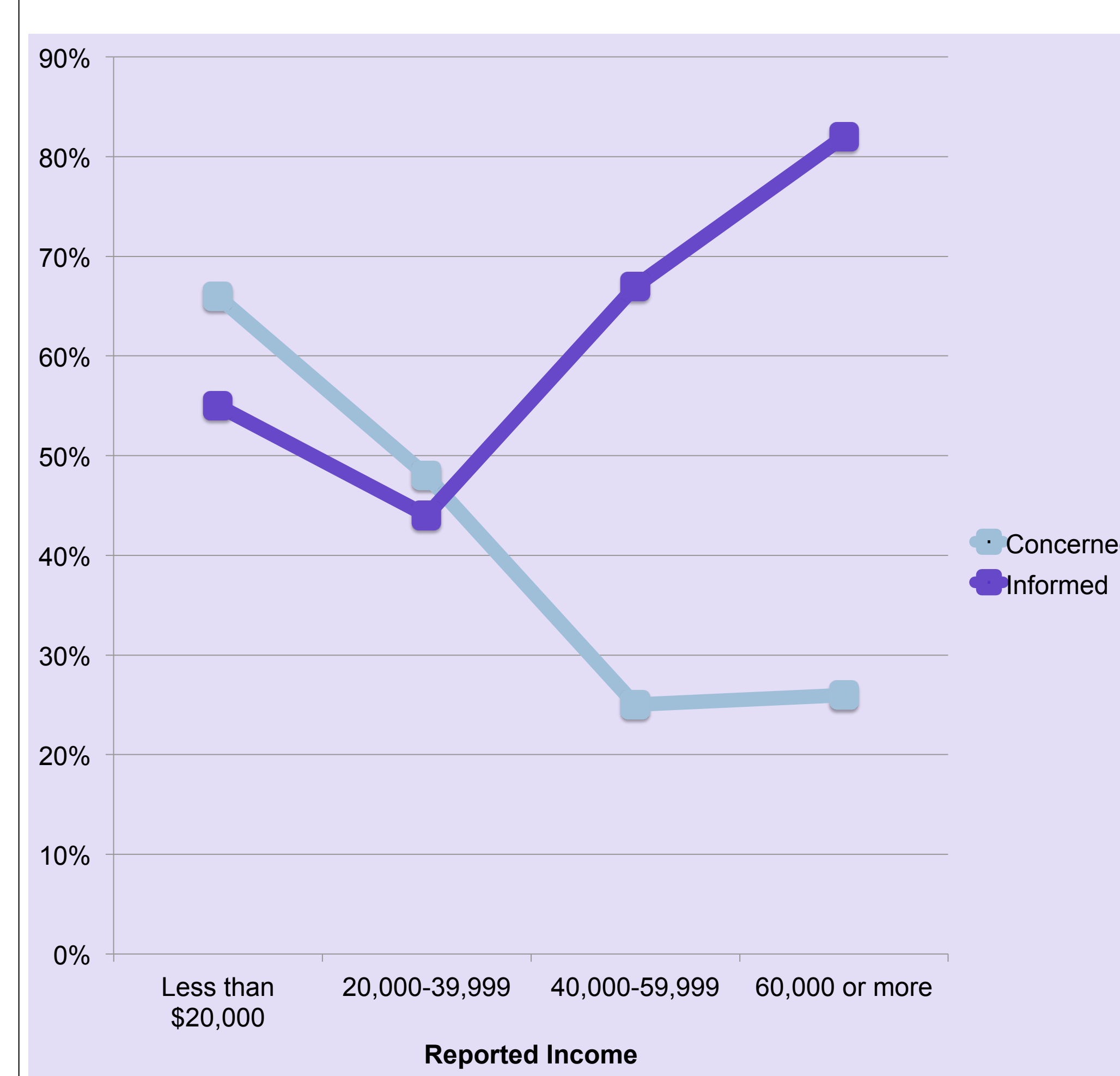### How Informed You Are Depends on How Prepared You Are

Results

Educational Level Effect on Perceived Colorectal Cancer Concern & Knowledge

Employment Effect on Perceived Colorectal Cancer Concern & Knowledge

Income Effect on Perceived Colorectal Cancer Concern & Knowledge

Results

Variables associated with perceived concern about colorectal cancer from greatest to least significance

- Employment ($p < 0.001$)
- Perception of own health ($p < 0.001$)
- Yearly household income ($p < 0.005$)
- Marital Status ($p < 0.05$)
- Educational level ($p < 0.05$)
- Gender ($p < 0.05$)

Variables associated with perceived knowledge about colorectal cancer from greatest to least significance

- Perceived health literacy ($p < 0.0001$)
- Educational level ($p < 0.0001$)
- Yearly household income ($p < 0.005$)
- Perception of own health ($p < 0.005$)
- Gender ($p < 0.05$)
- Employment ($p < 0.05$)

Those who had a high health literacy level felt over two times more informed about colorectal cancer than those with medium or low levels.

Education level and income are positively correlated to perceived knowledge and negatively correlated to perceived concern about colorectal cancer.

Those who were employed felt significantly more informed and less concerned about colorectal cancer

Those who prepared for the colonoscopy felt more informed and less concerned about colorectal cancer.

- People who did not feel informed did not read or look up the procedure on their computer ahead of time.
- Only 28% talked to someone about their procedure.

Discussion

Findings suggest the need for tailored information that addresses the logistics of colon cancer screenings, risk factors for colon cancer and the consequences of colon cancer for certain patient demographics.

Furthermore, interventions to educate those who are not as informed, such as those with low income or low health literacy, not employed, and lower education level are needed to ensure everyone has equal access to health screening.

References

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