



Health

September 2024

literacy research

The Adult Literacy for Life Programme office commissioned health literacy research in 2023.

The findings found that:

17% of adults in Ireland **understand little information** from their GP (family doctor), nurse or pharmacist.



33% of people would **only sometimes ask GP (family doctor), nurse or pharmacist** to explain when they do not understand.



Embarrassment was the main reason for not asking for explanation (42%).



38% of people have **taken the wrong dose of medication** at least once.



Reference for research: SOLAS Adult Literacy for Life (2023). Omnibus Survey results from Coyne Research



Comparing data with similar survey in 2015



Results in 2023 from Omnibus survey	Results in 2015 from NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) survey
17% of adults in Ireland understand little information from their GP (family doctor), nurse or pharmacist.	5% of Irish people understand little information from their healthcare person.
33% of people would only sometimes ask GP (family doctor), nurse or pharmacist to explain when they do not understand.	17% of people would only sometimes ask GP (family doctor), nurse or pharmacist to explain when they do not understand.
Embarrassment was the main reason for not asking for explanation (42%).	Embarrassment was the main reason for not asking for explanation (24%).
38% of people have taken the wrong dose of medication at least once.	17% of people have taken the wrong dose of medication at least once.

About this research

- Coyne Research carried out a nationally representative survey with a sample of 1,000 adults aged 18+.
- People took the survey online.
- Quotas were placed on the number of interviews achieved in each demographic grouping (age, gender, region and social class) to ensure it matched the Irish population.
- All fieldwork was conducted between the 10 – 21 November 2023.
- The survey questions were the same as asked in a similar survey in 2015. The results compares the 2015 data conducted by telephone surveys and online surveys conducted in 2023. As such, some questions are not comparable.



Find out more about Adult Literacy for Life here:

www.adultliteracyforlife.ie