1. Background

- Asking people how well they've understood something is a common question in a range of contexts.
- Judgements of understanding are used by the NHS to help produce effective patient information - documents are revised based on self-evaluated understanding of volunteers [e.g., 1].

2. Previous Research

Research suggests that our perceptions of understanding don't always match reality, and some people may even report understanding the most when they understand the least [2,3].

However, previous research in this area has methodological and analytic shortcomings and has not considered comprehension of health information.

So, are self-evaluations of comprehension a useful tool to create effective patient information?

3. Current Study

3.1 Research Question:
- Are judgements of comprehension predictive of actual comprehension on health-related texts?

3.2 Sample:
- 175 UK adults (aged 18-76) recruited using Prolific.
- 10 health texts created using the NHS Online A-Z of health conditions, approximately 300 words each.

3.3 Design:

3.4 Analysis:
- Bayesian multilevel logistic regression model:
  \[ \log \left( \frac{P_{ijk}}{1 - P_{ijk}} \right) = \beta_0 + (\beta_1 + u_1)X_{ij} + u_{0i} + u_{0j} + u_{0k} + \varepsilon_{ijk} \]
- Outcome: comprehension question response accuracy
- Predictor: self-evaluated text comprehension

4. Results

- Simply asking people if they understand a text is only weakly informative of their comprehension.
- Assessing patient information by eliciting self-evaluations of comprehension is likely not sufficient to ensure revised documents are more comprehensible.

5. Conclusion

6. References