



**Women's health among medical staff at Lyon University Hospital (France): a qualitative study of sexual, reproductive and general health**





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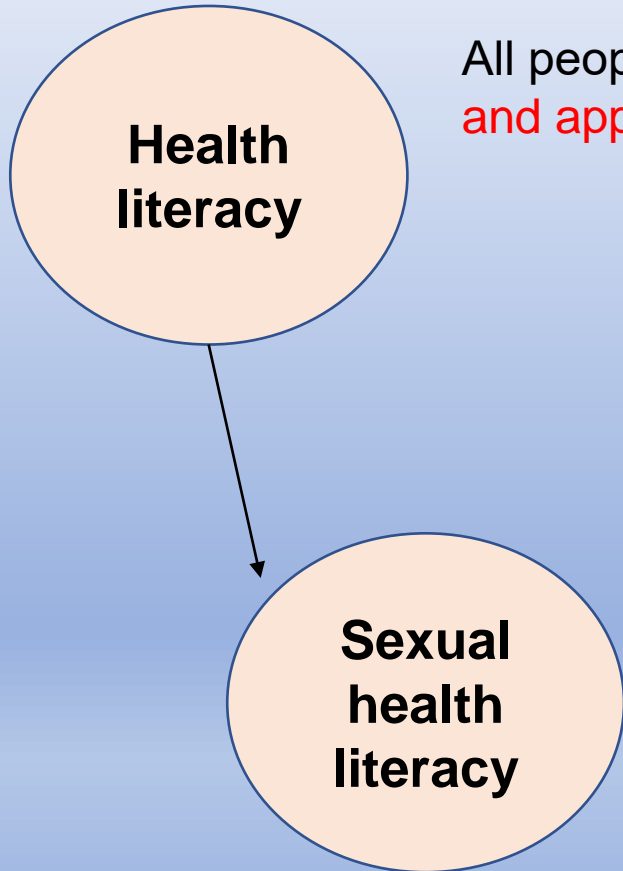
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# I/ Context: literature review

## 1. Health literacy

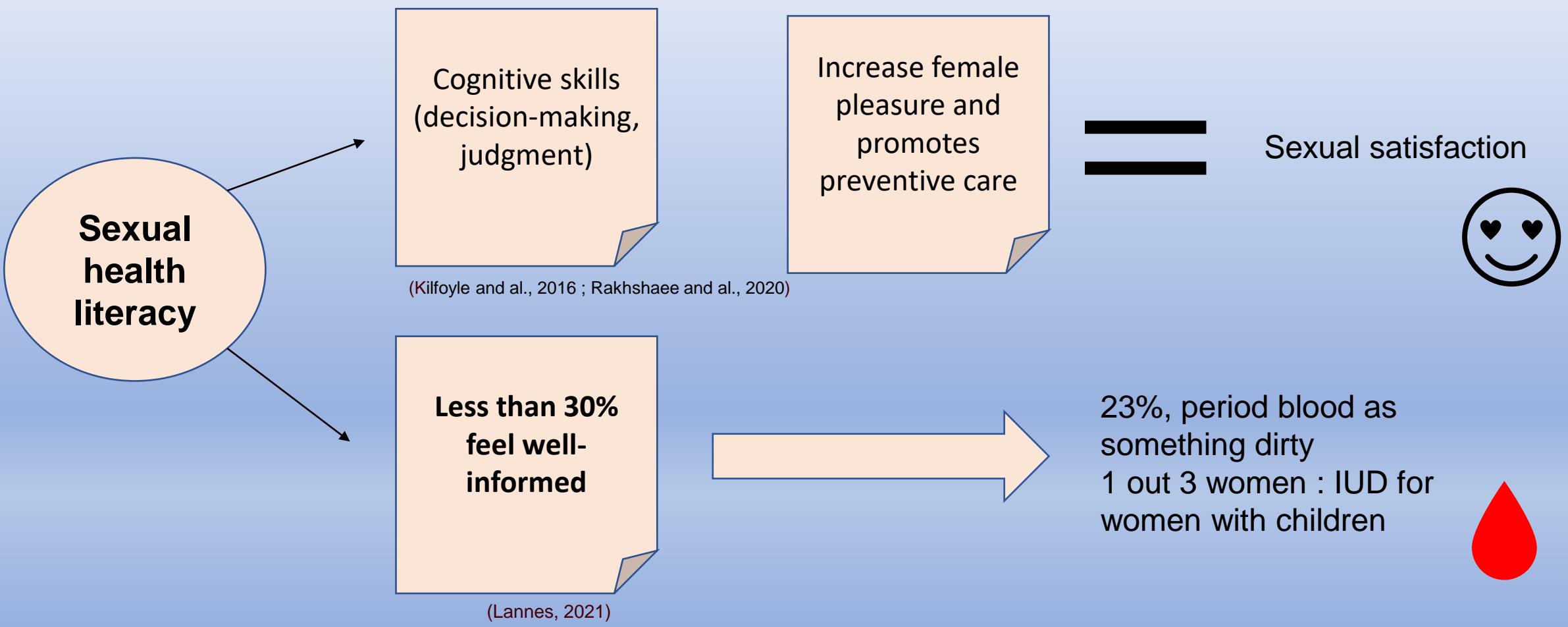
All people's knowledge, motivation, and competence to **access, understand, evaluate, and apply** health information to make judgments, and take decisions (Zheng and al., 2018 ; Authier, 2019)



HL  Health promoting behaviors (Margat and al, 2017)

# I/ Context: literature review

## 1. Health literacy



# I/ Context: literature review



## 2. Social representations

**Under-represented  
in research**

Exclusion of health  
issues



**Reference to men in  
the medical field**

Lack of knowledge



**Socially constructed  
female SRH**

Main stakeholders in  
SRH management

(Rolland & El Khoury, 2023 ;  
Debergh, 2020)

(Rolland & El Khoury, 2023)

(Spencer, 1999)

# I/ Context: literature review



## 2. Social representations

*“Nothing is more ridiculous than a doctor who doesn’t die of old age” - Voltaire*

(Suty, 2006 ;  
Conseil national de l’ordre des médecins, 2024)

**Good health, but back seat: yet high levels of burnout and stress**



(Dubus Catteau, 2023) ;  
Alata, 2014 ;  
Bovier & Künzi, 2005 ;  
Roman & Prévost, 2017 ;  
Sauvegrain, 2016)

1 out 3 physicians have chronic illness  
1 out 3 physicians have had suicidal thoughts

**Challenge due to the recent strong feminization**



Benmesbah & Dufour, 2022 ;  
Ordre national des chirurgiens-dentistes, 2025 ;  
Bataille-Hembert, Crest-Guilluy & Denormandie, 2023 ;  
Bogler, Lazare & Rambihar, 2019

Maternity, access to cancer screening, work-life balance, access to leadership position

# II/ Qualitative study

## 1. Method



Understand the experiences and perceptions of women in medical professions have (physicians, dentists, pharmacists) regarding their general, sexual and reproductive health, as well as the preventive behaviors they adopt

- Qualitative method: semi-structured interviews
- Target: women ; working in Lyon University Hospital (HCL) ; medical staff
- Recruitment: information provided by the MAD
- Procedure: recruitment email with an information sheet and a poster
- Interview process: from April 24th to May 22th 2025 ; video call, home, 3P location, workplace ; 50 minutes
- Guide interview: 4 topics
- Collection: recording in HCLs laptop for transcription
- Analysis: content thematic analysis (Paillé & Mucchielli, 2016)

# IV/ Qualitative study

## 2. Results and discussion



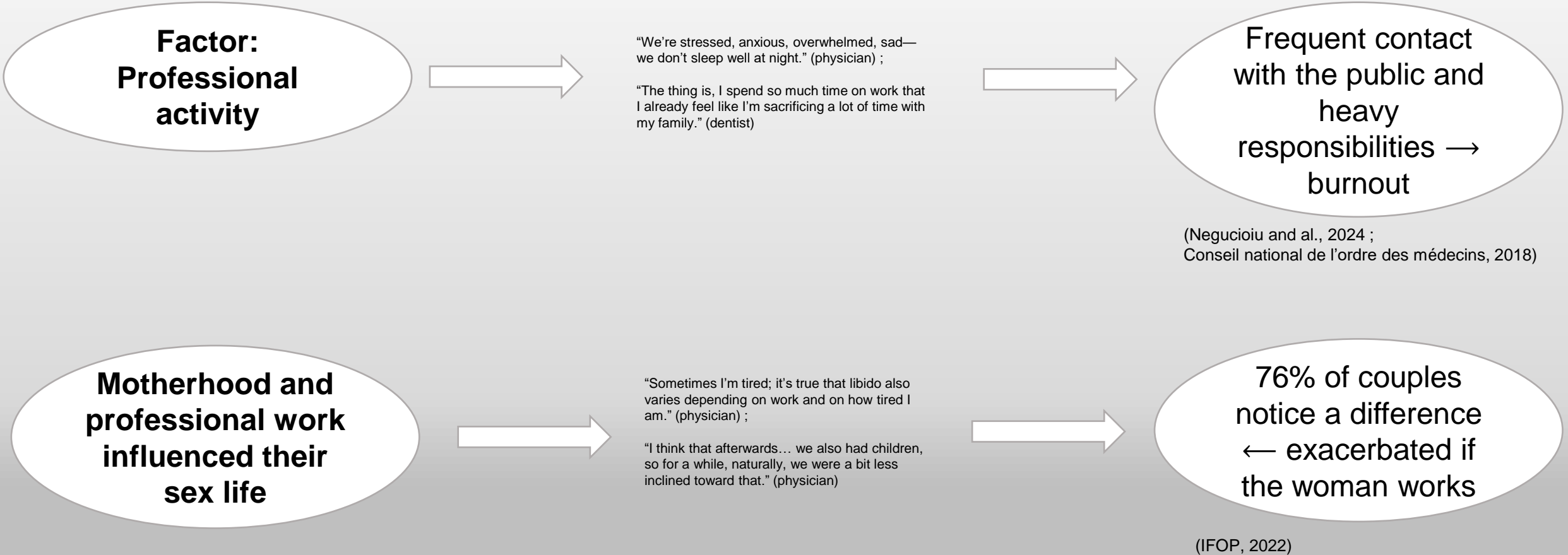
In total: 25 interviews conducted

Characteristics of the respondents		N=25
Age	ages 30-34	6
	ages 35-39	5
	ages 40-44	8
	ages 45-49	8
	More than 50	4
Profession	Physician	18
	Pharmacist	5
	Dentist	2
Marital status	Married	12
	Civil partnership	5
	Living with a partner	4
	Single	4
Children	Yes	19
	No	4
	Pregnant*	2

\*: in this sample, the two women were pregnant with their first child

# IV/ Qualitative study

## 2. Results and discussion



# II/ Qualitative study

## 2. Results and discussion

**Lack of support  
during pregnancy**



"I felt like I was delivering bad news  
when I told them I was pregnant."  
(physician)

**Role of the  
gynecologist in  
preventive care**



"I completely let myself be guided by the  
gynecologists I was seeing, and my  
midwife. So it was mostly about following  
their recommendations." (physician)



**Higher  
vaccination rates  
when  
recommendations  
from physicians**

(Chyderiotis, 2022)

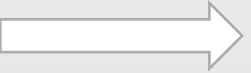
# IV/ Qualitative study

## 2. Results and discussion

**Barrier: lack of time**



"It could be time. Above all, time. We don't have time. We never have time for anything."  
(physician)



**Barrier: lack of time due to heavy workload ← not a priority**

(Lambert, 2017)

**Women's occupational health**



**Reserved appointments (gynecologist) + SRH awareness campaign + Screening session and follow-ups**



"I can imagine that... the HCL are launching prevention campaigns with messages like, "Don't forget to get your Pap smear regularly, and remember to get your mammogram."" (physician) ;

"I can imagine that... HCL could set up prevention campaigns." (dentist) ;

"A specific day dedicated to sexual and reproductive health could be a good idea." (physician)

# III/ Qualitative study



## 2. Results and discussion

### - Contributions

→ A comprehensive assessment of their sexual and reproductive health: experiences and need

### - Limits

→ Generational biais, physician biais and heterosexual relationship biais

# IV/ Qualitative study

## 3. Take home message



**Work environment adapted to women’s needs:**

• **Gynecological appointments at the workplace;**



• **Accommodations for maternity leave;**



• **Awareness and information campaigns on sexual and reproductive health;**



• **Support for achieving a work-life balance**



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***Merci***  
**Any questions?**

