23.1% of adults in Arkansas have low literacy
Arkansas ranks 39 out of 50 in the U.S.

1 in 2 counties in Arkansas have populations where 25% or more of the residents have below basic literacy

How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?
In counties where at least a quarter of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment
- Low literacy counties: 8.3%
- Other counties: 6.2%
- State: 5.5%

Median Income
- Low literacy counties: $37,635
- Other counties: $42,187
- State: $45,726

Adults Without a High School Degree
- Low literacy counties: 20.0%
- Other counties: 14.6%
- State: 13.8%

No Access to Healthcare
- Low literacy counties: 11.0%
- Other counties: 10.3%
- State: 9.0%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- Low literacy counties: 23.0%
- Other counties: 17.8%
- State: 15.4%

Demographics

Households Where Limited English is Spoken
The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."
Below basic literacy is defined as scoring level 1 or below on the PIAAC International Adult Literacy Survey. 4th grade reading scores come from the NAEP reading assessment. 4th grade ELA test performance data comes from edopportunity.org. Self-Reported health comes from the Community Health Status Indicators. All other data comes from the American Community Survey. PIAAC data is not available by city. Visit map.barbarabush.org for county-level PIAAC data.