23.4% of adults in Arizona have low literacy

Arizona ranks 40 out of 50 in the U.S.

4 in 9 counties in Arizona 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

- 10.9% in low literacy counties
- 8.0% in other counties
- 6.5% in state

Median Income

- $40,467 in low literacy counties
- $50,609 in other counties
- $56,213 in state

Adults Without a High School Degree

- 22.1% in low literacy counties
- 12.7% in other counties
- 13.2% in state

No Access to Healthcare

- 12.6% in low literacy counties
- 11.8% in other counties
- 10.9% in state

Residents Below the Poverty Line

- 21.4% in low literacy counties
- 18.2% in other counties
- 14.0% in state

Demographics

- White: 26%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 49%
- Black/African American: 49%
- Asian: 23%

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.