15.9% of adults in Hawaii have low literacy

Hawaii ranks 13 out of 50 in the U.S.

4 in 5 counties in Hawaii have populations where 16% or more of the residents have below basic literacy

How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?

In counties where at least 16% of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment
- 4.7% low literacy counties
- 4.5% other counties
- 4.5% state

Median Income
- $69,496 low literacy counties
- $82,906 other counties
- $78,084 state

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 8.1% low literacy counties
- 8.3% other counties
- 8.2% state

No Access to Healthcare
- 6.0% low literacy counties
- 4.0% other counties
- 4.1% state

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 11.4% low literacy counties
- 9.1% other counties
- 9.2% state

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.