20% of adults in Maryland have low literacy
Maryland ranks 28 out of 50 in the U.S.

1 in 5 counties in Maryland 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
- 8.3% (low literacy counties)
- 5.2% (other counties)
- 5.6% (state average)

Median Income
- $52,145 (low literacy counties)
- $85,942 (other counties)
- $81,868 (state average)

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 15.8% (low literacy counties)
- 9.3% (other counties)
- 10.0% (state average)

No Access to Healthcare
- 8.3% (low literacy counties)
- 5.8% (other counties)
- 6.5% (state average)

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 16.5% (low literacy counties)
- 8.2% (other counties)
- 8.6% (state average)

Demographics

Households Where Limited English is Spoken
The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."

The percent of 4th graders with below basic reading by race
- White: 23%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 47%
- Black/African American: 49%
- Asian: 11%
- State Average: 36%
### 4th Grade Reading Levels

While literacy can be high or low in a given metro area, when we look at 4th grade testing, we can see that the performance in English/Language Arts is not consistent across race and gender.

#### English/Language Arts Test Performance by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latinx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### English/Language Arts Test Performance by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Unemployment

5.6%

82,496 adults living in Baltimore are unemployed.

### Single Mother Households

14.2%

147,830 households in Baltimore are single mother households.

### Residents Below the Poverty Line

9.5%

200,973 residents are living below the poverty line in Baltimore.

### Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma

9.3%

179,498 adults living in Baltimore did not receive a high school diploma.

### Receives Public Assistance

24%

147,590 residents receive public assistance in Baltimore.

### Racial Distribution

- White: 57.0%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 5.6%
- Black: 28.7%
- Asian: 5.4%

### Median Household Income

$78,686

Data for the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson Metro Area

---

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.
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.

**WASHINGTON-ARLINGTON-ALEXANDRIA METROPOLITAN AREA**

**Unemployment**

5.1%

175,425 adults living in Washington D.C. are unemployed.

**Single Mother Households**

11.9%

261,034 households in Washington D.C. are single mother households.

**Residents Below the Poverty Line**

7.4%

341,581 residents are living below the poverty line in Washington D.C..

**Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma**

9.3%

386,569 adults living in Washington D.C. did not receive a high school diploma.

**Receives Public Assistance**

16%

227,376 residents receive public assistance in Washington D.C..

**Racial Distribution**

45.8% White

15.5% Latinx/Hispanic

24.8% Black

9.9% Asian

**Median Household Income**

$100,732

**Income by Race**

- White: $120,815
- Latinx/Hispanic: $74,795
- Black: $73,674
- Asian: $112,593

Data for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area

**4th Grade Reading Levels**

While literacy can be high or low in a given metro area, when we look at 4th grade testing, we can see that the performance in English/Language Arts is not consistent across race and gender.
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.