13.4% of adults in Maine have low literacy.

Maine ranks 6 out of 50 in the U.S.

3 in 8 counties in Maine have populations where 15% or more of the residents have below basic literacy.

How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?

In counties where at least 15% of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment
- 7.1% low literacy counties
- 5.3% other counties
- 4.6% state

Median Income
- $41,938 low literacy counties
- $54,124 other counties
- $55,425 state

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 11.5%

No Access to Healthcare
- 10.8%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 17.7%

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.