21.3% of adults in North Carolina have low literacy
North Carolina ranks 35 out of 50 in the U.S.

2 in 5 counties in North Carolina 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
- North Carolina: 9.4%
- Low literacy counties: 7.1%
- Other counties: 6.3%

### Median Income
- State average: $38,850
- Low literacy counties: $38,850
- Other counties: $49,491
- State: $52,413

### Adults Without a High School Degree
- North Carolina: 21.0%
- White: 22%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 43%
- Black/African American: 47%
- Asian: 16%

### No Access to Healthcare
- North Carolina: 13.8%
- White: 13.7%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 12.3%
- Black/African American: 12.6%
- Asian: 11.1%

### Residents Below the Poverty Line
- North Carolina: 22.3%
- White: 15.8%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 13.5%
- Black/African American: 13.6%
- Asian: 11.1%

### Households Where Limited English is Spoken
- North Carolina: 22.3%
- White: 15.8%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 13.5%
- Black/African American: 13.6%
- Asian: 11.1%

### Demographics
- The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."

State Average
- White: 33%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 43%
- Black/African American: 47%
- Asian: 16%
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.