13.4% of adults in North Dakota have low literacy
North Dakota ranks 6 out of 50 in the U.S.

1 in 9 counties in North Dakota have populations where 20% or more of the residents have below basic literacy

How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?
In counties where at least 20% of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment
- 6.5% low literacy counties
- 2.3% other counties
- 2.8% state

Median Income
- $44,313
- $61,900
- $63,473

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 16.1%
- 9.9%
- 7.5%

No Access to Healthcare
- 13.3%
- 6.7%
- 7.4%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 32.4%
- 8.8%
- 10.5%

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: 27%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 44%
- Black/African American: 43%
- Asian: 43%

State Average: 31%
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.