20.7% of adults in New Jersey have low literacy
New Jersey ranks 33 out of 50 in the U.S.

2 in 7 counties in New Jersey 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
- 8.2%
- 6.7%
- 6.1%

Median Income
- $63,139 low literacy counties
- $85,160 other counties
- $79,363 state

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 15.1%
- 8.1%
- 10.5%

No Access to Healthcare
- 13.3%
- 7.1%
- 8.5%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 16.9%
- 7.9%
- 9.1%

The percent of 4th graders with below basic reading by race
- White: 16%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 42%
- Black/African American: 46%
- Asian: 11%
- State Average: 28%

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.

**PHILADELPHIA-CAMDEN-WILMINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA**

### Unemployment

6.7%  
212,201 adults living in Philadelphia are unemployed.

### Single Mother Households

14%  
316,045 households in Philadelphia are single mother households.

### Residents Below the Poverty Line

11.3%  
519,471 residents are living below the poverty line in Philadelphia.

### Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma

9.7%  
402,932 adults living in Philadelphia did not receive a high school diploma.

### Receives Public Assistance

25.8%  
343,515 residents receive public assistance in Philadelphia.

### Racial Distribution

- White: 62.2%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 9.2%
- Black: 20.3%
- Asian: 5.8%

### Median Household Income

$69,465  

### Income by Race

- White: $83,388
- Latinx/Hispanic: $43,985
- Black: $41,089
- Asian: $81,692

Data for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington Metro Area

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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>
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<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
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**English/Language Arts Test Performance by Gender**

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<td>Male</td>
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