29.1% of adults in New Mexico have low literacy
New Mexico ranks 50 out of 50 in the U.S.

7 in 9 counties in New Mexico 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
- 8.1% low literacy counties
- 5.5% other counties
- 7.2% state

Median Income
- $37,293
- $50,582
- $48,059

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 17.7%
- 10.5%
- 14.7%

No Access to Healthcare
- 11.9%
- 11.6%
- 10.7%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 22.3%
- 15.4%
- 17.5%

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: 30%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 51%
- State Average: 47%
- Asian: 41%
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.barabarabush.org for county-level PIAAC data.