Literacy Gap Snapshot

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**
- **9.5%**
- **6.6%**
- **6.4%**

**Median Income**
- **$36,685** low literacy counties
- **$53,922** other counties
- **$51,015** state

**Adults Without a High School Degree**
- **19.8%**
- **12.9%**
- **12.9%**

**No Access to Healthcare**
- **12.5%**
- **11.9%**
- **11.0%**

**Residents Below the Poverty Line**
- **22.6%**
- **15.6%**
- **13.8%**

Demographics

The percent of 4th graders with below basic reading by race
- **White**: 25%
- **Latinx/Hispanic**: 46%
- **Black/African American**: 57%
- **State Average**: 39%

Households Where Limited English is Spoken

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

**White**
- **High**: Over 30%
- **Low**: Under 5%

**Hispanic/Latinx**
- **High**: Over 30%
- **Low**: Under 5%

**Black**
- **High**: Over 30%
- **Low**: Under 5%

**Asian**
- **High**: Over 30%
- **Low**: Under 5%
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.