**14.9%**

of adults in South Dakota have low literacy

South Dakota ranks 10 out of 50 in the U.S.

**1 in 9**

counties in South Dakota have populations where 25% or more of the residents have below basic literacy

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**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**
  - Over 60%: 17.0%
  - Under 10%: 2.2%
  - Low: 3.5%

- **Median Income**
  - Low literacy counties: $32,500
  - Other counties: $54,774
  - State: $56,499

- **Adults Without a High School Degree**
  - White: 24%
  - Latinx/Hispanic: 53%
  - Black/African American: 51%
  - State Average: 31%

- **No Access to Healthcare**
  - White: 9.4%
  - Latinx/Hispanic: 7.7%
  - Black/African American: 9.4%

- **Residents Below the Poverty Line**
  - White: 11.3%
  - Latinx/Hispanic: 12.2%

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**Demographics**

- **Households Where Limited English is Spoken**
  - Over 30%: 17.0%
  - Under 5%: 2.2%

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

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**The percent of 4th graders with below basic reading by race**

- **White**: 24%
- **Latinx/Hispanic**: 53%
- **Black/African American**: 51%
- **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.