21.7% of adults in Tennessee have low literacy. Tennessee ranks 36 out of 50 in the U.S.

3 in 7 counties in Tennessee 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:
- 8.0% in low literacy counties
- 6.6% in other counties
- 5.9% in state

Median Income:
- $38,362 in low literacy counties
- $47,396 in other counties
- $50,972 in state

Adults Without a High School Degree:
- 20.4% in low literacy counties
- 14.6% in other counties
- 13.0% in state

No Access to Healthcare:
- 11.8% in low literacy counties
- 10.0% in other counties
- 10.1% in state

Residents Below the Poverty Line:
- 21.2% in low literacy counties
- 16.4% in other counties
- 14.0% in state

Demographics:
- Over 60%
- Under 10%

The percent of 4th graders with below basic reading by race:
- White: 26%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 51%
- Black/African American: 51%
- State Average: 34%

Households Where Limited English is Spoken:
The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."

Over 30%
Under 5%
4th Grade Reading Levels

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English/Language Arts Test Performance by Race

Unemployment

4.5%

44,745 adults living in Nashville are unemployed.

Single Mother Households

12.3%

86,568 households in Nashville are single mother households.

Residents Below the Poverty Line

10.8%

151,290 residents are living below the poverty line in Nashville.

Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma

10.5%

131,535 adults living in Nashville did not receive a high school diploma.

Receives Public Assistance

24.2%

105,430 residents receive public assistance in Nashville.

Data for the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin Metro Area

Median Household Income

$62,718

Income by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>$68,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx/Hispanic</td>
<td>$47,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>$43,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>$76,154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.