**28.2%**

of adults in Texas have low literacy

Texas ranks 48 out of 50 in the U.S.

**5 in 8**

counties in Texas 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**
  - **5.9%** low literacy counties
  - **5.3%** other counties
  - **5.4%** state

- **Median Income**
  - **$47,804**
  - **$52,326**
  - **$59,570**

- **Adults Without a High School Degree**
  - **22.3%**
  - **14.0%**
  - **16.8%**

- **No Access to Healthcare**
  - **19.3%**
  - **15.7%**
  - **17.4%**

- **Residents Below the Poverty Line**
  - **17.4%**
  - **14.1%**
  - **13.1%**

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**Demographics**

- **White**
  - **22%**
- **Latinx/Hispanic**
  - **48%**
- **Black/African American**
  - **52%**
- **Asian**
  - **12%**

**State Average**

- **39%**

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**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.

Unemployment
5.8%
199,229 adults living in Houston are unemployed.

Single Mother Households
14.3%
329,381 households in Houston are single mother households.

Residents Below the Poverty Line
11.8%
578,548 residents are living below the poverty line in Houston.

Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma
16.8%
726,978 adults living in Houston did not receive a high school diploma.

Receives Public Assistance
25.9%
471,493 residents receive public assistance in Houston.

Racial Distribution
- White: 36.6%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 37.0%
- Black: 16.9%
- Asian: 7.6%

Median Household Income
$65,381

Income by Race
- White: $87,710
- Latinx/Hispanic: $50,620
- Black: $48,313
- Asian: $87,428

Data for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metro Area

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.
### 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.

#### English/Language Arts Test Performance by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>Asian</th>
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<tbody>
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#### English/Language Arts Test Performance by Gender

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade Levels</th>
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<th>Female</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Unemployment

**4.8%**

183,178 adults living in Dallas are unemployed.

### Single Mother Households

**13.3%**

337,947 households in Dallas are single mother households.

### Residents Below the Poverty Line

**10.6%**

558,960 residents are living below the poverty line in Dallas.

### Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma

**14.8%**

693,019 adults living in Dallas did not receive a high school diploma.

### Receives Public Assistance

**23%**

439,419 residents receive public assistance in Dallas.

### Median Household Income

**$66,982**

### Income by Race

- **White**: $82,028
- **Latinx/Hispanic**: $50,969
- **Black**: $47,311
- **Asian**: $90,960

Data for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metro Area

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