14.5% of adults in Utah have low literacy
Utah ranks 9 out of 50 in the U.S.

1 in 9 counties in Utah have populations where 20% or more of the residents have below basic literacy

How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?
In counties where at least 20% of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment
- 5.2% low literacy counties
- 4.4% other counties
- 3.9% state

Median Income
- $42,060
- $59,937
- $68,374

Adults Without a High School Degree
- 17.0%
- 8.7%
- 8.0%

No Access to Healthcare
- 21.2%
- 12.6%
- 10.0%

Residents Below the Poverty Line
- 20.7%
- 11.8%
- 9.8%

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: 23%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 47%
- Black/African American: 30%
- State Average: 28%
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.