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**
- Low literacy counties: 5.1%
- Other counties: 4.4%
- State: 4.1%

**Median Income**
- Low literacy counties: $41,045
- Other counties: $60,159
- State: $60,076

**Adults Without a High School Degree**
- Low literacy counties: 15.2%
- Other counties: 8.3%
- State: 7.4%

**No Access to Healthcare**
- Low literacy counties: 6.9%
- Other counties: 5.2%
- State: 4.1%

**Residents Below the Poverty Line**
- Low literacy counties: 15.5%
- Other counties: 11.5%
- State: 10.5%

Demographics

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

Households Where Limited English is Spoken

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

- White: 31%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 32%
- Black: 31%
- Asian: 32%
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.