## Literacy Gap Snapshot

### 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
- **6.7%** other counties
- **5.3%** state

#### Median Income

- **$54,982**
- **$54,662**
- **$70,116**

#### Adults Without a High School Degree

- **25.7%**
- **9.5%**
- **8.9%**

#### No Access to Healthcare

- **15.4%**
- **8.1%**
- **6.8%**

#### Residents Below the Poverty Line

- **15.9%**
- **14.4%**
- **10.6%**

### Demographics

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

- **White**: 26%
- **Latino/Hispanic**: 53%
- **Black/African American**: 45%
- **Asian**: 27%
- **State Average**: 35%

### 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.

English/Language Arts Test Performance by Race

Unemployment

4.8%
99,192 adults living in Seattle are unemployed.

Single Mother Households

9.4%
138,122 households in Seattle are single mother households.

Residents Below the Poverty Line

9%
264,261 residents are living below the poverty line in Seattle.

Didn’t Receive a High School Diploma

7.5%
200,530 adults living in Seattle did not receive a high school diploma.

Receives Public Assistance

19.4%
161,004 residents receive public assistance in Seattle.

Racial Distribution

White 64.0%
Latinx/Hispanic 9.9%
Black 5.5%
Asian 13.2%

Median Household Income

$82,189

Data for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Metro Area

Income by Race

White $86,601
Latinx/Hispanic $60,835
Black $51,318
Asian $96,220

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.