21.9% of adults in Kentucky have low literacy

Kentucky ranks 37 out of 50 in the U.S.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latinx</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>State Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult High School Degree</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Income</td>
<td>$36,159</td>
<td>$49,836</td>
<td>$48,392</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Access to Healthcare</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents Below the Poverty Line</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ Households Where Limited English is Spoken</td>
<td>Over 30%</td>
<td>Under 5%</td>
<td>Over 30%</td>
<td>Under 5%</td>
<td>Over 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

5.5%

36,599 adults living in Louisville are unemployed.

Residents Below the Poverty Line

11.4%

110,378 residents are living below the poverty line in Louisville.

Receives Public Assistance

24.4%

71,335 residents receive public assistance in Louisville.

Median Household Income

$56,638

Income by Race

White $61,840
Latinx/Hispanic $46,837
Black $35,137
Asian $67,949

Data for the Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Area

Adults who lack proficiency in literacy are defined as those who score level 2 or below on the PIAAC (Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies). Grade level equivalents are estimated, as the PIAAC proficiency levels do not specifically correspond to K-12 grade levels. For more information, visit https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/litproficiencylevel.asp. Fourth grade reading scores come from the NAEP reading assessment. Fourth 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.