29.1% of adults in New Mexico have low literacy.

New Mexico ranks 50 out of 50 in the U.S.

7 in 9 counties in New Mexico have populations where 25% or more of the residents have below basic literacy.

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**
  - Low literacy counties: 8.1%
  - Other counties: 5.5%
  - State: 7.2%
  - In low literacy counties: $37,293
  - In other counties: $50,582
  - In state: $48,059

- **Adults Without a High School Degree**
  - 17.7%
  - White: 10.5%
  - Hispanic/Latinx: 14.7%
  - State average: 14.7%

- **No Access to Healthcare**
  - 11.9%
  - White: 11.6%
  - Hispanic/Latinx: 10.7%
  - State average: 10.7%

- **Residents Below the Poverty Line**
  - 22.3%
  - White: 15.4%
  - Hispanic/Latinx: 17.5%

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: 30%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 51%
- State average: 47%
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.
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.

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:
- Low literacy counties: 5.9%
- Other counties: 5.3%
- State: 5.4%

Median Income:
- Low literacy counties: $47,804
- Other counties: $52,326
- State: $59,570

Adults Without a High School Degree:
- Low literacy counties: 22.3%
- Other counties: 14.0%
- State: 16.8%

No Access to Healthcare:
- Low literacy counties: 19.3%
- Other counties: 15.7%
- State: 17.4%

Residents Below the Poverty Line:
- Low literacy counties: 17.4%
- Other counties: 14.1%
- State: 13.1%

Demographics:
- White: 22%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 48%
- Black/African American: 52%
- Asian: 12%
- State Average: 39%

Households Where Limited English is Spoken:
The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."
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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
5.8%
199,229 adults living in Houston are unemployed.

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

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

Median Household Income
$65,381

Income by Race

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

- **White**
- **Latinx**
- **Asian**
- **Black**

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

- **Male**
- **Female**

### 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.

### Racial Distribution

- **White** 46.9%
- **Latinx/Hispanic** 28.6%
- **Black** 15.2%
- **Asian** 6.6%

### 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