

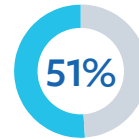
US Adult Literacy Facts

US Facts

48
Million

Approximately 48 million adults in the United States cannot read above a third-grade level.¹

Member Services



51% of ProLiteracy member programs put students on a waiting list due to demand exceeding program capacity.²



29% of adult basic literacy students enter a program reading at or below a third-grade level.²

The Cost of Low Literacy

\$2.2
Trillion

Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.³

\$106-238
Billion

It is estimated between \$106-\$238 billion in health care costs a year are linked to low adult literacy skills.⁴

English Language Learners

50.6
Million

The US has the world's largest immigrant population. Immigrants comprise 15% of the US population.⁶

53%
Proficient

Among immigrants only half (53%) are proficient English speakers.⁷

3X
The Earnings

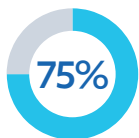
Workers who have less education than a high school diploma have the lowest median weekly earnings (\$592), three times less than the highest level of education.⁵



One-in-Six

The US immigrant population is projected to grow to 69 million by 2060, or to about one in six people living in the US.⁸

Incarceration



75% of state incarcerated individuals did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.¹⁰



Incarcerated individuals who participate in correctional education programs are **43% less likely to recidivate** than inmates who do not.¹¹

Family Literacy



A mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.⁹

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