

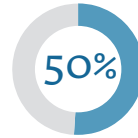
U.S. Adult Literacy Facts

U.S. Facts

43
Million

More than 43 million adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level.¹

Member Services



50% of ProLiteracy member programs put students on a waiting list due to demand exceeding program capacity.²



Less than 10% of adults in need are receiving services.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

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

English Language Learners



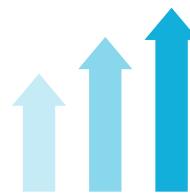
One-in-Five

The U.S. has the world's largest immigrant population, holding one-in-five of the world's immigrants.⁶

53%

Proficient

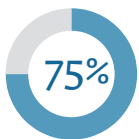
Among immigrants only half (53%) are proficient English speakers.⁷



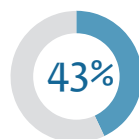
103 MILLION

By 2065, immigrants and their descendants are projected to increase the U.S. population by 103 million people.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



ProLiteracy®

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