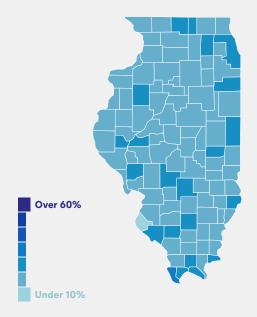
20.4%

of adults in Illinois have low literacy

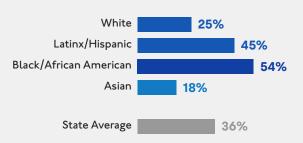
Illinois ranks 31 out of 50 in the U.S.

2 in 9

counties in Illinois have populations where 20% or more of the residents have below basic literacy



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



How does low literacy affect equity and quality of life?

In counties where at least 20% of the population have below basic literacy, we see that many health, economic, and educational outcomes fall short.

Unemployment

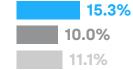
7.5% low literacy counties 6.2% other counties



Median Income



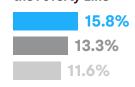
Adults Without a High School Degree



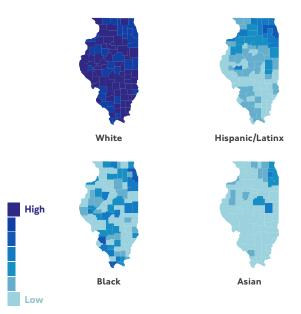
No Access to Healthcare



Residents Below the Poverty Line

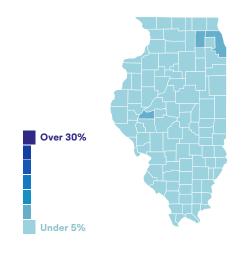


Demographics



Households Where Limited English is Spoken

The percentage of households where no adult speaks English "very well."

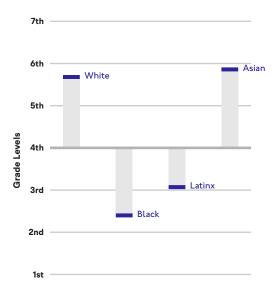




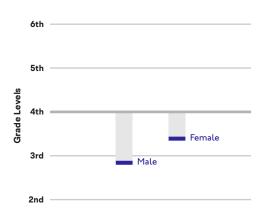
4th Grade Reading Levels

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



English/Language Arts Test Performance by Gender



Unemployment

6.7%

339,651 adults living in Chicago are unemployed.

Residents Below the Poverty Line

10.9%

783,435 residents are living below the poverty line in Chicago.

Receives Public Assistance

25.8%

571,389 residents receive public assistance in Chicago.

Median Household Income

\$68,715

Single Mother Households

13%

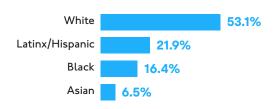
452,643 households in Chicago are single mother households.

Didn't Receive a High School Diploma

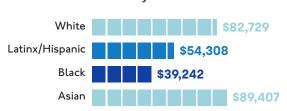
11.7%

753,077 adults living in Chicago did not receive a high school diploma.

Racial Distribution



Income by Race



Data for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin 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.