## **US Adult Skills Facts**



# 59 million adults have literacy skills at or below Level 1—the lowest level.

They can understand very short, simple sentences, like determining from a job listing if the work is during the day or night or locating a phone number on a sign.



NUMERACY

## 72 million adults have numeracy skills at or below the lowest level.

They can use basic mathematical concepts and solve single-step problems, like comparing dates on food products to determine which was packed first or using simple math to determine the number of items in a box.



# **68** million adults have problem-solving skills at the lowest levels.

They can understand single-step problems and situations with few variables and no irrelevant information, like using an interactive map to set a route to arrive by a planned time.

### Why it Matters

Low literacy costs the US economy over \$300 billion **\$300** billion **Low literacy costs the US economy on** in lost earnings, lower workplace product crime, and more government assistance. in lost earnings, lower workplace productivity, higher

**Employers** in 4 surveyed industries that rely on low-skilled jobs see the impact of adult low literacy.



say employees in their organization have low literacy skills.

in revenue is lost due to employees' low literacy skills.

Reaching Level 3 proficiency in literacy and numeracy improves a person's economic, social, and educational outcomes.



of people who live in poverty read at a Level 2 or below.

#### Those with skills at or below Level 1 are over



# **215** billion

in health care costs are linked to low literacy.

- ER visits
- Office calls
- Prescription drugs

#### Those with low health literacy spend



on prescriptions compared to \$910/year for those with above basic health literacy skills.

#### Children born to parents with low literacy skills

are likely to have low skills themselves, perpetuating poverty and other socioeconomic issues related to low literacy.

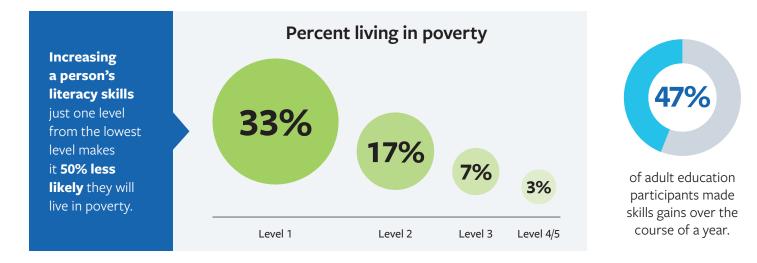


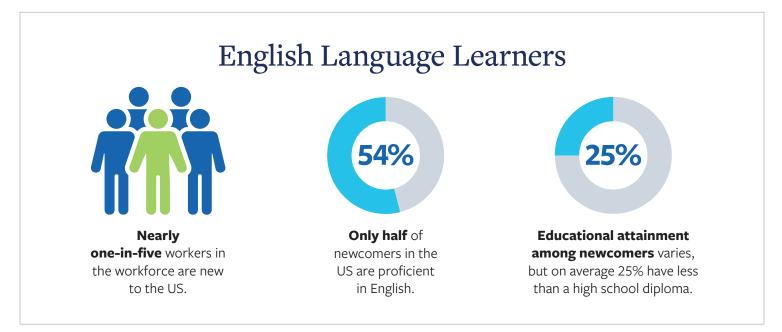


### A mother's reading skill is

the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.

### Adult Education Works







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