



# ProLiteracy®

## U.S. ADULT LITERACY FACTS

### U.S. FACTS



adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third grade level.



of programs are struggling with long student waiting lists, and **less than 10 percent** of adults in need are receiving services.

### UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKFORCE

Low literacy costs the U.S.



or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.<sup>3</sup>

### FAMILY LITERACY

Children whose parents have low literacy levels have a



chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out.<sup>1</sup>

### POVERTY



of adults with the lowest literacy levels live in poverty.<sup>4</sup>

### EDUCATION



**ONE IN SIX**

young adults—**more than 1.2 million**—drop out of high school every year.<sup>4</sup>

### HEALTH LITERACY



a year in health care costs is linked to low adult literacy skills.<sup>2</sup>

### ELL(English Language Learners)

2 million immigrants come to the U.S. each year, and about



of them lack high school education and proficient English language skills.<sup>7</sup>

### CORRECTIONS



of state prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.<sup>6</sup>

\*Sources: 1 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)  
2 American Journal of Public Health  
3 National Council for Adult Learning

4 National Center for Education Statistics  
5 U.S. Department of Justice

6 Rand Report: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Correctional Education  
7 Center for Immigration Studies