



NATIONAL AND STATE ADULT LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy and the state assessment were last conducted in 1992 and remain the primary sources for literacy data and statistics. The 2003 NAAL will provide the first assessment of the nation's progress in adult literacy since 1992. In addition to describing the status and progress of literacy in the nation, the 2003 NAAL will provide information about background factors associated with literacy, the skill levels of the least-literate adults, and the application of literacy skills to health-related materials. A release date sometime in 2004 is anticipated.

NAAL defines literacy as: using printed and written information to function in society; to achieve one's goals; and to develop one's knowledge and potential. NAAL focuses on a broad range of tasks which adults perform in order to function at work, at home, and in the community.

NAAL measures literacy along three dimensions: prose literacy, document literacy, and quantitative literacy. Its literacy scales are divided into five levels that reflect the progression of information-processing skills and strategies from simple to complex along the three dimensions.

Some examples of tasks a person would be required to do at the different levels of the three dimensions:

Prose Literacy Levels

- 📖 Level 1 – Read a short passage of text and locate a single piece of information that is identical to or synonymous with the information given in the question.
- 📖 Level 2 – Locate a single piece of information in the text, compare and contrast easily identifiable information based on criteria provided in the question.
- 📖 Level 3 – Match literal or synonymous information in the text with that requested in the question.
- 📖 Level 4 – Search through a text and match multiple features, integrate multiple pieces of information from complex or lengthy passages.
- 📖 Level 5 – Search through dense text to compare and contrast complex information or generate new information making high-level inferences.

Document Literacy Levels

- 📖 Level 1 - Locate information based on a literal match to the question or to enter information from personal knowledge into a document.
- 📖 Level 2 – Match or integrate a piece of information either when several distracters are present or when low-level inference is required.
- 📖 Level 3 – Integrate multiple pieces of information from one or more documents.
- 📖 Level 4 - Perform multiple-feature matches, cycle through documents, and integrate information.
- 📖 Level 5 – Make high-level text-based inferences and use specialized knowledge.

Quantitative Literacy Levels

- 📖 Level 1 – Perform single, relatively simple arithmetic operations, such as addition,
📖 When the question included the numbers to be used and the arithmetic operation to be performed.
- 📖 Level 2 – Locate numbers by matching the required information with that given; infer the arithmetic operation required.
- 📖 Level 3 – Perform arithmetic operations on two or more numbers, or solve a problem, when the numbers must be located in the text or document.
- 📖 Level 4 – Perform two or more sequential arithmetic operations; infer the operations from semantic information given or drawn from prior knowledge.
- 📖 Level 5 – Extract features of a problem from text; quantities or operations needed require background knowledge.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics.

Level One Literacy Percentages, By County

SOURCE: Florida Adult Literacy Survey, 1992

An "*" indicates a synthetic estimate. Use with caution.

County	Adults functioning at lowest level of literacy
Alachua County	19%
Baker County	23%
Bay County	20%
Bradford County	29%
Brevard County	18%
Broward County	22%
Calhoun County	29%
Charlotte County	23%
Citrus County	24%
Clay County	14%
Collier County	20%
Columbia County	24%
Dade County	42%
DeSoto County	32%
Dixie County	29%
Duval County	21%
Escambia County	23%
Flagler County	22%
Franklin County	27%
* Gadsden County	40%
Gilchrist County	25%
Glades County	29%
Gulf County	26%
Hamilton County	35%
Hardee County	27%
Hendry County	31%
Hernando County	25%
Highlands County	27%
Hillsborough County	20%
Holmes County	24%
Indian River County	22%
Jackson County	31%
Jefferson County	33%
Lake County	24%
Lee County	20%
Leon County	18%
Levy County	27%
Madison County	36%
Manatee County	22%
Marion County	25%
Martin County	21%
Monroe County	18%
Nassau County	19%
Okaloosa County	16%
Okeechobee County	24%

Orange County	19%
Osceola County	18%
Palm Beach County	22%
Pasco County	24%
Pinellas County	20%
Polk County	22%
Putnam County	29%
Santa Rosa County	16%
Sarasota County	19%
Seminole County	14%
St. Johns County	17%
St. Lucie County	24%
Sumter County	29%
Suwannee County	27%
Taylor County	25%
Union County	29%
Volusia County	21%
Wakulla County	17%
Walton County	22%
Washington County	28%

Congressional District	Adults functioning at lowest level of literacy
District 1	20%
District 2	24%
* District 3	37%
District 4	15%
District 5	23%
District 6	20%
District 7	16%
District 8	15%
District 9	17%
District 10	21%
District 11	22%
District 12	24%
District 13	21%
District 14	20%
District 15	19%
District 16	18%
* District 17	49%
* District 18	45%
District 19	18%
District 20	17%
* District 21	39%
District 22	22%
District 23	39%

Municipalities	Adults functioning at lowest level of literacy
Altamonte Springs city	12%
Apopka city	19%
Atlantic Beach city	17%
Aventura CDP	22%
Bartow city	29%
* Bayonet Point CDP	27%
Bayshore Gardens CDP	19%
Bellair-Meadowbrook Terrace CDP	11%
* Belle Glade city	53%
Bellview CDP	14%
Bloomington CDP	9%
Boca Del Mar CDP	13%
Boca Raton city	16%
Bonita Springs CDP	19%
Boynton Beach city	28%
Bradenton city	25%
Brandon CDP	11%
Brent CDP	23%
* Brownsville CDP	58%
Buena Ventura Lakes CDP	23%
Callaway city	15%
* Cape Coral city	16%
Carrollwood Village CDP	10%
Casselberry city	14%
Clearwater city	19%
Cocoa city	25%
Coconut Creek city	18%
Conway CDP	11%
Cooper City	10%
Coral Gables city	18%
Coral Springs city	10%
* Coral Terrace CDP	50%
Cutler CDP	13%
Cutler Ridge CDP	17%
Cypress Lake CDP	16%
Dania city	34%
Davie town	13%
Daytona Beach city	28%
De Land city	26%
Deerfield Beach city	27%
Dunedin city	18%
East Naples CDP	20%
Edgewater city	19%
Egypt Lake CDP	15%
Elfers CDP	27%
* Englewood CDP	24%
Ensley CDP	24%
Eustis city	27%
Fairview Shores CDP	17%
Ferry Pass CDP	16%

Florida Ridge CDP	19%
Forest City CDP	16%
Fort Lauderdale city	28%
Fort Myers city	29%
Fort Pierce city	39%
Fort Walton Beach city	16%
Gainesville city	20%
* Gladeview CDP	62%
Glenvar Heights CDP	19%
Golden Gate CDP	11%
Goldenrod CDP	10%
Greater Northdale CDP	9%
Greenacres City City	16%
Gulf Gate Estates CDP	18%
Gulfport city	23%
Haines City	36%
Hallandale city	32%
Hammocks CDP	17%
* Hamptons at Boca Raton CDP	26%
* Hialeah city	59%
Highpoint CDP	13%
Hobe Sound CDP	21%
Holiday CDP	28%
Holly Hill city	22%
Hollywood city	22%
Homestead city	39%
* Immokalee CDP	52%
Ives Estates CDP	16%
Jacksonville Beach city	14%
Jacksonville city	21%
Jacksonville city (remainder)	22%
Jasmine Estates CDP	26%
Jupiter town	12%
Kendale Lakes CDP	29%
Kendall CDP	18%
Key Largo CDP	18%
Key West city	19%
Kings Point CDP	32%
Kissimmee city	17%
Lake City	33%
Lake Magdalene CDP	13%
Lake Worth city	30%
Lakeland city	24%
Lakeside CDP	10%
Largo city	19%
Lauderdale Lakes city	37%
Lauderhill city	29%
Lealman CDP	23%
Leesburg city	30%
Lehigh Acres CDP	24%
Leisure City CDP	34%
Lighthouse Point city	17%
Lindgren Acres CDP	16%
Lockhart CDEP	16%
Longwood city	14%

Municipalities	Adults functioning at lowest level of literacy
Lutz CDP	9%
Margate city	21%
Melbourne city	18%
Merritt Island CDP	15%
Miami Beach city	41%
* Miami city	63%
Miami Lakes CDP	16%
Miami Shores village	24%
Miami Springs city	25%
Miramar city	19%
Myrtle Grove CDP	17%
* Naples city	22%
New Port Richey city	23%
New Smyrna Beach city	24%
Niceville city	13%
* Norland CDP	37%
North Fort Myers CDP	22%
North Lauderdale city	17%
North Miami Beach city	33%
North Miami city	36%
North Naples	15%
North Palm Beach village	16%
North Port city	24%
Oak Ridge CDP	23%
Oakland Park city	20%
Ocala city	27%
Ocoee city	13%
Ojus CDP	23%
* Opalocka city	57%
Orlando city	23%
Ormond Beach city	18%
Oviedo city	13%
Palatka city	39%
Palm Bay city	16%
Palm Beach Gardens city	11%
Palm Coast CDP	22%
Palm Harbor CDP	15%
Palm River-Clair Mel CDP	29%
Palmetto Estates CDP	27%
Panama City	26%
Pembroke Pines city	16%
Pensacola city	27%
Perrine CDP	35%
Pine Hills CEDP	20%
Pinellas Park city	17%
* Pinewood CDP	60%
Plant City	25%
Plantation city	14%
Pompano Beach city	31%
Pompano Beach Highlands CDP	26%

Port Charlotte	23%
Port Orange city	16%
Port St. Lucie city	16%
* Punta Gorda city	25%
* Riviera Beach city	41%
Rockledge city	17%
Royal Palm Beach village	15%
Safety Harbor city	13%
San Carlos Park CDP	11%
Sandalfoot Cove CDP	16%
Sanford city	25%
Sarasota city	23%
Sarasota Springs CDP	14%
* Scott Lake CDP	43%
Sebastian city	19%
South Bradenton CDP	21%
South Daytona city	17%
South Miami city	28%
South Miami Heights CDP	40%
South Patrick Shores CDP	16%
South Venice CDP	17%
Spring Hill CDP	25%
St. Augustine city	23%
St. Cloud city	18%
St. Petersburg city	24%
Stuart city	25%
* Sunny Isles CDP	32%
Sunrise city	19%
Sunset CDP	27%
* Sweetwater city	59%
Tallahassee city	21%
Tamarac city	24%
Tamiami city	24%
Tampa city	28%
Tarpon Springs city	23%
Temple Terrace city	11%
Titusville city	18%
Town 'n' Country CDP	16%
University West CDP	24%
* Venice city	26%
Vero Beach city	20%
Vero Beach South CDP	15%
Warrington CDP	25%
Wekiva Springs CDP	9%
Wellington CDP	11%
* West Little River CDP	58%
West Palm Beach city	32%
West Park CDP	29%
West Pensacola CDP	28%
* Westchester CDP	47%
Westwood Lakes CDP	38%
Wilton Manors city	16%
Winter Haven city	28%
Winter Park city	18%
Winter Springs city	10%
Wright CDP	15%

