



## Over Thirty Percent of New York City Adults Fall Below Basic Literacy Levels

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), 22% of all New Yorkers are *below basic*\* prose literacy skills. In New York City, 33% are of all adults fall below basic literacy skill levels.

The following chart breaks down the percentage of adults below the basic literacy level for each borough of New York City.

<b>County</b>	<b>Percent of Adults Below the Basic Literacy Level</b>
Richmond	14%
Manhattan	25%
Kings	37%
Bronx	41%
Queens	46%
<b><i>Average</i></b>	<b>33%</b>

For more information on these statistics and for a further breakdown of literacy levels throughout New York State, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/StateEstimates.aspx#f2>

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\*According to NCES; Adults in the *Below Basic* group and those not able to take the assessment because of a language barrier are classified as lacking *Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS)*. The percentage of those who lack *BPLS* reflects the magnitude of the adult household population at the lowest level of English literacy. The literacy of adults who lack *BPLS* ranges from being unable to read and understand any written information to being able only to locate easily identifiable information in short, commonplace prose text in English, but nothing more advanced. For the indirect estimates, adults who were not able to take the assessment because of a language barrier are included.