



Certified Literate Community Program of Georgia

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

- 75% of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties.
- 75% of all food stamp recipients perform in the two lowest levels of literacy.
- In 2003, 43% of adults with the lowest levels of literacy skills were living in poverty, compared to only 4% of those with the highest level of literacy skills.
- 24% of patients with low literacy skills do not know how to take medication 4 times a day.
- According to the AMA, individuals with low health literacy incur medical expenses up to 4 times greater than patients with adequate literacy skills
- 50% of adults without a high school diploma are learning disabled.
- Children's literacy levels are strongly linked to the educational levels of their parents, especially the mother.
- Adults with lower literacy skills are less likely to read to their children. Children who have not already developed basic literacy practices when they enter school are 3 to 4 times more likely to drop out of school.
- Parents who improve their education, either by obtaining a GED or high school diploma, have children who show improvement in school and are more likely to stay in school.
- Low literacy skills have a direct impact on crime, recidivism, poverty, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse.
- 85% of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- 7 in 10 prisoners perform in the two lowest levels of literacy.
- Low literacy and low educational attainment are highly correlated with higher crime rates. Probationers who receive literacy training have significantly lower re-arrest rates than those who don't receive training.
- The greatest barrier to economic development and growth is the absence of a literate workforce.
- More than 60% of front line workers in goods-producing industries have difficulty applying information from a text to a required task.
- Removing language barriers can reduce time per task by 30%.
- Increasing the educational level of workers in an establishment by one year is associated with an 8.6% increase in output for all industries and 11% for the non-manufacturing sector.
- US business and industry leaders estimate spending an average of \$600 million per year on remedial reading, writing and math skills for employees – offered within their companies' structures.
- The US military spends (on average) \$70 million annually for basic skills remediation for new recruits.
- Literacy problems in the southeast alone cost nearly \$57.2 billion annually; in Georgia, it is \$2.1 billion annually.
- Workers aged 18 and over with a bachelor's degree today earn an average of \$51,206 a year, while those with a high school diploma earn \$27,915 and those without a high school diploma average \$18,734.
- The current unemployment rate for individuals who have not completed high school is much higher (8.5%) than the rate for individuals with a four year degree or higher.
- Public schools produce only 2% of the workforce annually. The current workforce and immigrants are the majority of the available workforce. Employers need adult education to ensure that basic skills and English literacy skills match the jobs.
- In the 21st century, 60% of all jobs will require skills that only 20% of the current workforce has.

(over)

- For every \$1 invested in adult literacy, \$33 is returned to the community.
- Nationally, fewer than 10% of adults who could benefit from literacy programs are currently being served by state and federally funded programs.
- Over 1 million Georgia residents 18 and older do not have a high school diploma. Approximately 40% of those individuals have less than a 9th grade education.

What is the solution?

- We are. Low literacy affects everyone. Make a positive effect in your community. Everyone can and should do more to address our nation's literacy needs.
- Create literacy community/business awareness. Support literacy programs in your workplace, church, civic group or neighborhood. Such programs build a more versatile and educated workforce along with stronger community ties.
- Volunteer your time and talents. Not everyone needs to teach. Many literacy groups are small and depend on volunteers to market classes, keep books, organize events and more.
- Support those who want to be a student. If someone you know wants to participate in a literacy program, offer assistance with child care or transportation. Child care and transportation are the two most common barriers for adult learners.
- If not your time, then donate money.
- Get involved with a Certified Literate Community Program. In its implementation, CLCP has shown that communities can influence citizens to improve their individual lives while making their communities better places to work and live.

CLCPs are about:

- Economic development
- Workplace skills
- Parents able to help children with homework
- Adults able to understand and follow directions for medicine for themselves and their children
- Individuals able to read a map or road sign
- Immigrants acquiring English language skills
- Anyone acquiring computer skills
- Lifelong learning and acquiring a new skill at any point in life

Sources: The Conference Board; U.S. Census; U.S. Department of Labor; National Institute for Literacy; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; National Bureau of Economics, ProLiteracy Worldwide, National Council of State Directors of Education, American Medical Association; National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2003; Kirsch et al (1993) Adult Literacy in America