

Adult Literacy and Numeracy Snapshot

IOWA



U.S. PIAAC Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy

The Skills Map provides the most comprehensive snapshot of key workforce skills in every state and county in the United States. Users can easily access information about the literacy and numeracy proficiency of adults aged 16-74 and compare performance between individual states and counties. Results are reported as the state or county average score on a scale of 0-500 and as the percentage of adults at the lowest levels of proficiency (at or below Level 1), medium proficiency (at Level 2), and the highest levels of proficiency (at or above Level 3).

The data in the tool are generated by a technique called small area estimation. The statistical models used to calculate the state and county estimates relied on combined data from the 2012, 2014, and 2017 Program of the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) in conjunction with 2013-2017 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to produce reliable estimates. The estimates are predictions of how the adults in a given state or county would have performed had they taken the PIAAC assessments. For more information on the tool, please visit the PIAAC State and County Estimates page: nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/state-county-estimates.asp

Literacy

Average scale score:

National

264

Iowa

273

↑ (above national average)

Iowa proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1
(Below 226)

15%

Level 2
(226-275)

34%

At or above Level 3
(Above 275)

51%

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

States sorted by average literacy scale score:

New Hampshire	279	Connecticut	271	Oklahoma	263
Minnesota	279	Kansas	271	South Carolina	263
Vermont	277	South Dakota	271	Arizona	262
District of Columbia	277	Michigan	271	Kentucky	261
Alaska	277	Hawaii	270	Georgia	260
North Dakota	276	Virginia	270	Tennessee	260
Washington	275	Idaho	270	West Virginia	260
Utah	274	Ohio	268	New York	260
Iowa	273	Maryland	268	Florida	259
Oregon	273	Indiana	266	Alabama	259
Maine	273	Pennsylvania	266	Arkansas	259
Wisconsin	273	Rhode Island	266	California	257
Massachusetts	273	Missouri	266	Nevada	255
Montana	273	Illinois	266	Texas	254
Wyoming	272	North Carolina	265	Mississippi	252
Colorado	272	New Jersey	264	New Mexico	252
Nebraska	271	Delaware	264	Louisiana	252

Counties sorted by average literacy scale score:

Dallas	290	Cherokee	270	Wapello	263
Story	286	Worth	270	Allamakee	262
Johnson	285	Buchanan	270	Wayne	262
Dickinson	282	Ringgold	270	Woodbury	262
Warren	281	Black Hawk	269	Clarke	261
Grundy	280	Humboldt	269	Monroe	260
Linn	280	Clinton	269	Marshall	260
Bremer	279	Mahaska	269	Decatur	259
Jefferson	278	Iowa	269	Louisa	258
Polk	278	Page	269	Buena Vista	255
Palo Alto	278	Henry	269	Crawford	250
Winneshiek	277	Union	269		
Cedar	276	Poweshiek	269		
Madison	275	Jasper	269		
Benton	275	Pocahontas	269		
Boone	275	Webster	269		
Cerro Gordo	275	Pottawattamie	269		
Kossuth	275	Lucas	268		
Hamilton	275	Appanoose	268		
Clay	275	Keokuk	268		
Marion	274	Delaware	268		
Plymouth	273	Jones	268		
Hardin	273	Emmet	268		
Dubuque	273	Washington	268		
Scott	273	Wright	268		
Mills	272	Adair	267		
Adams	272	Montgomery	267		
Ida	272	Jackson	267		
Hancock	272	Monona	267		
Fremont	272	Taylor	267		
Winnebago	272	Fayette	267		
Carroll	272	Chickasaw	266		
O'Brien	272	Audubon	266		
Harrison	272	Mitchell	266		
Greene	271	Lee	265		
Shelby	271	Clayton	265		
Floyd	271	Tama	265		
Lyon	271	Cass	265		
Sioux	271	Van Buren	264		
Butler	271	Franklin	264		
Des Moines	271	Howard	264		
Calhoun	271	Muscatine	264		
Guthrie	270	Osceola	264		
Sac	270	Davis	263		

Numeracy

Average scale score:

National
249Iowa
261
↑ (above national average)

Iowa proficiency level results:

At or below Level 1
(Below 226)
23%Level 2
(226-275)
36%At or above Level 3
(Above 275)
41%*Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.*

States sorted by average numeracy scale score:

New Hampshire	268	South Dakota	259	Arizona	247
Minnesota	268	Hawaii	259	Oklahoma	247
Vermont	265	Kansas	258	Kentucky	247
North Dakota	264	Connecticut	258	South Carolina	246
Alaska	264	Virginia	257	New York	245
Washington	262	Idaho	256	West Virginia	245
Utah	262	Michigan	256	Tennessee	245
Iowa	261	Maryland	255	California	244
Massachusetts	261	Ohio	254	Georgia	243
Oregon	260	Rhode Island	253	Florida	243
Maine	260	Pennsylvania	252	Arkansas	243
Montana	260	Missouri	252	Alabama	242
District of Columbia	260	Illinois	252	Nevada	240
Colorado	260	Indiana	252	Texas	238
Wyoming	260	New Jersey	250	New Mexico	235
Nebraska	259	North Carolina	249	Mississippi	234
Wisconsin	259	Delaware	249	Louisiana	233

Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score:

Dallas	281	Hamilton	263	Ida	259
Story	273	Cerro Gordo	263	Fremont	259
Johnson	272	Kossuth	262	Harrison	259
Dickinson	271	Clay	262	O'Brien	259
Warren	271	Marion	262	Greene	259
Grundy	270	Hardin	262	Adams	259
Linn	269	Plymouth	262	Butler	259
Bremer	268	Lyon	261	Floyd	258
Palo Alto	267	Dubuque	261	Guthrie	258
Polk	266	Mills	260	Sac	258
Winneshiek	266	Sioux	260	Worth	258
Cedar	265	Scott	260	Cherokee	258
Jefferson	265	Winnebago	260	Des Moines	257
Benton	264	Shelby	260	Buchanan	257
Madison	264	Hancock	260	Calhoun	257
Boone	263	Carroll	259	Ringgold	257

Counties sorted by average numeracy scale score (continued):

Iowa	257	Wayne	247
Humboldt	256	Monroe	246
Page	256	Louisa	246
Pottawattamie	256	Clarke	246
Clinton	256	Decatur	244
Henry	256	Buena Vista	242
Mahaska	256	Crawford	235
Poweshiek	256		
Delaware	256		
Jasper	256		
Lucas	256		
Black Hawk	256		
Jones	255		
Union	255		
Keokuk	255		
Washington	255		
Pocahontas	255		
Emmet	255		
Wright	255		
Appanoose	255		
Webster	255		
Chickasaw	254		
Mitchell	254		
Adair	254		
Jackson	254		
Fayette	254		
Taylor	253		
Audubon	253		
Monona	253		
Montgomery	253		
Muscatine	252		
Clayton	252		
Tama	251		
Howard	251		
Cass	251		
Van Buren	251		
Osceola	251		
Franklin	250		
Lee	250		
Allamakee	250		
Davis	249		
Woodbury	248		
Wapello	248		
Marshall	247		