

The Cost of Illiteracy

Nearly 800 million people lack basic reading and writing skills.¹ The cost of illiteracy doesn't just impact these individuals—it also impacts their families and the societies in which they live.

Global Cost of Illiteracy: \$1.19 Trillion

Social and Economic Terms: health, crime, welfare, lost earnings, lost business productivity and other societal problems.²

U.S.	China	India	Brazil	Australia
\$300.8 billion	\$135.6 billion	\$53.6 billion	\$27.4 billion	\$18.4 billion

Personal Cost of Illiteracy:

People with poor literacy skills are more than **2x** as likely to be unemployed.³

Illiterate workers earn **30–42% less** than their literate counterparts.⁴

43% of Americans with low literacy skills live in poverty.⁵

Individuals with **lower proficiency in literacy** are more likely than those with better literacy skills to report **poor health**.⁶

60–80% of prisoners in various nations read and write below basic levels.⁷

Take Action. #800Mil2Nil | literacyworldwide.org/takeaction