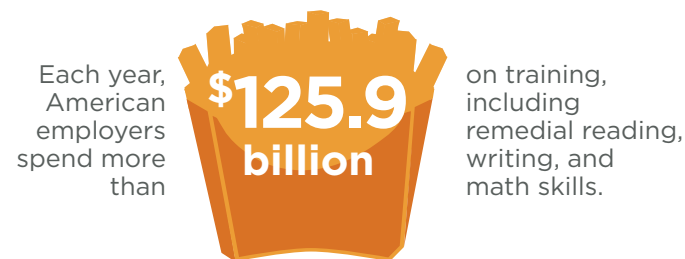


THE IMPACT OF ADULT LITERACY ON...

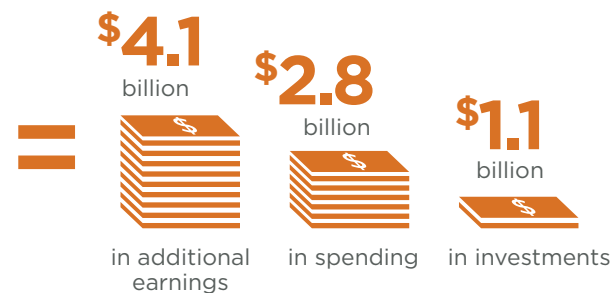
...WORKFORCE



That's roughly the same amount Americans spend on takeout food or fast food.



If half of the dropouts from the class of 2008 had graduated

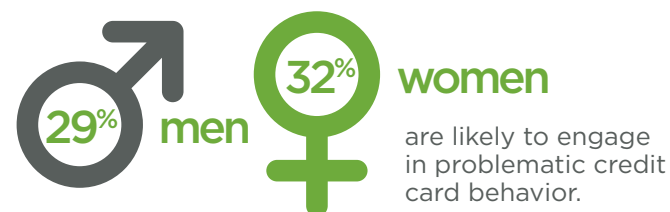


The additional spending and investments would have created

30,000 NEW JOBS

...FINANCES

Among people with low levels of financial literacy,



...HEALTH

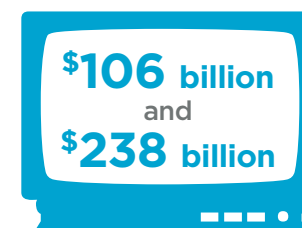
Adults with low health literacy go to the emergency room more often

than adults with higher health literacy skills.



They are also less likely to get flu shots, more likely to delay or forgo mammograms, and are more likely to suffer from heart failure.

One source estimates the annual cost of low health literacy in the U.S. at between



That's roughly the same amount American corporations spend on advertising in one year.

Adult Literacy and Basic Education

THE FACTS



adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third grade level.

Read on to understand how low adult literacy is affecting every facet of our life, and how much we can change by working to address this issue to ensure literacy is for everyone.

ABOUT PROLITERACY

ProLiteracy is the largest adult literacy and basic education membership organization in the nation. It works with adult new readers and learners and with local and national organizations to help adults gain the reading, writing, math, computer, and English skills they need to be successful. ProLiteracy advocates on behalf of adult learners and the programs that serve them, provides training and professional development, and publishes materials used in adult literacy and basic education instruction. ProLiteracy has 1,000 member programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and works with 50 nongovernmental organizations in 34 developing countries. For more information, visit ProLiteracy.org.

THE NEED

8.1 million adults dropped out of school before eighth grade.



That's more than **2x** the number of births every year in the United States.



1.5 million people with the lowest levels of literacy are incarcerated.



That's the equivalent of the entire population of the city of Philadelphia.



Since **1983** more than **10 million** Americans reached the 12th grade without having learned to read at a basic level.

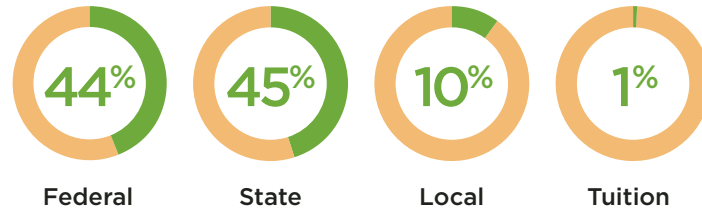
That's the total population of



combined.

FUNDING

Adult Education Public Funding Sources



Public funding for adult education and English language instruction has declined by **17%** from 2002 to 2012 when adjusted for inflation.

\$160 million

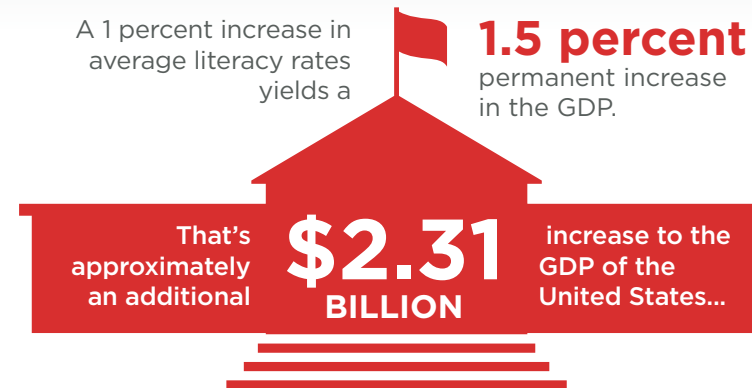
would provide approximately \$1,000 in funds to serve each of the reported



in the United States who are on waiting lists for adult education.

ECONOMICS

A 1 percent increase in average literacy rates yields a **1.5 percent** permanent increase in the GDP.

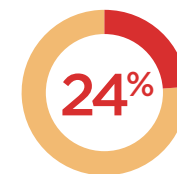


States that raise high school graduation rates experience significant declines in incarceration rates. A one percent increase in the high school completion rate of all men ages 20 to 60 would save the U.S. as much as **\$1.4 billion per year in reduced costs from crime.**

That's the same amount of money Americans spend on teeth whitening products each year.



Single mothers with a high school degree are



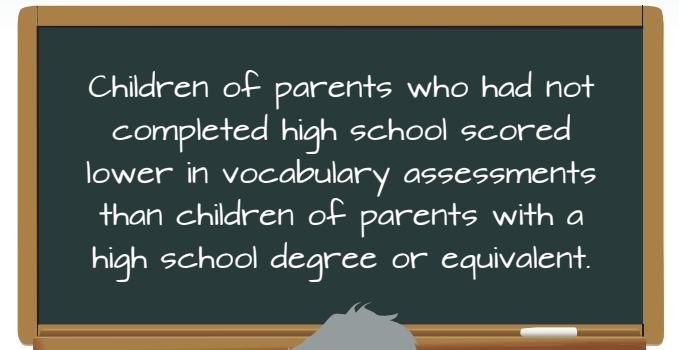
less likely to be on welfare than those who are high school dropouts.

Improved education results in potential savings in public assistance costs—welfare, food stamps, and public housing—

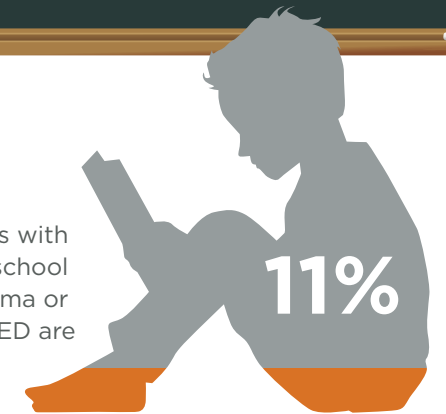


of between \$7.9 and \$10.8 billion

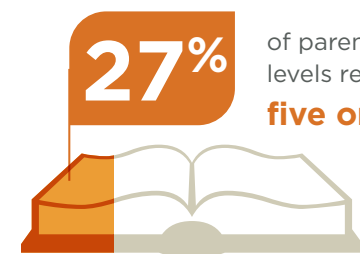
FAMILY LITERACY



Parents with a high school diploma or GED are



more likely to assist their children with homework.



27% of parents with below basic literacy levels report reading to their children **five or more times a week.**

A mother's level of reading skill is the greatest determinant of her child's academic success.

