In 2014, numeracy and literacy scores on an international survey of adult skills were significantly lower for incarcerated adults than for the general U.S. household adult population.

Incarcerated Adults in the United States: Skills, Education, and Work in Prison

Education in Prison

During their time in prison, 42% of incarcerated adults completed some education. 21% obtained a high school credential. Adults who wanted to enroll in an academic program scored significantly higher in numeracy and literacy than their peers who did not want to enroll.

Working in Prison

Those with a prison job scored significantly higher in literacy than their peers.

61% of incarcerated adults held a job in prison.

Numeracy and literacy scores were significantly higher for those who had participated in job training during their incarceration.