

LITERACY AND SENIORS

Seventeen percent of Florida's population was 65 and over in 2004.

SOURCE: U. S Census Bureau

Florida has more citizens aged 65 and over than any other state, except California. Among all states, Florida has by far the highest proportion of citizens who are 65 and over, and is projected to maintain that number-one ranking in the coming decades.

SOURCE: Change and Response to Change in Florida's Public Schools.

A study by Northwestern University showed that older people with inadequate health literacy had a 50 percent higher mortality rate during a five-year period than people with adequate reading skills. Low health literacy was the top predictor of mortality after smoking, also surpassing income and years of education, the study showed. Most of the difference in mortality among people with inadequate literacy was due to higher rates of death from cardiovascular disease.

SOURCE: Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, 2007.

Twenty six percent of adults 65 and older have below basic literacy skills compared to fifteen percent in the general population.

SOURCE: National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2003.