

ABOUT THIS REFERENCE BOOK

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Webster's Dictionary defines *statistics* as: numerical facts collected systematically and arranged. Data is defined as: a collection of information or statistics on a given subject.

We encounter data and statistics nearly every day. They provide us with a reference point in making our decisions. Through analysis, however simple, the data we analyze can have an impact on our actions. Data can evoke feelings of alarm, encouragement, puzzlement-- or can induce a call to action.

This book will assist you in providing reference points about literacy to others, some of whom may be hearing for the first time about issues specific to adult and family literacy. It also provides information showing the correlations that exist between literacy achievement and a whole range of social service and economic issues.

The Florida Literacy Coalition has compiled this data from a wide scope of studies and reports from within Florida and around the country. The book is organized by category of literacy service or need and the information cited in this book is also available online at www.floridaliteracy.org.

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We hope this book will be a useful resource as we work together to achieve a more literate Florida.

Best wishes,

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