



The U.S. PIAAC National Supplement and Prison Study

What is the U.S. PIAAC National Supplement?

The U.S. PIAAC National Supplement is an administration of the international adult literacy assessment PIAAC (the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies) to a sample of U.S. adults in late 2013 in order to supplement the U.S. PIAAC Main Study data collection that was administered in 2011. The National Supplement will increase the sample size of key U.S. subgroups of interest, including:

- » unemployed adults (ages 16–65),
- » young adults (ages 16–34), and
- » older adults (ages 66–74).

The National Supplement will survey a target population of 3,600 adults and use the same procedures, instruments, and assessments that were used for the PIAAC Main Study.

Purpose of the National Supplement

The PIAAC National Supplement will build upon the PIAAC Main Study and enhance the information available about the adult competencies and skills of subgroups of high interest to policymakers, businesses, and educators by allowing for more detailed analyses of these subgroups.

What is the U.S. PIAAC Prison Study?

The U.S. PIAAC Prison Study, to be conducted in early 2014, will extend the PIAAC study to incarcerated adults in the United States, a key subgroup of interest not covered by the main household study. The Prison Study will draw from a sample of 1,200 inmates aged 16 to 74 currently detained in state, federal, or private prisons in the United States.

Purpose of the Prison Study

Similar to the PIAAC Main Study, the Prison Study will include direct assessments of the literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving in technology rich environments skills of incarcerated adults, as well as a background questionnaire that is tailored to address the needs and experiences of incarcerated adults. The background questionnaire asks about activities in prison, such as participation in academic programs and ESL classes, experiences with prison jobs, and involvement in nonacademic programs such as employment readiness classes.

The PIAAC Prison Study report will provide a snapshot of the skills of incarcerated adults in comparison with those of the household population from the Main Study. The study's findings will provide insights into the relationships between skills, education, and job training, as well between skills and non-educational experiences in prison such as work assignments.