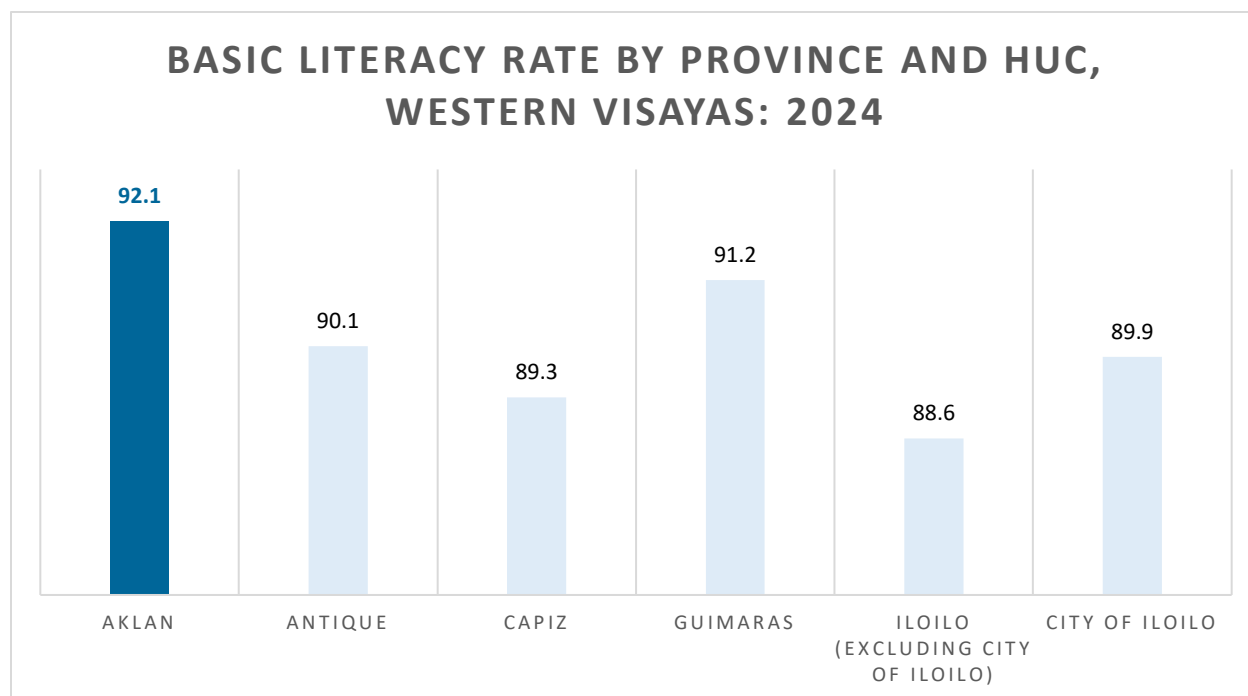


Special Release

Aklan with Highest Basic and Functional Literacy Rates in Western Visayas

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Aklan posts highest basic literacy rate in Western Visayas



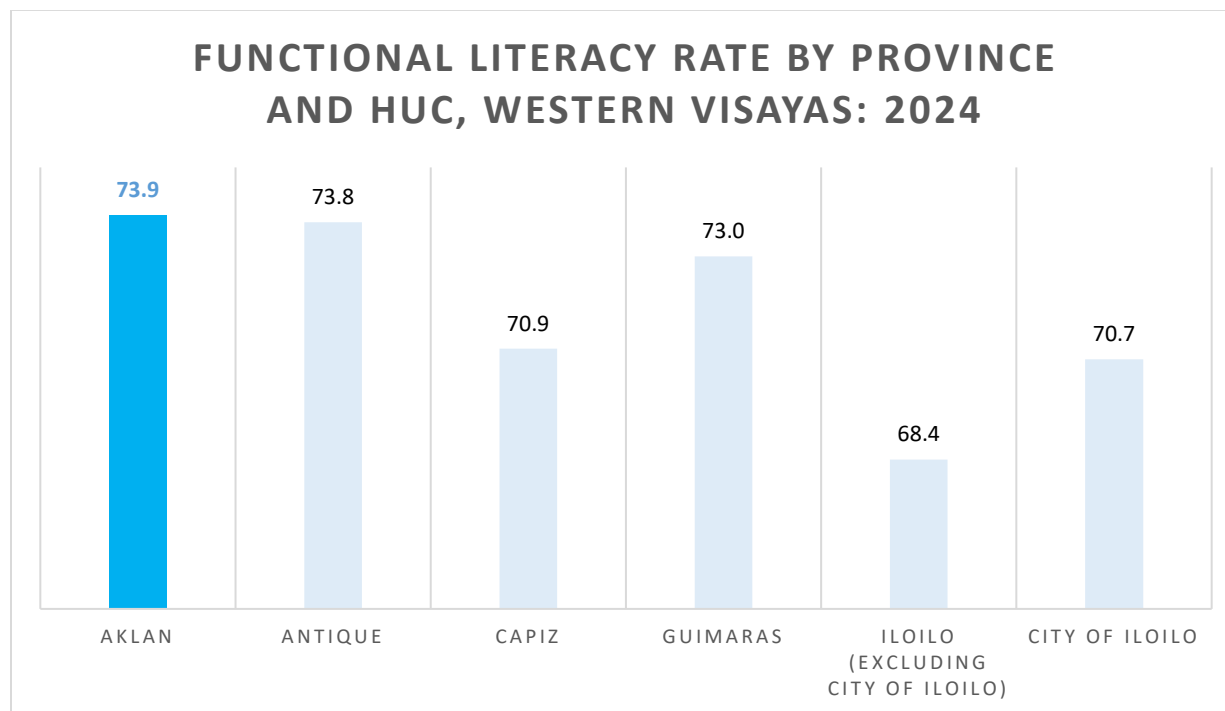
Aklan recorded the highest basic literacy rate among all provinces and highly urbanized cities in Western Visayas, reaching 92.1% among individuals aged 5 years and older, according to the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS). This means that roughly 9 in every 10 Aklanons—or about 522,000 people—can read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, and perform basic mathematical operations.

Following Aklan were Guimaras with 91.2 percent and Antique with 90.1 percent. Meanwhile, Iloilo Province (excluding Iloilo City) recorded the lowest basic literacy rate in the region at 88.6 percent, followed by Capiiz at 89.3 percent.

Conversely, around 28,000 individuals (5 percent) in this age group were found to be illiterate, while approximately 16,000 (2.9 percent) had low literacy, meaning they could only read and write without comprehension or numerical skills. Aklan also posted the lowest illiteracy and low literacy rates in the region.

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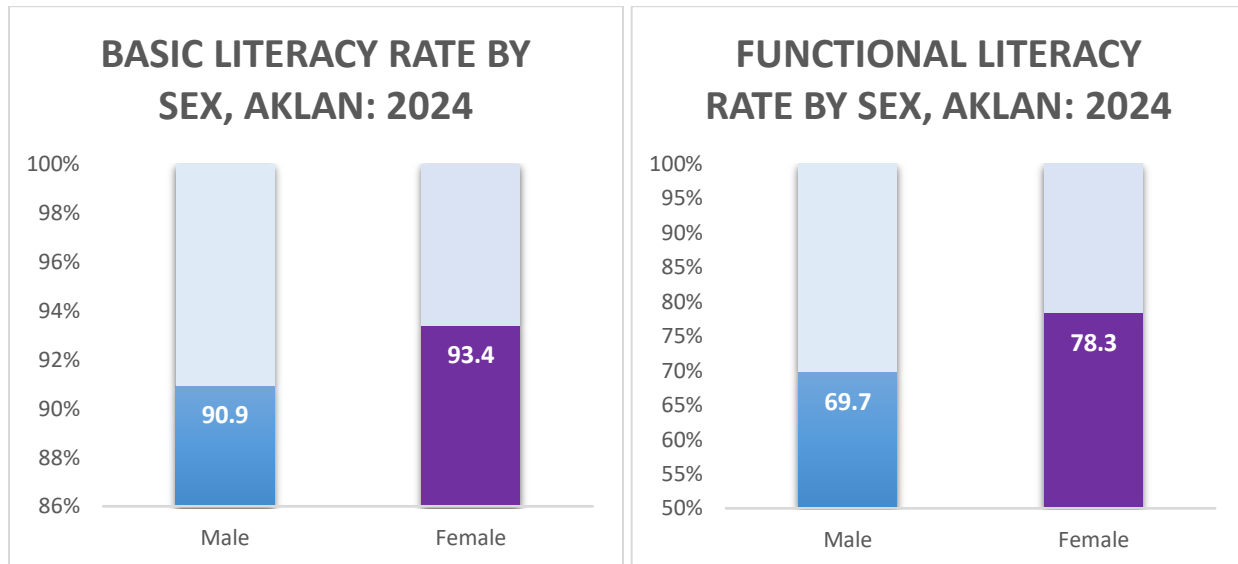
Aklan garners highest functional literacy rate in the region



Among individuals aged 10 to 64 years old, Aklan posted the highest functional literacy rate in Western Visayas at 73.9 percent, equivalent to about 340,000 people who can read, write, compute, and comprehend. This was the highest rate recorded among all provinces and highly urbanized cities in the region.

Antique followed closely with 73.8 percent, while Guimaras came next at 73.0 percent. On the other hand, Iloilo Province (excluding Iloilo City) registered the lowest functional literacy rate in the region at 68.6 percent, followed by Iloilo City at 70.7 percent and Capiz at 70.9 percent.

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Higher basic and functional literacy among females than males

Among individuals aged 5 years and over, females recorded a higher basic literacy rate at 93.4 percent, compared to 90.9 percent for males. Conversely, males posted higher rates of illiteracy and low literacy at 6.0 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively, while females had lower corresponding rates of 4.0 percent for illiteracy and 2.6 percent for low literacy.

Moreover, among individuals aged 10 to 64 years old, females also exhibited higher functional literacy rate at 78.3 percent compared to 69.7 percent among males.

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Table 1. Number and Rate of Basically Literate Population 5 Years Old and Over by Sex, Region, Province, and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Western Visayas: 2024

Region / Province / HUCs	Population 5 Years Old and Over (in thousands)			Number of Basically Literate Population 5 Years Old and Over (in thousands)			Basic Literacy Rate (in percent)		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Region VI (Western Visayas)	4,463	2,255	2,208	3,998^r	1,992	2,005	89.6	88.4^r	90.8
Aklan	566	287	280	522	261	261	92.1	90.9	93.4
Antique	563	287	276	508	257	251	90.1	89.3	91.0
Capiz	769	388	381	686	337	349	89.3	87.0	91.5
Guimaras	175	90	85	159	80	79	91.2	89.5	93.0
Iloilo									
(Excluding City of Iloilo)	1,958	991	967	1,735	866	868	88.6	87.4	89.8
City of Iloilo	431	212	220	388	191	197	89.9	90.3	89.6

Table 2. Functional Literacy for Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Sex, Region, Province, and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Philippines: 2024

Region / Province / HUCs	Functionally Literate (Can read, write, compute, and comprehend)					
	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)
Region VI (Western Visayas)	2,558^r	70.6	1,238^r	66.6	1,320	74.8
Aklan	340	73.9	165	69.7	175	78.3
Antique	332	73.8	162	69.4	170	78.4
Capiz	445	70.9	212	66.0	233	76.0
Guimaras	104	73.0	49	65.7	56	80.9
Iloilo (Excluding City of Iloilo)	1,080	68.4	528	64.9	552	72.1
City of Iloilo	256	70.7	123	68.0	134	73.3

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EXPLANATORY TEXT

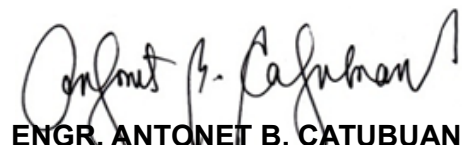
The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) releases its second report on the results of the **2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS)**. This report presents the basic and functional literacy estimates at the provincial and highly urbanized city (HUC) levels. This is the first time that literacy data at these geographic levels have been generated from the FLEMMS since it was first conducted in 1989.

The 2024 FLEMMS adopted a revised operational definition and methodology for measuring basic and functional literacy as approved by the PSA Board through Resolution No. 13, Series of 2024.

Basic literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, and to compute or perform basic mathematical operations.

Functional literacy is the ability of a person to read, write, compute and comprehend. In addition to the basic literacy skills, functional literacy includes higher level of comprehension skills, such as integrating two or more pieces of information and making inferences based on the given information.

Basic literacy rate is computed for individuals 5 years old and over, while functional literacy rate is computed for individuals 10 to 64 years old.



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