

Who has proficient braille skills?

Six factors were associated with proficient braille skills in a study of **449 blind adults**.

THE SIX FACTORS



Lost vision before school age

Earlier onset of blindness showed the strongest link.

73.5%

vs 11.5% (onset 19+)



Totally blind

Less functional vision; more likely than legally blind peers.

Higher

odds vs legally blind



Younger adults (21–30)

The youngest group had the highest proficiency.

82%+

ages 21–30



Women

Females were more likely to report proficiency.

≈2×

the odds vs men



Stronger assistive-tech skills

Higher self-rated AT skill tracked with proficiency.

3.4×

for +3 pts of skill



Currently employed

Strongest among adults who were totally blind.

≈4×

totally blind, employed

FOR PRACTITIONERS

Most adults who lost vision after age 4 were **not** proficient in braille. Opportunity, instruction, and encouragement to learn braille matter at every age.

Source: McDonnall, M. C., Steverson, A., Boydstun, J., & D'Andrea, F. M. (2025). [Factors associated with proficient braille skills in adults](#). *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 119(2), 97–108. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145482X251328240>

Percentages and odds are simplified for clarity; the study reports associations, not causal relationships.