



*for* **ADVOCATES**<sup>®</sup>  
CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

**Pocket Guide**



New Jersey

Kids Count **2026**

The State of Our Counties



Giving Every Child A Chance<sup>®</sup>

2026

# New Jersey Kids Count Pocket Guide

## The State of Our Counties

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THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Kids Count is a national and state-by-state statistical effort to track the state of children, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Advocates for Children of New Jersey would like to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their generous support in making this data book possible.

*Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for more than 45 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding, and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy, and educated.*

Each year, Advocates for Children of New Jersey's (ACNJ) Kids Count Project delivers a clear, county-by-county snapshot of child well-being — equipping policymakers, advocates, grant-makers, legislators, and concerned residents with the information they need to act on behalf of New Jersey's children.

With the inauguration of Governor Mikie Sherrill and a newly elected legislature, this moment presents a fresh opportunity for state leaders to use data to establish priorities and shape an agenda that addresses the needs of children and families across the state. Service providers can track emerging trends in their communities and calibrate their responses accordingly. Grant writers will find compelling data to solicit support for programs and resources. And concerned residents become more informed, effective advocates — prepared to identify problems and champion solutions in their own communities.

In this year's *New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide*, many indicators use 2022 as the primary baseline year, capturing the initial shift into the post-pandemic landscape. It represents a critical window where the immediate crisis subsided, yet the secondary “shadow pandemic”— marked by the impact of youth mental health struggles and historic learning loss — began to manifest in the data. This baseline offers a meaningful starting point for measuring the long road to recovery.

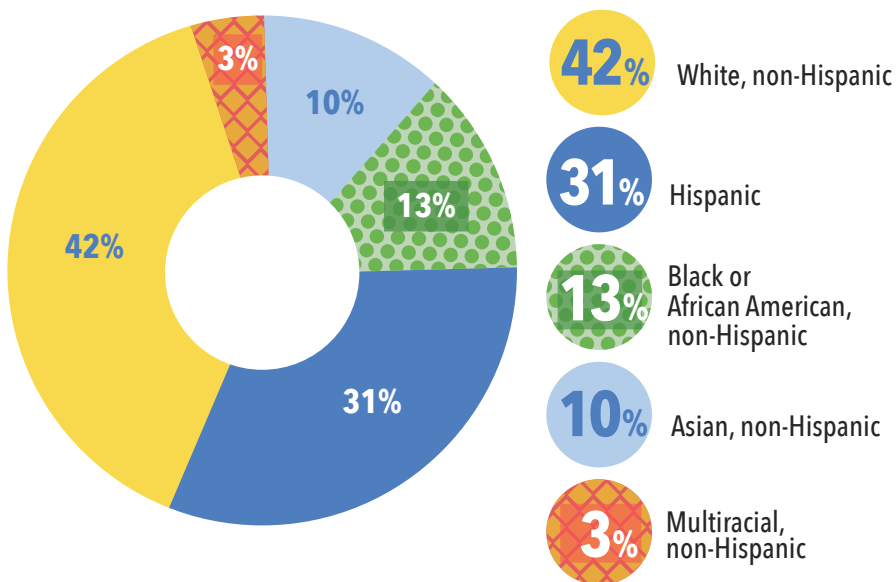
This year's guide also introduces several new data indicators, including chronic absenteeism, birthing hospitals, Grow NJ Kids — New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for child care centers and registered family child care providers, and data from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care (CSOC) — the state's public behavioral health system.

When interpreting the data in this guide, please note that some figures are based on estimates. Smaller geographies, such as counties, may yield suppressed data or significant margins of error. Certain indicators also reflect different points in time, such as school years, fiscal years, or calendar years. In some cases, previously published figures may have been updated due to data revisions. Most data presented reflect the most recent available information. Five-year range estimates (e.g., 2020–2024) are drawn from the American Community Survey, which considers multi-year estimates the most reliable. Please refer to the data sources listed at the end of this guide for further information on individual indicators.

# 2,044,983

children (under 18 years) are living in the Garden State...  
and **every 1 in 4 is under the age of 5.**

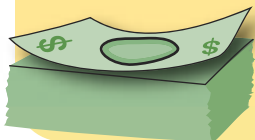
## New Jersey Children Are:



*Graph is representative of population under age 20. Some racial groups were <1% and are excluded from the graph above.*

## A Look at New Jersey's Kids

The median income for a family with kids in New Jersey was **\$130,331** in 2020-24, a



**25% increase**

from 2015-19.

Even with school meal eligibility expanded to include students from families **earning up to 224%** of the **federal poverty level**, participation in free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch ranges from **31%** to **72%** across counties.



**6 in 10 schools**

in New Jersey have **10% or more** of their students **chronically absent.**



**66,419** children were enrolled in state-funded preschool in 2024-25, a **14% increase from 2022-23.**



**75%** of expecting women in 2023 **received early prenatal care.**

# 1 Demographics

## Total Population

	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	276,111	276,937	279,114
Bergen	957,235	966,484	978,641
Burlington	466,710	470,561	475,515
Camden	525,395	529,576	533,988
Cape May	95,415	94,643	93,875
Cumberland	151,686	153,338	155,678
Essex	854,738	864,310	881,527
Gloucester	306,936	308,840	311,783
Hudson	708,657	721,320	736,185
Hunterdon	129,977	130,633	131,708
Mercer	382,165	386,296	392,138
Middlesex	866,241	876,119	890,119
Monmouth	644,994	644,941	647,520
Morris	512,685	517,738	523,053
Ocean	656,386	660,445	666,434
Passaic	516,287	520,219	526,597
Salem	65,167	65,429	65,874
Somerset	348,319	352,095	357,467
Sussex	145,638	146,294	147,444
Union	573,600	582,080	594,160
Warren	110,885	111,344	112,031
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9,295,227</b>	<b>9,379,642</b>	<b>9,500,851</b>

# 1 Demographics

## Child Population Under Age 18

	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	57,469	56,966	56,729
Bergen	199,854	200,721	201,694
Burlington	96,145	96,178	96,272
Camden	119,540	119,912	119,827
Cape May	16,244	15,970	15,647
Cumberland	37,278	37,424	37,710
Essex	201,239	202,992	205,811
Gloucester	65,396	65,287	65,160
Hudson	140,424	140,400	141,223
Hunterdon	24,831	24,902	24,967
Mercer	84,014	85,128	86,317
Middlesex	185,975	186,509	187,435
Monmouth	134,381	133,517	132,733
Morris	105,838	106,197	106,446
Ocean	164,193	165,153	166,276
Passaic	121,734	122,560	123,669
Salem	14,318	14,387	14,449
Somerset	73,660	73,762	73,710
Sussex	28,433	28,517	28,630
Union	134,836	136,732	139,069
Warren	21,411	21,443	21,209
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2,027,213</b>	<b>2,034,657</b>	<b>2,044,983</b>

# 1 Demographics

## Population Under Age 20 by Race/Ethnicity

2024

	Asian, non-Hispanic	Black or African American, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Multiracial, non-Hispanic	TOTAL
Atlantic	8%	17%	32%	38%	4%	63,635
Bergen	17%	5%	29%	45%	3%	223,142
Burlington	7%	19%	16%	53%	6%	106,030
Camden	6%	20%	30%	40%	4%	131,450
Cape May	1%	5%	20%	70%	5%	17,173
Cumberland	1%	17%	51%	26%	4%	41,527
Essex	6%	36%	31%	23%	3%	228,494
Gloucester	3%	13%	14%	65%	5%	73,497
Hudson	14%	12%	49%	21%	3%	155,763
Hunterdon	6%	3%	16%	71%	4%	27,560
Mercer	13%	19%	35%	28%	4%	98,503
Middlesex	28%	10%	33%	26%	3%	214,515
Monmouth	6%	7%	21%	64%	3%	147,624
Morris	13%	4%	22%	57%	4%	118,355
Ocean	2%	3%	15%	78%	2%	179,916
Passaic	5%	9%	55%	28%	2%	137,729
Salem	1%	17%	20%	56%	5%	15,781
Somerset	24%	10%	25%	37%	4%	81,634
Sussex	2%	3%	20%	71%	3%	31,554
Union	6%	18%	44%	29%	2%	153,464
Warren	3%	9%	23%	61%	4%	23,516
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2,270,862</b>

Some racial groups are excluded due to small percentages.

# 1 Demographics

## Child Population Under Age 5

	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	14,307	14,110	13,986
Bergen	48,625	49,283	49,700
Burlington	23,826	24,207	24,311
Camden	31,175	31,178	31,213
Cape May	3,967	3,916	3,754
Cumberland	9,361	9,349	9,480
Essex	52,747	53,085	53,472
Gloucester	15,494	15,536	15,622
Hudson	44,092	43,137	42,563
Hunterdon	5,740	5,891	5,982
Mercer	21,303	21,423	21,773
Middlesex	46,267	45,739	45,771
Monmouth	32,278	32,632	32,715
Morris	25,792	26,343	26,778
Ocean	48,269	48,882	49,411
Passaic	32,351	32,513	32,665
Salem	3,542	3,609	3,697
Somerset	17,045	17,159	17,300
Sussex	7,000	7,183	7,416
Union	35,127	35,594	35,883
Warren	5,380	5,297	5,160
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>523,688</b>	<b>526,066</b>	<b>528,652</b>

# 1 Demographics

## Population Under Age 5 by Race/Ethnicity

2024

	Asian, non-Hispanic	Black or African American, non-Hispanic	Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic	Multiracial, non-Hispanic	TOTAL
Atlantic	8%	19%	35%	34%	5%	13,986
Bergen	16%	5%	32%	43%	4%	49,700
Burlington	8%	20%	20%	46%	6%	24,311
Camden	5%	19%	31%	40%	5%	31,213
Cape May	1%	5%	25%	64%	6%	3,754
Cumberland	1%	18%	54%	23%	4%	9,480
Essex	5%	35%	34%	22%	3%	53,472
Gloucester	3%	15%	18%	60%	5%	15,622
Hudson	18%	10%	43%	24%	4%	42,563
Hunterdon	7%	3%	19%	68%	4%	5,982
Mercer	12%	21%	42%	22%	3%	21,773
Middlesex	28%	11%	37%	21%	3%	45,771
Monmouth	4%	7%	22%	64%	3%	32,715
Morris	14%	4%	25%	54%	4%	26,778
Ocean	2%	3%	14%	80%	2%	49,411
Passaic	7%	10%	58%	24%	2%	32,665
Salem	1%	20%	23%	49%	7%	3,697
Somerset	23%	11%	29%	34%	4%	17,300
Sussex	2%	4%	23%	68%	3%	7,416
Union	6%	18%	47%	26%	2%	35,883
Warren	4%	9%	25%	57%	5%	5,160
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>528,652</b>

Some racial groups are excluded due to low percentages.

# 1 Demographics

## Percentage of Households with Children by Type

2020-2024

	Married Couple	Cohabiting Couple	Male Householder, No Spouse/Partner	Female Householder, No Spouse/Partner
Atlantic	62%	13%	4%	21%
Bergen	79%	5%	3%	12%
Burlington	72%	8%	4%	16%
Camden	60%	10%	5%	25%
Cape May	74%	8%	4%	14%
Cumberland	57%	18%	4%	21%
Essex	58%	10%	4%	28%
Gloucester	71%	8%	4%	17%
Hudson	62%	9%	3%	25%
Hunterdon	84%	6%	3%	7%
Mercer	65%	7%	5%	24%
Middlesex	74%	8%	3%	15%
Monmouth	79%	6%	2%	13%
Morris	85%	4%	3%	9%
Ocean	83%	5%	3%	9%
Passaic	61%	12%	3%	24%
Salem	57%	11%	5%	27%
Somerset	80%	6%	4%	10%
Sussex	77%	6%	4%	14%
Union	65%	12%	4%	19%
Warren	74%	10%	5%	12%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>18%</b>

Due to rounding, percentages may add to more than 100%.

## Percentage of Population Age 5 and Above Speaking a Language Other than English at Home

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Atlantic	27%	26%
Bergen	40%	43%
Burlington	13%	15%
Camden	21%	22%
Cape May	9%	9%
Cumberland	28%	30%
Essex	36%	38%
Gloucester	9%	10%
Hudson	59%	57%
Hunterdon	11%	14%
Mercer	31%	36%
Middlesex	45%	47%
Monmouth	18%	18%
Morris	24%	27%
Ocean	12%	13%
Passaic	49%	51%
Salem	8%	9%
Somerset	31%	35%
Sussex	10%	12%
Union	44%	48%
Warren	12%	15%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>

Note: Remainder of population speaks only English at home.

## 2 Family Economic Security

**How is Poverty Defined?** The federal government uses the poverty threshold to estimate how many people in the United States are living in poverty. This measure is based on the cost of a basic food diet and is adjusted for inflation and family size. Because it is the same nationwide, it does not reflect differences in cost of living, including in high-cost states like New Jersey.

As a result, 200% of the poverty threshold, or \$63,624 for a family of four, is often a more realistic measure of financial hardship in New Jersey.

The U.S. Census Bureau produces the poverty threshold used for data reporting, while the federal poverty guidelines used to determine eligibility for certain programs are issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### Federal Poverty Thresholds for a Family of Four

2024

50%	\$15,906
100%	\$31,812
200%	\$ 63,624

*Note: ACNJ is using 2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds because most recent Census Bureau American Community Survey data are 2024.*

The chart to the left reflects the Federal Poverty Thresholds for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children). A family making under a certain poverty threshold would be considered the following:

- <50% = Extreme poverty
- <100% = Poverty
- <200% = Low-income

## Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Level

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Atlantic	11,328	20%	10,459	19%
Bergen	14,492	7%	15,463	8%
Burlington	7,824	9%	8,295	9%
Camden	19,961	17%	20,725	17%
Cape May	2,282	14%	1,742	11%
Cumberland	8,557	24%	7,629	21%
Essex	41,171	22%	38,157	19%
Gloucester	5,356	8%	5,717	9%
Hudson	30,069	22%	29,117	21%
Hunterdon	1,174	5%	818	3%
Mercer	12,211	16%	11,034	13%
Middlesex	19,840	11%	19,647	11%
Monmouth	11,995	9%	9,644	7%
Morris	5,399	5%	5,439	5%
Ocean	22,836	16%	26,135	16%
Passaic	29,449	25%	23,598	19%
Salem	2,755	21%	2,821	20%
Somerset	4,409	6%	4,882	7%
Sussex	1,736	6%	2,060	7%
Union	17,044	13%	15,839	12%
Warren	2,306	11%	2,218	10%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>272,194</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>261,439</b>	<b>13%</b>

*"Below the federal poverty level" equates to below 100%, which in 2024 was \$31,812 for a family of four (two adults and two children).*

## 2 Family Economic Security

**What Are Earned Income Tax Credits?** Tax credits are a vital economic support for many low-income working families and also strengthen New Jersey's local economy, as many of these dollars are spent in the communities where families live and work. Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) reward work and help increase take-home pay by lowering the amount of taxes owed and, in some cases, providing a refund.

### NJ EITC, Recipients with at Least One Dependent Under Age 19

2024

	# Credits Issued	Avg. Credit Amount
Atlantic	15,859	\$1,475
Bergen	22,089	\$1,498
Burlington	12,952	\$1,353
Camden	26,231	\$1,474
Cape May	3,167	\$1,405
Cumberland	10,057	\$1,455
Essex	48,268	\$1,522
Gloucester	9,110	\$1,388
Hudson	33,806	\$1,601
Hunterdon	1,632	\$1,405
Mercer	16,705	\$1,471
Middlesex	29,274	\$1,479
Monmouth	12,514	\$1,423
Morris	7,434	\$1,413
Ocean	19,512	\$1,496
Passaic	34,387	\$1,586
Salem	2,986	\$1,396
Somerset	6,401	\$1,406
Sussex	14,362	\$1,484
Union	14,446	\$1,453
Warren	3,314	\$1,388
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>344,785</b>	<b>\$1,493</b>

Please note that counties may not add up to NJ total due to a number of credits where the county of residence was unknown.

## 2 Family Economic Security

### Federal Earned Income Tax Credits

		2022
	# Credits Issued	Avg. Credit Amount
Atlantic	22,650	\$2,484
Bergen	42,820	\$2,115
Burlington	21,730	\$2,188
Camden	39,730	\$2,494
Cape May	5,600	\$2,161
Cumberland	13,190	\$2,605
Essex	71,580	\$2,577
Gloucester	14,710	\$2,234
Hudson	55,710	\$2,468
Hunterdon	3,250	\$1,772
Mercer	23,020	\$2,423
Middlesex	46,430	\$2,330
Monmouth	23,520	\$2,060
Morris	14,670	\$1,929
Ocean	31,090	\$2,464
Passaic	49,970	\$2,661
Salem	4,470	\$2,417
Somerset	12,160	\$2,099
Sussex	5,510	\$1,954
Union	38,720	\$2,392
Warren	5,340	\$2,202
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>545,790</b>	<b>\$2,386</b>

## 2 Family Economic Security

### Unemployment Rate

	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	4.9%	5.2%	5.7%
Bergen	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
Burlington	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%
Camden	4.2%	4.7%	5.0%
Cape May	7.1%	7.9%	8.0%
Cumberland	5.6%	6.7%	7.0%
Essex	4.5%	5.1%	5.5%
Gloucester	3.8%	4.3%	4.4%
Hudson	3.6%	4.0%	4.2%
Hunterdon	3.0%	3.4%	3.5%
Mercer	3.6%	4.1%	4.4%
Middlesex	3.7%	4.2%	4.5%
Monmouth	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%
Morris	3.1%	3.5%	3.7%
Ocean	4.0%	4.3%	4.5%
Passaic	4.5%	5.0%	5.3%
Salem	5.0%	5.5%	5.9%
Somerset	3.1%	3.5%	3.8%
Sussex	3.8%	4.0%	4.3%
Union	4.0%	4.5%	4.8%
Warren	3.6%	4.0%	4.2%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

*Note: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force (sum of both employed and unemployed).*

## Median Family Income with Children Under 18

	2015-2019	2020-2024	% Change
Atlantic	\$67,603	\$92,966	38%
Bergen	\$134,009	\$171,411	28%
Burlington	\$108,289	\$133,229	23%
Camden	\$84,907	\$106,271	25%
Cape May	\$80,553	\$108,064	34%
Cumberland	\$52,149	\$69,962	34%
Essex	\$73,461	\$98,098	34%
Gloucester	\$115,800	\$138,620	20%
Hudson	\$65,224	\$89,276	37%
Hunterdon	\$161,034	\$182,935	14%
Mercer	\$103,897	\$132,672	28%
Middlesex	\$111,733	\$137,950	23%
Monmouth	\$135,353	\$175,803	30%
Morris	\$154,270	\$192,580	25%
Ocean	\$94,182	\$118,018	25%
Passaic	\$70,520	\$93,877	33%
Salem	\$81,852	\$88,317	8%
Somerset	\$153,032	\$195,471	28%
Sussex	\$111,683	\$150,296	35%
Union	\$91,372	\$117,879	29%
Warren	\$104,201	\$121,342	16%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>\$104,319</b>	<b>\$130,331</b>	<b>25%</b>

## 2 Family Economic Security

### Percentage of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Atlantic	56%	53%
Bergen	45%	48%
Burlington	47%	50%
Camden	51%	52%
Cape May	54%	50%
Cumberland	60%	52%
Essex	53%	52%
Gloucester	51%	52%
Hudson	44%	45%
Hunterdon	46%	43%
Mercer	49%	48%
Middlesex	45%	46%
Monmouth	51%	50%
Morris	41%	43%
Ocean	56%	54%
Passaic	52%	54%
Salem	57%	51%
Somerset	44%	47%
Sussex	45%	52%
Union	50%	49%
Warren	46%	44%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>49%</b>

## WIC Enrollment and Participation

	2023			2025		
	Enrolled	Participating	% Participating	Enrolled	Participating	% Participating
Atlantic	5,341	4,624	87%	5,998	5,049	84%
Bergen	8,242	7,235	88%	7,808	6,627	85%
Burlington	4,799	4,164	87%	5,101	4,387	86%
Camden	10,689	9,031	84%	11,056	9,237	84%
Cape May	1,035	907	88%	1,143	965	84%
Cumberland	4,577	3,897	85%	5,115	4,393	86%
Essex	24,848	22,154	89%	22,544	19,671	87%
Gloucester	3,514	3,132	89%	3,729	3,221	86%
Hudson	18,652	17,357	93%	17,252	15,694	91%
Hunterdon	460	442	96%	638	567	89%
Mercer	8,877	7,468	84%	9,821	8,421	86%
Middlesex	15,817	15,127	96%	15,147	14,285	94%
Monmouth	8,075	7,605	94%	8,111	7,554	93%
Morris	2,985	2,506	84%	2,861	2,347	82%
Ocean	28,030	26,460	94%	31,996	30,078	94%
Passaic	17,438	15,305	88%	16,139	14,053	87%
Salem	1,037	871	84%	1,200	980	82%
Somerset	3,627	3,422	94%	3,516	3,217	91%
Sussex	943	906	96%	864	773	89%
Union	13,877	12,985	94%	12,932	11,871	92%
Warren	1,320	1,243	94%	1,296	1,160	90%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>184,183</b>	<b>166,841</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>184,267</b>	<b>164,550</b>	<b>89%</b>

WIC stands for Women, Infant, and Children. To learn more about WIC, visit [www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/](http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic/).

## Number of Children Participating in TANF

	2023	2024	2025	% Change
Atlantic	1,083	1,060	984	-9%
Bergen	681	555	436	-36%
Burlington	719	715	685	-5%
Camden	2,817	2,875	2,406	-15%
Cape May	153	135	149	-3%
Cumberland	624	690	685	10%
Essex	2,658	2,783	1,994	-25%
Gloucester	504	408	453	-10%
Hudson	3,123	3,407	3,107	-1%
Hunterdon	59	66	54	-8%
Mercer	1,398	1,546	1,240	-11%
Middlesex	1,014	1,135	1,021	1%
Monmouth	407	454	383	-6%
Morris	173	212	162	-6%
Ocean	646	683	600	-7%
Passaic	1,799	1,622	1,565	-13%
Salem	296	321	273	-8%
Somerset	378	423	384	2%
Sussex	50	46	22	-56%
Union	1,042	1,207	789	-24%
Warren	160	123	160	0%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>19,784</b>	<b>20,466</b>	<b>17,552</b>	<b>-11%</b>

TANF stands for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. To learn more about TANF, visit [www.nj.gov/humanservices/wfnj/](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/wfnj/).

## Number of Children Participating in SNAP

	2023	2024	2025	% Change
Atlantic	14,533	13,526	12,254	-16%
Bergen	13,202	14,049	13,905	5%
Burlington	8,778	9,228	9,925	13%
Camden	32,688	33,969	32,513	-1%
Cape May	3,308	3,331	3,098	-6%
Cumberland	13,404	13,955	13,105	-2%
Essex	54,296	56,366	49,554	-9%
Gloucester	6,797	7,248	7,545	11%
Hudson	39,596	42,258	38,581	-3%
Hunterdon	1,245	1,340	1,340	8%
Mercer	16,722	17,909	17,445	4%
Middlesex	22,424	23,655	23,600	5%
Monmouth	12,100	12,865	11,459	-5%
Morris	5,336	5,875	5,920	11%
Ocean	32,838	32,182	31,386	-4%
Passaic	34,213	35,512	34,019	-1%
Salem	3,746	3,918	3,676	-2%
Somerset	4,553	4,875	4,733	4%
Sussex	1,539	1,456	1,324	-14%
Union	18,607	23,086	21,308	15%
Warren	3,084	3,203	3,341	8%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>343,009</b>	<b>359,806</b>	<b>340,031</b>	<b>-1%</b>

*SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. To learn more about SNAP, visit [www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/).*

## 2 Family Economic Security

***The New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate*** works to bolster collaborative efforts to address the state's everyday and long-term food needs. Acting on its responsibility to align statewide initiatives and close service gaps, OFSA brought together cross-sector partners to collaboratively develop the New Jersey Food Security Strategic Plan, which was released on February 13, 2026. The plan outlines a three-year roadmap to drive coordinated efforts across sectors and strengthen food security for all residents of New Jersey. To connect with OFSA, visit [www.nj.gov/foodsecurity/](http://www.nj.gov/foodsecurity/).

***How Will the New Food Pyramid Affect School Meals?*** Earlier this year, the USDA and Department of Health and Human Services announced new Dietary Guidelines for Americans and a new food pyramid. The USDA uses these guidelines to shape school nutrition standards, which now place greater emphasis on protein intake, recommend full-fat dairy options, and encourage limiting highly processed foods and added sugars.

To continue receiving federally funded free or low-cost meals through programs like the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, schools will eventually need to meet these updated standards. However, many schools lack the resources needed to make nutritious meals from scratch that align with these guidelines.

A recent survey by the School Nutrition Association found that more than 90% of schools polled said they need additional funding to hire trained staff, update kitchen equipment, and afford the ingredients necessary to meet the new standards.

These changes will not happen immediately. The USDA must first propose and finalize new regulations, and schools will then need time to adjust recipes, staffing, and operations before implementation.

ACNJ's involvement with school meal programs dates back to the 2010 Food for Thought campaign, which worked to increase participation in school breakfast, especially among low-income students, by advocating for Breakfast After the Bell programs. For more information on the importance of school breakfast, visit [hungerfreenj.org](http://hungerfreenj.org).

## 2 Family Economic Security

### Estimated Food Insecure Child Population

	2022		2023	
	#	Rate	#	Rate
Atlantic	10,010	17.4%	10,510	18.2%
Bergen	13,960	7.0%	15,920	7.9%
Burlington	10,550	11.1%	11,620	12.1%
Camden	20,110	17.0%	20,430	17.1%
Cape May	2,500	15.0%	2,530	15.3%
Cumberland	7,610	20.8%	7,740	20.8%
Essex	43,110	21.4%	44,110	21.8%
Gloucester	6,390	9.9%	7,400	11.4%
Hudson	24,690	17.2%	26,870	18.9%
Hunterdon	800	3.3%	1,090	4.4%
Mercer	10,930	13.3%	11,080	13.2%
Middlesex	19,030	10.3%	20,820	11.2%
Monmouth	8,790	6.6%	9,980	7.4%
Morris	4,770	4.5%	5,650	5.3%
Ocean	20,030	12.8%	22,610	14.0%
Passaic	19,970	16.2%	20,520	16.7%
Salem	2,700	19.3%	2,720	19.1%
Somerset	4,030	5.5%	4,890	6.6%
Sussex	2010	7.1%	2,270	8.0%
Union	17,430	13.0%	17,960	13.3%
Warren	2,150	10.1%	2,400	11.2%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>263,260</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>271,650</b>	<b>13.5%</b>

Note: These are estimated numbers of food insecure children based on indicators such as poverty, median income, etc., so county numbers may not add up to the state total.

## Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast

2025-26

	ADP Reduced	ADP Free	ADP NJEIE	Total
Atlantic	905	10,818	220	11,943
Bergen	1,148	8,028	348	9,524
Burlington	953	6,499	285	7,737
Camden	1,083	18,396	339	19,818
Cape May	152	1,904	62	2,118
Cumberland	490	10,841	142	11,473
Essex	2,236	40,991	611	43,838
Gloucester	455	4,853	146	5,454
Hudson	795	26,509	301	27,605
Hunterdon	69	476	21	566
Mercer	433	12,584	111	13,128
Middlesex	1,940	17,303	508	19,751
Monmouth	467	6,928	107	7,502
Morris	401	2,832	119	3,352
Ocean	788	7,966	273	9,027
Passaic	409	24,922	153	25,484
Salem	119	2,397	44	2,560
Somerset	557	3,901	168	4,626
Sussex	244	1,063	81	1,388
Union	1,784	15,759	397	17,940
Warren	110	1,877	41	2,028
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>15,538</b>	<b>226,847</b>	<b>4,477</b>	<b>246,862</b>

Note: Data are as of October of each year. ADP stands for Average Daily Participation. NJ EIE stands for New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility (186% to 224% FPL).

## 2 Family Economic Security

### Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch

2025-26

	ADP Reduced	ADP Free	ADP NJEIE	Total
Atlantic	1,555	15,854	367	17,776
Bergen	3,381	19,732	1,005	24,118
Burlington	2,066	13,152	642	15,860
Camden	2,178	28,969	684	31,831
Cape May	290	2,937	116	3,343
Cumberland	883	15,548	240	16,671
Essex	3,218	56,888	851	60,957
Gloucester	1,093	9,117	325	10,535
Hudson	1,669	36,906	603	39,178
Hunterdon	263	1,473	62	1,798
Mercer	1,460	20,865	465	22,790
Middlesex	4,629	32,484	1,191	38,304
Monmouth	1,545	15,902	440	17,887
Morris	1,239	7,517	381	9,137
Ocean	1,891	15,849	644	18,384
Passaic	1,565	40,221	560	42,346
Salem	267	4,042	89	4,398
Somerset	1,400	8,275	385	10,060
Sussex	547	2,400	194	3,141
Union	3,975	31,148	1,022	36,145
Warren	351	3,804	122	4,277
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>35,465</b>	<b>383,083</b>	<b>10,388</b>	<b>428,936</b>

Note: Data are as of October of each year. ADP stands for Average Daily Participation. NJ EIE stands for New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility (186% to 224% FPL).

## Free and Reduced-Price Breakfast Participation\*

	2024-25	2025-26
	Rate	Rate
Atlantic	66%	67%
Bergen	38%	39%
Burlington	44%	49%
Camden	61%	62%
Cape May	61%	63%
Cumberland	70%	69%
Essex	72%	72%
Gloucester	50%	52%
Hudson	69%	70%
Hunterdon	32%	31%
Mercer	53%	58%
Middlesex	52%	52%
Monmouth	40%	42%
Morris	39%	37%
Ocean	51%	49%
Passaic	63%	60%
Salem	64%	58%
Somerset	46%	46%
Sussex	41%	44%
Union	51%	50%
Warren	45%	47%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>58%</b>

\*Per 100 free or reduced-price lunch participants

Students whose families have an annual income of up to **224%** of the the federal poverty level are eligible for free school meals.

This equates to **\$72,016** for a family of four as of 2025.

## 3 Child Health

### Total Births

	2022	2023
Atlantic	2,708	2,745
Bergen	9,310	8,894
Burlington	4,725	4,675
Camden	6,117	5,907
Cape May	755	665
Cumberland	1,832	1,815
Essex	10,134	9,802
Gloucester	3,050	2,987
Hudson	9,042	8,651
Hunterdon	1,112	1,032
Mercer	4,193	4,098
Middlesex	8,576	8,401
Monmouth	6,439	6,380
Morris	5,126	4,942
Ocean	10,210	10,507
Passaic	6,414	6,271
Salem	731	718
Somerset	3,269	3,292
Sussex	1,444	1,431
Union	6,712	6,722
Warren	985	1,058
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>102,896</b>	<b>101,014</b>

Note: County totals may not add up to the state total due to some births where the county of residence was unknown.

### 3 Child Health

#### Births to Foreign-Born Women

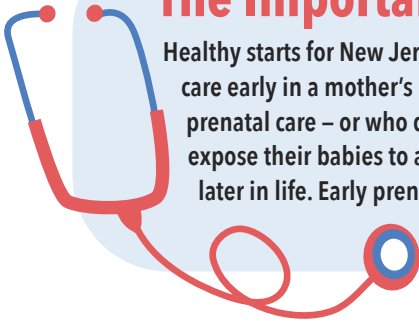
	2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	684	25%	772	28%
Bergen	3,937	42%	3,656	41%
Burlington	950	20%	979	21%
Camden	1,225	20%	1,214	21%
Cape May	88	12%	85	13%
Cumberland	499	27%	531	29%
Essex	4,798	47%	4,815	49%
Gloucester	298	10%	299	10%
Hudson	4,973	55%	4,878	56%
Hunterdon	210	19%	182	18%
Mercer	2,051	49%	2,054	50%
Middlesex	4,476	52%	4,456	53%
Monmouth	1,377	21%	1,476	23%
Morris	1,559	30%	1,519	31%
Ocean	1,637	16%	1,644	16%
Passaic	3,124	49%	3,091	49%
Salem	69	9%	84	12%
Somerset	1,357	42%	1,376	42%
Sussex	187	13%	191	13%
Union	3,253	48%	3,311	49%
Warren	188	19%	207	20%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>36,940</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36,820</b>	<b>36%</b>

**More than a third of New Jersey's counties**

have a higher percentage of births to foreign-born women  
than the statewide rate of **36%**.

## The Importance of Prenatal Care

Healthy starts for New Jersey's infants begin with quality prenatal care early in a mother's pregnancy. Women who receive late prenatal care – or who do not receive prenatal care at all – expose their babies to a greater chance of health problems later in life. Early prenatal care refers to care that begins in the first trimester of the mother's pregnancy.



## What is a Preterm Birth?

A preterm birth is a birth that occurs

**before 37 weeks** of gestation.

Most pregnancies last around 40 weeks. Preterm, sometimes called premature, births can have many lifelong risks such as chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities.

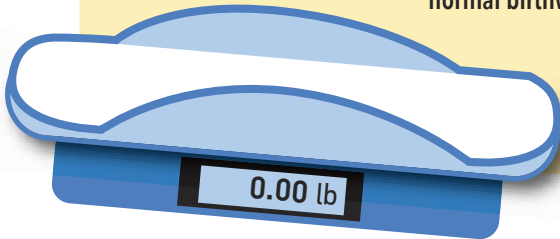


## What is a Low Birthweight Baby?

A low birthweight baby is any infant born weighing

**less than 2,500 grams, or roughly 5.5 pounds.**

Low birthweight babies may be more likely to develop certain health problems, such as respiratory distress syndrome, than infants born with normal birthweights. In the long term, they may also be at greater risk of developing chronic conditions such as diabetes.



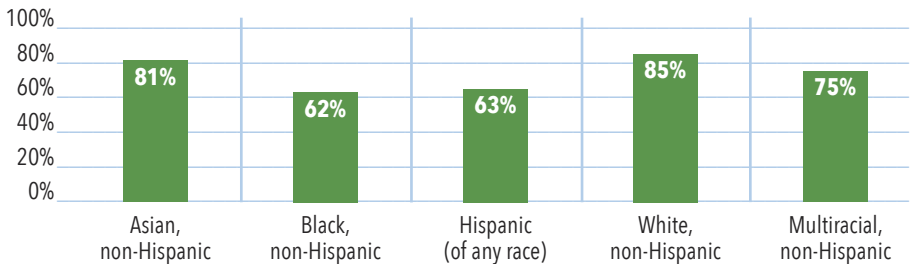
### 3 Child Health

#### Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

	2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	2,023	75%	1,994	73%
Bergen	7,802	84%	7,482	84%
Burlington	3,856	82%	3,823	82%
Camden	4,746	78%	4,593	78%
Cape May	565	**	511	**
Cumberland	1,223	67%	1,206	66%
Essex	6,332	63%	5,777	59%
Gloucester	2,559	84%	2,547	85%
Hudson	6,758	75%	6,552	76%
Hunterdon	989	89%	892	86%
Mercer	2,445	58%	2,685	66%
Middlesex	6,317	74%	6,143	73%
Monmouth	5,175	80%	5,205	82%
Morris	4,215	82%	4,050	82%
Ocean	7,673	75%	8,322	79%
Passaic	4,778	75%	4,470	71%
Salem	540	**	544	**
Somerset	2,513	77%	2,570	78%
Sussex	1,225	85%	1,229	86%
Union	4,494	67%	4,474	67%
Warren	807	82%	858	81%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>77,035</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>75,927</b>	<b>75%</b>

Note: \*\* indicates data are suppressed due to high margins of error.

#### Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, 2023

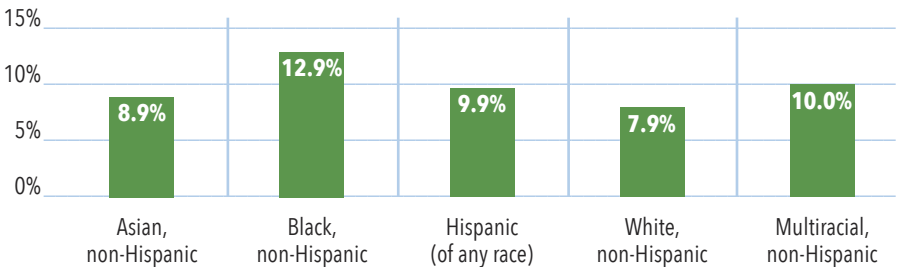


### 3 Child Health

#### Preterm Births

	2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	261	9.6%	243	8.9%
Bergen	860	9.2%	837	9.4%
Burlington	411	8.7%	477	10.2%
Camden	642	10.5%	621	10.5%
Cape May	84	11.1%	49	7.4%
Cumberland	201	11.0%	201	11.1%
Essex	1,036	10.2%	970	9.9%
Gloucester	304	10.0%	289	9.7%
Hudson	888	9.8%	822	9.5%
Hunterdon	90	8.1%	78	7.6%
Mercer	397	9.5%	386	9.4%
Middlesex	778	9.1%	785	9.3%
Monmouth	577	9.0%	570	8.9%
Morris	370	7.2%	405	8.2%
Ocean	742	7.3%	727	6.9%
Passaic	749	11.7%	733	11.7%
Salem	72	9.8%	70	9.7%
Somerset	271	8.3%	264	8.0%
Sussex	137	9.5%	125	8.7%
Union	578	8.6%	622	9.3%
Warren	95	9.6%	95	9.0%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9,543</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9,369</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

#### Percentage of Preterm Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2023

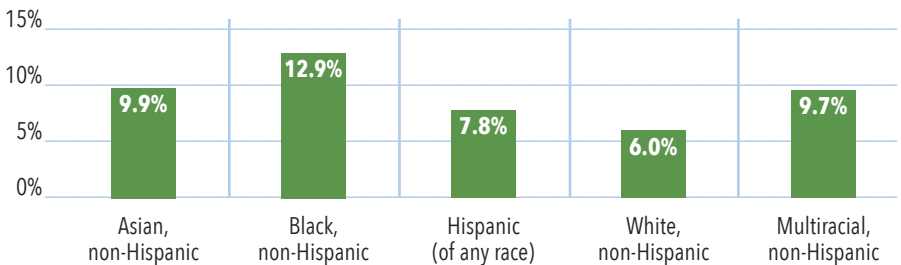


### 3 Child Health

#### Babies Born with Low Birthweights

	2022		2023	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	251	9.3%	209	7.6%
Bergen	675	7.3%	690	7.8%
Burlington	360	7.6%	406	8.7%
Camden	546	8.9%	567	9.6%
Cape May	71	9.4%	42	6.3%
Cumberland	175	9.6%	193	10.6%
Essex	894	8.8%	893	9.1%
Gloucester	254	8.3%	225	7.5%
Hudson	780	8.6%	710	8.2%
Hunterdon	66	5.9%	52	5.0%
Mercer	350	8.3%	327	8.0%
Middlesex	690	8.0%	699	8.3%
Monmouth	448	7.0%	437	6.8%
Morris	281	5.5%	296	6.0%
Ocean	576	5.6%	613	5.8%
Passaic	607	9.5%	562	9.0%
Salem	59	8.1%	53	7.4%
Somerset	269	8.2%	246	7.5%
Sussex	98	6.8%	89	6.2%
Union	470	7.0%	516	7.7%
Warren	78	7.9%	64	6.0%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>7,999</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>7,889</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

#### Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweights by Race/Ethnicity, 2023



## Doulas

Doulas provide non-medical emotional, physical, and informational support during pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum recovery. Their role centers on helping parents feel informed, supported, and confident throughout the journey into parenthood.

Doulas may offer different types of care depending on their training and focus. This can include pregnancy, birth, postpartum recovery, as well as pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or other unexpected pregnancy outcomes. Other doulas specialize in supporting fathers and partners, sometimes referred to as “dad doulas” or partner-support doulas, helping them better understand pregnancy, childbirth, and their role in supporting their family.

While doulas do not provide medical care, they work alongside doctors, nurses, and midwives to help create a supportive and respectful care experience. Research shows that doula support can improve birth outcomes, increase satisfaction with the birth experience, and reduce maternal health disparities which is especially important for Black and Brown women, who face some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country.

In 2019, New Jersey enacted legislation allowing doulas to enroll as Medicaid providers, and as of January 2021, doulas and doula agencies have been able to provide services reimbursed through Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare, including both fee-for-service and managed care plans. Since implementation, the number of doulas enrolled as Medicaid providers has steadily grown.

### Total Number of Medicaid Approved Doulas

	2023	2024	2025
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>189</b>

*Data as of December of each year.*

## Access to maternity hospitals is not evenly distributed

across New Jersey. In counties with fewer or no birthing hospitals, families may have to travel farther for labor and delivery care, prenatal services, and postpartum support.

These gaps in access can place additional strain on pregnant women and contribute to inequities in maternal health outcomes. To learn more, visit

[www.acnj.org/wp-content/uploads/maternal-health-hospital-fact-sheet.pdf](http://www.acnj.org/wp-content/uploads/maternal-health-hospital-fact-sheet.pdf).

## Maternal Health Hospitals Available

	2024
Atlantic	2
Bergen	5
Burlington	1
Camden	3
Cape May	0
Cumberland	1
Essex	5
Gloucester	2
Hudson	3
Hunterdon	1
Mercer	1
Middlesex	5
Monmouth	4
Morris	3
Ocean	3
Passaic	2
Salem	0
Somerset	1
Sussex	1
Union	2
Warren	0
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>45</b>

## 3 Child Health

### Infant Mortality

	2018-2020		2021-2023	
	#	Rate	#	Rate
Atlantic	52	6.2	51	6.2
Bergen	89	3.3	63	2.3
Burlington	58	4.4	53	3.8
Camden	109	6.1	107	5.9
Cape May	12	**	10	**
Cumberland	29	5.3	29	5.4
Essex	163	5.5	130	4.4
Gloucester	44	5.2	33	3.6
Hudson	75	2.5	69	2.6
Hunterdon	11	**	<10	**
Mercer	52	4.4	64	5.2
Middlesex	97	3.7	103	4.0
Monmouth	62	3.6	48	2.5
Morris	40	2.9	34	2.3
Ocean	94	3.4	71	2.3
Passaic	76	4.0	70	3.7
Salem	17	**	12	**
Somerset	31	3.3	25	2.6
Sussex	10	**	12	**
Union	82	4.2	69	3.4
Warren	16	**	13	**
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Note: \*\* indicates that data are suppressed. Rate is the number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births in the same year.

In November 2025, New Jersey updated and cleaned its birth data for 2016–2023 using race and Hispanic ethnicity codes provided by the National Center for Health Statistics. This process corrected and reclassified records, filled in missing information, and revealed that older data (2015 and earlier) were collected differently and aren't directly comparable to newer data. To ensure trends reflect real changes rather than changes in data collection, the state now reports three years of infant mortality data instead of five for the time being.

**What is Infant Mortality?** Infant mortality refers to the number of babies who die before their first birthday, measured per 1,000 live births. In New Jersey, the infant mortality rate is 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

However, this statewide average masks significant disparities. Black, non-Hispanic infants die at a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 live births — more than twice the overall state rate. These differences highlight ongoing inequities in maternal health, access to care, and the conditions that support healthy pregnancies and births.

New Jersey has launched several statewide efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes, including Nurture NJ, an initiative focused on reducing racial disparities in maternal and infant health and ensuring women have access to quality care before, during, and after pregnancy.

As part of this effort, New Jersey established the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center, a statewide hub based in Trenton that coordinates health care, social services, research, and workforce development to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and reduce racial disparities. To learn more about Nurture NJ and the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center, visit [www.nj.gov/njmihia/](http://www.nj.gov/njmihia/).

Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) works alongside public and private partners to advance policies that improve maternal and infant health outcomes across the state. For more information, visit [www.acnj.org](http://www.acnj.org).

## New Jersey Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity

	2018-2020		2021-2023	
	#	Rate	#	Rate
Asian, nH	79	2.4	62	2.0
Black, nH	345	8.5	306	8.1
Hispanic, any race	321	3.9	307	3.5
White, nH	354	2.6	308	2.2

*nH= non-Hispanic. Some races/ethnicities are omitted due to low numbers.*

## Families Receiving Intensive Home Visitation Programs

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	221	194	251
Bergen	186	185	172
Burlington	159	164	181
Camden	333	360	432
Cape May	209	203	179
Cumberland	153	168	361
Essex	381	510	510
Gloucester	289	318	149
Hudson	245	255	274
Hunterdon	20	19	21
Mercer	234	215	205
Middlesex	422	464	486
Monmouth	368	387	396
Morris	82	154	169
Ocean	118	159	149
Passaic	321	350	366
Salem	51	52	83
Somerset	27	34	35
Sussex	204	181	163
Union	164	228	244
Warren	126	129	134
Unknown	<10	<10	<10
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>4,314</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>4,962</b>

Data are as of June 30 of each year.

Please note that the above data only includes families served through intensive home visiting programs. The Family Connects program has not yet been implemented statewide and is expected to reach full statewide availability by January 2027.

# New Jersey's Intensive Evidence-Based Home Visitation System

New Jersey's Home Visiting System supports families during pregnancy, after birth, and in the early years of a child's life. Home visiting is a free, voluntary service where a trained nurse or home visitor provides guidance, supports parent and child well-being, and connects families to helpful resources.

## *Two Types of Support*

### **Universal Home Visiting (Family Connects NJ)**

Offers families with a newborn a free nurse visit in the first weeks after birth. Nurses check on the health of both baby and parents, answer questions about feeding and sleep, and connect families to community resources. The program is available to all families, including birth, adoptive, and resource families.

Family Connects NJ is being rolled out statewide in phases:

- 2024: Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Cumberland, Gloucester
- 2025: Somerset, Sussex, Passaic, Hudson, Bergen, Ocean
- 2026: Camden, Salem, Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Monmouth
- 2027: Union, Hunterdon, Morris, Warren (statewide completion)

Learn more at [www.FamilyConnectsNJ.org](http://www.FamilyConnectsNJ.org).

### **Evidence-Based Home Visiting (Multiple Programs)**

Provides ongoing support during pregnancy and early childhood. Available in all 21 counties, these programs are intended for families who may benefit from additional support, including those facing poverty and other risk factors. Services focus on healthy child development, strong parent-child relationships, early learning, and connections to health care, housing, and other supports.

Programs include Healthy Families, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and HIPPPY in some communities.

## *Getting Connected*

Families can get connected to home visiting programs through Connecting NJ, learn more at [www.nj.gov/connectingnj/](http://www.nj.gov/connectingnj/).

Together, these programs ensure families in New Jersey don't have to navigate pregnancy, newborn care, and early childhood alone.

### 3 Child Health

#### Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	2,353	4%	1,880	3%
Bergen	8,585	4%	7,587	4%
Burlington	2,382	2%	2,992	3%
Camden	3,677	2%	4,929	4%
Cape May	610	4%	563	3%
Cumberland	1,700	4%	2,259	6%
Essex	11,539	6%	14,366	7%
Gloucester	1,738	3%	888	1%
Hudson	7,224	5%	8,003	5%
Hunterdon	491	2%	565	2%
Mercer	2,332	3%	4,263	5%
Middlesex	6,366	3%	8,663	4%
Monmouth	4,060	3%	6,145	4%
Morris	2,615	2%	3,709	3%
Ocean	4,105	3%	3,299	2%
Passaic	7,075	6%	7,487	6%
Salem	395	3%	170	1%
Somerset	2,740	4%	2,613	3%
Sussex	591	2%	882	3%
Union	7,485	5%	10,945	8%
Warren	719	3%	649	3%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>78,782</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>92,857</b>	<b>4%</b>

***Why is Pediatric Oral Care Important?*** Pediatric oral care is essential to a child's overall health and well-being. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children visit the dentist by their first birthday. Yet oral health is often overlooked, even though it is a critical part of a child's health and development. Guidance on recommended dental visits is available at [www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/periodicity\\_of\\_dental\\_services.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/periodicity_of_dental_services.pdf).

According to the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, fewer than 1% of children in New Jersey visit the dentist by age one. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Health reported that in 2023, 36% of New Jersey third graders had untreated dental disease, compared with the national average of 20%.

***What is NJ FamilyCare?*** NJ FamilyCare provides healthcare coverage to eligible New Jersey residents. Children under 19 may apply regardless of immigration status, though all other program requirements remain in effect. For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/CoverAllKids](http://www.nj.gov/CoverAllKids). Nearly 20% of New Jersey residents, including over 830,000 children, receive care through NJ FamilyCare. Additionally, almost 550,000 low-income working-age adults are enrolled through the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, which will be affected by new federal requirements starting in October 2026.

Federal law now requires adults ages 19 to 64 in the Medicaid expansion group to work or participate in approved activities, such as education or volunteering, for at least 80 hours per month. Exemptions apply to individuals who are pregnant or recently gave birth, former foster youth up to age 26, parents with children age 13 or younger, and those determined to be "medically frail." Individuals who lose NJ FamilyCare coverage for not meeting work requirements are also ineligible for subsidized Marketplace coverage. Beginning December 31, 2026, most adults in the Medicaid expansion group will have their eligibility reviewed every six months and must demonstrate compliance with work or community engagement rules twice a year. For more information or to determine if these rules apply to you, visit [www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/medicaid-federal-changes.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/medicaid-federal-changes.shtml). To confirm or update your contact information, call NJ FamilyCare at 1-800-701-0710.

For updates on how the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act impacts New Jersey's Medicaid program, visit the NJ Medicaid Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) website at [www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/maac](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/boards/maac).

### 3 Child Health

#### NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid Recipients Under Age 19

	2023	2025	% Change
Atlantic	36,152	30,308	-16%
Bergen	58,041	50,781	-13%
Burlington	33,679	29,708	-12%
Camden	67,899	57,545	-15%
Cape May	8,317	6,781	-18%
Cumberland	28,137	25,333	-10%
Essex	115,989	104,943	-10%
Gloucester	23,566	20,634	-12%
Hudson	86,164	74,248	-14%
Hunterdon	4,725	4,367	-8%
Mercer	42,729	40,072	-6%
Middlesex	76,220	67,204	-12%
Monmouth	41,588	36,369	-13%
Morris	22,066	19,553	-11%
Ocean	99,096	97,006	-2%
Passaic	81,882	71,074	-13%
Salem	7,842	6,825	-13%
Somerset	18,821	16,949	-10%
Sussex	7,341	6,313	-14%
Union	65,572	60,621	-8%
Warren	8,200	7,203	-12%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>934,905</b>	<b>834,531</b>	<b>-11%</b>

### 3 Child Health

## Lead Screening and Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) Among Children 6-26 Months

	2023			2024		
	#	% of Total Population Age 6-26 Months	% Out of Total Children < Age 6-26 Months with EBLLs	#	% of Total Population Age 6-26 Months	% Out of Total Children < Age 6-26 Months with EBLLs
Atlantic	2,465	31%	0.9%	2,596	33%	1.0%
Bergen	7,334	27%	0.6%	8,489	31%	0.7%
Burlington	4,601	35%	0.6%	5,217	39%	0.6%
Camden	4,881	28%	0.5%	5,950	34%	0.6%
Cape May	605	28%	1.0%	629	29%	1.1%
Cumberland	1,590	32%	3.0%	2,046	41%	2.3%
Essex	10,697	36%	2.1%	12,313	42%	2.3%
Gloucester	2,416	27%	0.6%	2,988	34%	0.6%
Hudson	6,238	23%	1.8%	8,104	30%	1.5%
Hunterdon	1,354	43%	0.4%	1,427	45%	0.5%
Mercer	4,597	40%	2.6%	5,310	46%	2.5%
Middlesex	8,508	33%	1.1%	8,991	35%	1.3%
Monmouth	4,976	29%	0.4%	5,454	32%	0.6%
Morris	4,986	36%	0.6%	5,703	41%	0.6%
Ocean	8,352	31%	0.3%	8,744	33%	0.2%
Passaic	6,553	37%	1.6%	7,441	42%	1.1%
Salem	594	29%	2.0%	701	35%	1.7%
Somerset	3,451	37%	0.9%	3,676	39%	1.0%
Sussex	1,029	28%	0.4%	1,054	29%	0.3%
Union	7,617	39%	1.4%	8,138	42%	1.3%
Warren	955	33%	1.4%	971	34%	1.0%
Unknown	80	N/A	1.2%	92	N/A	0.0%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>93,879</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>106,034</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

### 3 Child Health

## Lead Screening and Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) Among Children Under Age 6

	2023			2024		
	#	% of Total Population <Age 6	% Out of Total Children < Age 6 with EBLLs	#	% of Total Population <Age 6	% Out of Total Children < Age 6 with EBLLs
Atlantic	4,247	26%	1.1%	4,247	26%	1.1%
Bergen	12,468	21%	0.6%	13,855	24%	0.8%
Burlington	6,215	22%	0.9%	7,061	25%	0.8%
Camden	6,900	19%	1.0%	8,191	23%	1.0%
Cape May	816	17%	1.1%	846	18%	0.8%
Cumberland	3,023	29%	3.4%	3,668	35%	2.6%
Essex	24,984	40%	2.2%	27,416	44%	2.3%
Gloucester	3,457	19%	0.6%	4,181	22%	0.8%
Hudson	14,078	27%	1.6%	15,943	30%	1.5%
Hunterdon	1,582	24%	0.5%	1,666	25%	0.6%
Mercer	7,742	32%	2.9%	9,137	38%	2.8%
Middlesex	16,205	30%	1.3%	16,758	31%	1.5%
Monmouth	8,157	23%	0.5%	8,919	25%	0.7%
Morris	7,474	25%	0.8%	8,067	27%	0.8%
Ocean	12,945	24%	0.3%	13,991	26%	0.3%
Passaic	14,218	38%	1.8%	14,520	39%	1.5%
Salem	889	21%	3.3%	1,045	25%	2.8%
Somerset	5,027	25%	1.0%	5,340	27%	1.2%
Sussex	1,388	18%	0.4%	1,468	19%	0.4%
Union	14,605	36%	1.4%	15,247	37%	1.4%
Warren	1,248	21%	1.7%	1,329	22%	1.7%
Unknown	139	N/A	0.0%	167	N/A	0.0%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>167,807</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>183,062</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

**What Does CSOC Do?** The Children System of Care (CSOC) serves children and youth under 21 with emotional or mental health needs, substance use challenges, or intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their families. Services are community-based, culturally competent, and tailored to the needs of each youth and family.

To access services, call 1-877-652-7624 or visit [www.performcarenj.org](http://www.performcarenj.org). Parents, family members, school staff, mental health providers, and other professionals may contact PerformCare on behalf of a youth needing a referral. However, a parent or legal guardian must provide consent for a child to receive services.

The state partners with 15 community-based nonprofit care management organizations (CMOs) to help families plan services for children and youth who need a higher level of care. CMOs coordinate and deliver services using the Child/Family Team process and a wraparound planning approach. They assess each youth and family, then develop strategies and supports to help maintain stability.

Family Support Organizations (FSOs) offer support, education, and advocacy to parents and caregivers of children with emotional, behavioral, developmental, substance use, or mental health challenges. Visit [www.performcarenj.org/families/fsos](http://www.performcarenj.org/families/fsos) for a list of FSOs.

**Why is Lead Testing Important?** Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health, including damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and complications with hearing and speech.

It is important and required that children be tested. Children should be tested at age 1 and 2. If those tests are missed, the child should be tested before the age of 6. Children should also be tested if they may have been exposed to known or expected source of lead. In New Jersey, blood lead testing is covered by insurance, including Medicaid, for children 17 years and younger. If a child does not have health insurance, free testing from the local health department is available. To learn more visit [www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead/testing/](http://www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead/testing/).

### 3 Child Health

#### Total Calls to PerformCare

	2023	2024	% Change
Atlantic	4,565	4,114	-10%
Bergen	9,256	8,661	-6%
Burlington	6,800	6,011	-12%
Camden	9,497	8,808	-7%
Cape May	1,076	958	-11%
Cumberland	2,901	2,740	-6%
Essex	12,486	11,754	-6%
Gloucester	4,811	4,333	-10%
Hudson	8,154	7,440	-9%
Hunterdon	974	810	-17%
Mercer	4,378	4,349	-1%
Middlesex	10,262	9,106	-11%
Monmouth	5,977	5,493	-8%
Morris	3,805	3,607	-5%
Ocean	6,855	6,474	-6%
Passaic	7,864	7,321	-7%
Salem	966	916	-5%
Somerset	2,974	2,928	-2%
Sussex	1,464	1,303	-11%
Union	6,351	5,883	-7%
Warren	1,380	1,329	-4%
Other	21,017	17,748	-16%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>133,813</b>	<b>122,086</b>	<b>-9%</b>

"Other" includes children in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined or in a county other than those listed at the time of the data extract.

### 3 Child Health

#### Youth Open\* with Children's System of Care (CSOC)

	2023	2024	% Change
Atlantic	3,018	2,707	-10%
Bergen	5,362	5,143	-4%
Burlington	4,000	3,609	-10%
Camden	6,003	5,572	-7%
Cape May	813	710	-13%
Cumberland	1,744	1,547	-11%
Essex	6,596	6,199	-6%
Gloucester	2,683	2,441	-9%
Hudson	4,710	4,137	-12%
Hunterdon	583	512	-12%
Mercer	2,903	2,903	0%
Middlesex	5,599	5,098	-9%
Monmouth	3,832	3,642	-5%
Morris	2,324	2,158	-7%
Ocean	4,613	4,213	-9%
Passaic	4,683	4,386	-6%
Salem	579	524	-9%
Somerset	1,805	1,706	-5%
Sussex	899	825	-8%
Union	3,944	3,672	-7%
Warren	847	903	7%
Other	265	500	89%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>67,805</b>	<b>63,107</b>	<b>-7%</b>

\*Refers to the total number of unique youth who were active within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Children System of Care.

"Other" includes children in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined or in a county other than those listed at the time of the data extract.

## 3 Child Health

### Youth Served by Care Management Organizations

	2023	2024	% Change
Atlantic	1,882	1,782	-5%
Bergen	3,000	3,027	1%
Burlington	1,930	1,887	-2%
Camden	3,263	3,187	-2%
Cape May	510	481	-6%
Cumberland	691	653	-5%
Essex	2,925	2,773	-5%
Gloucester	1,136	1,129	-1%
Hudson	1,780	1,788	0%
Hunterdon	272	271	0%
Mercer	1,803	1,939	8%
Middlesex	2,485	2,457	-1%
Monmouth	1,827	1,863	2%
Morris	1,119	1,065	-5%
Ocean	1,991	2,020	1%
Passaic	2,060	2,005	-3%
Salem	231	234	1%
Somerset	744	769	3%
Sussex	452	475	5%
Union	2,178	2,105	-3%
Warren	472	530	12%
Other	250	338	35%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>33,001</b>	<b>32,778</b>	<b>-1%</b>

*"Other" includes children in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined or in a county other than those listed at the time of the data extract.*

**What is CP&P?** The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) operates within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the state's child welfare and protection agency. CP&P is responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect and, if necessary, arranging for the child's protection and services for the family. When children cannot remain at home due to safety concerns, CP&P may ask the family court to place them into foster care and to seek another permanent home for those children who cannot be reunified with their parent(s) within the timeframes provided by law.

Federal court oversight of New Jersey's child welfare system ended in 2023, concluding nearly 20 years of public monitoring that drove significant investment and transformational reform. As part of the exit plan, legislation was enacted to require an annual performance review of CP&P by a diverse group of stakeholders. In December 2022, the law establishing the Staffing and Oversight Review Subcommittee (SORS), a subcommittee of the NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, was amended to broaden and rotate its membership and expand its oversight role. DCF committed funding for SORS to hire an independent contractor to collect the data needed to fulfill these legal requirements.

**The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect** established the Subcommittee on Poverty, Neglect, and Community Outcomes in 2024 to address the intersection of poverty and neglect in child protective services. The subcommittee collaborates with the Task Force, DCF, and other partners to reduce racial disparities that remain despite fewer children and families involved with CP&P. An overwhelming number of reports alleging neglect are related to poverty and are determined to be unfounded, which can cause unnecessary trauma for families. Recently, the Task Force approved recommendations from the subcommittee and community stakeholders to enhance training on reporting child abuse and neglect to the state hotline and to revise certain reporting requirements. These changes aim to ensure appropriate reports are made while minimizing unnecessary investigations. Visit [www.njcainc.org/nj-mandated-reporting-reform-final-report-2026](http://www.njcainc.org/nj-mandated-reporting-reform-final-report-2026) for the full report.

Task Force meetings are open to the public and their reports and minutes are available at [www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/njtfcan/](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/njtfcan/).

## 4 Child Protection

### Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	4,670	4,435	3,916
Bergen	5,977	5,586	5,253
Burlington	5,507	4,953	4,782
Camden	8,543	8,295	7,749
Cape May	1,192	1,198	1,106
Cumberland	3,521	3,492	3,415
Essex	10,298	9,842	9,480
Gloucester	4,354	3,944	3,456
Hudson	6,528	6,459	6,087
Hunterdon	799	846	715
Mercer	4,676	4,695	4,308
Middlesex	7,230	7,150	6,950
Monmouth	5,424	5,394	4,792
Morris	3,530	3,489	3,186
Ocean	6,923	6,372	6,124
Passaic	6,809	6,327	5,834
Salem	1,201	1,176	1,018
Somerset	2,510	2,476	2,373
Sussex	1,711	1,615	1,641
Union	5,598	5,323	5,098
Warren	1,654	1,734	1,479
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>98,655</b>	<b>94,801</b>	<b>88,762</b>

### Children Under Child Protection and Permanency Supervision

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	1,467	1,241	1,255
Bergen	1,507	1,451	1,416
Burlington	1,541	1,622	1,615
Camden	2,935	3,134	3,129
Cape May	460	405	428
Cumberland	1,167	1,145	1,080
Essex	3,035	3,151	3,653
Gloucester	1,149	1,101	1,171
Hudson	2,243	2,092	1,892
Hunterdon	226	267	218
Mercer	1,426	1,297	1,186
Middlesex	2,472	2,208	2,043
Monmouth	1,413	1,297	1,408
Morris	868	889	907
Ocean	1,649	1,564	1,493
Passaic	2,040	1,971	1,928
Salem	380	407	458
Somerset	658	702	644
Sussex	375	308	347
Union	1,783	1,604	1,607
Warren	553	544	574
Other	3,060	2,803	2,696
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>32,407</b>	<b>31,203</b>	<b>31,148</b>

*"Other" includes children in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined or in a county other than those listed at the time of the data extract.*

## Children with Substantiated/Established Cases of Abuse/Neglect

2025

	Substantiated		Established		Total Substantiated/Established		Total Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Atlantic	56	1%	29	1%	85	2%	3,916
Bergen	40	1%	33	1%	73	1%	5,253
Burlington	66	1%	57	1%	123	3%	4,782
Camden	125	2%	148	2%	273	4%	7,749
Cape May	33	3%	17	2%	50	5%	1,106
Cumberland	80	2%	54	2%	134	4%	3,415
Essex	136	1%	99	1%	235	2%	9,480
Gloucester	45	1%	52	2%	97	3%	3,456
Hudson	50	1%	37	1%	87	1%	6,087
Hunterdon	<10*	N/A	10	1%	13	2%	715
Mercer	35	1%	35	1%	70	2%	4,308
Middlesex	47	1%	47	1%	94	1%	6,950
Monmouth	45	1%	58	1%	103	2%	4,792
Morris	38	1%	56	2%	94	3%	3,186
Ocean	43	1%	77	1%	120	2%	6,124
Passaic	40	1%	53	1%	93	2%	5,834
Salem	18	2%	27	3%	45	4%	1,018
Somerset	14	1%	10	0%	24	1%	2,373
Sussex	28	2%	13	1%	41	2%	1,641
Union	36	1%	104	2%	140	3%	5,098
Warren	24	2%	<10*	N/A	33	2%	1,479
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>88,762</b>

For suppressed data displayed in the table, these values are displayed as "<10\*". Due to data being suppressed, percentages could not be calculated for some counties resulting in N/A.

## 4 Child Protection

### Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	1,303	1,090	1,073
Bergen	1,425	1,360	1,333
Burlington	1,339	1,397	1,387
Camden	2,507	2,724	2,700
Cape May	397	349	373
Cumberland	1,068	1,034	965
Essex	2,678	2,755	3,243
Gloucester	988	963	1,020
Hudson	2,076	1,947	1,754
Hunterdon	218	258	208
Mercer	1,223	1,107	979
Middlesex	2,318	2,086	1,928
Monmouth	1,251	1,099	1,221
Morris	810	833	846
Ocean	1,474	1,409	1,344
Passaic	1,874	1,763	1,717
Salem	340	367	406
Somerset	628	668	612
Sussex	348	285	325
Union	1,632	1,475	1,483
Warren	518	499	531
Other	3,053	2,798	2,681
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>29,468</b>	<b>28,266</b>	<b>28,129</b>

### Children in Out-of-Home Placements

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	164	151	182
Bergen	82	91	83
Burlington	202	225	228
Camden	428	410	429
Cape May	63	56	55
Cumberland	99	111	115
Essex	357	396	410
Gloucester	161	138	151
Hudson	167	145	138
Hunterdon	<10*	<10*	10
Mercer	203	190	207
Middlesex	154	122	115
Monmouth	162	198	187
Morris	58	56	61
Ocean	175	155	149
Passaic	166	208	211
Salem	40	40	52
Somerset	30	34	32
Sussex	27	23	22
Union	151	129	124
Warren	35	45	43
Other	<10*	<10*	15
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>3,019</b>

**The New Jersey Youth Resource Spot** ([www.njyrs.org](http://www.njyrs.org)) is a website created by members of the DCF Youth Council, specially geared for young people in New Jersey who have been involved with DCF and those who work with them.

# 4 Child Protection

## Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision by Race/Ethnicity

2025

	Black or African American		Hispanic		White		Another Race		Missing or Undetermined	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	342	32%	349	33%	281	26%	52	5%	49	5%
Bergen	242	18%	570	43%	341	26%	96	7%	84	6%
Burlington	543	39%	243	18%	454	33%	90	6%	57	4%
Camden	1,110	41%	767	28%	610	23%	101	4%	112	4%
Cape May	48	13%	90	24%	203	54%	22	6%	10	3%
Cumberland	302	31%	380	39%	215	22%	32	3%	36	4%
Essex	1,914	59%	1,022	32%	191	6%	38	1%	78	2%
Gloucester	353	35%	190	19%	400	39%	37	4%	40	4%
Hudson	502	29%	938	53%	184	10%	66	4%	64	4%
Hunterdon	23	11%	49	24%	111	53%	13	6%	12	6%
Mercer	456	47%	345	35%	102	10%	37	4%	39	4%
Middlesex	478	25%	889	46%	305	16%	158	8%	98	5%
Monmouth	310	25%	368	30%	442	36%	46	4%	55	5%
Morris	89	11%	313	37%	344	41%	50	6%	50	6%
Ocean	182	14%	382	28%	671	50%	52	4%	57	4%
Passaic	380	22%	996	58%	226	13%	35	2%	80	5%
Salem	164	40%	46	11%	164	40%	20	5%	12	3%
Somerset	162	26%	261	43%	115	19%	39	6%	35	6%
Sussex	25	8%	70	22%	202	62%	18	6%	10	3%
Union	488	33%	791	53%	112	8%	39	3%	53	4%
Warren	98	18%	124	23%	241	45%	33	6%	35	7%
Other	990	37%	691	26%	678	25%	131	5%	191	7%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9,201</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>9,874</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>6,592</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>4%</b>

## 4 Child Protection

### Children in Out-of-Home Placements by Race/Ethnicity

2025

	Black or African American		Hispanic		White		Another Race	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	76	42%	46	25%	45	25%	14	8%
Bergen	25	30%	25	30%	28	34%	<10*	N/A
Burlington	98	43%	41	18%	69	30%	18	8%
Camden	206	48%	101	24%	94	22%	22	5%
Cape May	<10*	N/A	15	27%	35	64%	<10*	N/A
Cumberland	31	27%	41	36%	35	30%	<10*	N/A
Essex	298	73%	93	23%	14	3%	<10*	N/A
Gloucester	50	33%	18	12%	63	42%	18	12%
Hudson	53	38%	59	43%	20	14%	<10*	N/A
Hunterdon	<10*	N/A	<10*	N/A	<10*	N/A	-	N/A
Mercer	112	54%	45	22%	37	18%	12	6%
Middlesex	34	30%	43	37%	31	27%	<10*	N/A
Monmouth	71	38%	39	21%	58	31%	16	9%
Morris	12	20%	22	36%	23	38%	<10*	N/A
Ocean	22	15%	36	24%	82	55%	<10*	N/A
Passaic	84	40%	91	43%	23	11%	12	6%
Salem	18	35%	11	21%	16	31%	<10*	N/A
Somerset	17	53%	10	31%	<10*	N/A	<10*	N/A
Sussex	<10*	N/A	<10*	N/A	11	50%	<10*	N/A
Union	65	52%	35	28%	13	10%	11	9%
Warren	<10*	N/A	<10*	N/A	23	53%	<10*	N/A
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>7%</b>

## 5 Early Learning

In this section, we use the term early care and education to refer to licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers in New Jersey. In New Jersey, licensed child care centers serve children across a broad age range. Depending on their license, programs may serve children ages 0–13, 0–6, 2.5–6, or 2.5–13, meaning that not all licensed centers primarily serve infants and preschool-age children.

### Licensed Child Care Centers for Each Age Group

Ages Served	2023	2024	2025
0-13	1,438	1,457	1,484
0-6	403	404	400
2.5-13	896	953	968
2.5-6	455	458	446
6-13	883	820	813
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>4,111</b>

For more information, visit [www.childcarenj.org](http://www.childcarenj.org).

### Start Strong NJ: A Blueprint for Affordable Child Care

- **Make high-quality child care affordable and accessible for families:** Child care must be affordable and accessible for every family that needs it.
- **Compensate and support early childhood educators as professionals:** Early childhood educators must be compensated and supported as the professionals they are.
- **Recognize child care as essential economic infrastructure:** Child care must be recognized as essential economic infrastructure and funded accordingly.

To learn more about the Start Strong NJ Campaign, visit [www.startstrongnj.org](http://www.startstrongnj.org).

## 5 Early Learning

### Licensed Child Care Centers

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	104	101	102
Bergen	429	440	442
Burlington	148	149	150
Camden	218	224	225
Cape May	27	27	27
Cumberland	76	76	74
Essex	480	482	476
Gloucester	122	120	116
Hudson	403	409	409
Hunterdon	61	63	63
Mercer	197	196	203
Middlesex	339	340	344
Monmouth	256	258	259
Morris	243	242	238
Ocean	157	164	166
Passaic	249	248	255
Salem	20	19	20
Somerset	155	150	158
Sussex	60	58	58
Union	283	277	276
Warren	48	49	50
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>4,111</b>

**Licensed child care centers** offer care to children through age 13, serve at least six children, and **must meet state licensing requirements.** For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf).

## 5 Early Learning

### Capacity of Licensed Child Care Centers

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	8,459	8,240	8,084
Bergen	42,667	43,445	44,546
Burlington	15,710	15,988	15,944
Camden	22,054	22,744	22,783
Cape May	1,908	1,931	1,881
Cumberland	7,523	7,666	7,609
Essex	45,132	46,301	46,337
Gloucester	10,879	10,542	10,250
Hudson	35,747	35,993	36,806
Hunterdon	5,273	5,434	5,339
Mercer	19,469	19,809	23,134
Middlesex	34,974	35,467	34,818
Monmouth	25,843	26,196	26,614
Morris	23,722	23,714	23,245
Ocean	16,174	17,524	17,897
Passaic	26,797	25,828	26,424
Salem	1,458	1,428	1,513
Somerset	18,764	18,211	19,660
Sussex	3,890	3,801	3,872
Union	26,753	27,130	27,755
Warren	3,257	3,252	3,396
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>396,453</b>	<b>400,644</b>	<b>407,907</b>

### Licensed Capacity vs. Actual Availability

**Capacity is the maximum number of children a program can serve based on space and licensing rules. For example, even if a classroom is large enough to serve more children, availability may be limited by staffing ratios or program rules, such as caps on the number of infants in a room or limits on class size in publicly-funded preschool or Head Start classrooms.**

## 5 Early Learning

### Registered Family Child Care Providers

	2023	2024	2025
Atlantic	42	46	42
Bergen	59	62	65
Burlington	48	53	47
Camden	131	135	134
Cape May	8	9	9
Cumberland	37	37	36
Essex	186	180	174
Gloucester	20	25	21
Hudson	105	103	101
Hunterdon	3	4	3
Mercer	27	23	30
Middlesex	129	153	150
Monmouth	48	45	46
Morris	39	36	36
Ocean	24	32	16
Passaic	276	276	268
Salem	18	16	14
Somerset	9	11	10
Sussex	8	9	7
Union	75	80	75
Warren	26	27	26
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,310</b>

**Family child care providers** care for children under age 13 in their homes and may be registered or unregistered. **They can serve up to five children at a time, and those who register must meet state requirements.** For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/FCCmanual.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/FCCmanual.pdf).

## 5 Early Learning

**High-Quality Early Learning Opportunities Matter:** Research shows that young children who attend high-quality early care and education are better prepared for kindergarten. They often develop stronger early reading and math skills and have larger vocabularies.

Grow NJ Kids is New Jersey's voluntary framework to raise the quality of early care and education in all settings serving children 0-5 across the state. It helps programs evaluate and strengthen their practices, while also giving parents clear information to help them choose high-quality programs for their children. The goal is to support continuous quality improvement for programs and better outcomes for children. For more information, visit [www.childcarenj.gov/GrowNJKids](http://www.childcarenj.gov/GrowNJKids).

### Grow NJ-Rated Child Care Centers, 2026

	Participating (Not Rated)	3-Star	4-Star	5-Star
Atlantic	17	9	6	2
Bergen	53	11	9	1
Burlington	30	11	1	0
Camden	51	10	3	0
Cape May	6	4	0	0
Cumberland	20	3	1	0
Essex	85	26	13	0
Gloucester	21	3	2	0
Hudson	62	24	1	0
Hunterdon	11	6	14	0
Mercer	35	11	4	0
Middlesex	80	17	2	1
Monmouth	48	9	5	0
Morris	31	21	10	2
Ocean	26	7	4	0
Passaic	56	12	6	2
Salem	1	0	0	0
Somerset	31	5	3	0
Sussex	7	4	4	0
Union	39	14	5	0
Warren	6	7	0	0
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>8</b>

## 5 Early Learning

### Grow NJ-Rated Registered Family Child Care Providers, 2026

	Participating (Not Rated)	3-Star	4-Star	5-Star
Atlantic	3	0	0	0
Bergen	7	5	2	0
Burlington	4	0	1	1
Camden	10	1	0	0
Cape May	0	0	1	1
Cumberland	4	0	0	1
Essex	15	3	3	0
Gloucester	2	0	0	0
Hudson	2	0	0	0
Hunterdon	1	0	0	0
Mercer	1	1	1	2
Middlesex	24	1	0	1
Monmouth	7	0	0	0
Morris	11	1	1	3
Ocean	2	0	0	0
Passaic	24	6	2	2
Salem	1	0	0	0
Somerset	2	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0
Union	4	4	2	0
Warren	3	0	3	0
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>

## 5 Early Learning

### All Available Parents in the Labor Force for Children Under 6

	2015-19		2020-24		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Atlantic	11,994	72%	12,705	79%	6%
Bergen	39,186	66%	41,742	73%	7%
Burlington	19,565	72%	20,607	74%	5%
Camden	26,436	75%	28,705	77%	9%
Cape May	3,576	77%	3,482	74%	-3%
Cumberland	7,603	69%	7,574	70%	0%
Essex	44,316	73%	47,899	76%	8%
Gloucester	13,812	75%	14,056	75%	2%
Hudson	34,951	66%	35,041	70%	0%
Hunterdon	4,804	79%	4,826	72%	0%
Mercer	16,705	70%	19,088	75%	14%
Middlesex	36,086	64%	39,580	72%	10%
Monmouth	25,280	69%	27,271	71%	8%
Morris	20,880	72%	23,298	76%	12%
Ocean	28,451	60%	32,904	59%	16%
Passaic	24,678	62%	27,582	71%	12%
Salem	2,588	63%	3,179	77%	23%
Somerset	13,495	67%	15,404	76%	14%
Sussex	5,049	66%	6,042	72%	20%
Union	30,079	72%	30,209	74%	0%
Warren	4,074	71%	4,540	78%	11%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>413,608</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>445,734</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>8%</b>

# 5 Early Learning

## State-Funded Preschool Enrollment

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	2,494	2,605	2,907
Bergen	1,858	1,887	2,209
Burlington	2,058	2,404	3,245
Camden	3,706	3,748	4,263
Cape May	668	680	711
Cumberland	2,691	2,579	2,685
Essex	9,753	9,762	10,319
Gloucester	1,503	1,699	2,175
Hudson	8,635	8,555	8,541
Hunterdon	137	147	774
Mercer	1,777	2,034	2,074
Middlesex	3,998	4,079	4,474
Monmouth	2,489	2,742	3,528
Morris	963	1,173	1,300
Ocean	2,514	2,813	3,119
Passaic	5,063	4,985	5,100
Salem	721	789	798
Somerset	837	1,005	1,016
Sussex	316	455	891
Union	5,771	5,754	5,726
Warren	435	470	564
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>58,387</b>	<b>60,365</b>	<b>66,419</b>

Facilities considerations are central to district preschool expansion planning; many public school buildings lack sufficient capacity to serve every 3- and 4-year-old in the community. Districts can mitigate this shortfall by partnering with licensed child care centers and Head Start programs, which are then required to deliver instruction that meets the same quality standards as district-run classrooms. In 2025, Governor Murphy reduced the minimum classroom space requirement for such partner sites from 63.3 to 42 square feet per child, significantly widening the pool of eligible providers and enabling more children to benefit from publicly-funded preschool.

## Public Kindergarten Enrollment

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	2,499	2,816	2,602
Bergen	8,595	9,105	8,786
Burlington	4,276	4,546	4,695
Camden	5,521	5,659	5,675
Cape May	694	728	687
Cumberland	1,774	1,891	1,797
Essex	9,455	10,411	10,106
Gloucester	2,928	3,000	3,123
Hudson	5,941	6,452	6,323
Hunterdon	1,100	1,137	1,167
Mercer	3,745	4,112	4,135
Middlesex	7,652	7,878	7,717
Monmouth	5,517	5,741	5,713
Morris	4,814	4,976	4,848
Ocean	3,912	4,294	4,107
Passaic	5,556	5,650	5,645
Salem	641	687	723
Somerset	2,787	2,942	2,939
Sussex	1,239	1,314	1,276
Union	6,089	6,374	6,356
Warren	999	1,070	1,008
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>85,734</b>	<b>90,783</b>	<b>89,428</b>

## Public Kindergarten Enrollment by Type, 2024-25

	Full Day		Half Day	
	#	%	#	%
Burlington	4,453	95%	242	5%
Camden	5,526	97%	149	3%
Essex	10,105	100%	<10	<1%
Gloucester	3,122	100%	<10	<1%
Middlesex	7,377	96%	340	4%
Monmouth	5,618	98%	95	2%
Morris	4,847	100%	<10	<1%
Somerset	2,310	79%	629	21%
Union	5,961	94%	395	6%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>87,575</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>2%</b>

All other counties not included in this table, only offer full-day kindergarten.

**What's next in Public Kindergarten?** Signed into law in July 2025, the New Jersey Universal Preschool and Kindergarten Act (S-3910/A-5717) codifies preschool expansion aid into law and mandates that all school districts offer free, full-day kindergarten by the 2029-2030 school year. The law aims to strengthen early education, support mixed-delivery systems, and establish a Universal Preschool Implementation Steering Committee to guide expansion.

These are the districts that currently do not have full day Kindergarten:

- **Burlington:** *Moorestown Township:* Offers free half-day; full-day requires tuition.
- **Camden:** *Haddonfield:* Currently has half-day, with plans for expansion.
- **Middlesex:** *Monroe Township:* Offers half-day, with challenges in expanding.
- **Morris:** *School District of the Chathams:* Operates with a paid full-day program, with no free, full-day option.
- **Somerset:** *Hillsborough:* Provides free half-day with a paid full-day "play" extension option.
- **Somerset:** *Montgomery Township:* Noted as one of the few remaining districts without universal full-day.
- **Union:** *Cranford:* Offers free half-day and a tuition-based, lottery-system full-day.
- **Union:** *Westfield:* Offers half-day and a tuition-based "Kindergarten Wrap" program.

## Pre-K-12 Total Enrollment

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	42,568	42,283	42,442
Bergen	133,683	134,584	134,206
Burlington	68,629	68,937	69,490
Camden	83,059	83,221	83,399
Cape May	11,803	11,641	11,395
Cumberland	28,650	28,850	28,726
Essex	144,864	147,722	150,423
Gloucester	46,475	46,788	46,683
Hudson	90,711	91,158	91,058
Hunterdon	17,476	17,615	17,894
Mercer	62,507	63,523	64,852
Middlesex	126,950	127,481	126,529
Monmouth	91,828	91,285	89,908
Morris	72,777	73,334	73,096
Ocean	66,397	66,055	65,727
Passaic	85,726	85,838	85,781
Salem	11,193	11,170	11,285
Somerset	52,129	52,279	51,712
Sussex	19,460	19,748	19,785
Union	99,537	100,932	101,277
Warren	15,503	15,548	15,517
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,371,921</b>	<b>1,379,988</b>	<b>1,381,182</b>

## Percentage of Pre-K-12 Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

2024-25

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Multiracial	White
Atlantic	7%	18%	35%	4%	36%
Bergen	16%	5%	32%	3%	42%
Burlington	7%	19%	17%	6%	51%
Camden	6%	23%	31%	4%	36%
Cape May	1%	7%	19%	3%	70%
Cumberland	1%	19%	54%	4%	23%
Essex	6%	36%	36%	3%	19%
Gloucester	3%	15%	15%	5%	62%
Hudson	10%	12%	57%	2%	18%
Hunterdon	6%	3%	15%	3%	72%
Mercer	18%	18%	38%	4%	22%
Middlesex	28%	10%	36%	3%	23%
Monmouth	6%	7%	23%	4%	60%
Morris	13%	4%	25%	4%	55%
Ocean	2%	5%	28%	3%	61%
Passaic	5%	1%	62%	1%	23%
Salem	1%	19%	20%	5%	54%
Somerset	25%	10%	28%	4%	33%
Sussex	2%	4%	20%	3%	71%
Union	5%	18%	49%	2%	26%
Warren	3%	10%	23%	4%	59%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>37%</b>

Note: Some racial groups are excluded due to low percentages.

## Percentage of Multilingual Learners in Total Enrollment

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	7%	8%	9%
Bergen	6%	6%	7%
Burlington	3%	4%	4%
Camden	6%	6%	7%
Cape May	4%	5%	6%
Cumberland	12%	15%	16%
Essex	11%	12%	15%
Gloucester	2%	2%	2%
Hudson	15%	16%	18%
Hunterdon	3%	3%	4%
Mercer	11%	13%	16%
Middlesex	10%	11%	13%
Monmouth	5%	6%	6%
Morris	6%	6%	7%
Ocean	6%	7%	8%
Passaic	15%	16%	19%
Salem	3%	3%	5%
Somerset	7%	8%	9%
Sussex	1%	2%	2%
Union	15%	16%	20%
Warren	4%	4%	5%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>

***When is a Student Considered a Multilingual Learner?*** Schools are required to provide Multilingual Learners (MLs), formerly known as English Language Learners (ELL), access to equity and excellence in education. An ML is a student whose primary language is other than English and is identified as a student who does not have English language proficiency in listening, speaking and writing. Once identified, he or she will be provided with English language services to be successful in the district's academic program. MLs are to be assessed annually to measure progress toward English language proficiency and to determine readiness for exiting the program.

## Schools Where 10% or More of Students Are Chronically Absent

2023-24

	Total Schools with Reportable Data*	Schools Where 10% or More of Students Are Chronically Absent	
		#	%
Atlantic	68	58	85%
Bergen	268	102	38%
Burlington	124	80	65%
Camden	142	101	71%
Cape May	29	25	86%
Cumberland	45	43	96%
Essex	225	117	52%
Gloucester	80	55	69%
Hudson	127	110	87%
Hunterdon	45	17	38%
Mercer	103	67	65%
Middlesex	183	116	63%
Monmouth	175	105	60%
Morris	149	40	27%
Ocean	104	94	90%
Passaic	140	103	74%
Salem	29	25	86%
Somerset	80	34	43%
Sussex	44	33	75%
Union	164	94	57%
Warren	39	28	72%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>61%</b>

\*Please refer to "What is Chronic Absenteeism?" on page 67 for further information on attendance tracking and reporting responsibility.

***What is Special Education Classification?*** Under both New Jersey and federal law, students may qualify for special education when they have a disability that affects learning and requires specialized instruction or school-based therapies.

A student's classification is determined through an evaluation process that includes the school district's child study team, parent-submitted evaluations, school data, and input from teachers, staff, and parents.

The child study team and the parent determine the student's classification based on the primary disabling condition. However, regardless of the classification, the student's IEP must address all of the child's identified needs.

***What is Chronic Absenteeism?*** Students are considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the days they are enrolled during the school year. In New Jersey, when 10% or more of a public school's students are chronically absent, the school must create a corrective action plan to address the issue.

Research shows that chronic absenteeism can negatively affect a student's academic success and is a strong predictor of their risk of dropping out. It can also have long-term consequences in the early grades. Studies suggest that students who are chronically absent from preschool through second grade are less likely to read at grade level by third grade.

During the 2023–24 school year, New Jersey's statewide chronic absenteeism rate was 14.9%, with more than 60% of schools reporting that at least 10% of their students were chronically absent. To learn more about student attendance, visit [www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/attendance/](http://www.nj.gov/education/safety/sandp/attendance/).

Please note, attendance is calculated based on a student's accountable school, which may differ from their attending school (e.g., students attending private schools for disabilities). In rare cases where a student cannot be assigned to an individual school, they are included in the district-level report only. In addition, pre-kindergarten students are not included in the calculation of school and district accountability scores for chronic absenteeism. For further clarification, please refer to [Reporting Student Attendance and Determining Chronic Absenteeism Rates \(September 2025\)](#).

## Special Education Classification Rates, Ages 3-21

	2023-24		2024-25	
	Special ed. Enrollment	Classification Rate	Special ed. Enrollment	Classification Rate
Atlantic	7,735	18.23	7,768	18.32
Bergen	24,487	18.03	24,706	18.25
Burlington	13,919	20.04	14,084	20.1
Camden	14,584	17.31	15,191	17.97
Cape May	2,193	18.86	2,196	19.31
Cumberland	5,010	17.19	5,083	17.53
Essex	22,873	15.34	23,432	15.43
Gloucester	9,331	19.89	9,466	20.15
Hudson	12,346	13.39	12,747	13.84
Hunterdon	3,473	19.58	3,241	18.01
Mercer	9,778	15.32	10,029	15.39
Middlesex	19,931	15.55	20,265	15.91
Monmouth	17,048	18.53	16,817	18.42
Morris	13,508	18.26	13,495	18.29
Ocean	14,449	21.53	14,496	21.76
Passaic	14,619	16.79	15,098	17.29
Salem	2,096	18.91	2,134	19.02
Somerset	8,863	16.8	8,929	17.12
Sussex	4,204	21.13	4,231	21.25
Union	15,059	14.79	15,407	15.06
Warren	3,001	19.14	2,954	18.89
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>238,721</b>	<b>17.13</b>	<b>242,001</b>	<b>17.35</b>

## Percentage of 3rd Graders Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessment

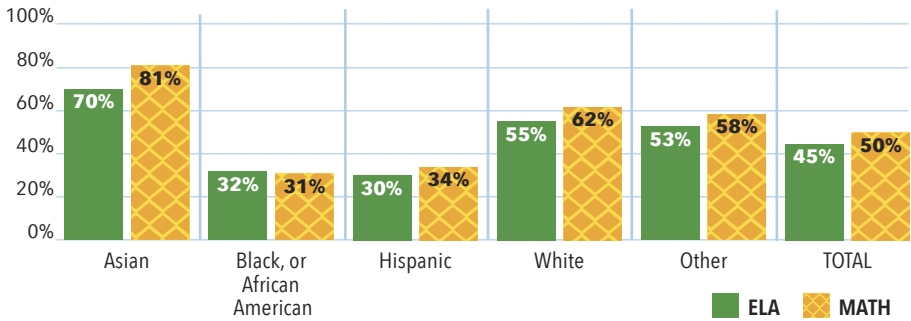
	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	29%	33%	34%	35%
Bergen	58%	60%	62%	65%
Burlington	39%	44%	45%	48%
Camden	40%	39%	42%	44%
Cape May	37%	38%	40%	42%
Cumberland	21%	20%	26%	26%
Essex	43%	45%	43%	47%
Gloucester	42%	42%	49%	50%
Hudson	41%	43%	43%	46%
Hunterdon	52%	51%	60%	59%
Mercer	36%	38%	41%	43%
Middlesex	45%	45%	50%	51%
Monmouth	49%	52%	55%	58%
Morris	59%	57%	64%	63%
Ocean	35%	36%	43%	41%
Passaic	32%	36%	34%	39%
Salem	33%	31%	33%	36%
Somerset	54%	53%	60%	61%
Sussex	44%	43%	49%	49%
Union	42%	44%	45%	49%
Warren	35%	36%	40%	46%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>50%</b>

## Percentage of 8th Graders Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessment

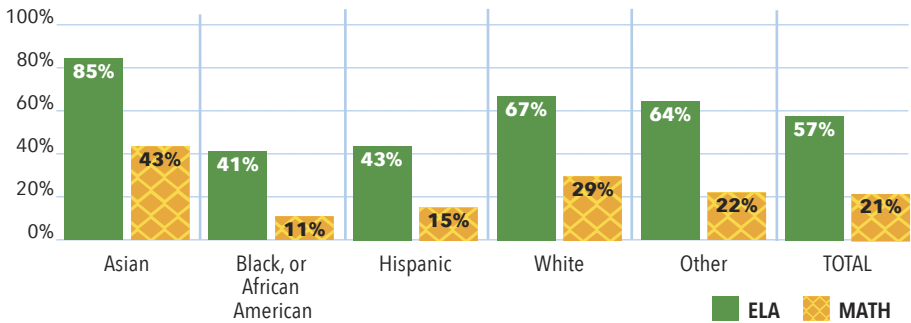
	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Atlantic	42%	47%	12%	13%
Bergen	66%	70%	29%	31%
Burlington	45%	51%	19%	23%
Camden	45%	49%	14%	15%
Cape May	43%	52%	18%	23%
Cumberland	25%	32%	6%	5%
Essex	53%	55%	18%	18%
Gloucester	54%	59%	17%	20%
Hudson	52%	55%	21%	20%
Hunterdon	63%	68%	32%	27%
Mercer	47%	52%	12%	15%
Middlesex	53%	57%	16%	15%
Monmouth	60%	64%	25%	30%
Morris	67%	71%	31%	31%
Ocean	48%	51%	19%	18%
Passaic	44%	48%	19%	20%
Salem	36%	44%	13%	18%
Somerset	67%	69%	23%	26%
Sussex	55%	60%	22%	23%
Union	53%	57%	15%	16%
Warren	48%	54%	18%	22%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>

## New Jersey's Students by Race/Ethnicity Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessment, 2024-25

### 3rd Graders



### 8th Graders



Some racial/ethnic groups are not included due to suppression.

**How is State Testing Changing in 2026?** Beginning in Spring 2026, school testing is changing for New Jersey students. Through a partnership with Cambium Assessment, the New Jersey Department of Education will launch the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive (NJSLA-A). The new state assessment will be using a student's responses to questions to determine future questions for that student, which creates a personalized test for all. The computerized NJSLA-A is designed to not only reduce testing anxiety but encourage confidence in students as well. While students may not see the same questions, the content and standards remain the same and only grade-level items count towards the student's score. While English Language Arts and Mathematics will shift to the NJSLA-A format, the state will continue testing science in a fixed form assessment called NJSLA-S. For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/faq.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/faq.shtml).

## Percentage of Population Ages 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

	2015-19	2020-24
Atlantic	28%	32%
Bergen	49%	53%
Burlington	38%	43%
Camden	32%	36%
Cape May	33%	39%
Cumberland	16%	19%
Essex	35%	39%
Gloucester	33%	37%
Hudson	42%	49%
Hunterdon	53%	57%
Mercer	43%	45%
Middlesex	44%	46%
Monmouth	46%	51%
Morris	54%	58%
Ocean	30%	34%
Passaic	28%	31%
Salem	21%	25%
Somerset	55%	58%
Sussex	36%	40%
Union	36%	39%
Warren	33%	37%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>44%</b>

## Births to Adolescents

	2022		2023	
	#	% of Total Births	#	% of Total Births
Atlantic	109	4%	101	4%
Bergen	92	1%	67	1%
Burlington	72	2%	78	2%
Camden	208	3%	154	3%
Cape May	23	3%	17	3%
Cumberland	132	7%	120	7%
Essex	299	3%	332	3%
Gloucester	54	2%	47	2%
Hudson	182	2%	160	2%
Hunterdon	<10	1%	<10	1%
Mercer	186	4%	194	5%
Middlesex	164	2%	151	2%
Monmouth	97	2%	80	1%
Morris	48	1%	59	1%
Ocean	115	1%	116	1%
Passaic	219	3%	195	3%
Salem	38	5%	20	3%
Somerset	51	2%	47	1%
Sussex	13	1%	19	1%
Union	183	3%	194	3%
Warren	24	2%	26	2%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2%</b>

Note: Data are of individuals who gave birth between the ages of 10 to 19.

## Juvenile Arrests

	2022		2023		2024	
	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Atlantic	195	3.4	422	7.5	379	6.7
Bergen	500	2.5	592	3.0	698	3.5
Burlington	239	2.5	206	2.2	227	2.4
Camden	792	6.7	881	7.4	1,050	8.8
Cape May	550	33.9	396	24.8	299	19.1
Cumberland	289	8.0	228	6.1	177	4.7
Essex	842	4.3	1,034	5.2	983	4.8
Gloucester	145	2.3	196	3.0	151	2.3
Hudson	435	3.1	446	3.3	377	2.7
Hunterdon	19	0.8	12	0.5	26	1.0
Mercer	571	7.0	640	7.7	536	6.2
Middlesex	400	2.2	424	2.3	427	2.3
Monmouth	351	2.7	364	2.7	407	3.1
Morris	119	1.1	103	1.0	120	1.1
Ocean	187	1.2	159	1.0	262	1.6
Passaic	190	1.6	214	1.8	212	1.7
Salem	48	3.4	67	4.7	68	4.7
Somerset	75	1.0	83	1.1	106	1.4
Sussex	30	1.1	53	1.9	62	2.2
Union	320	2.4	326	2.4	302	2.2
Warren	90	4.3	143	6.7	175	8.3
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>6,387</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>7,044</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Note: Rate is per 1,000.

## Youth Admissions to County Detention

	2022	2023	2024
Atlantic	72	111	92
Bergen	50	56	61
Burlington	70	73	64
Camden	254	280	280
Cape May	<10	10	<10
Cumberland	41	67	42
Essex	447	439	434
Gloucester	22	35	27
Hudson	149	147	171
Hunterdon	<10	<10	<10
Mercer	94	98	75
Middlesex	76	98	89
Monmouth	55	33	52
Morris	20	17	10
Ocean	30	39	31
Passaic	86	85	90
Salem	27	17	<10
Somerset	19	25	15
Sussex	<10	<10	<10
Union	77	84	83
Warren	12	<10	<10
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,644</b>

## Percentage of Youth Admissions to County Detention by Race/Ethnicity

2024

	Black or African American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other
Atlantic	63%	9%	27%	1%
Bergen	62%	5%	33%	N/A
Burlington	67%	27%	5%	2%
Camden	75%	8%	16%	1%
Cape May	17%	17%	67%	N/A
Cumberland	62%	17%	21%	N/A
Essex	93%	0%	7%	N/A
Gloucester	85%	4%	11%	N/A
Hudson	66%	4%	26%	4%
Hunterdon	0%	0%	100%	N/A
Mercer	89%	3%	8%	N/A
Middlesex	42%	11%	43%	4%
Monmouth	69%	8%	23%	N/A
Morris	90%	0%	10%	N/A
Ocean	39%	48%	10%	3%
Passaic	57%	1%	42%	N/A
Salem	88%	N/A	13%	N/A
Somerset	73%	7%	20%	N/A
Sussex	17%	83%	N/A	N/A
Union	77%	10%	10%	4%
Warren	57%	43%	N/A	N/A
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>1%</b>

Note: "Other" race is all other races/ethnicities than the ones shown.

## Teens Ages 16-19 Not Working and Not in School

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	767	6%	1,028	7%
Bergen	1,457	3%	1,790	4%
Burlington	1,293	6%	1,323	6%
Camden	1,698	7%	1,436	6%
Cape May	274	7%	155	5%
Cumberland	1,094	15%	1,172	15%
Essex	3,612	9%	2,882	6%
Gloucester	884	6%	658	4%
Hudson	1,972	8%	2,278	8%
Hunterdon	360	5%	343	5%
Mercer	1,343	6%	966	4%
Middlesex	1,597	4%	1,489	3%
Monmouth	1,278	4%	1,270	4%
Morris	922	3%	723	3%
Ocean	1,126	4%	1,177	4%
Passaic	2,068	8%	1,429	5%
Salem	188	6%	189	6%
Somerset	787	5%	790	4%
Sussex	244	3%	347	5%
Union	2,007	7%	2,067	7%
Warren	158	3%	349	6%
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>25,129</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>23,861</b>	<b>5%</b>

*Note: In some instances, data for certain years may have been updated since last collected, and therefore, due to data shifts, will look slightly different than the numbers previously published.*

## 1 Demographics

**Total Population, 2022-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Data are as of July 1 for each year. Data from previous years may look different.

**Child Population Under Age 18, 2022-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Data are as of July 1 for each year.

**Population Under Age 20 by Race/Ethnicity, 2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Note, counts of less than ten are suppressed in order to retain confidentiality. Data are as of July 1 for year indicated.

**Population Under Age 5, 2022-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Note, counts of less than ten are suppressed in order to retain confidentiality. Data are as of July 1 for each year.

**Population Under Age 5 by Race/Ethnicity, 2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Note, counts of less than ten are suppressed in order to retain confidentiality. Data are as of July 1.

**Percentage of Households with Children by Type, 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B09005 using 5-year estimates.

**Percentage of Population Age 5 and Above Speaking a Language Other than English at Home, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart S1601 using 5-year estimates. Data are for languages spoken in the home for population 5 years and above.

## 2 Family Economic Security

**2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds for a Family of Four.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Thresholds for a family of four (two adults and two children) living in poverty.

**Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Level, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B17001 using 5-year estimates.

**NJ Earned Income Tax Credits, Recipients with at Least One Dependent Under Age 19, 2024.** As reported by the NJ Department of Treasury. Number of New Jersey taxpayers receiving a state EITC credit, total amount of EITC credits issued, and average credit amount.

**Federal Earned Income Tax Credits, 2022.** As reported by the NJ Department of Treasury. Number of New Jersey taxpayers claiming a federal EITC and average claim.

**Unemployment Rate, 2022-2024.** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted and are annual averages.

**Median Family Income with Children Under 18, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B19125 using 5-year estimates.

**Percentage of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25070 using 5-year estimates.

**WIC Enrollment and Participation, 2023 and 2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health for the quarter ending June 30 each year. Number of women, infants, and children enrolled in the Women, Infants, and Children program, which includes healthcare referrals, immunizations screenings, nutrition counseling, and a monthly food stipend.

**Number of Children Participating in TANF, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

**Number of Children Participating in SNAP, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

**Estimated Food Insecure Child Population, 2022-2023.** Estimated number and rate of children less than 18 years of age by county and state calculated by Feeding America. Estimates are calculated by analyzing state-level relationships between food insecurity and its determinants (i.e., unemployment, poverty, disability, homeownership, and median income) as well as percentage of the population that is Black and percentage of population that is Hispanic. Then, the coefficient estimates from the state analysis are used in conjunction with the same variables for every county. For more information, visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).

**Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2025-26.** As reported by the NJ Department of Agriculture for October for each year. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools.

**Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch, 2025-26.** As reported by the NJ Department of Agriculture for October for each year. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools.

**Free and Reduced-Price Student Participation in Breakfast 2024-25 and 2025-26.** As reported by the NJ Department of Agriculture for October for each year. Percentages represent the total number of students receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast out of the total number of students receiving a free or reduced-price lunch. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools.

## 3 Child Health

**Total Births, 2022-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The total number of live births. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Births to Foreign-Born Women, 2022-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The number of births by mothers born outside of the United States and its territories. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2022-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Live births for which the mother received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, 2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Live births for which the mother received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Preterm Births, 2022-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Percentage and number of total births that were considered preterm. A preterm birth is defined as less than 37 weeks. Data accessed as of February 27, 2025.

**Percentage of Preterm Births by Race/Ethnicity, 2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Percentage of total births that were considered preterm. A preterm birth is defined as less than 37 weeks. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2022-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The percentage and number of babies born weighing less than 2,500-grams. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight by Race/Ethnicity, 2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500-grams out of the total number of live births. Data accessed as of February 19, 2026.

**Total Number of Medicaid Approved Doulas, 2023-2025.** Data obtained from NJ Department of Human Services, New Jersey Medicaid Management Information System. Data are as of December of each year indicated.

**Maternal Health Hospitals Available, 2024.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health's 2024 Maternal Health Hospital Report Card.

**Infant Mortality, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death and Birth Certificate Databases. The number of infants under one year who died during the specified period. Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Data accessed as of February 13, 2026.

**New Jersey Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death and Birth Certificate Databases. The number of infants under one year who died during that year. Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Note, counts of less than ten are suppressed in order to retain confidentiality. Data accessed as of February 13, 2026.

**Families Receiving Intensive Home Visitation Programs, 2023- 2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

**Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B27001 using 5-year estimates. Data are not comparable to previous years' estimates for children without health insurance due to a change in the included ages.

**NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, Recipients Under Age 19, 2023 and 2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services. Data are from March of each year and are point-in-time snapshots that do not reflect any retroactivity. Includes children under age 18 enrolled in Medicaid, which is available to children living in families earning below 133% of the federal poverty level and children enrolled in the CHIP portion of NJ FamilyCare, which is available to children living in families earning up to 355% of the federal poverty level. Data retrieved November 7, 2025.

**Lead Screening and Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) Among Children 6-26 Months, 2023 and 2024.** As reported by the the NJ Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services. Unknown addressed indicate that the addresses could not be geocoded in the system or the address was not provided to the Department. Data accessed as of March 10, 2026.

**Lead Screening and Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBLLs) Among Children Under Age 6, 2023 and 2024.** As reported by the the NJ Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services. Unknown addressed indicate that the addresses could not be geocoded in the system or the address was not provided to the Department. Data accessed as of March 10, 2026.

**Total Calls to PerformCare, 2023 and 2024.** Total Calls are all call data to PerformCare through each calendar year. Data accessed as of March 9, 2026.

**Youth Open with Children's System of Care (CSOC), 2023 and 2024.** The total number of unique youth who were active within the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Children's System of Care (CSOC) within each calendar year. Data accessed as of March 9, 2026.

**Youth Served by Care Management Organizations, 2023 and 2024.** The total number of youth who were served by a Care Management Organization (CMO) in the community and out-of-home through the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Children's System of Care (CSOC) within each calendar year. Numbers reference unique youth who were served by CMO.

## 4 Child Protection

**Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect, 2023-2025.** Number of children who were reported for child abuse/neglect. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. Data are as of December for each year. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children Under Child Protection and Permanency Supervision, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year. For location, children are placed in "other" in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children with Substantiated/Established Cases of Abuse/Neglect, 2025.** The number of children found to be victims of child abuse/neglect. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded". Data are as of December 31 of each year. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year. For location, children are placed in 'other' in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children in Out-of-Home Placements, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year. For location, children are placed in "other" in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Supervision Race/Ethnicity, 2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. "Another Race" includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and Two or More Races. Data are as of December 31. For location, children are placed in "other" in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

**Children in Out-of-Home Placement by Race/Ethnicity, 2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. "Another Race" includes American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and Two or More Races. Data are as of December 31. For location, children are placed in "other" in cases where a county of assignment could not be determined. Data retrieved March 24, 2026.

## 5 Early Learning

**Licensed Child Care Centers by Age Group, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The number of state-licensed child care centers by age groups licensed to serve. Data are as of December 1st for each year.

**Licensed Child Care Centers, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The number of state-licensed child care centers. Data are as of December 1st for each year.

**Capacity of Licensed Child Care Centers, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The capacity of state-licensed child care centers. Data are as of December 1st for each year.

**Registered Family Child Care Providers, 2023-2025.** As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year. Family child care providers comply with state requirements, but operate as independent small businesses.

**Grow NJ-Rated Child Care Centers, 2026.** Data obtained from Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as of March 17, 2026.

**Grow NJ-Rated Registered Family Child Care Providers, 2026.** Data obtained from Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development as of March 17, 2026.

**All Available Parents in the Labor Force for Children Under 6, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** Children under 6 whose resident parents are in the civilian labor force. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B23008 using 5-year estimates.

**State-Funded Preschool Enrollment, 2022-23 to 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Number of three- and four-year-old students enrolled in half and full day New Jersey Department of Education-approved preschools, operated both in-district and in community centers. Excludes children enrolled in Head Start or other federally-funded programs that do not receive any state aid.

## 6 Education

**Public Kindergarten Enrollment, 2022-23 to 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include students enrolled in full and half day programs in both traditional district and charter schools.

**Public Kindergarten Enrollment by Type, 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include students enrolled in full and half day programs in both traditional district and charter schools.

**Pre-K-12 Total Enrollment, 2022-23 to 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include both traditional district and charter schools. Please note that total enrollment figures do not include students enrolled in public preschool programs operating within community-based providers.

**Percentage of Pre-K-12 Total Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include both traditional district and charter schools. Please note that total enrollment figures do not include students enrolled in public preschool programs operating within community-based providers.

**Percentage of Multilingual Learners in Total Enrollment, 2022-23 to 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. County calculations done by Advocates for Children of New Jersey and includes charter schools.

**Schools Where 10% or More of Students Are Chronically Absent 2023–24.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report Data. Data are of all public and charter schools. Calculations done by ACNJ.

**Special Education Classification Rates, Ages 3-21, 2023-24 to 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Number of students who are classified, ages 3-21. Data include both traditional district schools and charter schools and public and non-public students. Charter totals may be higher due to suppression of districts with fewer than 10 students.

**Percentage of 3rd Graders Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessments, 2023-24 and 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts and Mathematics was administered in the Spring of the specified year. Percentage meeting or exceeding standards are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. Data suppressed in some instances to protect students' confidentiality.

**Percentage of 8th Graders Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessments, 2023-24 and 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts and Mathematics was administered in the Spring of the specified year. Percentage meeting or exceeding standards are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. Data suppressed in some instances to protect students' confidentiality.

**Percentage of 3rd Graders by Race/Ethnicity Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessments, 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts and Mathematics was administered in the Spring of the specified year. Percentage meeting or exceeding standards are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. Data suppressed in some instances to protect students' confidentiality.

**Percentage of 8th Graders by Race/Ethnicity Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on New Jersey Student Learning Assessments, 2024-25.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts and Mathematics was administered in the Spring of the specified year. Percentage meeting or exceeding standards are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. Data suppressed in some instances to protect students' confidentiality.

**Percentage of Population Ages 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart S1501 using 5-year estimates.

## 7 Teens

**Births to Adolescents 2022-2023.** The percentage and number of live births to teenagers as reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of February 12, 2026.

**Juvenile Arrests, 2022-2024.** Data as reported by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Report. Rate is per 1,000.

**Youth Admissions to County Detention, 2022-2024.** As reported by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. The number of youths admitted to detention. Note, counts of less than ten are suppressed in order to retain confidentiality.

**Percentage of Youth Admissions to County Detention by Race/Ethnicity, 2024.** The number of youth admitted to detention. As reported by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Teens Ages 16-19 Not Working and Not in School, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.** As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B14005 using 5-year estimates. Surveys are recorded by the respondents which is the head of the households in most cases. These data are not self-reported by the youth.

***Investments in our children reap results – not for just one child, but for thousands across New Jersey. ACNJ works daily to be a voice for New Jersey’s Children.***

ACNJ’s roots grew out of some of the earliest efforts to protect abused and abandoned children in New Jersey. ACNJ is part of an evolution that began in 1847 when the Newark Orphan Asylum was established. Over the years, other child-related organizations were created to care for orphans, children living in foster care, and children in troubled families. In 1978, the remaining direct services provider, the Child Service Association, and the Citizens Committee for Children of New Jersey, a grassroots advocacy group of volunteers, merged to form what was then called the Association for Children of New Jersey. ACNJ officially changed its name in July 2010.

ACNJ’s mission is to advance and strengthen policies and programs that promote equitable opportunities for all New Jersey children and youth. Toward this end, we identify needs from parents and community partners, data, research, and policy analysis and address them through education, engagement, and collaboration with policy-makers, advocates, and the public. The strength of ACNJ lies in its diverse and influential Board of Trustees, partners, funders, Parent Leadership Council, and professional staff, representing a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations deeply committed to an equitable and inclusive state that empowers all children to reach their fullest potential.

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*As a non-partisan organization, we accept no state funding for advocacy, ensuring the freedom to speak out for children who have no voice and no vote. Our sole mission is to put the needs of New Jersey's children first.*

For more information about how you can help support our work, please contact Richard Santangelo, Fundraising Manager, at [rsantangelo@acnj.org](mailto:rsantangelo@acnj.org) or (973) 643-3876, ext. 213.

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Thank you!

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