

Pocket Guide



New Jersey Kids Count 2020

The State of Our Counties



Giving Every Child A Chance[®]

Advocates for Children of New Jersey

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Mary Coogan, *Vice President*

Alana Vega, *Kids Count Coordinator*
Catherine Felegi, *Staff Writer*
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Communications Coordinator*
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Sheldon Presser, *Senior Policy Analyst*

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35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 643-3876
(973) 643-9153 (fax)

advocates@acnj.org

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N.J. Department of Agriculture:

Robert P. Vivian, Jr.

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Aziz Haidi, Brian Ross

N.J. Department of Health: Sharon Cooley**N.J. Department of Education:** Kimberly Friddell**N.J. Department of Human Services:**

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Jacqueline Tencza

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The New Jersey Kids Count 2020 Pocket Guide documents key measures of child well-being on the county and state levels. This handy pocket guide provides a quick glimpse at trends in major indicators of child well-being. Data for additional indicators are available on our website at acnj.org and at datacenter.kidscount.org.

For more information about **New Jersey Kids Count**, contact Alana Vega, Kids Count Coordinator, at avega@acnj.org.

Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for more than 40 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.

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To view more KIDS COUNT data, including county profiles, and our NJ Kids Count Data Dashboard featuring additional indicators and data broken down by race, visit www.acnj.org.

Every year, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) produces its *New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide*, measuring the state of children in each of the 21 counties. These data provide a closer look at the numbers beyond state averages and reveal a range of experiences and outcomes depending on where children live. This year, many New Jersey families are reeling from the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The *2020 New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide* serves as a baseline to track the effects of the pandemic moving forward. Traditional measures of community well-being like unemployment and school attendance are now drastically altered. However, policymakers and stakeholders need reliable data to make decisions. The baseline data included in this report provide a foundation to assess the impact that the previous year has had on children and families. The data also point to key questions and concerns for the coming months.

How are Children and Families Faring During the Pandemic?

How are families ensuring their basic needs are met?

Child poverty data comparing 2015 to 2019 show marked improvements across the state, but we know this no longer reflects the lived realities of New Jersey's residents. Families are struggling with loss of employment, housing instability and food insecurity.

Food Insecurity

Although many schools transitioned to virtual instruction or hybrid models, many students are still able to receive free and reduced-price meals thanks to flexible guidelines and expanded programs from the USDA.

- On August 31, 2020, USDA extended waivers to operate the summer meals programs into December 2020.¹ These include the Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program.
- The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT, program assists families in purchasing food for children who would otherwise be eligible to receive a free or reduced-priced school meal but whose schools were operating virtually due to the pandemic.

Housing

- Findings from the first phase of the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey show that housing instability is more acutely felt by households with children. National figures indicate that among renters with children, one in four households reported a late or deferred housing payment; for households without children, that figure was one in six.² For more information on the Household Pulse Survey, see page six.

How are families juggling work, child care and education?

Child Care

- Child care continues to be a challenge for providers and families alike. For August and September of 2020, national data show that roughly 42 percent of households with children suffered some kind of job or income loss as compared to 27 percent of households without children. Of the households who reported job or income losses, 24 percent indicated that their loss of job was directly tied to a lack of child care.³

Education

- Students' ability to access virtual learning platforms has been a concern since the state-wide shutdown in March. Estimates from 2018 indicate that nearly 15 percent of school-aged children in New Jersey did not have high-speed internet access.⁴ Additionally, roughly 16 percent of our state's school-aged children did not have access to a computer or laptop, high-speed internet, or both. Those estimates change substantially when looking at school-aged children of color, where close to 20 percent lack high-speed internet access and over 22 percent lack access to high-speed internet, a computer, or both.
- The N.J. Department of Education administered its own survey of families with school-aged children in June of 2020.⁵ Two questions focused on internet availability and device access: responses from households indicated that 82 percent of families were "very confident" in their family's internet access and 77 percent were "very confident" in their access to devices necessary for online learning. It is important to note, however, that this survey was only made available online, which is a method that may have left out those households most in need of assistance in procuring internet service and education-appropriate devices.

How are families accessing health care at this time?

As families across the state face unemployment or reduced employment, access to health care becomes even more of a critical issue.

NJ FamilyCare

- NJ FamilyCare is New Jersey's publicly funded health insurance program, supported by federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) dollars, state funding and premiums paid for children in families with a household income up to 355 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2020, children in a family of four earning up to \$93,000 annually are eligible for insurance coverage. Earlier this year, the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act provided New Jersey with additional federal Medicaid matching funds for the duration of the public health emergency. This additional funding required that states not terminate beneficiaries' Medicaid eligibility through the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, except in certain circumstances.

Other Noteworthy Trends:

Preschool Expansion

- In 2019-20, preschool enrollment significantly increased in several counties thanks to state preschool expansion dollars. Counties like Morris and Ocean saw their preschool enrollment nearly triple between the 2015-16 and 2019-20 school years. Other counties also saw increases of at least 20 percent during the same time, including Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Salem and Somerset Counties.

Juvenile Justice

- Juvenile arrests continue to decline, with statewide arrests decreasing by more than 30 percent from 2015 to 2019. Admissions to

detention also declined, yet racial disparities persist. Of the 2,255 youth admitted to detention in 2018, 62 percent were Black, while 25 percent were Hispanic or Latino and 10 percent were white. This compares to a

statewide child population where more than 40 percent of children are white and fewer than 15 percent are Black; Hispanic or Latino children comprise close to 30 percent of New Jersey's total child population.

KIDS COUNT Spotlight: A Snapshot of COVID-19's Effect on New Jersey's Families with Children

Many data indicators that ACNJ uses to analyze child well-being are not yet available for 2020. However, the Household Pulse Survey, an experimental data product from the U.S. Census Bureau, began in late April 2020 as a way to track how households are faring amidst the coronavirus pandemic and continues to provide a valuable, if limited, picture of how New Jersey households are faring. These data provide a snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 on key economic, health, nutrition, education and housing indicators for families, painting a stark picture for households with children. Substantial percentages of families with children are unable to pay for household expenses or losing employment income, and breakdowns of the data by race and ethnicity show disparities in certain well-being indicators.

The U.S. Census Bureau completed the first phase of data collection in late July of 2020. The second phase began August 19, 2020 and continued through October 26, 2020. A third phase of the survey is currently underway, covering the period of October 28, 2020 through December 21, 2020. Data are available for the nation and each state, as well as several metropolitan areas throughout the country. For more information about the Household Pulse Survey, visit the [U.S. Census Bureau website](https://www.census.gov/household-pulse-survey).

What do the data show?

Figure 1: Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lost Employment Income Since March 13, 2020

	Aug. 19 – Sept. 14, 2020	Sept. 16 – Oct. 12, 2020
United States	52	52
New Jersey	57	52

**The U.S. government declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency on March 13, 2020; this serves as a reference point for the start of the pandemic.*

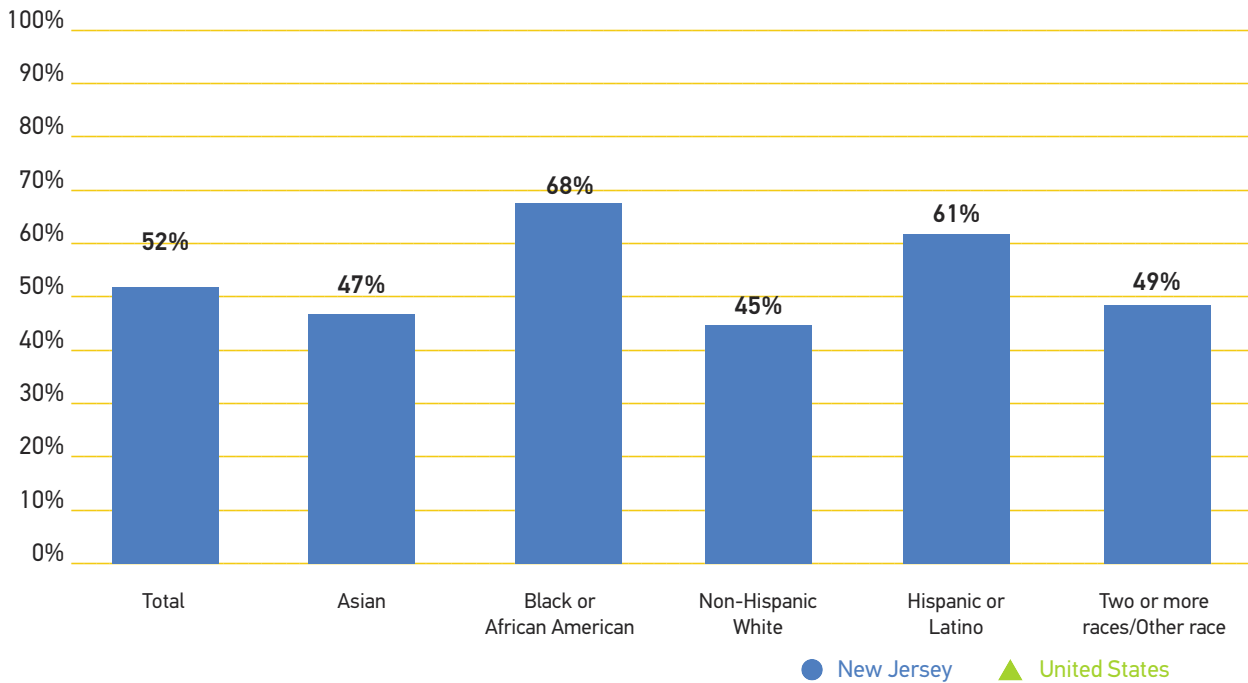
It is important to note that the survey questions were administered to adults, so data are not available for children specifically. However, the data allow users to compare differences between households with children in New Jersey and the rest of the country. Figure 1 indicates that roughly half of New Jersey's households with children reported losing income since March. Responses from New Jersey households were largely in line with those for the rest of the United States.

Introduction

Although families across the Garden State have endured economic losses since the start of the pandemic, the impact on households of color is stark.

More than 60 percent of Black and Latino households reported losing income since March—higher than the state average and other racial/ethnic groups.

Figure 2: Percentage of NJ Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lost Employment Income Since March 13, 2020, by Race/Ethnicity for Sept. 16 – Oct. 2020*



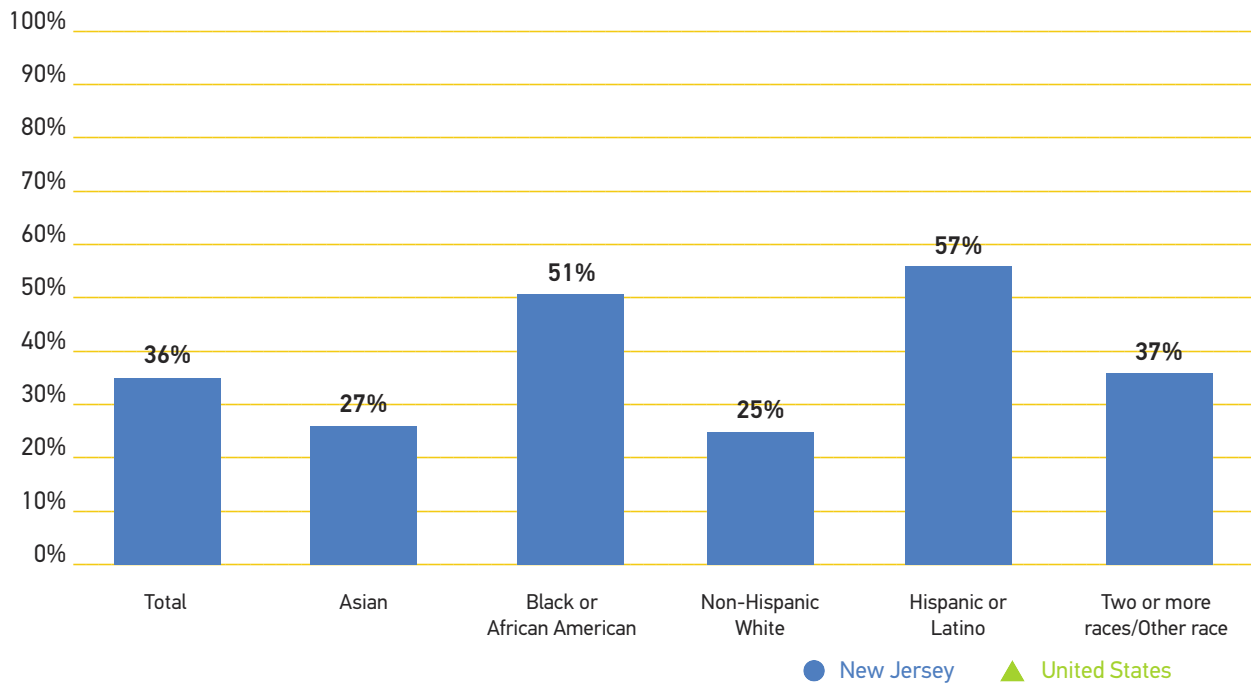
**Racial and ethnic groups are not mutually exclusive.*

These income losses have understandably impacted families' abilities to afford basic necessities, such as food, housing, health care and transportation. The first several weeks of Phase 2 of data collection show a range of 36 percent to 40 percent of New Jersey households reporting having difficulty affording basic needs, hovering close to national figures. These challenges were most acutely felt in Black and Latino households with children, where more than half of household respondents reported difficulty affording basic expenses.

Figure 3: Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Had Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses in the Past Week

	Aug. 19 – Sept. 14, 2020	Sept. 16 – Oct. 12, 2020
United States	40	40
New Jersey	41	36

Figure 4: Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Had Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses in the Past Week by Race/Ethnicity for Sept. 16 – Oct. 2020*



**Racial and ethnic groups are not mutually exclusive.*

While the trends from the Household Pulse Survey provide valuable insight into the experiences of New Jersey’s residents, it is important to keep in mind that this is an experimental data product. Households were randomly selected and invited to participate in the online survey via email or text message. Because of the experimental nature of the Household Pulse Survey, comparisons to other data products are challenging and should be done with caution. The online-only design of the survey differs from many other traditional Census Bureau data products, which take considerable time to develop and often allow respondents to participate in a

multitude of ways, such as through the internet, by phone, by mail, or through an in-person interview. Yet the rapid-response data from the Household Pulse Survey reveal trends that many suspected—that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have prolonged impacts on multiple facets of life for New Jersey’s residents. It is important that children and their families continue to be considered by policy makers as decisions are made moving forward. To view more data from the Household Pulse Survey on New Jersey’s families with children, visit the KIDS COUNT Data Center at www.datacenter.kidscount.org.

Introduction Footnotes:

- ¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2020). USDA Extends Free Meals for Kids Through December 31, 2020. Retrieved October 13, 2020 from <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/08/31/usda-extends-free-meals-kids-through-december-31-2020>.
- ² Monte, L.M.; O'Donnell, S. (2020). U.S. Census Bureau. Adults in Households with Children Report Higher Rate of Late Housing Payments and Food Shortages Amid COVID-19. Retrieved October 13, 2020 from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/06/the-risks-children-face-during-pandemic.html>.
- ³ Roll, S.; Chun, Y. (2020). Washington University in St. Louis. Safe, affordable child care is a right, not a privilege. Retrieved October 13, 2020 from <https://socialpolicyinstitute.wustl.edu/safe-affordable-child-care-is-a-right-not-a-privilege/>.
- ⁴ Population Reference Bureau. (2020). Digital Divide Dashboard: U.S. School-Age Children at Educational Risk Due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved October 13, 2020 from <https://assets.prb.org/maps/digital-divide-071720.html#home>.
- ⁵ N.J. Department of Education. (2020). Guiding the Education Community through the COVID-19 Pandemic, Summary of Results of the New Jersey Department of Education's School Closure Parent Survey. Retrieved November 3, 2020 from <https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/studentsfamilies/parentsurvey.shtml>.

Data Sources and Technical Notes — KIDS COUNT Spotlight: What is the Household Pulse Survey?

Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lost Employment Income Since March 13, 2020. Data are based on Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020. Data reflect the number and percentage of adults living in households with children birth to age 17 who reported that they or a household member experienced a loss of employment income since March 13, 2020. On March 13, 2020, the U.S. government declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency, thus marking the start of the pandemic in the United States. Only respondents who provided a valid response (yes or no) are included. Retrieved October 28, 2020 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Lost Employment Income Since March 13, 2020 by Race/Ethnicity for Sept. 16-Oct. 12. Data are based on Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, 2020. Data reflect the number and percentage of adults living in households with children birth to age 17 who reported that they or a household member experienced a loss of employment income since March 13, 2020. On March 13, 2020, the U.S. government declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency, thus marking the start of the pandemic in the United States. Only respondents who provided a valid response (yes or no) are included. Racial and ethnic groups represented in this table are not mutually exclusive. The white category includes only non-Hispanic white. The categories of Black or African American, Asian, two or more races and other race include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic. Those in the Hispanic or Latino category include those identified as being of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin. American Indian or Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian are included in the other race category. Retrieved November 18, 2020 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Had Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses in the Past Week. Data are based on Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phase 2, 2020. Data reflect the percentage of adults living in households with children birth to age 17 who reported that it has been somewhat or very difficult for the household to pay for usual household expenses, including but not limited to food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, students loans, and so on in the past week. Only respondents who provided a valid response are included. Retrieved November 9, 2020 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Percentage of Adults Living in Households with Children Who Had Difficulty Paying for Usual Household Expenses in the Past Week by Race/Ethnicity for Sept. 16-Oct. 12. Data are based on Population Reference Bureau analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Phase 2, 2020. Data reflect the percentage of adults living in households with children birth to age 17 who reported that it has been somewhat or very difficult for the household to pay for usual household expenses, including but not limited to food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, students loans, and so on in the past week. Only respondents who provided a valid response are included. Racial and ethnic groups represented in this table are not mutually exclusive. The white category includes only non-Hispanic white. The categories of Black or African American, Asian, two or more races and other race include both Hispanic and non-Hispanic. Those in the Hispanic or Latino category include those identified as being of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin. American Indian or Alaska Native, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian are included in the other race category. Retrieved November 18, 2020 from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>.

Total Population

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	270,153	263,670	-2
Bergen	926,391	932,202	1
Burlington	446,832	445,349	0
Camden	507,638	506,471	0
Cape May	94,160	92,039	-2
Cumberland	154,712	149,527	-3
Essex	790,439	798,975	1
Gloucester	290,943	291,636	0
Hudson	664,492	672,391	1
Hunterdon	125,452	124,371	-1
Mercer	368,124	367,430	0
Middlesex	825,546	825,062	0
Monmouth	624,079	618,795	-1
Morris	494,259	491,845	0
Ocean	587,091	607,186	3
Passaic	504,629	501,826	-1
Salem	63,732	62,385	-2
Somerset	329,626	328,934	0
Sussex	143,004	140,488	-2
Union	549,905	556,341	1
Warren	106,742	105,267	-1
New Jersey	8,867,949	8,882,190	0

Total Births

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	3,076	2,778	-10
Bergen	9,328	9,154	-2
Burlington	4,511	4,380	-3
Camden	6,251	6,107	-2
Cape May	970	817	-16
Cumberland	2,088	1,895	-9
Essex	10,218	10,399	2
Gloucester	3,069	2,812	-8
Hudson	10,105	10,215	1
Hunterdon	910	966	6
Mercer	4,184	3,935	-6
Middlesex	9,630	8,958	-7
Monmouth	5,806	5,833	0
Morris	4,636	4,548	-2
Ocean	8,385	8,993	7
Passaic	6,765	6,548	-3
Salem	646	630	-2
Somerset	3,357	3,258	-3
Sussex	1,207	1,187	-2
Union	6,714	6,762	1
Warren	957	996	4
New Jersey	102,813	101,171	-2

Child Population

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	59,062	55,537	-6
Bergen	199,816	196,309	-2
Burlington	96,146	92,159	-4
Camden	117,437	114,223	-3
Cape May	16,812	15,950	-5
Cumberland	36,723	35,480	-3
Essex	189,329	189,397	0
Gloucester	66,064	63,099	-4
Hudson	137,319	136,715	0
Hunterdon	25,846	23,712	-8
Mercer	79,452	78,062	-2
Middlesex	181,962	178,792	-2
Monmouth	137,105	129,412	-6
Morris	108,582	102,477	-6
Ocean	138,683	146,690	6
Passaic	121,586	119,018	-2
Salem	13,994	13,334	-5
Somerset	75,637	70,756	-6
Sussex	29,905	27,245	-9
Union	130,297	129,858	0
Warren	22,246	20,353	-9
New Jersey	1,984,003	1,938,578	-2



Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold

	2015		2019	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	13,145	22	7,353	13
Bergen	17,092	9	9,920	5
Burlington	10,997	12	6,719	7
Camden	23,652	20	17,408	16
Cape May	2,191	14	1,764	11
Cumberland	8,741	25	6,025	17
Essex	45,258	24	34,918	19
Gloucester	5,350	8	4,400	7
Hudson	35,570	26	27,469	21
Hunterdon	2,479	10	229	1
Mercer	12,434	16	10,908	14
Middlesex	18,640	10	21,068	12
Monmouth	13,681	10	7,913	6
Morris	6,448	6	6,994	7
Ocean	25,950	19	19,949	14
Passaic	33,002	27	24,691	21
Salem	2,291	17	2,591	20
Somerset	5,929	8	6,159	9
Sussex	2,054	7	1,845	7
Union	20,803	16	15,246	12
Warren	2,531	12	1,901	10
New Jersey	308,238	16	235,470	12

Note: For a family of four in 2019, 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold was \$25,926.



Median Income of Families with Children

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	\$58,522	\$70,769	21
Bergen	\$117,472	\$146,686	25
Burlington	\$90,759	\$107,014	18
Camden	\$79,071	\$86,837	10
Cape May	\$71,941	\$82,145	14
Cumberland	\$52,610	\$50,460	-4
Essex	\$60,300	\$74,896	24
Gloucester	\$95,819	\$116,491	22
Hudson	\$55,886	\$70,700	27
Hunterdon	\$120,249	\$168,150	40
Mercer	\$92,341	\$115,844	25
Middlesex	\$95,718	\$117,163	22
Monmouth	\$119,590	\$141,569	18
Morris	\$140,322	\$152,846	9
Ocean	\$77,355	\$101,997	32
Passaic	\$61,844	\$79,752	29
Salem	\$77,535	\$90,152	16
Somerset	\$130,191	\$147,575	13
Sussex	\$101,666	\$116,629	15
Union	\$78,666	\$90,728	15
Warren	\$91,982	\$106,546	16
New Jersey	\$90,270	\$108,421	20

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

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	62	50	-19
Bergen	45	44	-2
Burlington	51	46	-10
Camden	50	51	2
Cape May	55	53	-4
Cumberland	60	54	-10
Essex	56	48	-14
Gloucester	57	45	-21
Hudson	46	43	-7
Hunterdon	50	41	-18
Mercer	46	47	2
Middlesex	47	43	-9
Monmouth	52	49	-6
Morris	42	43	2
Ocean	58	56	-3
Passaic	60	47	-22
Salem	46	64	39
Somerset	44	42	-5
Sussex	51	38	-25
Union	51	49	-4
Warren	47	44	-6
New Jersey	50	47	-6

Children in Families Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

	2016	2019	2020	% Change 16-20
Atlantic	2,629	1,244	1,452	-45
Bergen	932	456	517	-45
Burlington	1,361	717	880	-35
Camden	4,299	2,648	2,885	-33
Cape May	443	182	211	-52
Cumberland	1,583	759	843	-47
Essex	6,442	3,086	3,069	-52
Gloucester	1,030	569	641	-38
Hudson	3,912	2,282	3,288	-16
Hunterdon	67	50	92	37
Mercer	2,098	1,107	1,344	-36
Middlesex	1,584	848	1,215	-23
Monmouth	615	413	423	-31
Morris	284	174	185	-35
Ocean	1,145	604	726	-37
Passaic	4,799	2,194	2,162	-55
Salem	381	235	274	-28
Somerset	469	301	451	-4
Sussex	127	62	69	-46
Union	1,751	929	1,043	-40
Warren	267	253	309	16
New Jersey	36,218	19,113	22,079	-39

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

	2016	2019	2020	% Change 16-20
Atlantic	19,273	14,779	14,557	-24
Bergen	14,829	10,163	10,488	-29
Burlington	11,324	8,177	8,524	-25
Camden	31,826	27,068	29,299	-8
Cape May	3,845	2,977	3,112	-19
Cumberland	14,767	12,029	12,694	-14
Essex	62,327	49,283	47,559	-24
Gloucester	8,987	7,268	7,315	-19
Hudson	49,140	37,456	41,546	-15
Hunterdon	1,181	881	954	-19
Mercer	15,166	12,823	14,048	-7
Middlesex	27,848	20,524	21,186	-24
Monmouth	16,569	12,099	11,950	-28
Morris	5,680	4,045	4,241	-25
Ocean	33,325	25,460	25,900	-22
Passaic	51,768	42,924	43,178	-17
Salem	3,974	3,503	3,720	-6
Somerset	5,860	3,828	4,143	-29
Sussex	1,585	1,298	1,500	-5
Union	23,858	18,300	17,364	-27
Warren	3,127	2,681	3,079	-2
New Jersey	406,259	317,566	326,357	-20

What is NJ SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest food safety net program in the United States, providing low-income families with nutritious food. Eligible New Jersey applicants have an income up to 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or roughly \$48,000 for a family of four in 2020. During that same year, more than 326,000 New Jersey children lived in families receiving SNAP benefits, a decrease from 2016. However, the number of children receiving SNAP benefits increased between 2019 and 2020, a potential result of the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on SNAP, visit <http://fns.usda.gov>.

NJ Earned Income Tax Credits, Recipients with at Least 1 Dependent Under Age 19*

	2014		2018		% Change	
	# Credits Issued	Avg. Credit Amount	# Credits Issued	Avg. Credit Amount	# Credits Issued	Avg. Credit Amount
Atlantic	17,217	\$603	18,626	\$1,169	8	94
Bergen	20,948	\$565	21,199	\$1,105	1	96
Burlington	13,164	\$538	13,104	\$1,021	0	90
Camden	25,424	\$590	26,645	\$1,121	5	90
Cape May	3,835	\$576	3,829	\$1,104	0	92
Cumberland	9,910	\$586	9,871	\$1,112	0	90
Essex	44,192	\$603	47,139	\$1,140	7	89
Gloucester	9,228	\$553	9,189	\$1,056	0	91
Hudson	35,887	\$625	35,369	\$1,210	-1	94
Hunterdon	1,561	\$520	1,683	\$1,017	8	96
Mercer	14,456	\$573	15,324	\$1,112	6	94
Middlesex	27,384	\$580	28,725	\$1,119	5	93
Monmouth	14,182	\$571	13,609	\$1,099	-4	92
Morris	7,719	\$546	7,485	\$1,043	-3	91
Ocean	19,387	\$628	19,777	\$1,185	2	89
Passaic	31,345	\$616	33,104	\$1,192	6	94
Salem	2,788	\$569	2,960	\$1,101	6	93
Somerset	6,147	\$550	6,224	\$1,051	1	91
Sussex	3,104	\$529	2,941	\$992	-5	88
Union	24,372	\$582	24,694	\$1,107	1	90
Warren	3,111	\$555	3,144	\$1,077	1	94
New Jersey	337,388	\$590	345,869	\$1,131	3	92

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

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)*

	2013		2017		% Change	
	Claims	Avg. Claim Amount	Claims	Avg. Claim Amount	Claims	Avg. Claim Amount
Atlantic	28,370	\$2,343	26,540	\$2,446	-6	4
Bergen	47,880	\$2,027	46,640	\$2,033	-3	0
Burlington	25,020	\$2,001	24,250	\$2,097	-3	5
Camden	44,540	\$2,316	43,600	\$2,399	-2	4
Cape May	7,270	\$2,016	7,140	\$2,113	-2	5
Cumberland	15,420	\$2,426	14,870	\$2,537	-4	5
Essex	84,200	\$2,475	81,580	\$2,535	-3	2
Gloucester	16,330	\$2,080	16,140	\$2,164	-1	4
Hudson	69,270	\$2,340	65,380	\$2,407	-6	3
Hunterdon	3,540	\$1,618	3,450	\$1,604	-3	-1
Mercer	25,600	\$2,259	25,460	\$2,316	-1	3
Middlesex	52,000	\$2,179	50,850	\$2,240	-2	3
Monmouth	29,370	\$1,931	28,190	\$1,993	-4	3
Morris	17,460	\$1,853	16,180	\$1,861	-7	0
Ocean	33,540	\$2,324	34,180	\$2,392	2	3
Passaic	54,710	\$2,458	55,000	\$2,550	1	4
Salem	4,960	\$2,230	5,020	\$2,353	1	6
Somerset	13,440	\$2,007	13,090	\$2,043	-3	2
Sussex	6,310	\$1,815	6,160	\$1,852	-2	2
Union	45,200	\$2,271	44,130	\$2,346	-2	3
Warren	5,670	\$2,004	5,690	\$2,090	0	4
New Jersey	630,050	\$2,246	613,480	\$2,313	-3	3

*Counties may not add to totals due to rounding. Please note, information on this chart has been revised since prior ACNJ publications due to new data availability.

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight*

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	7.7	8.0	4
Bergen	7.8	7.6	-3
Burlington	8.8	7.9	-10
Camden	8.2	8.8	7
Cape May	7.8	7.8	0
Cumberland	8.9	9.9	11
Essex	9.7	9.9	2
Gloucester	9.3	7.2	-23
Hudson	8.1	8.7	7
Hunterdon	6.4	5.4	-16
Mercer	9.2	8.1	-12
Middlesex	8.2	8.3	1
Monmouth	7.5	7.5	0
Morris	7.2	5.4	-25
Ocean	6.0	5.5	-8
Passaic	8.4	8.4	0
Salem	7.0	7.6	9
Somerset	7.7	7.7	0
Sussex	5.8	5.5	-5
Union	7.4	8.0	8
Warren	6.4	7.5	17
New Jersey	8.0	7.9	-1

*A low birthweight baby is any infant born weighing less than 2,500 grams, or roughly 5.5 pounds.

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	75.3	74.8	-1
Bergen	81.9	82.3	0
Burlington	81.1	75.6	-7
Camden	80.3	68.9	-14
Cape May	73.4	75.5	3
Cumberland	76.5	69.0	-10
Essex	71.1	63.4	-11
Gloucester	78.2	78.3	0
Hudson	70.2	71.6	2
Hunterdon	84.7	87.2	3
Mercer	73.8	67.9	-8
Middlesex	82.8	76.1	-8
Monmouth	84.5	75.8	-10
Morris	87.0	84.8	-3
Ocean	82.0	70.1	-15
Passaic	78.5	67.2	-14
Salem	71.8	73.3	2
Somerset	88.0	81.0	-8
Sussex	87.6	81.6	-7
Union	79.6	70.5	-11
Warren	62.3	78.0	25
New Jersey	78.8	73.2	-7

The Importance of Prenatal Care

Healthy starts for 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. In 2018, over 73 percent of New Jersey moms received prenatal care beginning in their first trimester. This demonstrates a statewide decrease since 2014 in the percentage of mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care. Several counties saw dramatic decreases, such as Camden County, Ocean County and Passaic County, where the percentage of mothers receiving early prenatal care declined by 14 percent or more between 2014 and 2018.

In 2019, New Jersey was one of 14 states to receive planning grants through the Pritzker Children's Initiative, which is funded by the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation. Led by ACNJ, a team of public and private sector leaders developed a New Jersey specific action plan with a goal of expanding high quality services to an additional 25 percent of our state's infants and toddlers. The multifaceted plan includes several key targets, one of which focuses on increasing the number of low-income women receiving perinatal supports annually. This effort expands the positive work already underway in the state, which includes coordinating with New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy's Healthy Women Healthy Families Initiative. This partnership will promote equitable access to health services for mothers and infants of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. To learn more about this effort, read *Unlocking Potential: A Roadmap to Making New Jersey the Safest, Healthiest and Most Supportive Place to Give Birth and Raise a Family* at www.acnj.org.

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	32,404	28,601	-12
Bergen	44,293	43,844	-1
Burlington	27,075	24,868	-8
Camden	54,733	58,132	6
Cape May	7,658	7,195	-6
Cumberland	23,501	22,459	-4
Essex	96,202	98,871	3
Gloucester	19,934	18,461	-7
Hudson	80,657	73,462	-9
Hunterdon	3,386	3,611	7
Mercer	32,168	31,827	-1
Middlesex	59,018	57,819	-2
Monmouth	35,860	34,067	-5
Morris	16,733	16,678	0
Ocean	64,605	73,718	14
Passaic	71,689	69,408	-3
Salem	6,442	6,103	-5
Somerset	14,630	14,197	-3
Sussex	5,636	5,544	-2
Union	56,201	51,991	-7
Warren	6,535	6,402	-2
New Jersey	759,360	747,258	-2

Percentage of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	25	19	-24
Bergen	20	22	10
Burlington	9	13	44
Camden	13	16	23
Cape May	12	14	17
Cumberland	23	24	4
Essex	39	40	3
Gloucester	6	11	83
Hudson	36	36	0
Hunterdon	12	15	25
Mercer	22	23	5
Middlesex	20	24	20
Monmouth	15	15	0
Morris	12	17	42
Ocean	24	28	17
Passaic	36	36	0
Salem	15	15	0
Somerset	12	18	50
Sussex	11	10	-9
Union	31	32	3
Warren	13	13	0
New Jersey	26	25	-4

Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance*

	2018		2019	
	#	%	#	%
Atlantic	3,766	6.4	1,691	2.9
Bergen	8,189	3.9	6,190	3.0
Burlington	2,321	2.4	2,802	2.9
Camden	4,885	4.1	3,058	2.5
Cape May	608	4.0	320	1.9
Cumberland	1,679	4.5	938	2.5
Essex	13,884	6.9	11,523	5.8
Gloucester	1,004	1.5	3,446	5.2
Hudson	7,093	4.9	7,116	5.0
Hunterdon	409	1.6	370	1.5
Mercer	2,776	3.3	3,927	4.6
Middlesex	3,941	2.1	9,635	5.1
Monmouth	4,622	3.3	5,029	3.7
Morris	2,999	2.7	4,230	3.9
Ocean	3,721	2.5	4,129	2.7
Passaic	8,780	6.9	9,348	7.4
Salem	311	2.2	289	2.2
Somerset	521	0.7	4,642	6.3
Sussex	457	1.5	420	1.4
Union	7,319	5.3	8,702	6.4
Warren	476	2.2	316	1.5
New Jersey	79,761	3.9	88,121	4.3

Percentage of Tested Children Under Age 6 with Blood Lead Levels \geq 5 Micrograms/Deciliter

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	3.5	2.4	-31
Bergen	1.2	1.2	0
Burlington	1.5	2.2	47
Camden	2.1	1.8	-14
Cape May	2.0	1.5	-25
Cumberland	4.3	3.9	-9
Essex	3.6	4.1	14
Gloucester	1.7	1.2	-29
Hudson	2.2	2.6	18
Hunterdon	2.3	2.1	-9
Mercer	2.9	3.9	34
Middlesex	1.7	2.3	35
Monmouth	1.6	1.8	13
Morris	1.3	1.7	31
Ocean	0.8	0.9	13
Passaic	2.6	2.9	12
Salem	8.9	5.6	-37
Somerset	1.2	1.6	33
Sussex	0.9	0.2	-78
Union	2.4	2.4	0
Warren	2.3	4.8	109
New Jersey	3.2	2.5	-22

Number of Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	4,009	4,525	13
Bergen	4,758	5,348	12
Burlington	4,709	5,288	12
Camden	8,303	8,429	2
Cape May	1,350	1,419	5
Cumberland	3,550	3,730	5
Essex	10,048	10,982	9
Gloucester	4,031	4,206	4
Hudson	6,127	6,404	5
Hunterdon	668	839	26
Mercer	3,963	4,457	12
Middlesex	6,195	6,785	10
Monmouth	5,400	5,424	0
Morris	2,940	3,144	7
Ocean	6,102	6,571	8
Passaic	6,350	6,678	5
Salem	1,369	1,319	-4
Somerset	2,318	2,444	5
Sussex	1,500	1,666	11
Union	4,195	4,880	16
Warren	1,555	1,517	-2
New Jersey	89,441	96,060	7

*Please note that counties may not equal the state total due to cases where the county of incident was not identified at the time of the report.

Number of Children with Substantiated/
Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	529	357	-33
Bergen	445	124	-72
Burlington	643	214	-67
Camden	1,109	606	-45
Cape May	220	164	-25
Cumberland	465	283	-39
Essex	1,088	592	-46
Gloucester	627	298	-52
Hudson	584	244	-58
Hunterdon	108	22	-80
Mercer	386	204	-47
Middlesex	407	272	-33
Monmouth	416	237	-43
Morris	291	111	-62
Ocean	396	279	-30
Passaic	623	285	-54
Salem	165	113	-32
Somerset	155	95	-39
Sussex	127	92	-28
Union	441	239	-46
Warren	171	66	-61
New Jersey	9,396	4,897	-48

Percentage of Reported Children with
Substantiated/Established Findings of
Abuse/Neglect

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	13.2	7.9	-40
Bergen	9.4	2.3	-76
Burlington	13.7	4.0	-71
Camden	13.4	7.2	-46
Cape May	16.3	11.6	-29
Cumberland	13.1	7.6	-42
Essex	10.8	5.4	-50
Gloucester	15.6	7.1	-54
Hudson	9.5	3.8	-60
Hunterdon	16.2	2.6	-84
Mercer	9.7	4.6	-53
Middlesex	6.6	4.0	-39
Monmouth	7.7	4.4	-43
Morris	9.9	3.5	-65
Ocean	6.5	4.2	-35
Passaic	9.8	4.3	-56
Salem	12.1	8.6	-29
Somerset	6.7	3.9	-42
Sussex	8.5	5.5	-35
Union	10.5	4.9	-53
Warren	11.0	4.4	-60
New Jersey	10.5	5.1	-51



What is CP&P?

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), 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 the child into foster care and to seek another permanent home for children who cannot be safely reunified with their parent(s) within the timeframes provided by law.

DCF is currently implementing a strategic plan to empower all New Jersey residents to be safe, healthy and connected. The Department identified four priorities after seeking public input:

- Primary prevention of maltreatment and maltreatment related fatalities,
- Preserving kinship connections,
- Staff health and wellness, and
- A fully integrated and inclusive Children's System of Care.

To learn more about DCF's strategic plan, visit <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/strategic.html>. In addition, DCF, the New Jersey Judiciary and other members of the N.J. Children in Court Improvement Committee, which includes ACNJ, are collaborating to address the overrepresentation of Black and African American children in our state's child welfare system.

Number of Children in Out-of-Home CP&P Placements*

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	425	232	-45
Bergen	285	157	-45
Burlington	416	204	-51
Camden	611	542	-11
Cape May	168	107	-36
Cumberland	246	239	-3
Essex	1,131	752	-34
Gloucester	454	261	-43
Hudson	524	251	-52
Hunterdon	40	11	-73
Mercer	367	312	-15
Middlesex	332	186	-44
Monmouth	307	157	-49
Morris	155	70	-55
Ocean	436	297	-32
Passaic	299	196	-34
Salem	77	83	8
Somerset	151	55	-64
Sussex	52	45	-13
Union	359	243	-32
Warren	96	42	-56
New Jersey	6,955	4,458	-36

**Please note that counties may not equal state total due to cases where county of incident was not identified at the time of the report.*

State-Funded Preschool Enrollment

	2015-16	2019-20	% Change
Atlantic	1,617	1,954	21
Bergen	1,331	1,563	17
Burlington	1,158	1,397	21
Camden	3,413	3,754	10
Cape May	440	587	33
Cumberland	3,198	2,824	-12
Essex	10,206	10,303	1
Gloucester	741	977	32
Hudson	9,384	9,684	3
Hunterdon	16	22	38
Mercer	2,069	2,187	6
Middlesex	3,260	3,791	16
Monmouth	2,293	2,171	-5
Morris	184	496	170
Ocean	727	1,643	126
Passaic	5,320	5,346	0
Salem	417	621	49
Somerset	510	621	22
Sussex	0	218	0
Union	5,335	5,768	8
Warren	333	352	6
New Jersey	51,952	56,279	8

Public Kindergarten Enrollment

	2015-16	2019-20	% Change
Atlantic	2,943	2,764	-6
Bergen	8,955	8,984	0
Burlington	4,398	4,513	3
Camden	5,797	5,886	2
Cape May	888	835	-6
Cumberland	2,200	1,930	-12
Essex	9,980	9,939	0
Gloucester	3,185	2,938	-8
Hudson	6,951	6,724	-3
Hunterdon	1,167	1,107	-5
Mercer	4,135	4,108	-1
Middlesex	7,984	7,827	-2
Monmouth	5,772	5,927	3
Morris	4,764	4,781	0
Ocean	4,454	4,464	0
Passaic	5,996	5,938	-1
Salem	738	681	-8
Somerset	3,020	3,013	0
Sussex	1,268	1,283	1
Union	6,067	6,129	1
Warren	1,041	1,047	1
New Jersey	91,703	90,818	-1

Preschool Expansion

A strong early care and education system that includes high-quality preschool provides young children with the educational foundation they need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. For more than 20 years, New Jersey's nationally recognized preschool program has served thousands of young children throughout the state. State-funded pre-k is offered in some school districts—but not all. Since 2017, however, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has made significant investments in expanding preschool to additional districts. Statewide public preschool enrollment increased by 8 percent between the 2015-16 and 2019-20 school years reflecting these new investments. For the 2021 New Jersey Fiscal Year, an additional \$10 million was included in the state budget to further expand preschool to other districts across the state.

Licensed Child Care Centers

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	84	106	26
Bergen	417	447	7
Burlington	137	140	2
Camden	224	230	3
Cape May	26	30	15
Cumberland	57	67	18
Essex	484	469	-3
Gloucester	124	128	3
Hudson	320	393	23
Hunterdon	68	66	-3
Mercer	201	196	-2
Middlesex	310	340	10
Monmouth	278	267	-4
Morris	245	259	6
Ocean	144	156	8
Passaic	234	230	-2
Salem	23	21	-9
Somerset	168	166	-1
Sussex	65	61	-6
Union	279	277	-1
Warren	46	49	7
New Jersey	3,934	4,098	4

Capacity of Licensed Child Care Centers

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	5,417	8,385	55
Bergen	39,011	42,488	9
Burlington	12,643	14,222	12
Camden	20,173	22,241	10
Cape May	1,313	2,251	71
Cumberland	6,806	7,973	17
Essex	44,742	43,156	-4
Gloucester	9,183	10,203	11
Hudson	24,239	34,607	43
Hunterdon	6,338	6,500	3
Mercer	18,893	18,477	-2
Middlesex	29,230	33,342	14
Monmouth	25,187	25,557	1
Morris	20,645	24,287	18
Ocean	11,487	14,452	26
Passaic	22,841	24,446	7
Salem	1,537	1,416	-8
Somerset	18,939	19,293	2
Sussex	3,704	3,759	1
Union	24,049	28,387	18
Warren	2,657	3,080	16
New Jersey	349,034	388,522	11

Number of Children Receiving a Child Care Subsidy by Type of Care, 2019*

	Center Based Care	Registered Family Child Care	Family, Friend, Neighbor Provider
Atlantic	2,389	204	111
Bergen	2,443	56	13
Burlington	1,865	142	11
Camden	5,905	493	23
Cape May	355	25	0
Cumberland	2,575	148	15
Essex	9,414	620	204
Gloucester	1,781	60	9
Hudson	8,546	335	25
Hunterdon	177	1	0
Mercer	2,289	58	13
Middlesex	4,226	327	19
Monmouth	2,275	178	18
Morris	1,361	44	0
Ocean	3,901	48	6
Passaic	5,537	968	65
Salem	400	149	4
Somerset	1,330	24	7
Sussex	446	10	0
Union	3,226	141	22
Warren	495	107	6
New Jersey	60,936	4,138	571

*Data are for the month of March of the year specified.

Licensed Child Care Centers, Registered Family Child Care Providers and Family, Friend, Neighbor Care: What are the Differences?

Licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers both offer child care to children under the age of 13. However, there are key differences in the number of children they are permitted to serve and the locations in which they operate. Licensed child care centers serve a minimum of six children and must adhere to state licensing requirements. Registered family child care providers care for a maximum of five enrolled children at a time in their own homes. Family child care providers register voluntarily with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing, at their county child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agency. In 2017, an additional requirement was signed into law requiring these providers to undergo fingerprinting and a criminal history background check. Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care is another available option, which allows parents to choose relatives or non-relatives to care for their children. FFN providers, also known as Approved Homes, must be selected by a client who is eligible and receiving a child care subsidy under either Work First New Jersey or New Jersey Cares for Kids. FFN providers are paid for providing child care under these programs after meeting certain provider requirements and may serve no more than two unrelated children or up to five children if they are sibling-related.

Number of Infants and Toddlers (0-29 Months) Receiving a Child Care Subsidy by Type of Care, 2019*

	INFANTS			TODDLERS		
	Center Based Care	Registered Family Child Care	Family, Friend, Neighbor Provider	Center Based Care	Registered Family Child Care	Family, Friend, Neighbor Provider
Atlantic	250	307	43	30	9	8
Bergen	184	295	2	9	4	4
Burlington	200	256	28	18	4	2
Camden	678	790	107	99	4	3
Cape May	46	46	5	2	0	0
Cumberland	258	348	35	23	2	2
Essex	827	1,222	123	136	40	28
Gloucester	189	197	12	8	0	1
Hudson	599	880	59	54	4	1
Hunterdon	20	23	0	0	0	0
Mercer	206	257	15	14	0	6
Middlesex	335	387	64	92	2	3
Monmouth	251	292	36	24	2	0
Morris	111	136	7	14	0	0
Ocean	710	659	8	13	0	1
Passaic	426	539	233	225	12	7
Salem	44	45	17	19	2	1
Somerset	117	151	6	7	0	1
Sussex	46	54	2	1	0	0
Union	246	372	28	41	0	3
Warren	51	57	11	18	0	1
New Jersey	5,794	7,313	841	847	85	72

*Data are for the month of March of the year specified.

Children Ages 0-5 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2019*

	#	%
Atlantic	11,458	73
Bergen	39,798	69
Burlington	19,238	71
Camden	26,417	76
Cape May	3,415	75
Cumberland	7,761	74
Essex	43,309	73
Gloucester	14,917	81
Hudson	34,953	66
Hunterdon	N/A	N/A
Mercer	17,493	70
Middlesex	38,610	70
Monmouth	25,333	72
Morris	21,119	74
Ocean	27,107	56
Passaic	25,090	67
Salem	2,660	61
Somerset	16,148	81
Sussex	5,861	83
Union	28,883	72
Warren	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	419,062	71

*Includes children in families where both parents are in the labor force and children in single parent households where that parent is in the labor force. N/A indicates that data have been suppressed.

Families Receiving State-Funded Home Visitation Programs*

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	382	308	-19
Bergen	253	244	-4
Burlington	251	258	3
Camden	560	452	-19
Cape May	311	309	-1
Cumberland	372	248	-33
Essex	583	744	28
Gloucester	248	474	91
Hudson	355	301	-15
Hunterdon	33	41	24
Mercer	329	334	2
Middlesex	480	507	6
Monmouth	521	477	-8
Morris	191	262	37
Ocean	257	200	-22
Passaic	558	541	-3
Salem	196	74	-62
Somerset	120	86	-28
Sussex	205	263	28
Union	374	388	4
Warren	131	144	10
New Jersey	6,747	6,666	-1

*Please note that counties may not equal the state total due to cases where the county was not identified at the time of the report.

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast*

	2015-16	2019-20	% Change
Atlantic	11,805	12,121	3
Bergen	5,966	6,543	10
Burlington	4,858	5,509	13
Camden	18,528	18,996	3
Cape May	2,340	2,124	-9
Cumberland	10,656	11,009	3
Essex	35,132	41,654	19
Gloucester	5,048	4,389	-13
Hudson	32,178	28,146	-13
Hunterdon	215	179	-17
Mercer	7,590	8,671	14
Middlesex	19,112	20,192	6
Monmouth	7,631	7,681	1
Morris	1,960	2,768	41
Ocean	8,723	8,791	1
Passaic	29,443	29,766	1
Salem	2,020	2,394	19
Somerset	3,933	4,071	4
Sussex	561	734	31
Union	19,620	18,480	-6
Warren	1,356	1,599	18
New Jersey	228,675	235,817	3

*Data are for October of each year.

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch*

	2015-16	2019-20	% Change
Atlantic	20,071	18,260	-9
Bergen	20,155	19,113	-5
Burlington	14,371	13,837	-4
Camden	32,131	31,134	-3
Cape May	3,579	3,461	-3
Cumberland	16,263	16,346	1
Essex	52,039	55,059	6
Gloucester	10,076	9,169	-9
Hudson	41,691	38,432	-8
Hunterdon	1,266	1,267	0
Mercer	17,841	17,778	0
Middlesex	34,838	35,414	2
Monmouth	18,782	18,057	-4
Morris	7,059	7,261	3
Ocean	17,142	16,755	-2
Passaic	43,503	43,304	0
Salem	4,049	3,933	-3
Somerset	8,197	7,897	-4
Sussex	2,350	2,185	-7
Union	34,156	33,773	-1
Warren	3,385	3,339	-1
New Jersey	402,944	395,774	-2

*Data are for October of each year.

Free and Reduced Price Student Participation in Breakfast per 100 Participating in Lunch*

	2015-16	2019-20	% Change
Atlantic	59	66	12
Bergen	30	34	13
Burlington	34	40	18
Camden	58	61	5
Cape May	65	61	-6
Cumberland	66	67	2
Essex	68	76	12
Gloucester	50	48	-4
Hudson	77	73	-5
Hunterdon	17	14	-18
Mercer	43	49	14
Middlesex	55	57	4
Monmouth	41	43	5
Morris	28	38	36
Ocean	51	52	2
Passaic	68	69	1
Salem	50	61	22
Somerset	48	52	8
Sussex	24	34	42
Union	57	55	-4
Warren	40	48	20
New Jersey	57	60	5

*Please note, participation rates cannot be compared with prior publications due to a new methodology of calculating breakfast participation consistent with national methods.



Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade NJSLA* Exams

2018-19	ELA	Math
Atlantic	37	43
Bergen	65	68
Burlington	49	53
Camden	45	49
Cape May	48	51
Cumberland	28	34
Essex	48	51
Gloucester	48	56
Hudson	47	48
Hunterdon	57	66
Mercer	46	50
Middlesex	53	60
Monmouth	56	63
Morris	63	69
Ocean	45	50
Passaic	39	43
Salem	43	49
Somerset	57	66
Sussex	51	59
Union	50	53
Warren	44	52
New Jersey	50	55

*New Jersey Student Learning Assessment

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 7th Grade NJSLA Exams

2018-19	ELA	Math
Atlantic	51	33
Bergen	76	54
Burlington	58	42
Camden	54	35
Cape May	63	42
Cumberland	34	18
Essex	59	38
Gloucester	62	41
Hudson	60	35
Hunterdon	74	58
Mercer	60	42
Middlesex	64	43
Monmouth	70	50
Morris	78	58
Ocean	59	40
Passaic	53	32
Salem	47	36
Somerset	73	51
Sussex	68	45
Union	63	39
Warren	61	43
New Jersey	63	42

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 4th Grade NJSLA Exams

2018-19	ELA	Math
Atlantic	44	38
Bergen	73	66
Burlington	56	49
Camden	48	42
Cape May	51	51
Cumberland	30	23
Essex	54	47
Gloucester	55	53
Hudson	56	42
Hunterdon	67	64
Mercer	52	48
Middlesex	61	56
Monmouth	62	60
Morris	72	67
Ocean	53	46
Passaic	45	38
Salem	48	45
Somerset	66	66
Sussex	62	55
Union	58	48
Warren	57	50
New Jersey	57	51

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 10th Grade English Language Arts NJSLA Exams

2018-19	10 th Grade
Atlantic	51
Bergen	72
Burlington	57
Camden	50
Cape May	45
Cumberland	34
Essex	54
Gloucester	55
Hudson	50
Hunterdon	77
Mercer	59
Middlesex	60
Monmouth	62
Morris	75
Ocean	52
Passaic	45
Salem	45
Somerset	72
Sussex	58
Union	61
Warren	55
New Jersey	59

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on High School Math NJSLA Exams

2018-19	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II
Atlantic	35	23	51
Bergen	55	45	70
Burlington	44	31	44
Camden	37	27	40
Cape May	42	17	56
Cumberland	22	20	36
Essex	37	27	47
Gloucester	44	32	49
Hudson	28	17	42
Hunterdon	62	57	71
Mercer	45	29	62
Middlesex	45	36	67
Monmouth	52	36	63
Morris	61	47	74
Ocean	39	25	52
Passaic	28	21	42
Salem	28	18	34
Somerset	58	49	65
Sussex	44	29	68
Union	42	27	39
Warren	43	33	44
New Jersey	43	32	56

High School Graduation Rates

	2017-18	2018-19	% Change
Atlantic	91	91	0
Bergen	95	95	0
Burlington	95	94	-1
Camden	88	87	-1
Cape May	89	89	0
Cumberland	83	87	5
Essex	87	86	-1
Gloucester	93	93	0
Hudson	86	84	-2
Hunterdon	95	95	0
Mercer	90	88	-2
Middlesex	92	93	1
Monmouth	95	95	0
Morris	95	96	1
Ocean	92	91	-1
Passaic	88	86	-2
Salem	90	91	1
Somerset	94	94	0
Sussex	95	95	0
Union	90	89	-1
Warren	93	93	0
New Jersey	91	91	0

Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2014-2018

	#	%
Atlantic	974	7
Bergen	1,383	3
Burlington	1,322	6
Camden	1,604	6
Cape May	339	8
Cumberland	1,193	16
Essex	3,747	9
Gloucester	938	6
Hudson	1,976	8
Hunterdon	460	6
Mercer	1,454	7
Middlesex	1,713	4
Monmouth	1,112	3
Morris	970	4
Ocean	1,383	5
Passaic	2,005	7
Salem	171	5
Somerset	762	4
Sussex	239	3
Union	1,797	6
Warren	209	4
New Jersey	25,751	6

Percentage of Births to Females 10-19

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	5.3	4.4	-17
Bergen	1.4	1.0	-29
Burlington	3.1	2.3	-26
Camden	5.5	4.6	-16
Cape May	5.7	3.7	-35
Cumberland	8.7	6.5	-25
Essex	5.5	4.1	-25
Gloucester	2.7	2.2	-19
Hudson	3.4	2.4	-29
Hunterdon	1.5	0.8	-47
Mercer	4.3	4.5	5
Middlesex	2.9	2.5	-14
Monmouth	2.7	2.0	-26
Morris	1.3	1.1	-15
Ocean	2.3	1.2	-48
Passaic	6.3	4.9	-22
Salem	6.3	6.8	8
Somerset	2.3	2.1	-9
Sussex	1.8	1.0	-44
Union	3.9	3.1	-21
Warren	3.4	2.1	-38
New Jersey	3.6	2.8	-22

Juvenile (under age 18) Arrests

	2015	2019	% Change
Atlantic	712	753	6
Bergen	1,559	928	-40
Burlington	1,286	762	-41
Camden	2,885	1,436	-50
Cape May	505	436	-14
Cumberland	601	542	-10
Essex	1,942	1,421	-27
Gloucester	529	467	-12
Hudson	1,189	1,099	-8
Hunterdon	134	77	-43
Mercer	1,090	1,001	-8
Middlesex	1,305	854	-35
Monmouth	1,536	827	-46
Morris	746	424	-43
Ocean	920	517	-44
Passaic	1,918	1,479	-23
Salem	297	208	-30
Somerset	598	412	-31
Sussex	226	170	-25
Union	1,117	727	-35
Warren	174	176	1
New Jersey	21,411	14,716	-31

Youth Commitments*

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	20	1	-95
Bergen	7	2	-71
Burlington	11	7	-36
Camden	69	13	-81
Cape May	7	0	-100
Cumberland	9	4	-56
Essex	32	12	-63
Gloucester	6	2	-67
Hudson	11	0	-100
Hunterdon	0	0	N/A
Mercer	27	18	-33
Middlesex	21	7	-67
Monmouth	4	1	-75
Morris	5	0	-100
Ocean	10	3	-70
Passaic	14	14	0
Salem	0	0	N/A
Somerset	2	1	-50
Sussex	1	0	N/A
Union	18	1	-94
Warren	0	0	N/A
New Jersey	274	86	-69

*Please note, youth are committed to secure Juvenile Justice Commission facilities based on offenses committed as juveniles under the age of 18; however, a significant number of youth residing in secure facilities are ages 18 and older. As of July 3, 2020, roughly 61 percent of New Jersey's committed youth were 18 years of age or older.

Youth Admissions to County Detention*

	2014	2018	% Change
Atlantic	135	105	-22
Bergen	103	78	-24
Burlington	158	74	-53
Camden	446	312	-30
Cape May	28	19	-32
Cumberland	92	44	-52
Essex	753	493	-35
Gloucester	55	47	-15
Hudson	341	258	-24
Hunterdon	N/A	5	N/A
Mercer	178	119	-33
Middlesex	168	127	-24
Monmouth	101	77	-24
Morris	N/A	43	N/A
Ocean	100	64	-36
Passaic	280	209	-25
Salem	N/A	36	N/A
Somerset	37	32	-14
Sussex	19	16	-16
Union	171	88	-49
Warren	14	9	-36
New Jersey	3,179	2,255	-29

*Please note, N/A indicates counties that did not participate in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and for which data are not available.



What is the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative?

New Jersey's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), was formed in 2004 with the support and leadership of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and is managed by the state's Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC). Since the program's inception, JDAI has resulted in a dramatic decrease in detention populations throughout New Jersey without risk to public safety. JDAI fosters a fundamental shift in the way law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and public defenders handle juvenile crime cases by moving the focus from locking kids up to returning them to their communities and addressing the issues that led to criminal behavior. JDAI has helped reduce costs considerably, due to the reduction in daily population in detention and subsequent closure of many county detention centers.

ACNJ's New Jersey Kids Count 2020 Pocket Guide shows data for two types of youth custody settings: youth detention and youth commitment. How do they differ? Juveniles can be admitted to and temporarily held in detention centers because of serious risk to public safety or risk of flight while they await a court's decision. JDAI sites work to ensure detention centers are only used for this purpose and to minimize reliance on detention for lesser offenses and rule violations. A commitment refers to when the court has determined that a juvenile committed a criminal act, and as a result is placed in custody in a Juvenile Justice Commission facility as part of the youth's sentence. To learn more about the Juvenile Justice Commission and JDAI, visit https://www.nj.gov/oag/jjc/localized_programs_jdai.html.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Demographics

Total Population, 2015, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Data are as of July 1 for each year.

Child Population, 2015, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program. Data are as of July 1 for each year.

Total Births, 2014, 2018. The total number of live births. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 28, 2020.

Child and Family Economics

Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold, 2015, 2019. The percentage of children under 18 living in families earning below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, chart B17001.

Median Income of Families with Children, 2015, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B19125.

Percentage of Households Spending 30 Percent or More of Income on Rent, 2015, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25070.

Children in Families Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), 2016, 2019, 2020. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), 2016, 2019, 2020. The number of children receiving NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

N.J. Earned Income Tax Credits, Recipients with at Least 1 Dependent Under Age 19 – 2014, 2018. Number of New Jersey taxpayers with at least one dependent under the age of 19 receiving a state EITC credit, total amount of EITC credits issued and the average credit amount, as reported by the N.J. Department of Treasury.

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), 2013, 2017. Number of New Jersey taxpayers claiming a federal EITC and the average claim amount, as reported by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Child Health

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2014, 2018. The percentage of babies weighing less than 2,500 grams out of total live births for the given year, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data retrieved May 28, 2020.

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2014, 2018. Percentage of live births for which the mother received early prenatal care (onset in first trimester), as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data retrieved June 17, 2020.

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare, 2015, 2019. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services as of March for each year. Data do not reflect any retroactivity. Includes children under age 18 enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) portion of NJ FamilyCare, which is available to children living in families earning up to 355 percent of the federal poverty level. Data have been updated for prior years.

Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance, 2018, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B27001.

Percentage of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead, 2014, 2018. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services, Annual Childhood Lead Exposure reports.

Percentage of Tested Children Under Age 6 with Blood Lead Levels \geq 5 Micrograms/Deciliter, 2014, 2018. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services, Annual Childhood Lead Exposure reports. Any child with a blood lead level equal to or greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) falls within the Centers for Disease Control reference levels for childhood blood lead levels.

Child Protection

Number of Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect, 2015, 2019. The number of children who were reported for child abuse/neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families on the NJ Child Welfare Data Hub for each calendar year. Data retrieved October 28, 2020 from <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>. Please note that data also include reports of abuse/neglect for youth ages 18 and older.

Number of Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2015, 2019. The number of children found to be victims of child abuse/neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families on the NJ Child Welfare Data Hub for each calendar year. Data retrieved October 28, 2020 from <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>. In 2013, the N.J. Department of Children and Families added two possible findings of child abuse neglect investigations—"established" and "not established". Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded". Please note that data also include cases of substantiated/established reports of abuse/neglect for youth ages 18 and older.

Percentage of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2015, 2019. Based on the number of children found to be substantiated or established victims of child abuse/neglect out of the number of children reported for abuse or neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families on the NJ Child Welfare Data Hub for each calendar year. Data retrieved October 28, 2020 from <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>. In 2013, the N.J. Department of Children and Families added two possible findings of child abuse neglect investigations—"established" and "not established". Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded".

Number of Children in Out-of-Home CP&P Placements, 2015, 2019. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families on the NJ Child Welfare Data Hub. Data retrieved October 28, 2020 from <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>. Data are as of December 31 for each year. Please note that figures include all youth residing in out-of-home CP&P Placements, including youth ages 18 and older.

Early Care and Education

State-Funded Preschool Enrollment, 2015-16, 2019-20.

Number of three- and four-year-old students enrolled in half- and full-day N.J. Department of Education approved programs, operated both in-district and in community centers, as reported by the N.J. Department of Education, October enrollment counts for each year. Excludes children enrolled in federally-funded programs that do not receive any state aid.

Public Kindergarten Enrollment, 2015-16, 2019-20. The number of students enrolled in half- and full-day public kindergarten, as reported by the N.J. Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year.

Licensed Child Care Centers, 2015, 2019. The number of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31.

Capacity of Licensed Child Care Centers, 2015, 2019. The capacity of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31.

Number of Children Receiving a Child Care Subsidy by Type of Care, 2019. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services. Data are for the month of March.

Number of Infants and Toddlers (0-29 Months) Receiving a Child Care Subsidy by Type of Care, 2019. As reported by the N.J. Department of Human Services. Data are for the month of March. Infants refer to babies ages 0 to 17 months, and toddlers are children 18 months to 29 months of age.

Children Ages 0-5 with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2019. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, chart B23008. Includes children ages 0-5 in two parent households where both parents are in the labor force and children in single-parent households where that parent is in the labor force.

Families Receiving State-Funded Home Visitation Programs, 2015, 2019. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June for each year and include data for three home visitation programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families-TIP Program and Parents as Teachers. This includes only evidence-based programs funded the N.J. Department of Children and Families. Home visitation services are defined as families receiving regularly scheduled visits by either a trained home visitor or a nurse with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing (BSN).

School Children

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2015-16, 2019-20. As reported by the N.J. Department of Agriculture for October of each school year. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools.

Number of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch, 2015-16, 2019-20. As reported by the N.J. Department of Agriculture for October of each school year. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools.

Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Student Participation in Breakfast per 100 Participating in Lunch, 2015-16, 2019-20. As reported by the N.J. Department of Agriculture for October of each school 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.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade NJSLA Exams, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 4th Grade NJSLA Exams, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 7th Grade NJSLA Exams, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 10th Grade English Language Arts NJSLA Exams, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II NJSLA Exams, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

High School Graduation Rates, 2017-18, 2018-19. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education, Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Data. County adjusted 4-year cohort graduation rates calculated by ACNJ.

Teens and Young Adults

Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2014-2018. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B14005.

Percentage of Births to Females Ages 10-19, 2014, 2018. The number of babies born to females ages 10-19 as a percentage of all births in each county, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. Data retrieved August 10, 2020.

Juvenile Arrests, 2015, 2019. Number of juveniles under age 18 arrested, as reported by the N.J. Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports.

Youth Commitments, 2014, 2018. The number of youth committed to New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission facilities; please note that figures include juveniles and youth ages 18 and above. As reported by the N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission.

Youth Admissions to County Detention, 2014, 2018. As reported by the N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission. Statewide data reflect only those counties participating in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.



Thank you.

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35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 643-3876
(973) 643-9153 (fax)

advocates@acnj.org

www.acnj.org



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