

Newark

Kids Count 2026

A City Profile of
Child Well-Being



How are Newark's children doing?

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Giving Every Child A Chance*

**What does it mean for a child
to be well?**

**Economic
security**

Health

Safety

Education

Early Learning

Opportunity



We want all kids to have . . .

Newark at a Glance

76,883 children call Newark home

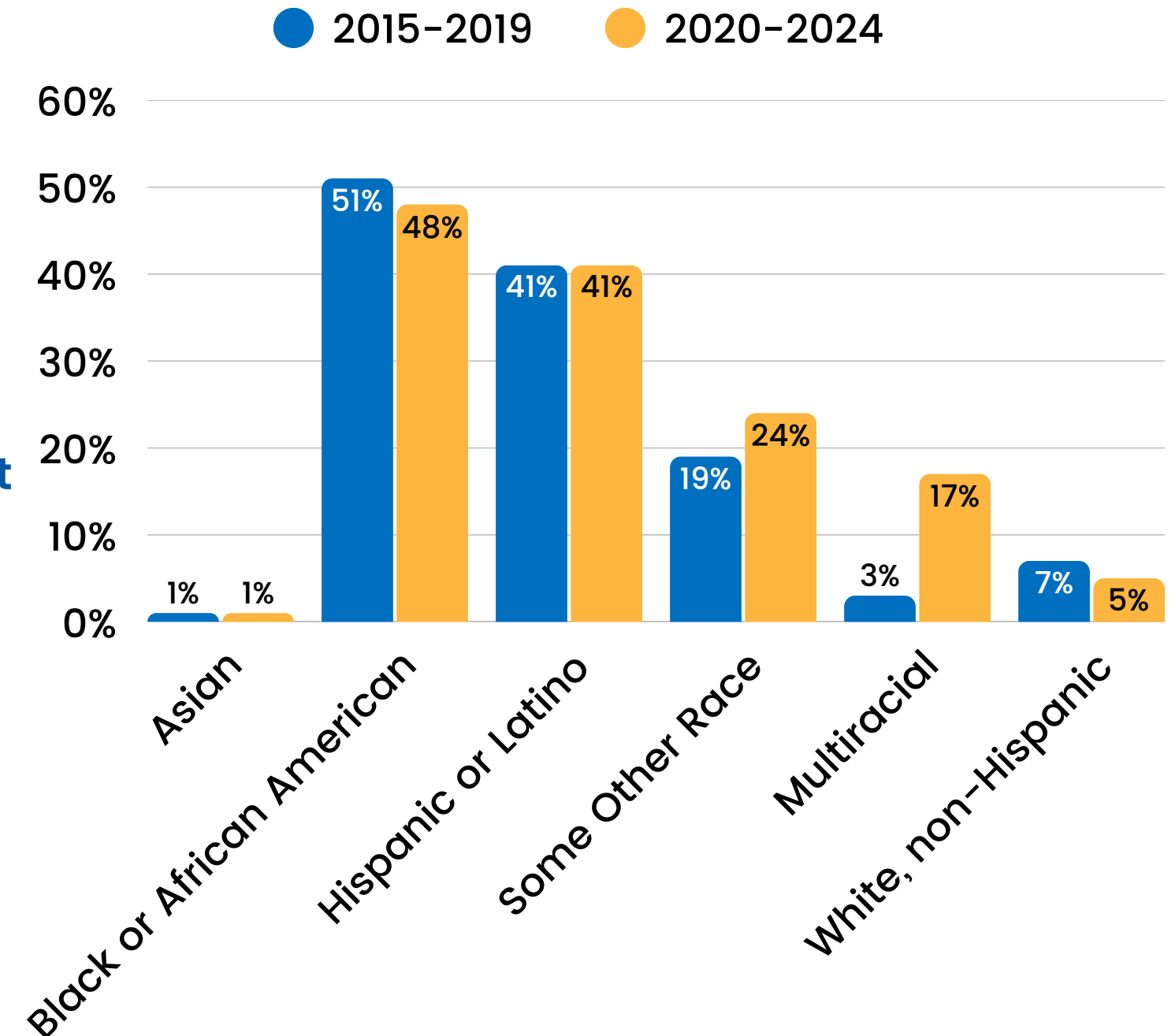
An 11% increase from previous years

95% are children of color

calculated as the share of children who are not
White, non-Hispanic

13% of children are foreign-born

Newark's Children by Race/Ethnicity



Note: Total percentages may exceed 100% as Hispanics can be of any race.

Who are Newark's Youngest Residents?

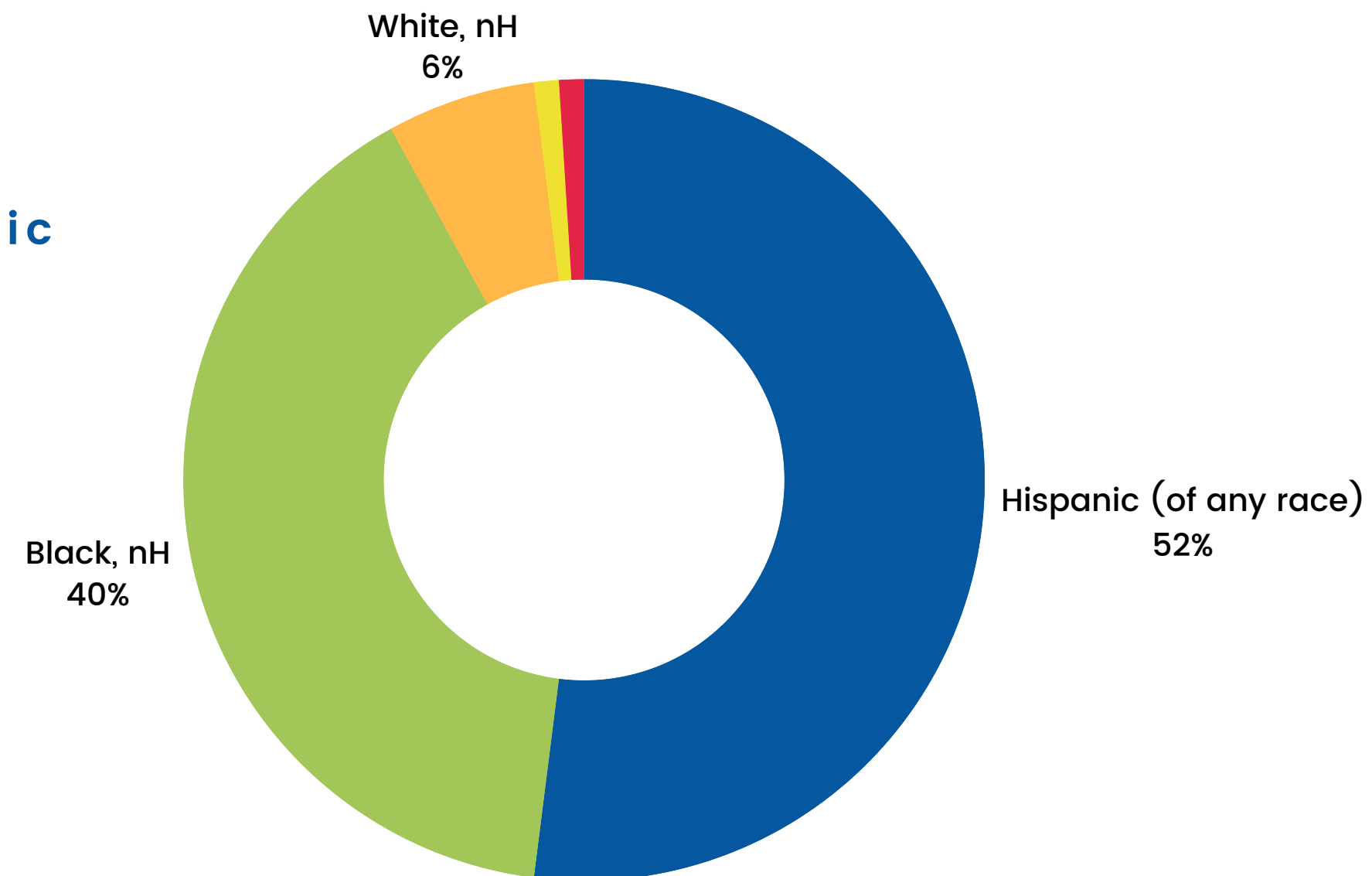
3,896 births in 2024

Majority are of Hispanic descent
followed by 40% being of Black, non-Hispanic descent

60% or 2,361 were to foreign-born women.

a 26% increase from 2020

Births by Race/Ethnicity in Newark
2024



Some racial groups saw few births and are excluded from the graph above. nH means non-Hispanic

How is Poverty Defined?

Federal government uses poverty threshold to estimate how many people are living in poverty.

Based on the cost of a basic food diet and adjusted for inflation and family size.

2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds for a Family of Four

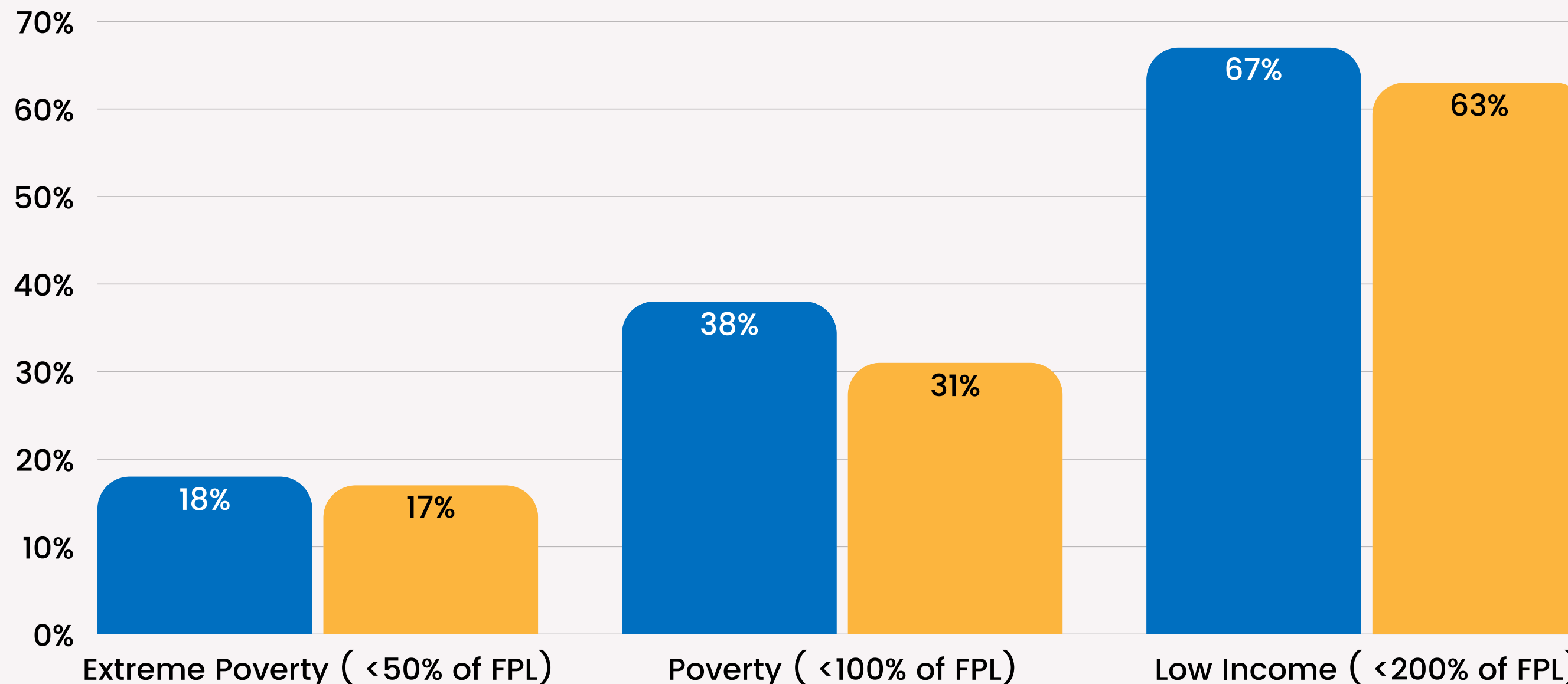


Often a more realistic measure of financial hardship in New Jersey

How Many Newark Children are Living in Poverty?

Under Age 18

● 2015–2019 ● 2020–2024



\$50,456

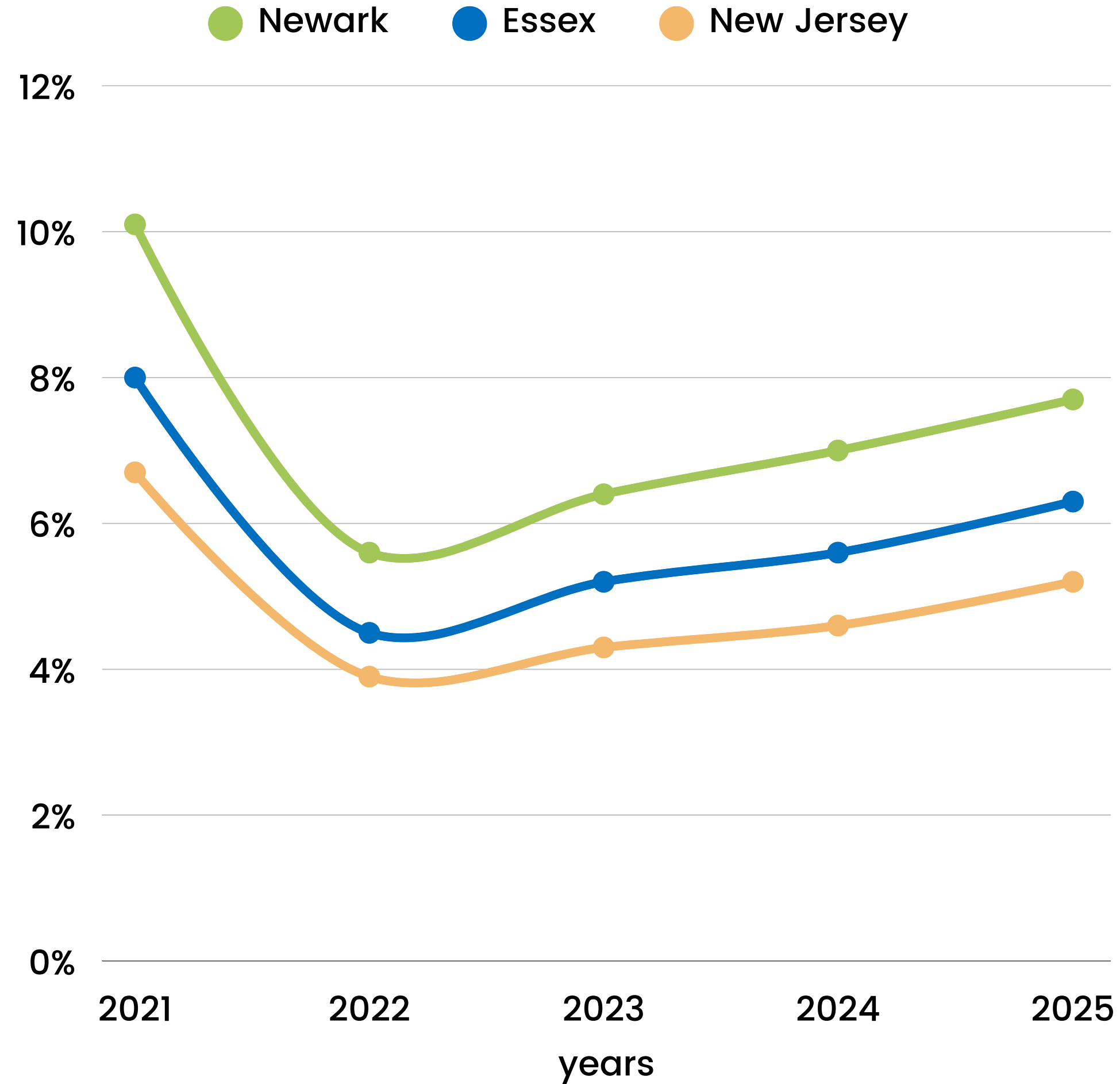
**WAS THE MEDIAN
INCOME OF FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN IN
20–24, A 43%
INCREASE.**

Unemployment is gradually increasing

74%

OF CHILDREN HAD ALL
AVAILABLE PARENTS IN
THE LABOR FORCE

Unemployment Rate is Rising



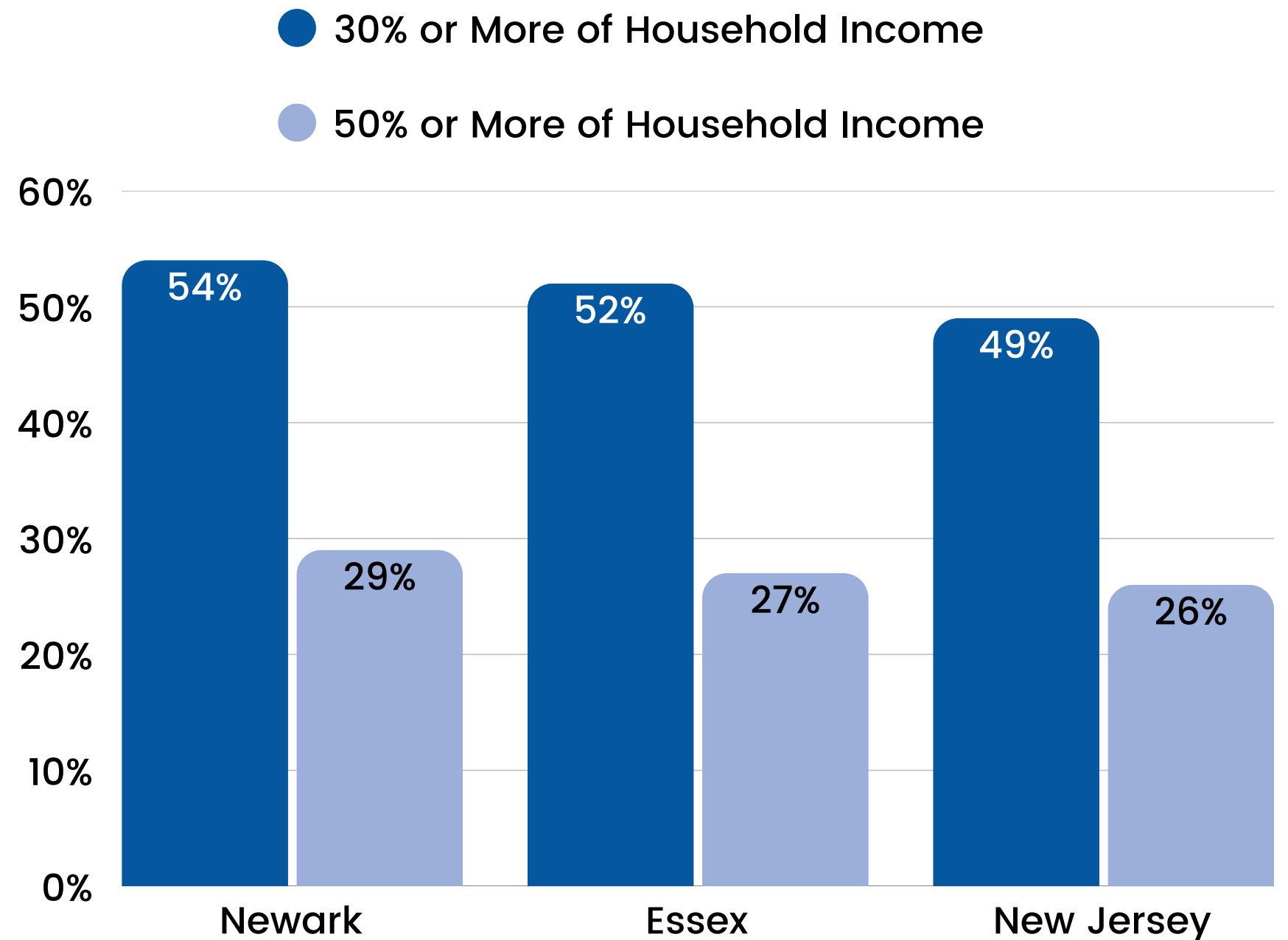
Rent Levels and Housing Cost Burden

\$1,392 was Newark's median rent in 2020-24

A **28% increase** from 2015-2019

Essex and statewide saw increases of similar margins

Households Spending Too Much on Rent



Changes to Programs

27,990 Newark children were receiving NJ SNAP in 2025

7,728 less children from 2021

56,512 Newark children under 19 were enrolled in NJ FamilyCare in 2026

5,825 less children from 2023 before the redetermination started

What to Keep in Mind with New Federal Requirements

- New work/community engagement requirements
- Changes to non-citizen eligibility
- Children are not impacted by federal changes

School Breakfast and Lunch Participation in Newark, 2025

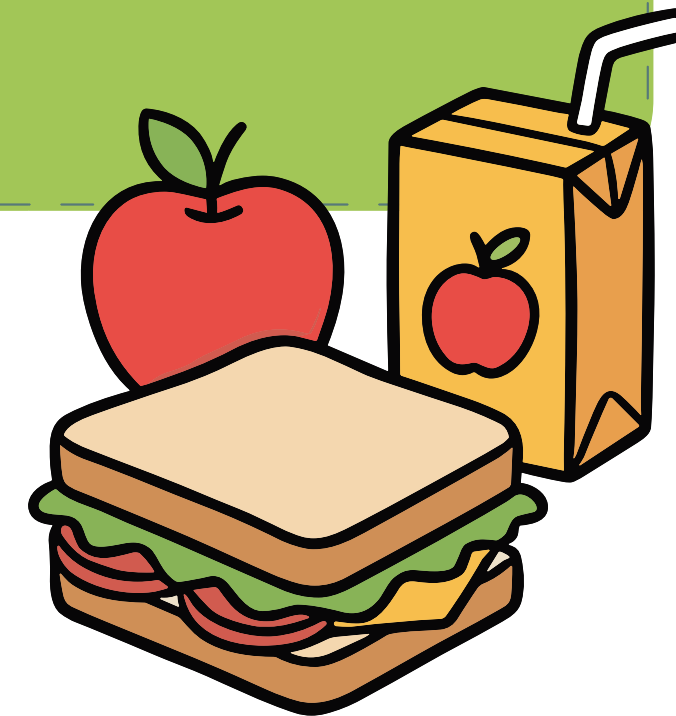
87% of Newark Public School students receiving free lunch were also receiving free breakfast

Charter Schools participation rates varies

Discovery Charter School = 96%

Robert Treat Academy Charter School = 39%

Students whose families have an annual income of up to 224% of the FPL are eligible for free school meals. This equates to \$72,016 for a family of four as of 2025.



Newark's Early Prenatal Care is Declining

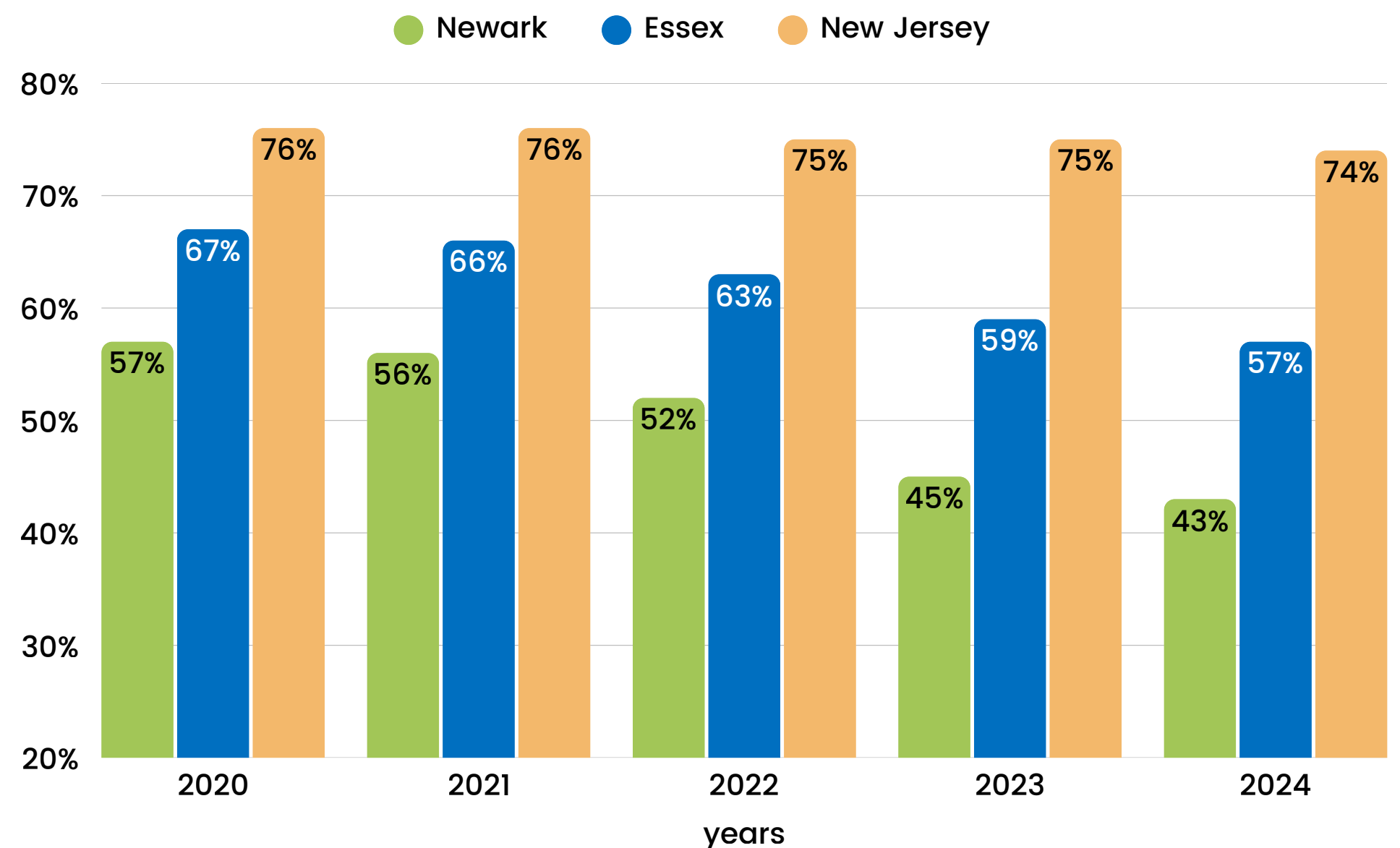
Prenatal care is an opportunity to identify and address risks early.

Newark has seen a **25% drop** in the number of women receiving early prenatal care since 2020

Prenatal care beginning in the 2nd trimester increased from 29% in 2020 to 39%.

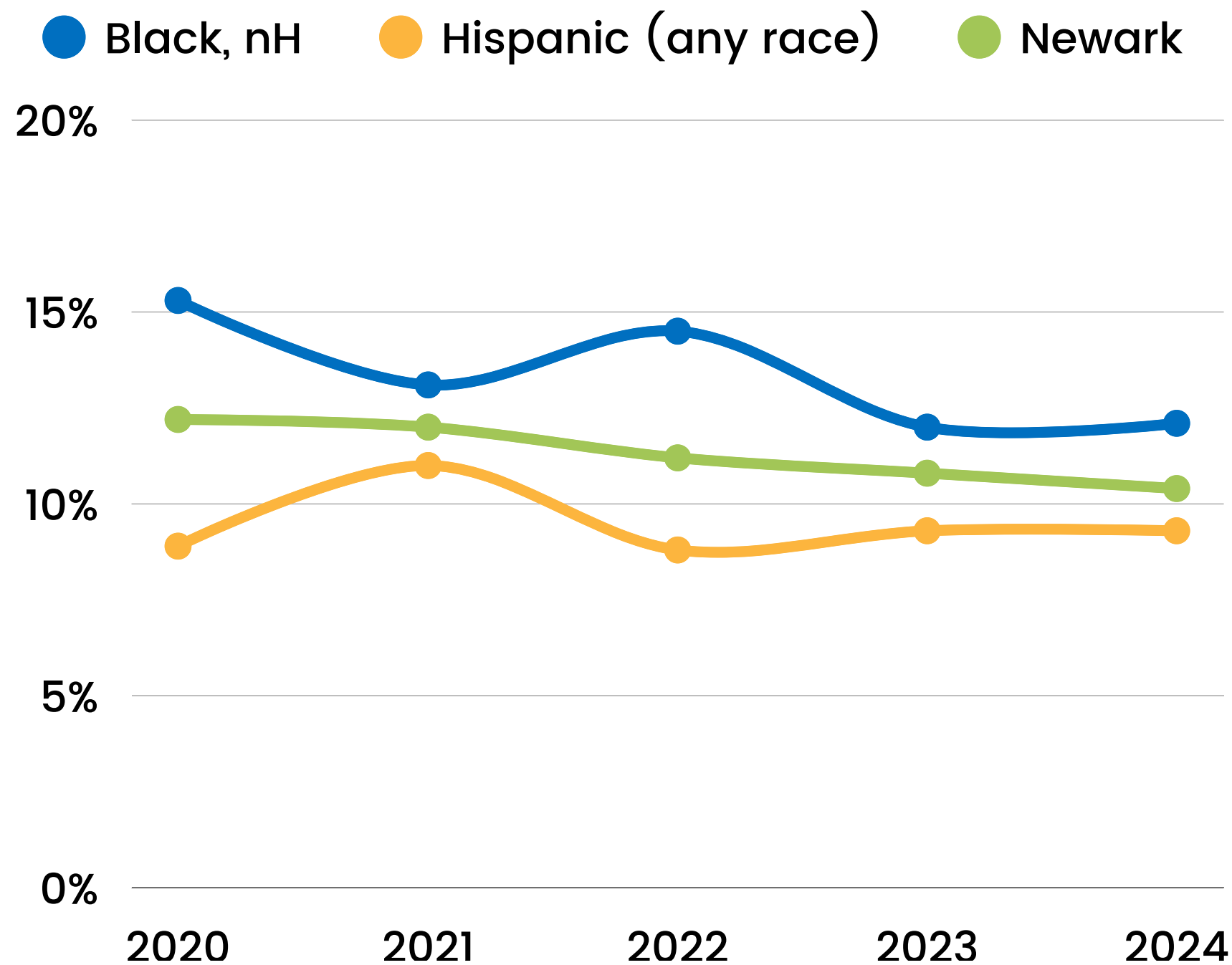
Later prenatal care is becoming more common.

Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

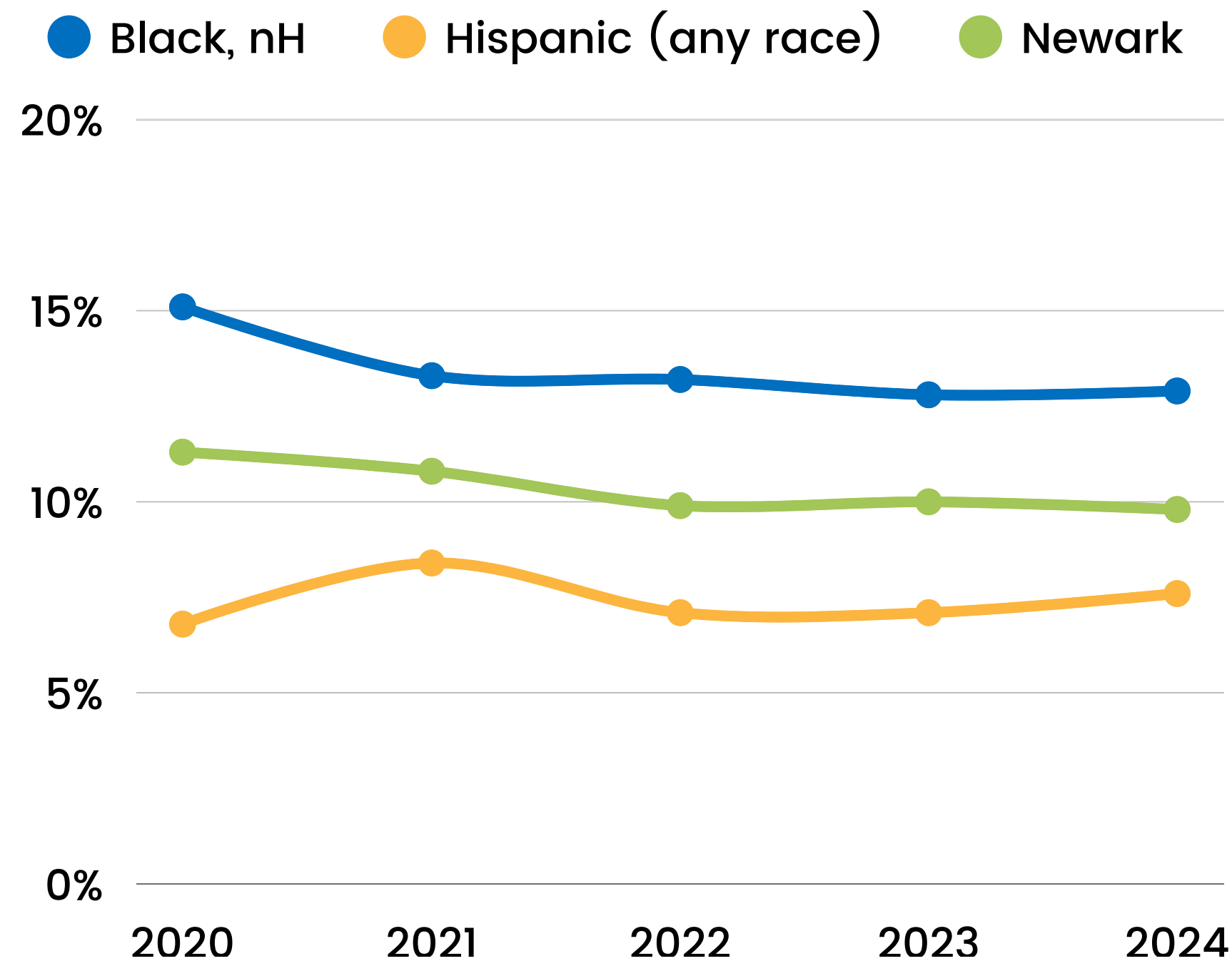


Birth Outcomes in Newark

Preterm Births



Babies Born with Low Birthweight



State-Funded Intensive Home Visitation Programs



In 2025, 248 Newark families were served by state-funded intensive home visitation programs

Includes Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families, and Parents As Teachers

Family Connects NJ

Since January 2024, all Essex County families welcoming a new baby through birth, adoption, resource parenting, or kinship care are eligible for a Family Connects NJ home visit.

Licensed Child Care Centers

122 licensed child care centers in Newark with a capacity of 13,641 in 2025

- About $\frac{1}{4}$ of licensed child care centers in Essex County are in Newark
- 7 less licensed child care centers since 2021

Licensed Capacity vs. Actual Availability

- Licensed capacity = Maximum permitted enrollment
- Actual availability = Open spots at a given time



Enrollment Trends

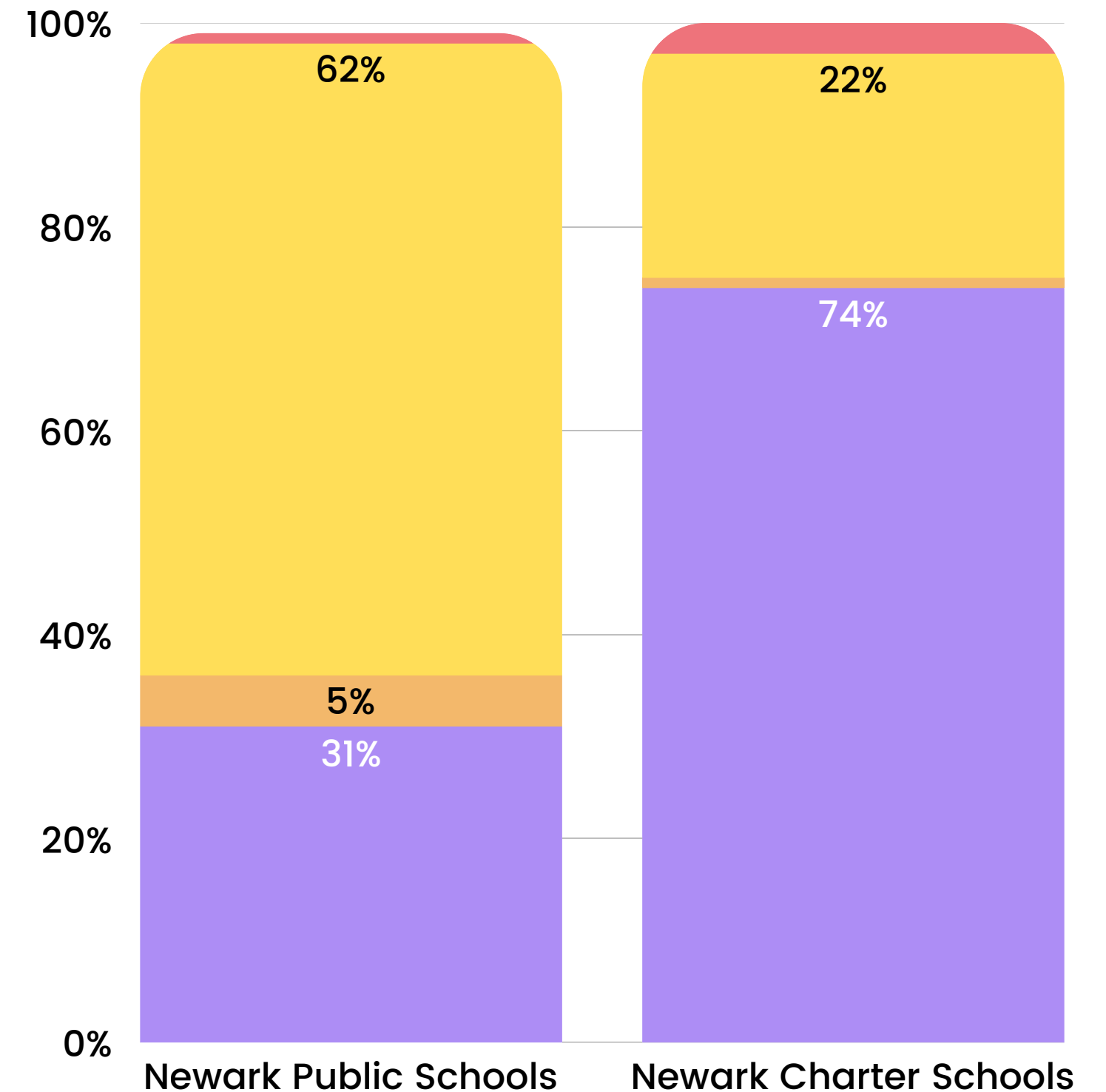
**64,774 pre-K-12 students
across Newark in 2025-26**

- Newark Public Schools = 43,216 students
- Newark Charter Schools = 21,558 students



Pre-K-12 Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, 2025-26

- Black or African American
- White
- Hispanic
- Two or More Races



Multilingual Learner enrollment is growing



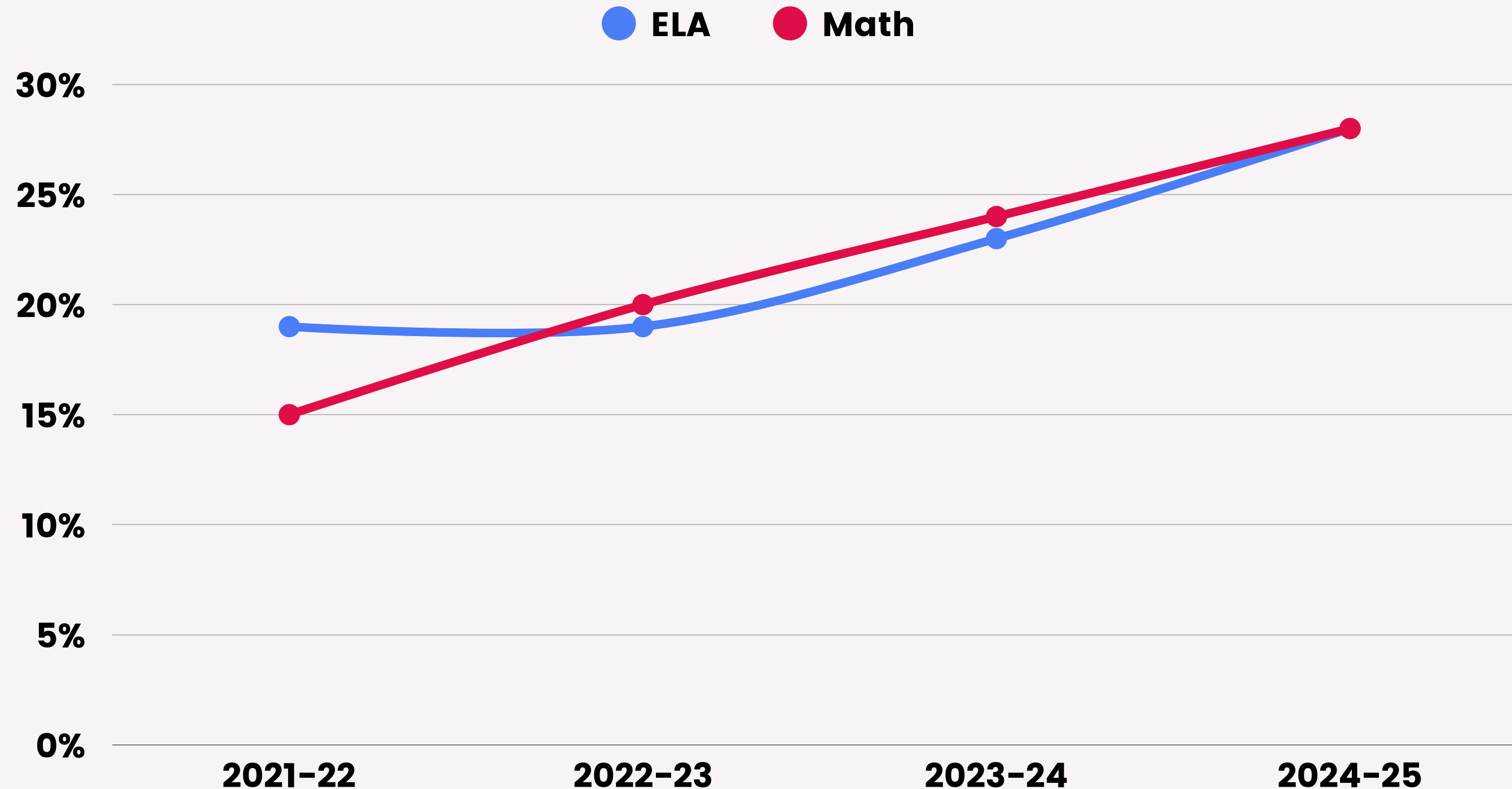
ML enrollment in Newark Public Schools grew from 17% to 28% in five years.

- 2.5x greater than the state's rate

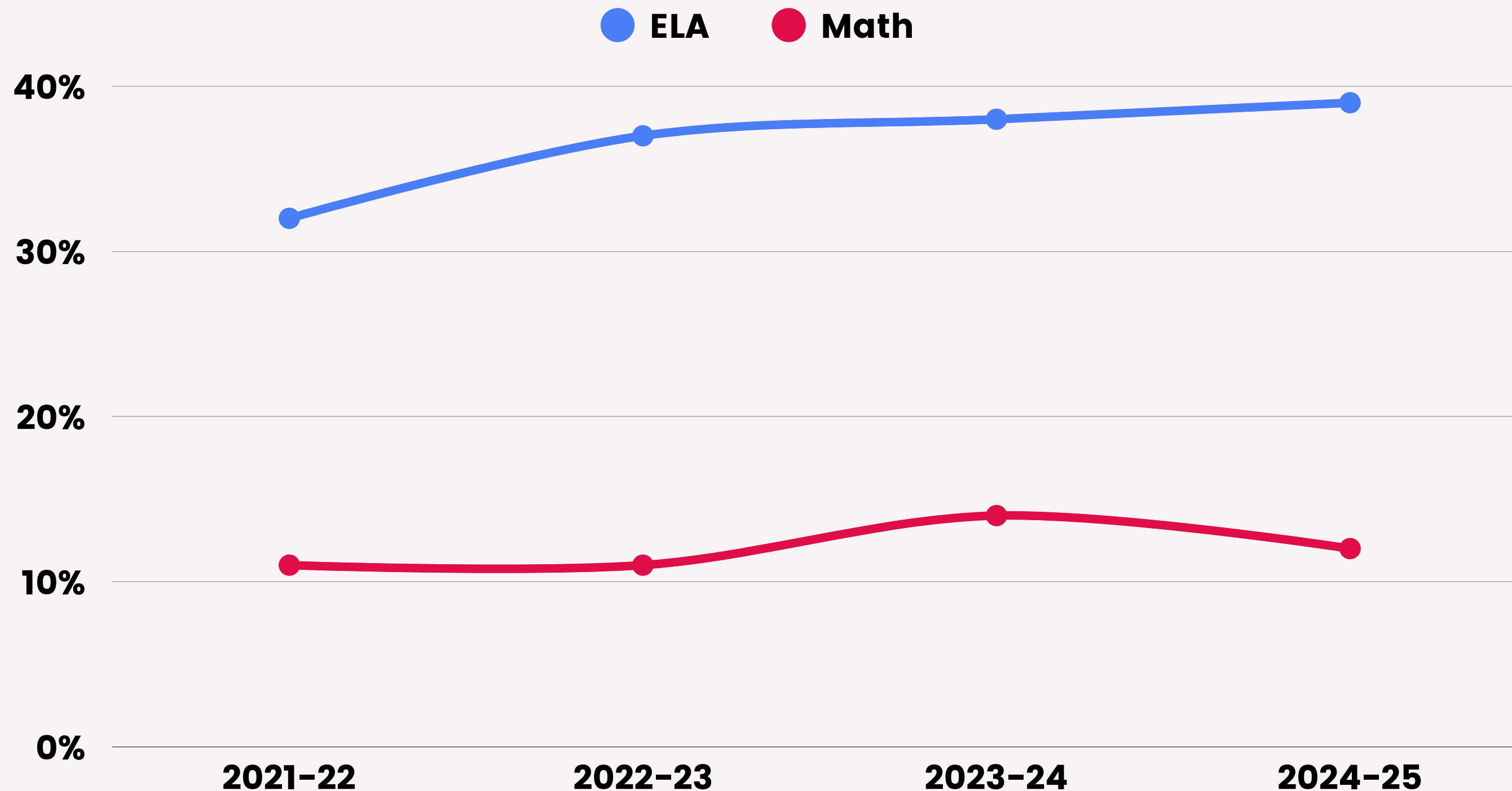
Charter schools with ML enrollment higher than the state's rate of 11% are:

- Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School = 30%
- Roseville Community Charter School = 22%
- Gateway Academy Charter School = 13%

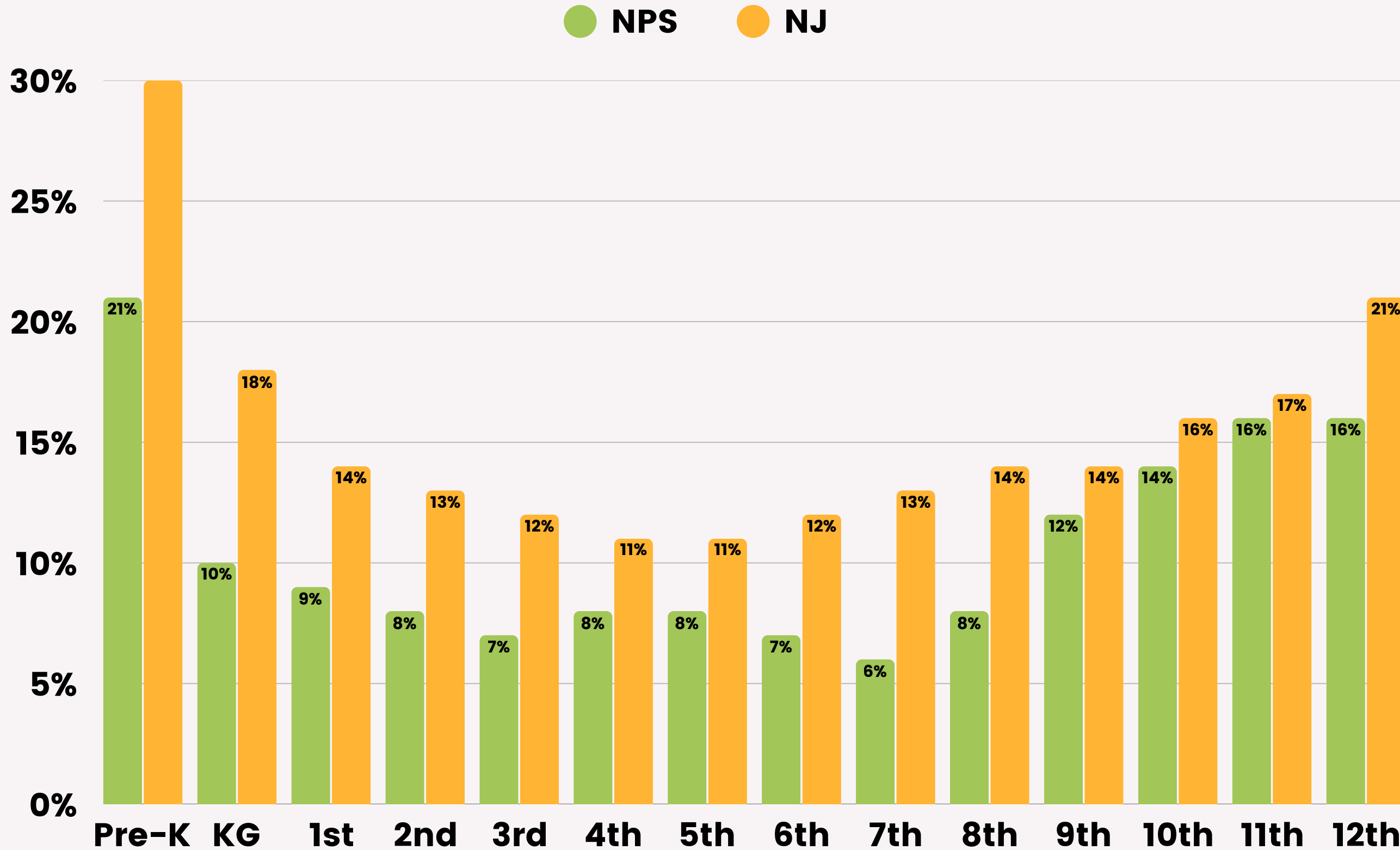
NPS 3rd Grade Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on NJSLA



NPS 8TH Grade Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on NJSLA



Chronic Absenteeism Varies Across Grades and Schools



Chronic Absenteeism, 2024-25

- Newark Public Schools = 10%
- Charter School with Highest Chronic Absenteeism
 - LEAD Charter School = 46%
- Charter School with Lowest Chronic Absenteeism
 - Gray Charter School = 8%
- New Jersey = 14%

Biliteracy Seals Earned Have Been Increasing

What is the New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy?

An award given by the NJDOE to recognize graduating high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in English and at least one additional language.

NPS has seen an increasing in graduating students achieving the Seal of Biliteracy

460 Seals of Biliteracy earned in 2024-25

-Biliteracy Seals Earned by Language

- Spanish = 323
- Portuguese = 128
- French = 8
- Other World Languages = 1



High School Graduation Rates

Newark Public Schools' high school graduation rate has been improving

NPS high school graduation rate reached 90% in 2024–25, up from 81% in 2020–21

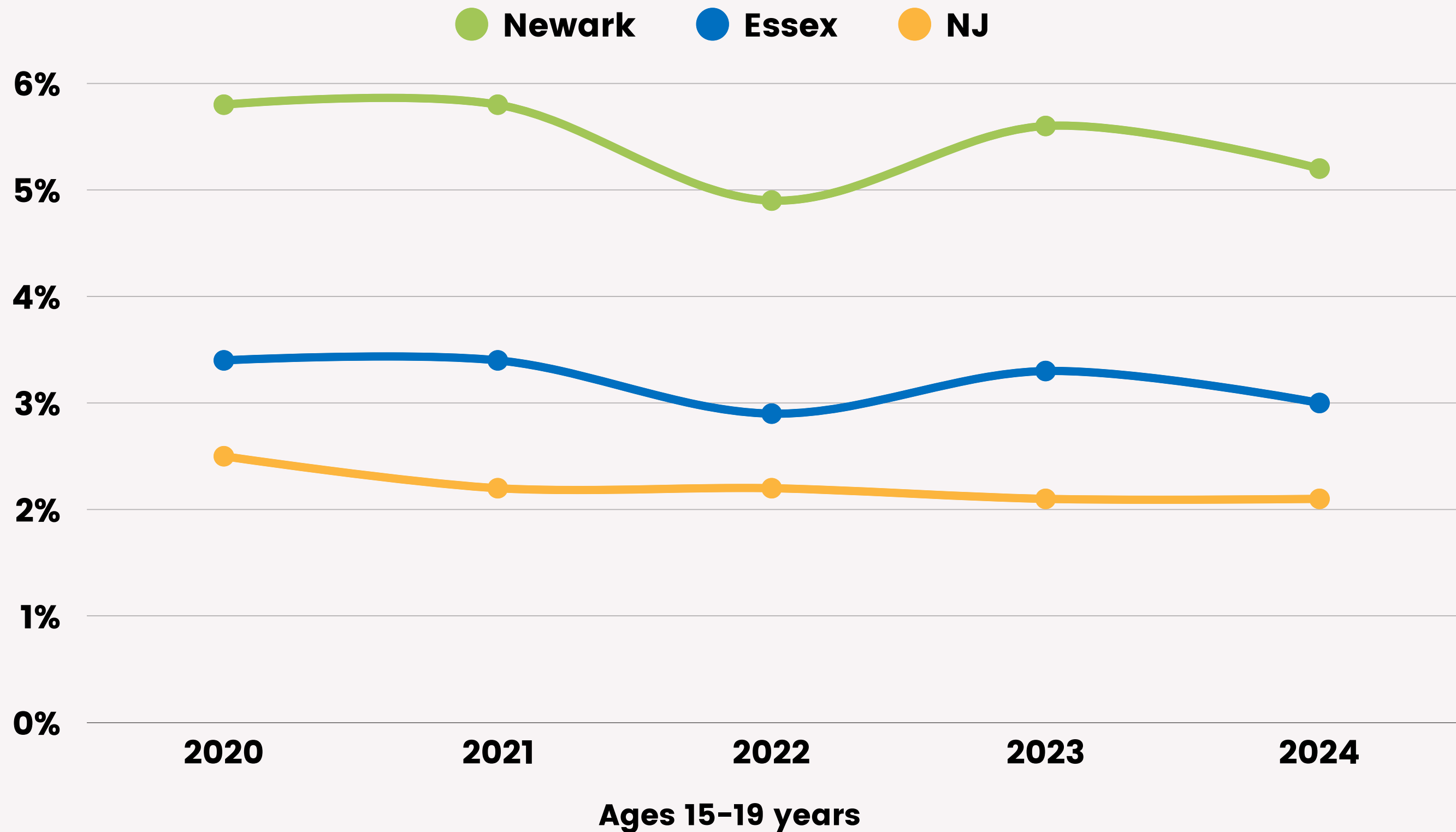
12 High Schools with Graduation Rates at or above 90% in 2024–25

- Between 90–94% = 1
- Between 95–99% = 7
- 100% = 4

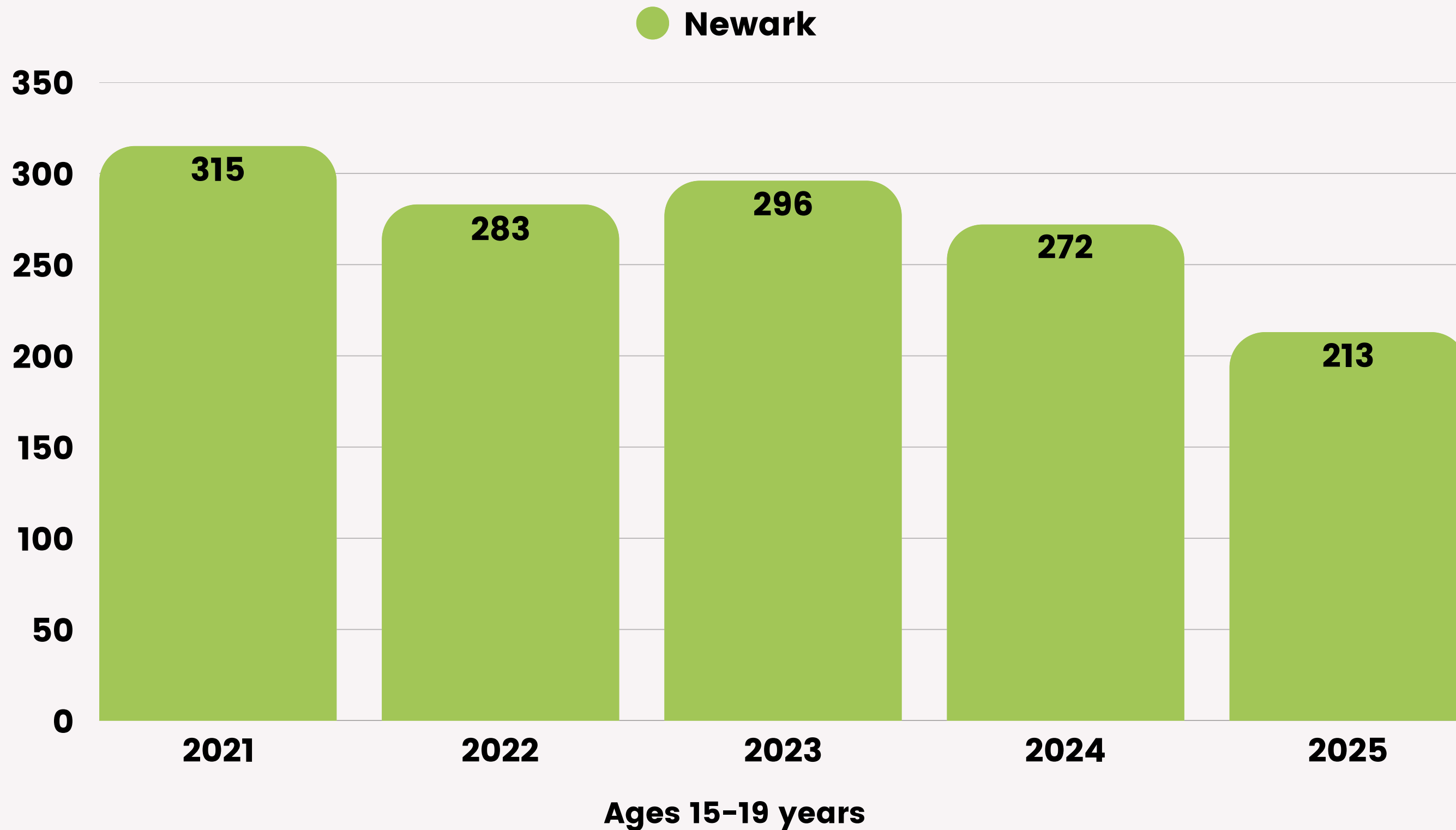


For a complete list of high school graduation rates for all Newark public and charter schools, see the full Newark Kids Count 2026 report.

Births to Teens Are Decreasing



Newark Juvenile Arrests Have Been Decreasing





2026 COMMUNITY CONVERSATION #1

We invite elected officials, community members, and advocates to join us in examining the latest data on the city's children, engaging in meaningful dialogue, evaluating local needs, and discussing solutions.

Sandwiches and refreshments will be provided. Program begins promptly at 5 PM.

Register Today.



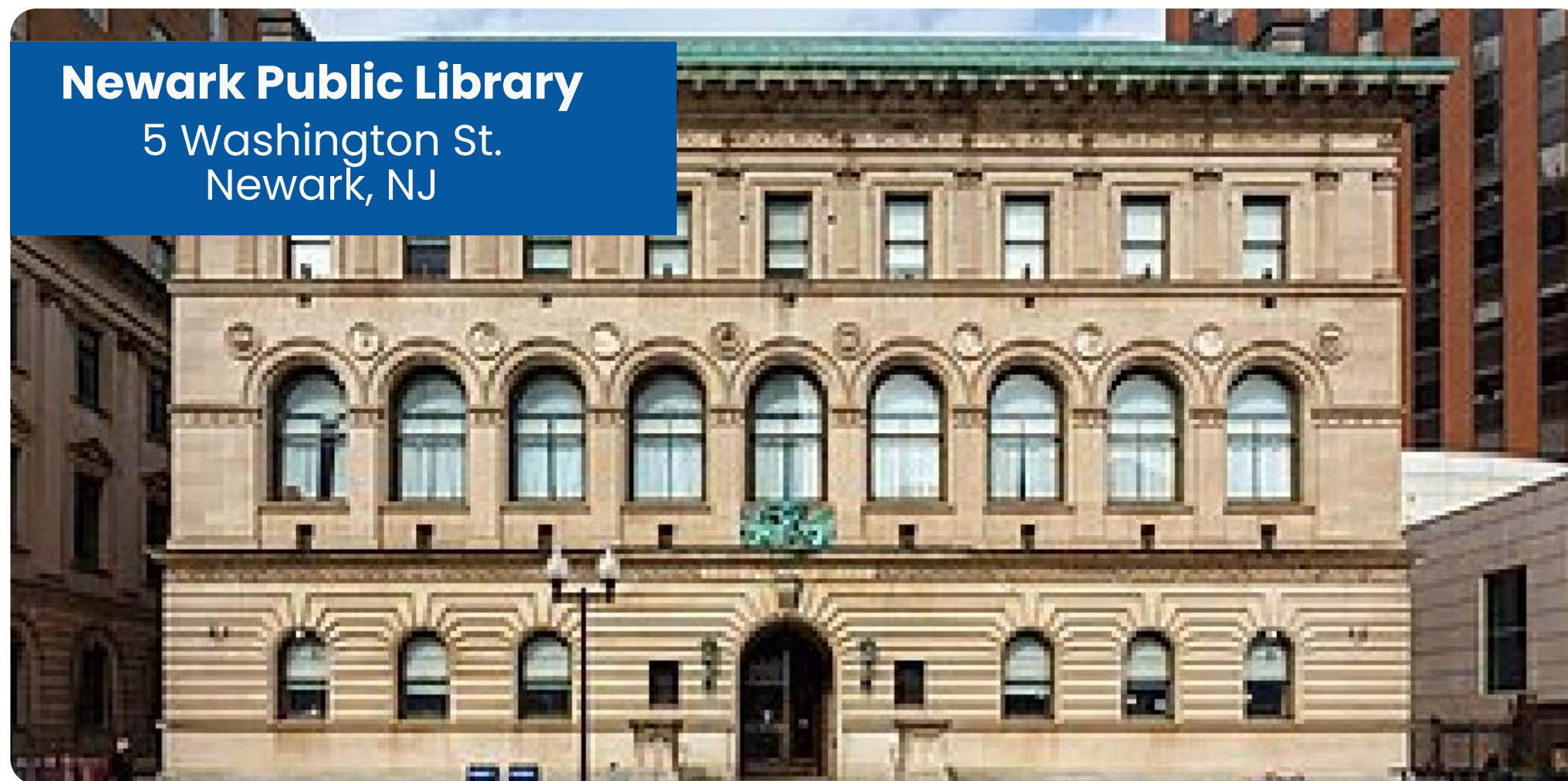
acnj.org/NewarkKidsCount2026-Convo1

Want to drive change for Newark's children?

Join Us on Tuesday, 10.6.26 | 4:30 PM

Newark Public Library

5 Washington St.
Newark, NJ



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