

Newark

Kids Count 2026

A City Profile of
Child Well-Being



Giving Every Child A Chance®

Newark Kids Count 2026

A City Profile of Child Well-Being

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For more information or to view other Kids Count data online, visit www.acnj.org



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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 this means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy, and educated.

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● Introduction

How to use the Newark Data Book

Since 1997, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) has published the Newark Kids Count Data Book as a trusted source of data on the well-being of children in New Jersey's largest city. The Data Book presents the most recent data available, along with five-year trends, across key indicators including demographics, family economic security, child health, child protection, child care, education, and youth well-being.

The Data Book is designed to support informed decision-making and community action. It can be used by:

Policymakers to guide policy development and resource allocation.

Service providers to identify emerging needs and strengthen programs for children and families.

Grant writers and nonprofit leaders to support funding proposals with reliable local data.

Community members and advocates to better understand local issues and champion solutions that improve outcomes for children and families.

Keep in Mind:

- **Current Data and Trends.** The most recent data provide a snapshot of current conditions, while trend data show how indicators have changed over time. Looking at both offers a more complete understanding of child well-being in Newark.
- **Comparisons.** Whenever possible, Newark data are presented alongside Essex County and New Jersey statewide data. These comparisons provide context and help illustrate whether trends are unique to Newark or reflect broader regional or statewide patterns.
- **Data Sources and Methodology.** Some figures, particularly for smaller geographic areas, are based on estimates and may have margins of error or be suppressed due to small sample sizes. Indicators may also represent different reporting periods, such as calendar years, school years, or fiscal years. Please refer to the data sources listed at the end of each section for additional information about individual indicators and methodologies.



How to Help New Jersey's Children Grow Up Safe, Healthy, and Educated:

Donate to ACNJ today at www.acnj.org.

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 or (973) 643-3876, ext. 213.

● Letters from...

A Letter from Advocates for Children of New Jersey



Mary Coogan
President & CEO
Advocates for Children
of New Jersey



Sue Flynn
Chair, Board of Trustees
Advocates for Children
of New Jersey

Data is a powerful tool for measuring progress, driving change, and empowering communities. *Newark Kids Count 2026* offers a comprehensive overview of child well-being across nearly 100 indicators, including demographics, family economic security, child health, child protection, child care, education, and teen outcomes in Newark, Essex County, and New Jersey. Where possible, the data book disaggregates data by race and ethnicity to highlight disparities in child well-being. In addition, this year's report features a dedicated spotlight on the work of Arts Ed Newark which — together with its partners — connects over 40,000 Newark youth to high-quality art instruction, both in and out of school.

In our latest findings, Newark Public Schools are reporting a significant reduction in chronic absenteeism at 10% districtwide, less than the state rate of 14%. And while the percentage of third and fourth graders proficient in reading and math at grade level leaves room for growth, the data is trending in a positive direction.

As of 2024, fewer Newark families are living in poverty, and the median income for families with children is rising, though it remains below that of Essex County and the state overall. More infants and toddlers are being tested for lead, and fewer children have elevated blood lead levels.

However, challenges persist. Since 2020, Newark has seen a 25% decrease in the number of expectant mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester. Additionally, 11% of the city's children lack health insurance — nearly triple the statewide average of 4%, and higher than Essex County's 7%. Housing affordability also remains another strain on residents, with more than half of all Newark households spending 30% or more of their income on rent.

The goal of Kids Count reports is to engage residents and policymakers to use this resource to strengthen connections, start conversations, and improve outcomes for Newark's children. Understanding community demographics and current programs can strengthen these efforts and inform more effective planning.

Residents can then collaborate with community organizations and government officials at all levels to assess the effectiveness of existing programs, identify areas for improvement or additional funding, and determine where new initiatives are needed.

Taken together, the data in *Newark Kids Count 2026* offer essential insights to help address issues affecting children and families. We thank the Prudential Foundation and the Victoria Foundation for their generous support and look forward to future community conversations.



A Letter from the Mayor



Ras J. Baraka

Mayor

City of Newark



As I embark on my fourth term as Mayor of this enduring and resilient city, now is an opportune time to receive ACNJ's 2026 Newark Kids Count Report. It provides us with the chance to acknowledge our collective accomplishments while doubling down on the challenges that remain. I am heartened by some data in this report.

Since 2020, Newark's median family income has grown by 43% compared to 34% in Essex County and 25% in New Jersey. Our focus on economic security policy has borne fruit, again outpacing the State and County on Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) metrics including the number and amount of credits issued. Juvenile arrests are down by 32%, a tribute to our community policing strategy and creation of the Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery, which continues to garner national and international attention. Newark's graduation rate is up 9% to 90% overall, and a recent study by the Education Scorecard found that our students learned at an average rate of 1.23 grade levels per year in math and reading, compared to the state average of 1.04.

While there is much to celebrate, there is more work to do. A legacy of inequities makes the climb steep. Despite income growth, our families still struggle to make ends meet. There remains a large income and wealth gap in this state that is unacceptable. More than 50% of our residents are rent and mortgage burdened. We face unprecedented and dangerous cuts from Washington D.C. that put crucial programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and NJ Family Care at risk, not to mention access to affordable housing.

We must act boldly now, and we will do just that. We will create 2,500 new units of deeply affordable housing over the next four years. We will no longer allow our Area Median Income to be set by Essex County's wealthiest towns but rather require developers to use Newark's median income when they set market rates for housing. We will continue to lead the statewide advocacy effort to expand and increase the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, which ease the burden on families. We will partner with Invest Newark, community organizations, and local developers to continue to create affordable homeownership pathways for residents.

We will launch a community grocery store in each ward that will allow community members to pay what they can at a time when our very sustenance is at risk. We will double down on literacy, particularly third grade literacy, and ensure that eligible children in Newark have free access, high-quality pre-K. We will build on our collaborations to address maternal health, an area of leadership for First Lady Linda Baraka.

I call on everyone reading this message to use this data to develop concrete steps for your organization to support moving the needle on these indicators. Our biggest successes have come when we have put our collective impact over self-interest. If we can continue to commit to that, anything is possible.

Ras J. Baraka

Mayor

A Letter from the Superintendent



Roger León
Superintendent

Newark Board of Education



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Newark Board of Education, congratulations and thank you to ACNJ, its staff, and supporters for *Newark Kids Count 2026*. Once again, ACNJ has produced an invaluable tool packed with essential information. Policy makers, community members, and researchers have come to rely on ACNJ for its objective analysis and reporting of data, and this year's report does it again. We appreciate you immensely for that.

Newark Kids Count 2026 confirms that the Newark Public Schools and its students are on the rise! It reports that not only have the city's population and the school district's enrollment increased, but by several important measures our students are learning, growing, and succeeding. Research conducted by Harvard and Stanford Universities and Dartmouth College, reported in *Newark Kids Count 2026*, shows that Newark Public Schools students' post-pandemic learning grew at a rate almost 25% greater than the national average. The district's high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment are at their highest in decades and chronic absenteeism is at its lowest, below the state average. We credit the hard work of our principals, teachers, staff, and of course our students and their families for this success.

The report also highlights Newark's early childhood education program with its mixed-delivery system is a model for all of New Jersey, "building on the quality standards Newark families have relied on for decades." For that, we credit the district's early childhood administrators, teachers, and aides, and all of our community preschool providers.

One data point is of particular concern: the 25% decrease, since 2020, in the number of expectant mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester. This is an issue of public education as well as public health, as it affects not only our mothers and their children, but our future students. Newark's nationally recognized Conception to Cradle to Grade 3 Consortium — a partnership between the Newark Public Schools, our hospitals, social service agencies, and all of our partners in the city, county, and state — works to begin our children's educational journey even before they are born and immediately thereafter. Thank you to ACNJ for pointing out the need.

Again, congratulations and many thanks to ACNJ for reporting, producing, and distributing *Newark Kids Count 2026*.

Roger León
Superintendent

1 Demographics

Newark's Changing Child and Family Demographics

Children and families are at the heart of Newark's vibrant and diverse community. Over the past decade, Newark's child population has grown by roughly 11%, based on estimates for 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. Foreign-born children accounted for 13% of Newark's child population in 2020-2024, up from 9% in 2015-2019.

The number of births in Newark has remained relatively stable over the past 5 years. In 2024, more than half of all births were to Hispanic women while 40% were to Black, non-Hispanic women. Births to foreign-born (defined as born outside the U.S. and its territories) women increased across all three geographies, with Newark experiencing the largest increase by 26%. In 2024, approximately 61% of births in Newark were to foreign-born women.

Total Population

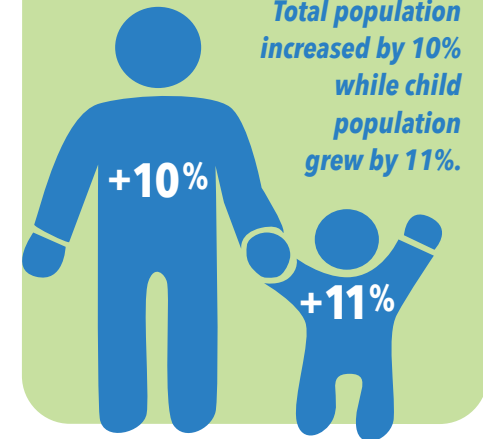
	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	281,054	310,178
Essex	795,404	863,002
New Jersey	8,878,503	9,343,809

Total Child Population Under Age 18

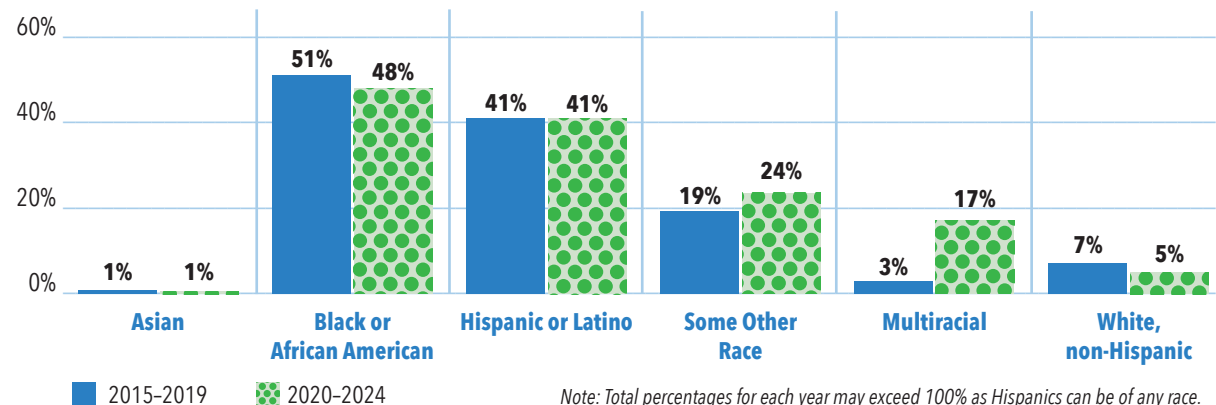
	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	69,120	76,883
Essex	189,366	203,641
New Jersey	1,961,521	2,037,645

Newark is growing.

Total population increased by 10% while child population grew by 11%.



Newark's Child Population Under Age 18 by Race/Ethnicity



Beginning in 2020, any comparisons to prior estimates by race and ethnicity should be made with caution. Differences may be the result of demographic changes and/or differences in question wording, race reporting, or coding updates. For more information, visit the [ACS Race User Note: Improvements to the Race Question](#).

1 Demographics

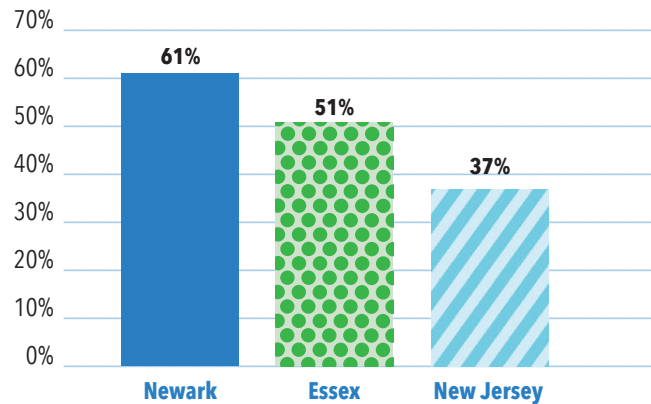
Foreign-Born Children Under Age 18

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	6,353	9%	9,988	13%
Essex	14,095	7%	19,798	10%
New Jersey	111,292	6%	138,997	7%

Total Births

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Newark	3,860	3,696	3,900	3,857	3,896
Essex	9,618	9,720	10,134	9,802	9,974
New Jersey	97,145	101,330	102,896	101,014	101,364

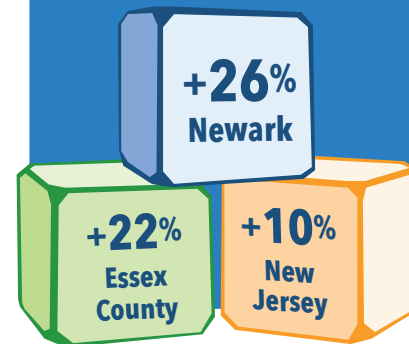
Percentage of Births to Foreign-Born Women, 2024



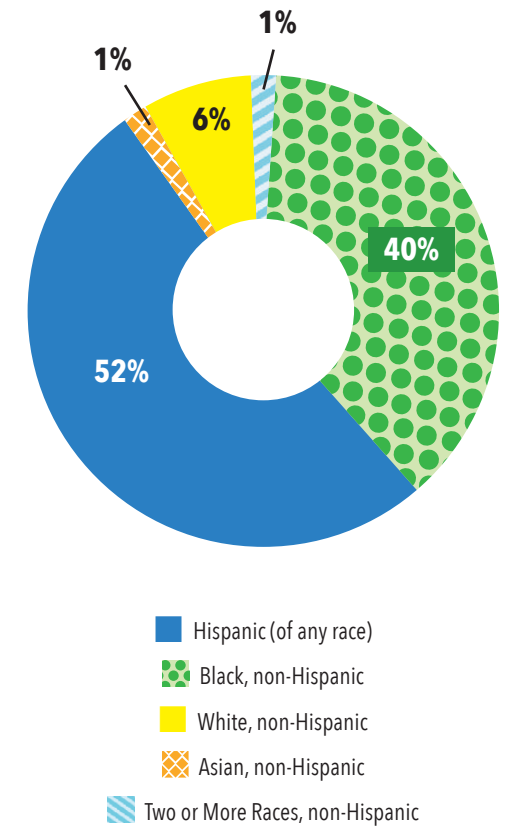
Births to Foreign-Born Women

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 20-24
Newark	1,874	1,823	2,128	2,210	2,361	26%
Essex	4,169	4,111	4,798	4,815	5,075	22%
New Jersey	34,429	34,562	36,940	36,820	37,829	10%

Newark saw the fastest growth in births to foreign-born women, **increasing 26%** since 2020.



Percentage of Total Births by Race/Ethnicity in Newark, 2024



Note: Some racial groups saw few births and are excluded from the graph above.

1 Demographics

Nonmarital Births

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Newark	2,425	65%	2,496	68%	2,682	69%	2,657	69%	2,669	69%
Essex	4,342	47%	4,604	48%	4,905	49%	4,888	50%	4,936	50%
New Jersey	30,382	33%	31,583	32%	33,867	33%	33,337	33%	32,820	33%

Languages Spoken in the Home, Newark

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Percentage of population age 5 & over who only speak English	52%	49%
Percentage of population age 5 & over who speak a language other than English	48%	51%
Percentage of those ages 5-17 who speak a language other than English by language spoken		
Spanish	6%	6%
Other Indo-European languages	1%	2%
Asian & Pacific Islander languages	<1%	<1%
Other languages	1%	1%

Households Headed by One Parent

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	20,726	60%	23,667	60%
Essex	42,334	43%	45,997	43%
New Jersey	315,942	30%	336,700	31%

1 Demographics

Number of Grandparents Caring for Their Grandchildren

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	2,113	2,699
Essex	4,944	5,162
New Jersey	45,237	40,539

Grandchildren Under Age 18 Living with a Grandparent Householder

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	6,345	6,374
Essex	13,959	13,962
New Jersey	126,036	127,673



Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Total Population, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B01001 using 5-year estimates.

Total Child Population Under Age 18, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B01001 using 5-year estimates.

Newark's Child Population Under Age 18 by Race/Ethnicity, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey charts B01001B, B01001D, B01001F, B01001G, B01001H, and B01001I using 5-year estimates. Black or African American, Other, and Two or More Races categories may include individuals who identified as Hispanic.

Foreign-Born Children Under Age 18, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B05003 using 5-year estimates.

Total Births, 2020-2024. As reported per year by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Percentage of Total Births by Race/Ethnicity in Newark, 2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Percentage of Total Births to Foreign-Born Women, 2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Births to Foreign-Born Women, 2020-2024. As reported per year by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Nonmarital Births, 2020-2024. As reported per year by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Languages Spoken in the Home, Newark, 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. Languages are specified for ages 5 to 17.

Households Headed by One Parent, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B11005. Includes family and non-family households. Data are for households with children under age 18 using 5-year estimates.

Number of Grandparents Caring for Their Grandchildren, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B10050 using 5-year estimates.

Grandchildren Under Age 18 Living with a Grandparent Householder, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B10001 using 5-year estimates.

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. Since 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.

2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds for a Family of Four

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

Total Population Living Below Poverty Level

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	73,810	27%	70,080	23%
Essex	122,569	16%	123,563	15%
New Jersey	869,081	10%	891,891	10%



2 Family Economic Security

Economically Disadvantaged Children Under Age 18

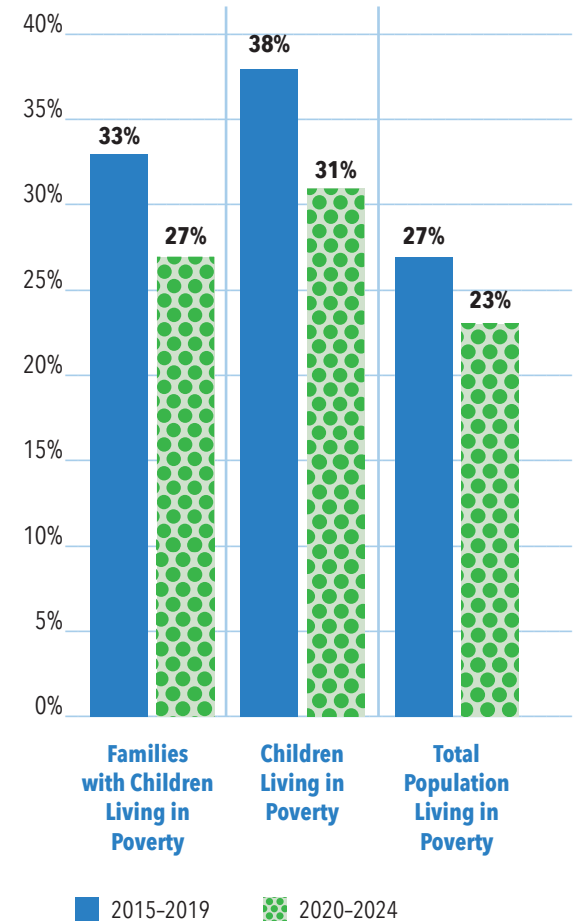
	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark				
Extreme Poverty (Below 50% of FPL)	12,282	18%	12,560	17%
Poverty (Below 100% of FPL)	25,743	38%	23,731	31%
Low-Income (Below 200% of FPL)	45,858	67%	47,972	63%
Essex				
Extreme Poverty (Below 50% of FPL)	18,715	10%	19,271	10%
Poverty (Below 100% of FPL)	41,171	22%	38,157	19%
Low-Income (Below 200% of FPL)	80,095	43%	78,689	39%
New Jersey				
Extreme Poverty (Below 50% of FPL)	117,499	6%	118,573	6%
Poverty (Below 100% of FPL)	272,194	14%	261,439	13%
Low-Income (Below 200% of FPL)	583,899	30%	573,351	28%

FPL = Federal Poverty Level

Families with Children Living Below the Poverty Level

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	11,306	33%	10,420	27%
Essex	18,242	19%	17,246	16%
New Jersey	116,919	11%	114,665	11%

Poverty is Declining in Newark



2 Family Economic Security

Median Income of Families with Children

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	\$ 35,383	\$ 50,456
Essex	\$ 73,461	\$ 98,098
New Jersey	\$ 104,319	\$ 130,331

Stronger growth, persistent gap:

Newark's median family income increased by **43%**, more rapidly than Essex (34%) and New Jersey (25%), but it remains below both county and state levels.



Number Unemployed

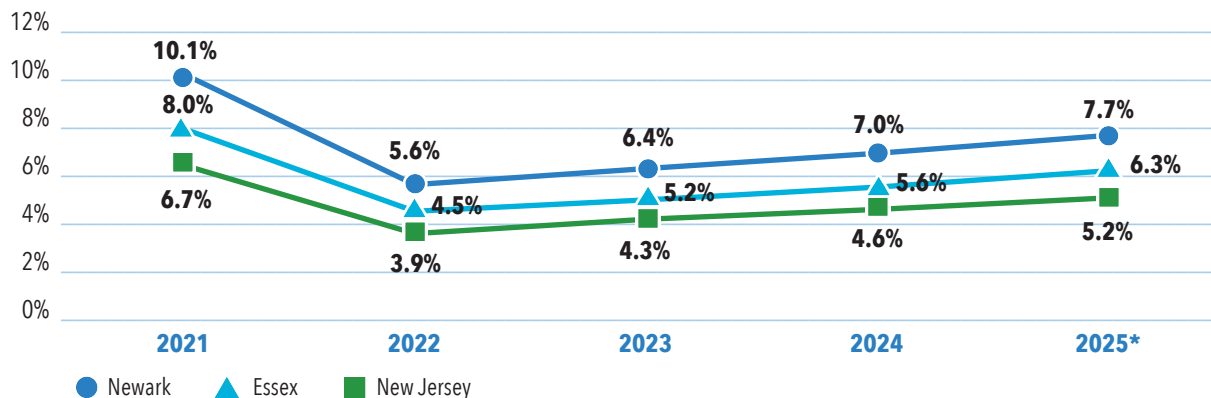
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	% Change 21-25
Newark	13,776	7,540	8,860	9,833	10,874	-21%
Essex	32,640	18,588	21,464	24,058	27,115	-17%
New Jersey	313,371	185,106	210,989	227,295	257,134	-18%

*Annual estimates for 2025 are 11-month averages that exclude October. Data for October 2025 were not collected due to federal government shutdown.

Children Under 18 with All Available Parents in the Labor Force

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	48,082	74%	52,998	74%
Essex	137,998	76%	148,129	77%
New Jersey	1,355,582	72%	1,457,012	74%

Unemployment Rate



*Annual estimates for 2025 are 11-month averages that exclude October. Data for October 2025 were not collected due to federal government shutdown.

Parental workforce participation remains strong:

Across all three geographies, roughly **3 out of 4 children** reside in households where all available parents are in the labor force.



2 Family Economic Security

Federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC)

	2018		2022		% Change 18-22	
	Number of Claims	Avg. Claim Amount	Number of Claims	Avg. Claim Amount	Number of Claims	Avg. Claim Amount
Newark	40,570	\$2,752	36,590	\$2,781	-10%	1%
Essex	80,110	\$2,561	71,580	\$2,577	-11%	1%
New Jersey	599,490	\$2,338	545,790	\$2,386	-9%	2%

The New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit

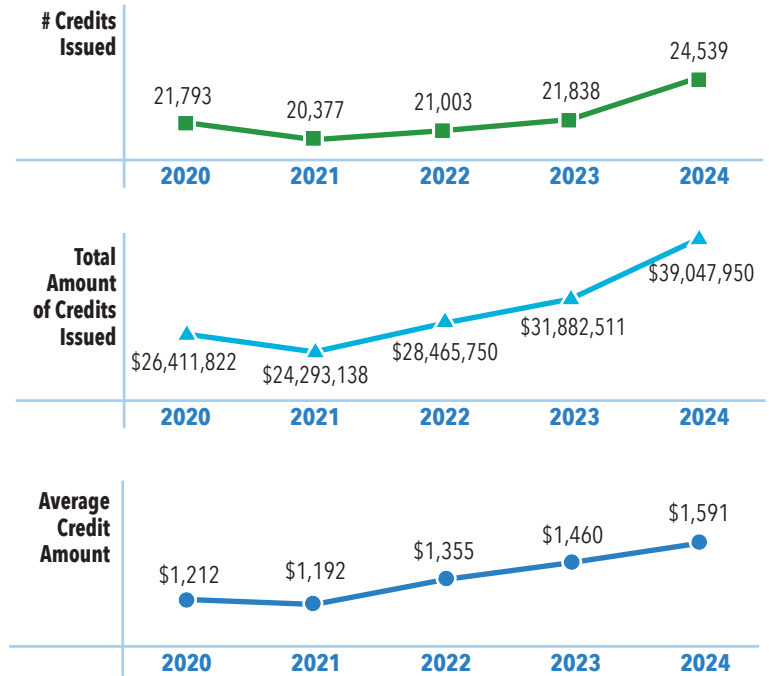
Tax credits are a vital economic support for many low-income working families and also strengthen New Jersey's local economy, as many of these dollars are spent in the communities where families live and work. Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) reward work and help increase take-home pay by lowering the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

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

	# Credits Issued	Total Amt. of Credits Issued	2020	# Credits Issued	Total Amt. of Credits Issued	2024	# Credits Issued	Total Amt. of Credits Issued	% Change 20-24
			Avg. Credit Amount			Avg. Credit Amount			Avg. Credit Amount
Newark	21,793	\$26,411,822	\$1,212	24,539	\$39,047,950	\$1,591	13%	48%	31%
Essex	43,207	\$50,545,605	\$1,170	48,268	\$73,469,440	\$1,522	12%	45%	30%
New Jersey	317,886	\$367,807,942	\$1,157	344,785	\$514,690,792	\$1,493	8%	40%	29%

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

A Closer Look at Newark



2 Family Economic Security

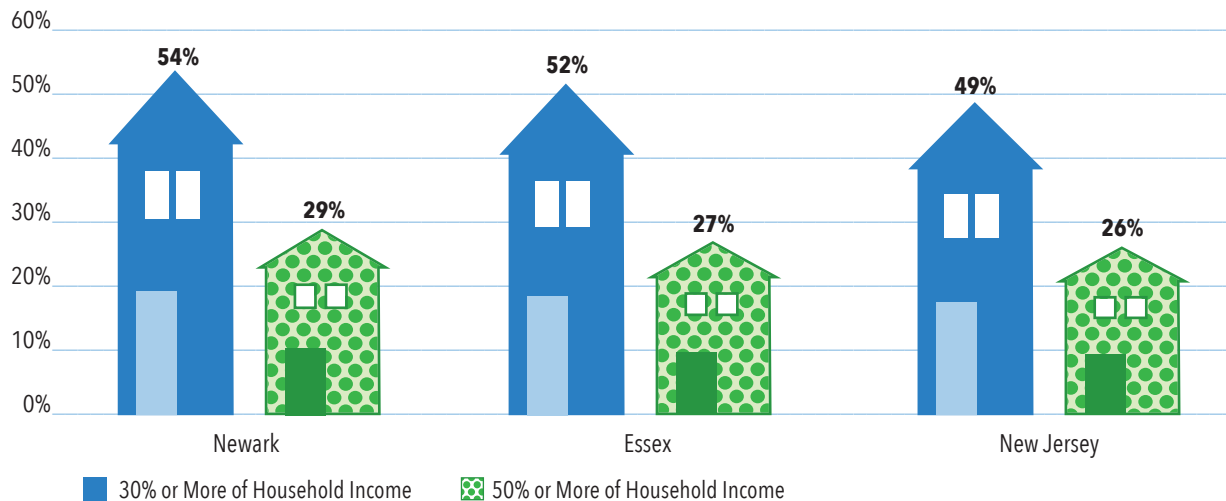
Children in Families Receiving TANF (Welfare)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	1,890	1,717	1,644	1,681	1,213	-36%
Essex	2,694	2,323	2,658	2,783	1,994	-26%
New Jersey	17,301	19,465	19,784	20,466	17,552	1%

Median Rent

	2015-2019	2020-2024	% Change
Newark	\$1,085	\$1,392	28%
Essex	\$1,178	\$1,531	30%
New Jersey	\$1,334	\$1,720	29%

Percentage of Households Spending Too Much on Rent, 2020-2024



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

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	58%	54%
Essex	53%	52%
New Jersey	49%	49%

Percentage of Mortgage Owners Spending 30% or More of Their Income on Housing Costs

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	57%	50%
Essex	41%	37%
New Jersey	35%	32%

Percentage of Occupied Housing Units That Are Owner-Occupied

	2015-2019	2020-2024
Newark	22%	24%
Essex	44%	45%
New Jersey	64%	64%

2 Family Economic Security

Reported WIC Participants

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Newark	10,814	88%	11,302	87%	12,694	90%	11,902	85%	11,003	87%
Essex	17,844	87%	19,217	86%	22,154	89%	20,883	85%	19,671	87%
New Jersey	142,468	89%	149,771	89%	166,841	91%	163,779	88%	164,550	89%

What are SNAP and WIC?

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 households have a monthly income of no more than 185% of the federal poverty guidelines or roughly 4,957 for a family of four based on 2025-2026 figures. For more information on SNAP eligibility, visit www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/eligibility/. As a result of a new Federal law, several major changes to NJ SNAP have taken effect in 2025 and early 2026 with different rules applying depending on the date of application or recertification, changes include new eligibility rules and work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD). For the most updated information, visit www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/recipients/stay/.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutritious food to pregnant, breastfeeding, and post-partum women, infants, and children up to the age of five. WIC is available to New Jersey households with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2025, 87% of Newark enrollees in WIC received benefits through the program. For more information on SNAP and WIC, visit <https://fns.usda.gov>.

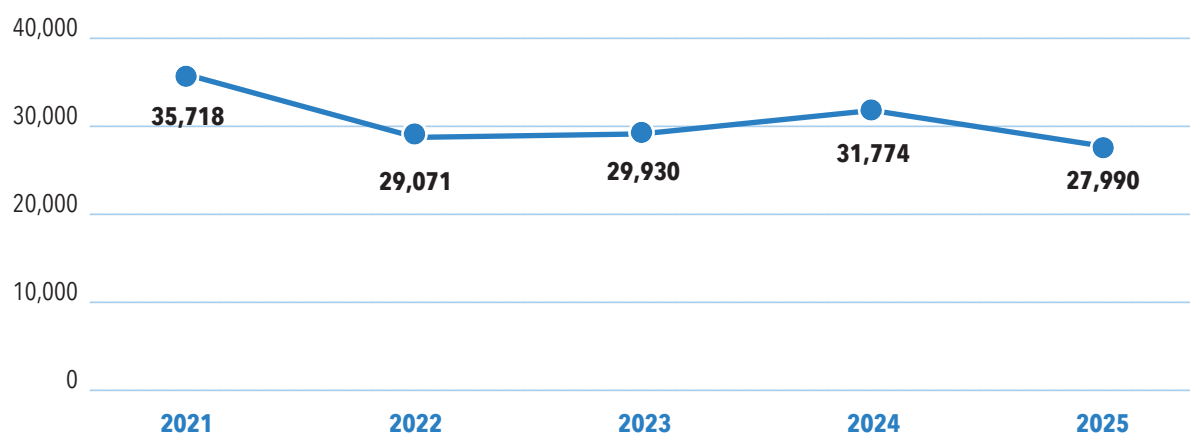
Individuals Enrolled in WIC

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	12,316	12,997	14,135	13,976	12,648	3%
Essex	20,473	22,237	24,848	24,449	22,544	10%
New Jersey	159,623	168,488	184,183	185,839	184,267	15%

Children Receiving NJ SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	35,718	29,071	29,930	31,774	27,990	-22%
Essex	61,505	55,679	54,296	56,366	49,554	-19%
New Jersey	393,310	351,378	343,009	359,806	340,031	-14%

Newark Children Receiving NJ SNAP

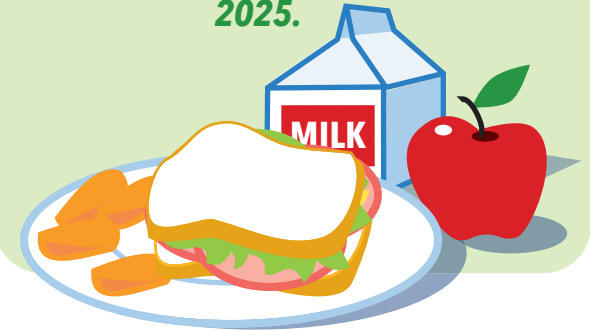


2 Family Economic Security

School Breakfast and Lunch Participation in Newark, 2025

School District	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Breakfast	# Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch	Free and Reduced-Price Eligible Student Participation in Breakfast per 100 Participating in Lunch
Newark Public Schools	19,754	22,633	87%
Discovery Charter School	89	93	96%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	1,364	1,764	77%
LEAD Charter School	100	190	53%
Link Community Charter School	208	270	77%
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	243	496	49%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	751	1,125	67%
New Horizons Community Charter School	242	323	75%
Newark Educators Charter School	82	116	71%
North Star Academy Charter School	2,282	2,584	88%
Philip's Academy Charter School	177	370	48%
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	185	478	39%
Roseville Community Charter School	194	277	70%
TEAM Academy Charter School	4,058	5,546	73%
The Gray Charter School	69	157	44%

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



2 Family Economic Security

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

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

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

Economically Disadvantaged Children Under Age 18, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B17024 using 5-year estimates.

Families with Children Living Below the Poverty Level, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B17010 using 5-year estimates.

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

Number Unemployed, 2021-2025. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines an unemployed person as someone who does not have a job, has actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and is currently available for work. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted and are annual averages.

Unemployment Rate, 2021-2025. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted and are annual averages.

Children Under 18 with All Available Parents in the Labor Force, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B23008 using 5-year estimates.

Federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC), 2018 and 2022. As reported by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Number of New Jersey taxpayers claiming a federal EITC and average claim.

NJ Earned Income Tax Credits, Recipients with at Least One Dependent Under Age 19: A Closer Look at Newark, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Treasury. Number of New Jersey tax-payers living in Newark with at least one dependent under age 19 receiving state EITC credit, total amount of EITC credits issued and average credit amount.

NJ Earned Income Tax Credits, Recipients with at Least One Dependent Under Age 19, 2020 and 2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Treasury. Number of New Jersey tax-payers with at least one dependent under age 19 receiving a state EITC credit, total amount of EITC credits issued and average credit amount.

Children in Families Receiving TANF (Welfare), 2021-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Median Rent, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25064 using 5-year estimates.

Percentage of Households Spending 30% or More of Their 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.

Percentage of Households Spending Too Much on Rent, 2020-24. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25070 using 5-year estimates.

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

Percentage of Occupied Housing Units That Are Owner-Occupied, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart DP04 using 5-year estimates.

Reported WIC Participants, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Health for the quarter ending June 30th of each year. The number and percentage of women, infants, and children receiving nutritional benefits through the Women, Infants, and Children program.

Individuals Enrolled in WIC, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Health for the quarter ending June 30th of 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.



Children Receiving NJ SNAP, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Newark Children Receiving NJ SNAP, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

School Breakfast and Lunch Participation in Newark, 2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Agriculture for October of the year indicated. Data represent children attending public schools, including charter schools. Rates represent the total number of students receiving a free or reduced-price breakfast per every 100 participating in free or reduced-price lunch.

3 Child Health

The Importance of Prenatal Care

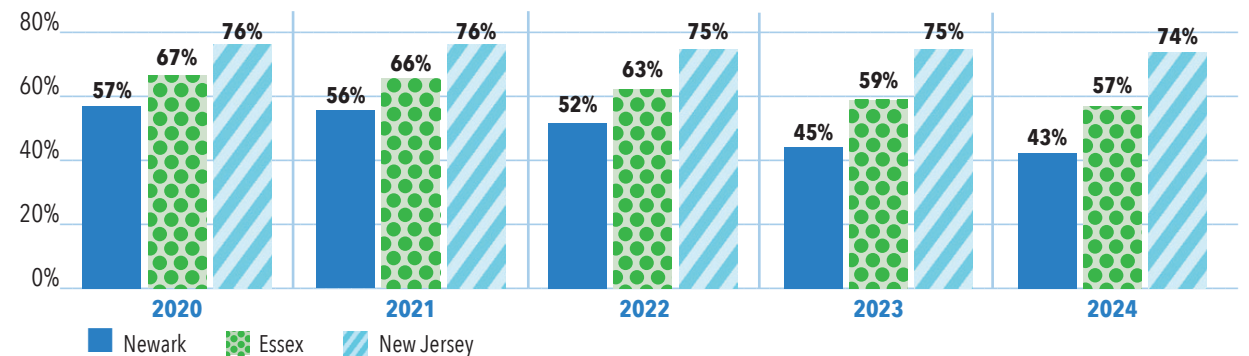
Healthy starts for New Jersey's infants begin with quality prenatal care early in pregnancy. Delayed or absent prenatal care increases the risk of pregnancy complications, preterm birth, low birth weight, and poorer health outcomes for both mothers and babies. The share of women in Newark who began prenatal care during the first trimester declined from 57% in 2020 to 43% in 2024. Multiple factors may be contributing to this trend, including reduced Medicaid enrollment support, lower trust in the healthcare system among Black and Brown women, and shortages of culturally responsive prenatal care providers.

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

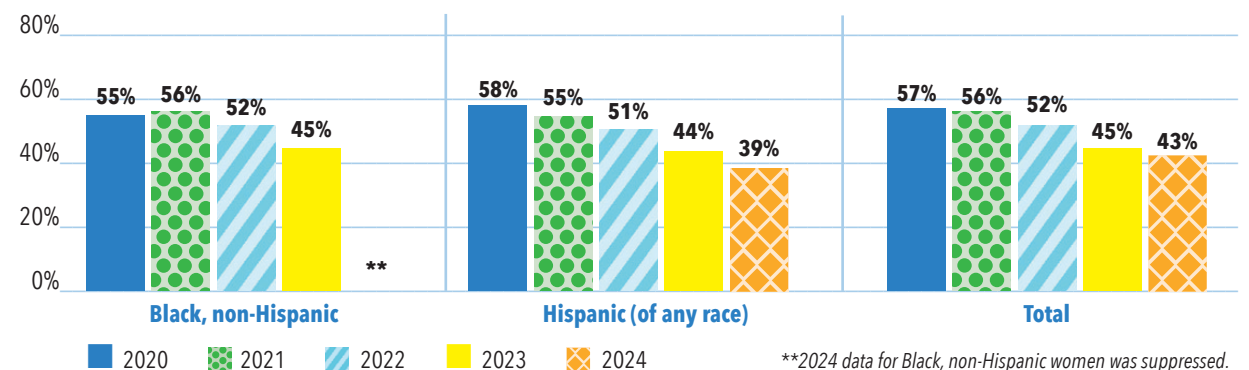
Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 20-24
Newark	2,205	2,072	2,025	1,747	1,656	-25%
Essex	6,422	6,454	6,332	5,777	5,673	-12%
New Jersey	73,691	77,169	77,035	75,927	75,131	2%

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

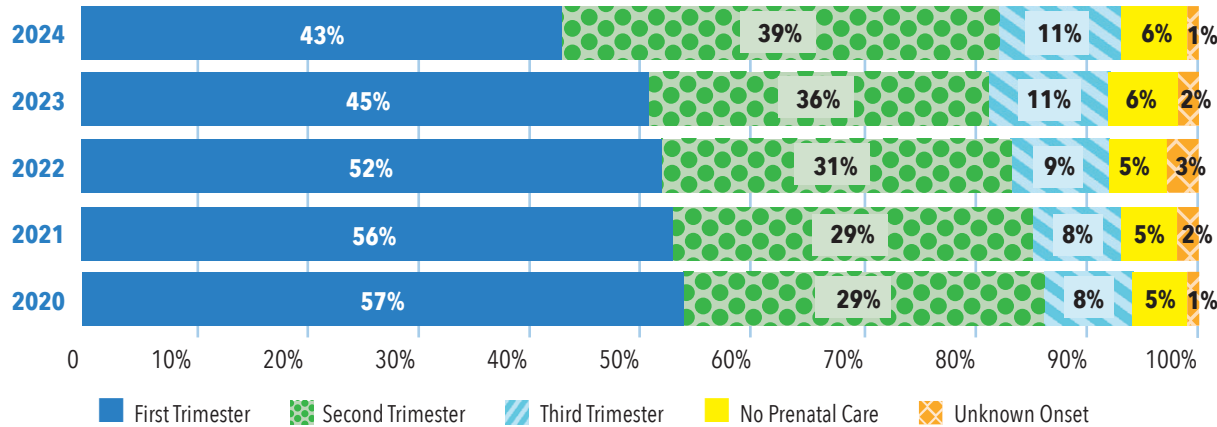


Percentage of Newark Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity



3 Child Health

Percentage of Births by Prenatal Care Onset in Newark



Percentage of Births That Were Preterm

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Newark	12.2%	12.0%	11.2%	10.8%	10.4%
Essex	10.7%	10.4%	10.2%	9.9%	10.2%
New Jersey	9.3%	9.2%	9.3%	9.3%	9.4%

Percentage of Newark Births That Were Preterm by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Black, non-Hispanic	15.3%	13.1%	14.5%	12.0%	12.1%
Hispanic (of any race)	8.9%	11.0%	8.8%	9.3%	9.3%
Newark (all races)	12.2%	12.0%	11.2%	10.8%	10.4%

Data are suppressed for some racial/ethnic groups.



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.



3 Child Health

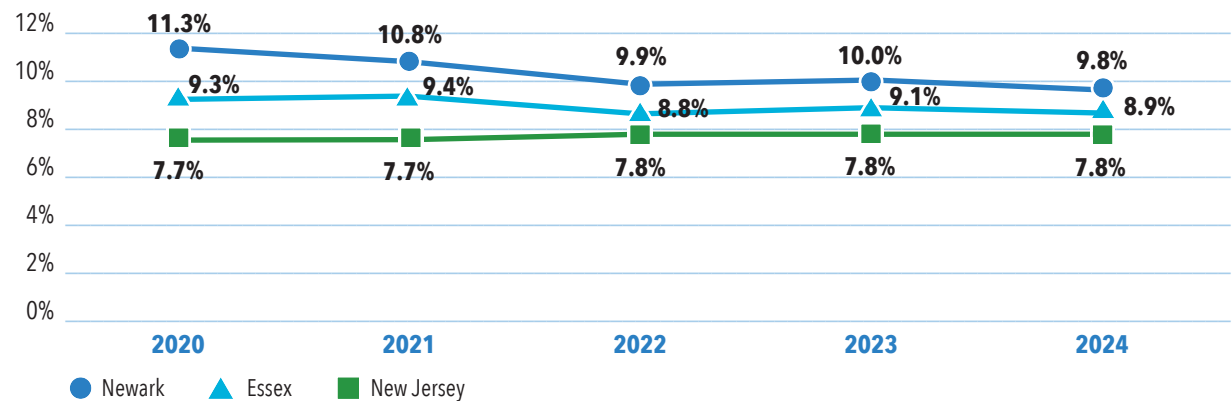
What is a Low Birthweight Baby?

A low birthweight baby is any infant born weighing less than 2,500 grams (approximately 5.5 pounds). Babies born at a low birthweight are at greater risk for serious health complications, including respiratory distress syndrome and other medical conditions during infancy. Over the long term, they are also more likely to develop chronic health conditions such as diabetes.¹ Encouragingly, the number of babies born with low birthweights has continued to decline in Newark.

Babies Born with Low Birthweights

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 20-24
Newark	436	400	386	385	380	-13%
Essex	894	914	894	893	889	-1%
New Jersey	7,464	7,842	7,999	7,889	7,946	6%

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweights



Percentage of Newark Babies Born with Low Birthweights by Race/Ethnicity

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Black, non-Hispanic	15.1%	13.3%	13.2%	12.8%	12.9%
Hispanic (of any race)	6.8%	8.4%	7.1%	7.1%	7.6%
Newark (all races)	11.3%	10.8%	9.9%	10.0%	9.8%

Data are suppressed for some racial/ethnic groups.

3 Child Health

Births by Method of Delivery

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Vaginal	C-Section	Vaginal	C-Section	Vaginal	C-Section	Vaginal	C-Section	Vaginal	C-Section
Newark	67%	33%	66%	34%	65%	35%	64%	36%	66%	34%
Essex	65%	35%	65%	35%	64%	36%	64%	36%	66%	34%
New Jersey	67%	33%	68%	32%	67%	33%	67%	33%	67%	33%

Note: Vaginal includes primary vaginal births and vaginal births after a previous C-section. C-section includes primary C-section (first birth) and repeat C-section.

Reducing Low-Risk Cesareans in New Jersey

A low-risk C-section is a cesarean delivery when the baby is the mother's first birth, is full-term, consists of one fetus, and is in the cephalic (head-first) position. While C-sections can be lifesaving when medically necessary, unnecessary surgical births increase the risk of complications and longer recovery for mothers and can affect outcomes for babies. Efforts to reduce low-risk cesareans have been underway in New Jersey for several years. A recommendation of the Nurture NJ Strategic Plan calls for birthing hospitals to achieve C-section rates below national averages through greater education about the risks and benefits of cesarean delivery. Vaginal births generally result in shorter hospital stays, faster recovery, and other health benefits. Since 2020, more than 60% of babies born to Newark mothers have been delivered vaginally, reflecting continued progress in reducing unnecessary low-risk cesarean births. For more information and data related to maternal health, visit: <https://nj.gov/health/maternal/>.

Low Risk C-Section Delivery Rate

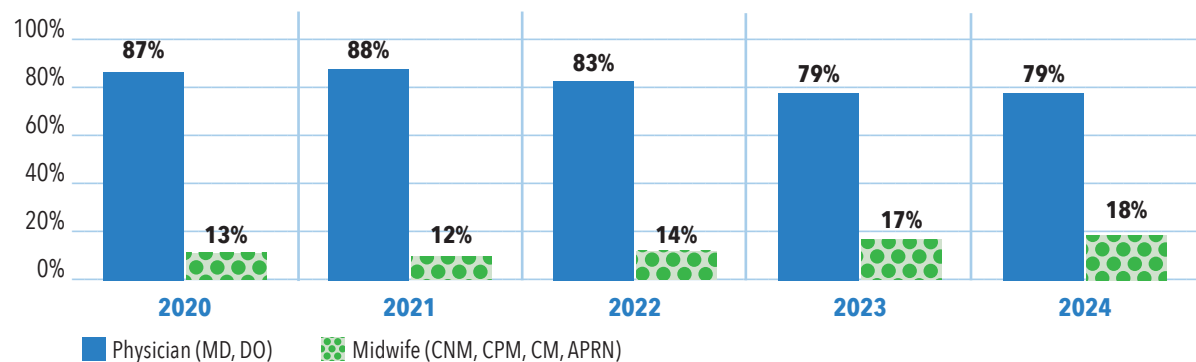
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Newark	24%	25%	**	26%	24%
Essex	27%	28%	28%	29%	27%
New Jersey	26%	26%	26%	27%	27%

** Indicates percentage does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of statistical reliability for presentation (denominator < 30 and/or confidence interval > 5).

Newark Births by Type of Birth Attendant

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Physician (MD, DO)	3,340	3,242	3,226	3,057	3,082
Midwife (CNM, CPM, CM, APRN)	491	429	555	646	701
Other, Unknown, or Not Stated	29	25	119	154	113

Percentage of Newark Births by Type of Birth Attendant



New Jersey's 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 and has been available in Essex County since 2024.

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.

Intensive 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 HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) in some communities.

Getting Connected

Families can get connected to home visiting programs through Connecting NJ, learn more at www.nj.gov/connectingnj/. Together, these programs ensure families in New Jersey don't have to navigate pregnancy, newborn care, and early childhood alone.

Families Receiving State-Funded Intensive Home Visitation Programs*

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Newark	298	242	177	245	248
Essex	590	491	381	510	510
New Jersey	5,534	4,925	4,314	4,730	4,962

*The state funds three home visitation programs in Newark and Essex County: Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families-TIP Program and Parents and Teachers. These data include families from all three programs.

What is Infant Mortality?

Infant mortality measures the number of babies who die before their first birthday for every 1,000 live births. In New Jersey, the infant mortality rate is 3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared with 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in Newark. Significant racial disparities persist. Statewide, Black, non-Hispanic infants die at a rate of 8.1 per 1,000 live births, which is more than twice the overall state rate. In Newark, the infant mortality rate for Black, non-Hispanic infants is 9.3 per 1,000 live births, more than 1.5 times the city's overall rate. These disparities underscore the need for continued investments in maternal health, equitable access to quality care, and the social and economic conditions that support healthy pregnancies, healthy births, and healthy infants.

To address these disparities, New Jersey has invested in several statewide initiatives to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. These efforts include establishing the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (MIHIA), a statewide organization that coordinates health care, social services, research, workforce development, and cross-sector collaboration to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and reduce racial disparities.

To learn more about the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority, visit 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. To learn more, visit www.acnj.org.

What is New Jersey's Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board?

The New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board (CFNFRB) consists of six different teams, each with their own sets of responsibilities and areas of focus. Team members come from a variety of backgrounds, including law enforcement, medicine, education, and the nonprofit sector. The board conducts in-depth reviews of select child death cases, such as when the cause of death may be a result of abuse or neglect or if the cause is undetermined. For more information on the CFNFRB and to review their annual reports, visit www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/fatality.

Infant Mortality Rates

	2018-2020 Rate*	2021-2023 Rate*
Newark	6.9	5.8
Essex	5.5	4.4
New Jersey	4.1	3.5

*Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Child Deaths, Ages 1-14

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Newark	10	13	<10	16	13
Essex	20	17	27	26	24
New Jersey	169	138	178	156	185

Between 2021-23, Black, non-Hispanic infants experienced higher infant mortality rates in Newark (9.3), Essex County (7.6), and New Jersey (8.1) than the overall rates in each area. Reducing these disparities remain a public health priority.

Asthma-Related Hospital Admissions vs. Emergency Department Visits: What's the Difference?

Most children with asthma can manage their condition through medication and preventive care. However, severe asthma attacks may require emergency medical treatment. Some children are treated and released from the emergency department, while others require admission to the hospital for inpatient care. Asthma-related emergency department visit data do not include children who were subsequently admitted to the same hospital for inpatient care. According to the New Jersey Department of Health, the decline in both asthma-related hospital admissions and emergency department visits in 2020 was largely attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asthma-Related Admissions to the Hospital, Ages 0-17

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 19-24
Essex	307	148	269	367	337	247	-20%
New Jersey	1,809	732	1,396	2,057	1,979	1,910	6%

Asthma-Related Emergency Room Visits, Ages 0-17

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 19-24
Essex	2,534	916	1,556	1,975	1,898	1,840	-27%
New Jersey	13,837	5,312	8,547	12,929	12,848	13,418	-3%

Asthma-Related Hospital Visits by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 0-17, 2024

	Emergency Room Visits		Admissions to the Hospital	
	New Jersey	Essex	New Jersey	Essex
Asian, non-Hispanic	3%	1%	4%	**
Black, non-Hispanic	32%	59%	29%	59%
Hispanic of any race	35%	22%	34%	19%
White, non-Hispanic	21%	5%	22%	7%
Other Single Race, non-Hispanic	6%	9%	6%	8%
Unknown	1%	3%	3%	3%

N/A indicates data are not available.

3 Child Health

Why is Lead Testing Important?

Exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health by damaging the brain and nervous system, slowing growth and development, contributing to learning and behavioral problems, and affecting hearing and speech. Because early detection is critical, New Jersey requires children to be tested for lead at ages 1 and 2. If those screenings are missed, children should be tested before age 6

and anytime they may have been exposed to a known or suspected source of lead.

In New Jersey, blood lead testing is covered by insurance, including Medicaid, for all children 17 years of age and younger. Free testing is also available through local health departments for children without health insurance. To learn more, visit www.nj.gov/health/childhood-lead/testing.

Notably, lead screening rates among children ages 6 to 26 months and those younger than 6 years have continued to improve across New Jersey, including in Newark, reflecting broader progress in identifying children who may have been exposed to lead.

Children 6-26 Months Tested for Lead

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 20-24
	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	of # Tested
Newark	4,155	3.4%	3,877	3.8%	3,859	3.4%	4,268	2.3%	4,945	2.8%	19%
Essex	9,397	3.1%	9,644	3.2%	9,416	3.2%	10,697	2.1%	12,313	2.3%	31%
New Jersey	78,847	1.8%	86,737	1.8%	83,463	1.6%	93,879	1.2%	106,034	1.2%	34%

Children <6 Years of Age Tested for Lead

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 20-24
	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	# Tested	% Levels ≥ 5 µg/dL	of # Tested
Newark	11,208	3.5%	11,053	3.5%	11,362	3.2%	11,970	2.0%	13,119	2.4%	17%
Essex	21,759	3.5%	22,832	3.3%	22,978	3.3%	24,984	2.2%	27,416	2.3%	26%
New Jersey	139,596	2.1%	155,481	1.9%	150,805	1.9%	167,807	1.4%	183,062	1.4%	31%

3 Child Health

Newark Environmental Case Activity Status

	Cases Referred	Investigation Required	Investigation Completed	Abatement Required	Abatement Completed	% Abatement Completed
2022	113	98	89	33	10	30%
2023	114	112	60	40	27	68%
2024	124	107	80	30	27	90%

Note: Beginning in 2022, Abatements Completed is cumulative. Completed abatements may have been initiated in prior fiscal years and are not directly comparable to the number of abatements ordered in the same fiscal year.

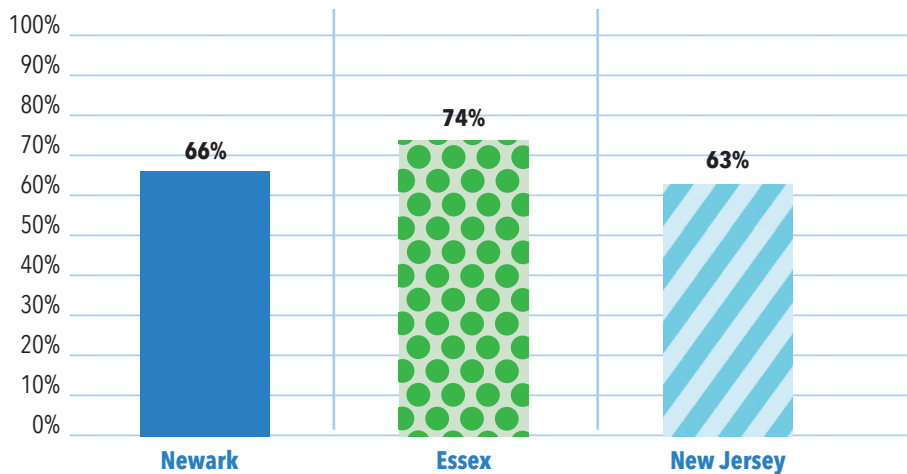
Lead Paint in Housing

In 1978, the United States banned the use of lead paint. Before then, lead paint and varnish were regularly used in homes and businesses. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead-based paint is not problematic unless it is decaying, i.e. chipping, peeling, etc.

Children are often exposed to lead poisoning as a result of the dust found in these homes, or chewing on surfaces coated with lead-based paint or the paint chips themselves. American Community Survey data indicate that 66% of Newark's housing was constructed prior to

1980, compared to 74% of Essex County and 63% of New Jersey. Though not a perfect match to when lead paint was banned, these data provide some insight as to the presence of lead in homes.

Percentage of Housing Structures Built Before 1980, 2020-2024



Newark Water Testing for Lead

	Total # of Samples Tested	# of Samples ≥ 15 ppb*	% of Samples ≥ 15 ppb
2024	59	0	0%
2025	56	0	0%

*Parts per billion

3 Child Health

What is NJ FamilyCare?

NJ FamilyCare provides health insurance coverage to eligible New Jersey residents. Children under age 19 may apply regardless of immigration status, provided they meet all other program eligibility requirements. Nearly 20% of New Jersey residents, including more than 813,000 children, receive health care coverage through NJ FamilyCare. In addition, nearly 550,000 low-income working-age adults are enrolled through the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion.



Exemptions apply to individuals who are:

- Pregnant
- Recently gave birth
- Former foster youth through age 26
- Parents of children age 13 or younger
- Determined to be medically frail

Individuals who lose NJ FamilyCare coverage for failing to meet these work requirements will not be eligible for subsidized Marketplace health insurance.

Beginning December 31, 2026, most adults in the Medicaid expansion group will have their eligibility reviewed every six months and must demonstrate compliance with the work or community engagement requirements twice each year.

Important Federal Changes

Beginning in October 2026, new federal requirements will affect many adults enrolled through the Medicaid expansion.

Adults ages 19 to 64 in the Medicaid expansion group must work or participate in approved activities, such as employment, education, job training, or volunteering, for at least 80 hours each month.

Learn More

To determine whether these new federal requirements apply to you, visit, www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/medicaid-federal-changes.shtml.

To learn more about Cover All Kids, visit, www.nj.gov/CoverAllKids.

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 affects New Jersey's Medicaid program, visit the NJ Medicaid Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) website, www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/public-advisory/medical-assistance.

Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance

	2015-2019		2020-2024	
	Number	%	Number	%
Newark	5,990	8%	9,200	11%
Essex	11,539	6%	14,366	7%
New Jersey	78,782	4%	92,857	4%

Children Under Age 19 Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 22-26
Newark	59,954	62,337	58,903	58,592	56,512	-6%
Essex	109,177	115,989	106,953	104,943	101,165	-7%
New Jersey	885,881	934,905	859,972	834,531	813,011	-8%

Footnote:

¹ March of Dimes. (2021). Low Birthweight. Accessed April 11, 2024, from www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/birth/low-birthweight.

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2020-2024. 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 May 26, 2026.

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Percentage of Newark Births That Were Preterm by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2024. 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 May 26, 2026.

Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The number of babies born weighing less than 2,500-grams. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2020-2024. 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 May 26, 2026.

Percentage of Newark Babies Born with Low Birthweights by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2024. 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 May 26, 2026.

Births by Method of Delivery, 2020-2024. As reported by New Jersey Birth Certificate Database, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, New Jersey Department of Health. The percentage of all live births based on method of delivery. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

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Newark Births by Type of Birth Attendant, 2020-2024. As reported by New Jersey Birth Certificate Database, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, New Jersey Department of Health. The number of all live births in Newark based by the type of birth attendant. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Percentage of Newark Births by Type of Birth Attendant, 2020-2024. As reported by New Jersey Birth Certificate Database, Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, New Jersey Department of Health. The number of all live births in Newark based by the type of birth attendant. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

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Infant Mortality Rates, 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 two 3-year periods. Rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Data accessed as of March 21, 2024.

Child Deaths, Ages 1-14, 2019-2023. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death Certificate Database. The number of children between ages one and 14 who died during that year. Data accessed as of May 26, 2026.

Asthma-Related Admissions to the Hospital, Ages 0-17, 2019-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Number of New Jersey inpatient hospital discharges with a primary asthma diagnosis for residents 0-17 years of age. Counts do not include out-of-state hospitalizations for New Jersey residents. Data accessed as of June 2, 2026.

Asthma-Related Emergency Room Visits, Ages 0-17, 2019-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Number of New Jersey emergency department discharges with a primary asthma diagnosis for residents 0-17 years of age. Counts do not include out-of-state hospitalizations for New Jersey residents. Data accessed as of June 2, 2026.

Asthma-Related Hospital Visits by Race/Ethnicity, Ages 0-17, 2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Discharge Data Collection System. Percentage of inpatient hospital discharges and emergency department discharges for residents 0-17 years of age. Counts do not include out-of-state hospitalizations for New Jersey residents. Data accessed as of June 2, 2026.

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Newark Environmental Case Activity Status, 2022-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services. Data accessed as of March 2026.

Percentage of Housing Structures Built Before 1980, 2020-2024. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey B25034 using 5-year estimates.

Newark Water Testing for Lead, 2024 and 2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Watch report. The number of Newark-based samples tested and the number of samples with lead samples greater than 15 parts per billion (EPA action level).

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.

Children Under Age 19 Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, 2022-2026. 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 19 enrolled in Medicaid, which is available to children living in families earning below 133% of the federal poverty level, and to 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 for state and Essex County retrieved on July 9, 2026.

4 Child Protection

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 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.

Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Essex	8,322	9,587	10,298	9,842	9,480	14%
New Jersey	84,162	90,950	98,655	94,844	88,762	5%

Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Essex	357	397	367	234	235	-34%
New Jersey	3,232	3,186	2,833	2,270	2,027	-37%

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

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Essex	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%
New Jersey	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%

Percentage of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect by Race/Ethnicity

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	New Jersey	Essex	New Jersey	Essex	New Jersey	Essex	New Jersey	Essex	New Jersey	Essex
Black or African American	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Hispanic	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%
White	4%	2%	4%	6%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%
Another Race	4%	n/a	3%	n/a	3%	7%	2%	n/a	2%	n/a
Missing or Undetermined	2%	n/a	2%	n/a	2%	n/a	1%	n/a	1%	n/a

4 Child Protection

Children Under CP&P Supervision

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Essex	3,074	2,839	3,035	3,151	3,653	19%
New Jersey	32,138	30,996	32,407	31,203	31,148	-3%

Percentage of Children Under CP&P Supervision by Race/Ethnicity, 2025

	New Jersey	Essex
Black or African American	34%	61%
Hispanic	34%	31%
White	24%	6%
Another Race	4%	1%
Missing or Undetermined	4%	2%

From Federal Oversight to State-Led Accountability

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.

Poverty, Neglect, and Reform

The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFCAN) established the Subcommittee on Poverty, Neglect, and Community Outcomes in 2024 to address the intersection of poverty and neglect in child protective services and reduce racial disparities. Many neglect reports are driven by poverty rather than abuse and are ultimately determined to be unfounded, resulting in unnecessary investigations and trauma for families. The Task Force recently approved recommendations to improve mandated reporter training and revise reporting requirements to ensure reports are appropriate while reducing unnecessary investigations. Read the full report at https://www.nj.gov/dcf/documents/news/report-newsletters/taskforce/Mandated-Reporting-Reform_Final-Report_NJ-Subcommitte-PNCO_1.26.pdf. Task Force meetings are open to the public. Reports and minutes are available at www.nj.gov/dcf/providers/boards/njtfcant/.

4 Child Protection

Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Essex	2,605	2,461	2,678	2,755	3,243	24%
New Jersey	28,925	28,050	29,468	28,266	28,129	-3%

Percentage of Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services by Race/Ethnicity, 2025

	New Jersey	Essex
Black or African American	33%	59%
Hispanic	35%	32%
White	23%	6%
Another Race	4%	1%
Missing or Undetermined	4%	2%

Percentage of Children Receiving Out-of-Home CP&P Services by Race/Ethnicity, 2025

	New Jersey	Essex
Black or African American	43%	73%
Hispanic	26%	21%
White	24%	3%
Another Race	6%	<1%
Missing or Undetermined	1%	<1%

Children Receiving Out-of-Home CP&P Services

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Essex	469	378	357	396	410	-13%
New Jersey	3,213	2,946	2,939	2,937	3,019	-6%

The New Jersey Youth Resource Spot

The New Jersey Youth Resource Spot (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.

Safe Babies Court Team – Prioritizing Family Reunification

Essex County is one of three counties to pilot the Safe Babies Court Team approach aimed at connecting children ages 0-3 involved with CP&P and their families to the community services and supports they need. To learn more, visit www.njsafebabies.com.

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Note: If comparing to prior releases, you may notice that some numbers have been changed. This is due to data being updated by the Department of Children and Families after the release of the previous publication.

Children Reported for Abuse/Neglect, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. Number of children who were reported for child abuse/neglect. Data are as of December 31 for each year.

Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. The number of children found to be victims of child abuse/neglect. Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded". Data are as of December 31 of each year.

Percentage of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. 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. Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded". Data are as of December 31 of each year.

Percentage of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect by Race/Ethnicity, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. 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. Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was "substantiated" or "unfounded". Data are as of December 31 of each year.

Children Under CP&P Supervision, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year.

Percentage of Children Under CP&P Supervision by Race/Ethnicity, 2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2025.

Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year.

Percentage of Children Receiving In-Home CP&P Services by Race/Ethnicity, 2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2025.

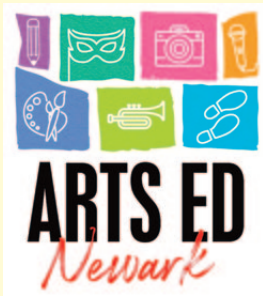
Children Receiving Out-of-Home CP&P Services, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for each year.

Percentage of Children Receiving Out-of-Home CP&P Services by Race/Ethnicity, 2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2025.

Special Feature

Arts Ed Newark: The Impact of Arts on Youth and Education.

Written by Lauren Meehan, Executive Director, Arts Ed Newark



In 2009, what began in Newark as a response to a decline in access to youth arts education has evolved into a citywide backbone alliance of more than 100 arts organizations, schools, teaching artists, caregivers, and youth-

serving nonprofits working collectively to expand access and amplify impact — reaching over 40,000 Newark children each year.

Local arts educators and funders came together to address this inequity, giving rise to a collective vision: that every child in Newark should have access to and participate in high-quality, sequential instruction in all art forms, in and out of school. More than 15 years later, that vision continues to drive Arts Ed Newark's work, grounded in the understanding that arts education is not optional but a right — one codified by the

New Jersey Student Learning Standards and supported by the state constitution's guarantee of a "thorough and efficient" education.

Arts Education Access and School Attendance: When Students Have a Reason to Create, They Show Up

Arts Ed Newark dedicates significant time to understanding what is happening inside Newark's schools and among its arts partners — tracking not only how many students are reached, but how access translates into outcomes for young people. AEN's decade-plus of survey data and its long-standing partnership with researcher Deborah Ward, Ph.D., allows AEN to see the Newark arts education ecosystem as a whole: where access is growing, where gaps remain, and what students actually need to thrive. It is this evaluative lens that led Arts Ed Newark to examine a question with significant



AEN believes that creating and experiencing the arts is essential to:

- Building identity, self-expression, and cross-cultural understanding
- Engaging diverse learners and cultivating discipline and mastery
- Supporting healing and trauma recovery
- Preparing youth for a thriving, inclusive 21st-century workforce

implications for citywide policy and practice — the relationship between arts education access and one of the city's most pressing challenges: chronic absenteeism.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, has become a closely watched indicator of educational equity and student engagement

Newark Board of Education Youth Data: Progress Since 2018

Youth Population

2018-19	35,664
2023-24	42,440

▲ **+19%** increase from 2018 to 2024

High School Graduation

2020	75%
2025	86%

▲ **+11%**
10 of 20 schools now at 90%+

Post-Secondary Enrollment

2020	13%
2025	50%

▲ **+37%** increase from 2020 to 2025

Chronic Absenteeism

2018-19	27%
2023-24	11.5%

▼ **-16.5%** decrease from 2018-19 to 2023-24. Newark's 11.5% now below NJ's average of 15%

nationwide. Persistent absence is strongly associated with lower academic achievement, weakened social-emotional development, increased grade retention, and higher dropout risk. New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1) requires public schools with a chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or more to create meaningful Corrective Action Plans. Officials are developing prevention-oriented strategies that strengthen school climate, student belonging, and create intrinsic motivation to attend school.

Newark at a Glance: Five Years of Growth in the Arts

Over the past five years, Newark Public Schools have made notable gains in both arts access and student attendance. As shown in Figure 1, student access to music increased from 58% in 2020 to 98% in 2025, while visual arts rose from 67% to 90%. Dance and theater also increased, though at more modest rates, highlighting both progress and ongoing equity gaps across disciplines.

Newark’s chronic absenteeism rate declined from 27% in 2018–19 to 11.5% in 2023–24, placing Newark below New Jersey’s state average of 15%. These gains occurred alongside an 11-point increase in graduation rates and a sharp rise in postsecondary enrollment.

While many factors contribute, Newark’s expansion of arts education aligns with a growing body of evidence linking arts access to stronger student engagement and more consistent attendance.

What the Evidence Suggests

Research indicates arts education supports attendance by fostering engagement, belonging, and positive school climate. Studies conducted in Houston and Boston by researchers Daniel H. Bowen, Ph.D., and Brian Kisida, Ph.D., show that students in arts programs attend school more consistently and are significantly less likely to be chronically absent. These effects are strongest among students with prior attendance challenges, lower academic performance, or disabilities — groups that have historically faced the greatest barriers to regular attendance.

A 2021 report on a large-scale study of New York City public schools found that schools with more robust arts offerings consistently exhibited lower chronic absenteeism across multiple years, even after accounting for poverty and demographic factors. Arts education’s active, collaborative, student-centered nature drives motivation through strengthened student-adult relationships, peer connection, and visible opportunities for student voice.

Implications for Newark and What Comes Next

Newark’s simultaneous expansion of arts education access and decline in chronic absenteeism raises important questions about how arts education contributes to student engagement and persistence. Arts Ed Newark will share a comprehensive analysis in late fall examining variation across schools, grade bands, and disciplines — and how arts education functions alongside other engagement strategies to support sustained attendance gains. Understanding this role will be essential to informing future policy, investment, and practice. To learn more about Arts Ed Newark and its programs visit www.artsed-newark.org.

Works Cited

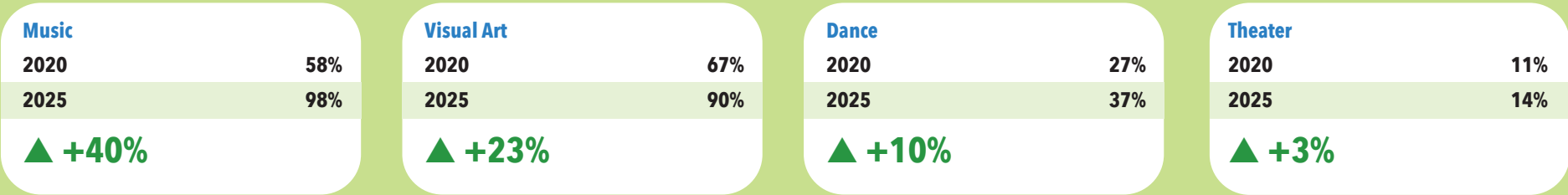
Bowen, Daniel H., and Brian Kisida. "Investigating Arts Education Effects on School Engagement and Climate." *Educational Policy*, 2023, doi:10.1177/08959048231174880.

Bowen, Daniel H., and Brian Kisida. "Investigating Causal Effect of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence from Houston's Arts Access Initiative." *Houston Education Research Consortium*, vol. 7, no. 4, 2019, pp. 1-28.

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Arts Access in Newark Board of Education (NBOE) Schools: 2020 vs. 2025 | % of NBOE Students Per Discipline

Figure 1



5 Early Learning

Licensed Child Care Centers and Registered Family Child Care Providers: How Do They Differ?

As of 2025, Newark was home to 122 licensed child care centers with a combined licensed capacity of 13,641 children and 84 registered family child care providers. Licensed child care centers may serve children from birth through age 13, depending on the ages they are licensed and choose to serve, and must meet state licensing requirements. Family child care providers operate in their homes and may be either registered or unregistered. Regardless of registration status, family child care providers may care for up to five children at one time. Registered providers must meet state registration requirements and, under limited circumstances, may be approved to care for up to eight children. For more information, refer to the Family Child Care Manual at www.nj.gov/dcf/documents/providers/licensing/laws/FCCmanual.pdf.

Although these provider types offer families different child care options, Newark has experienced a gradual decline in both licensed child care centers and registered family child care providers.

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.

Licensed Child Care Centers

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	129	130	131	126	122	-5%
Essex	478	471	480	480	474	-1%
New Jersey	4,036	4,057	4,067	4,092	4,107	2%

Child Care Center Capacity

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	13,145	14,001	14,030	13,717	13,641	4%
Essex	43,957	44,811	44,967	46,111	46,206	5%
New Jersey	387,678	392,798	395,730	400,460	407,383	5%

About **1/4** of licensed child care centers in Essex County are located in Newark.

5 Early Learning

Licensed Capacity vs. Actual Availability

Licensed capacity is the maximum number of children a program is permitted to serve under state licensing requirements. Actual availability is the number of openings a program has at any given time, which is often lower than its licensed capacity. Although a program may have sufficient classroom space, it may be unable to enroll additional children because of staffing shortages, required staff-to-child ratios, age-specific group size requirements, or class size requirements for publicly funded preschool, Early Head Start, and Head Start programs.



Licensed Child Care Centers in Newark by Age Group

Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
0-6	16	16	15	14	13
0-13	46	43	44	43	41
2.5-6	22	17	16	15	15
2.5-13	33	30	30	31	31
6-13	29	29	31	24	21

Registered Family Child Care Providers

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	98	96	94	74	84	-14%
Essex	190	195	186	180	174	-8%
New Jersey	1,190	1,225	1,317	1,362	1,310	10%

State-Funded Preschool Enrollment

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 21-25
Newark	5,642	5,822	5,944	5,721	5,859	4%
Essex	8,314	9,010	9,753	9,762	10,319	24%
New Jersey	46,898	53,258	58,387	60,365	66,419	42%

Newark's Universal Preschool Program

For more than 25 years, Newark families have had access to free, full-day, high-quality preschool for all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds. Families can choose the setting that best meets their needs through Newark's mixed-delivery system, which includes Newark Public Schools, federally funded Head Start programs, and qualified community-based child care centers. All participating programs must meet the same high-quality state standards.

This opportunity exists because of the landmark *Abbott v. Burke* New Jersey Supreme Court decisions. ACNJ played a pivotal role in these cases by serving as a friend of the court (*amicus curiae*) and helping shape the quality standards that the Court ultimately adopted. Beginning in 1999, the Court required New Jersey to provide universal, high-quality preschool in the state's 31 highest-poverty school districts, including Newark. Since then, tens of thousands of Newark children have benefited from this early learning opportunity.

New Jersey's preschool program is recognized nationally for its high standards, including certified teachers, assistant teachers, small class sizes of no more than 15 children, research-based curriculum, and comprehensive supports for children and families. Long-term studies have shown that children who participate in the program perform better academically, are less likely to be retained in grade or require special education services, and children who attend for two years experience even greater benefits.

Beginning in 2017, the New Jersey Department of Education expanded access to this high-quality preschool model beyond the original Abbott districts. Today, state-funded preschool programs are available in 293 school districts, making New Jersey a national leader in early childhood education.

Learn more or enroll: Visit the Newark Board of Education Early Childhood Department for eligibility information, enrollment requirements, and application instructions at www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/early-childhood/.

Additional information:

Licensed Child Care Centers:

<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/documents/providers/licensing/laws/CCCmanual.pdf>

Family Child Care Providers:

<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/documents/providers/licensing/laws/FCCmanual.pdf>

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Licensed Child Care Centers, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The number of state-licensed child care centers. Data are as of December for each year.

Child Care Center Capacity, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The capacity of state-licensed child care centers. Data are as of December for each year.

Licensed Child Care Centers in Newark by Age Group, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. The breakdown by licensed child care centers in Newark by age group child care centers are licensed to serve. Data are as of December 31 for each year.

Registered Family Child Care Providers, 2021-2025. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of June for each year. Family child care providers comply with state requirements, but operate as independent small businesses.

State-Funded Preschool Enrollment, 2021-2025. 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

A Snapshot of Newark's Education Landscape

From the early grades to high school, Newark's education system helps shape the learning experiences and future opportunities for all students. In Newark Public Schools, the majority of students enrolled in the 2025–26 school year were of Hispanic descent, followed by students identifying as Black or African American. In contrast, Newark charter schools show an inverse different demographic pattern. Diversity is also reflected in the languages spoken at home in Newark Public Schools, where many students speak Spanish, Portuguese, or other languages in addition to English. The multilingual learner population has steadily increased over time, rising from 17% in 2021–22 to 28% in 2025–26. Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School and Roseville Community Charter School also report high percentages of multilingual learners at 30% and 22%, respectively, in the most recent school year.

Academic performance in the early grades has also shown improvement. In Newark Public Schools, the percentage of 3rd graders meeting or exceeding expectations in English Language Arts and Math has increased since the post-COVID period. In 2021–22, 19% of 3rd graders were reading at grade level and 15% were proficient or above in math. By 2024–25, both subjects had increased to 28%. According to the most recent

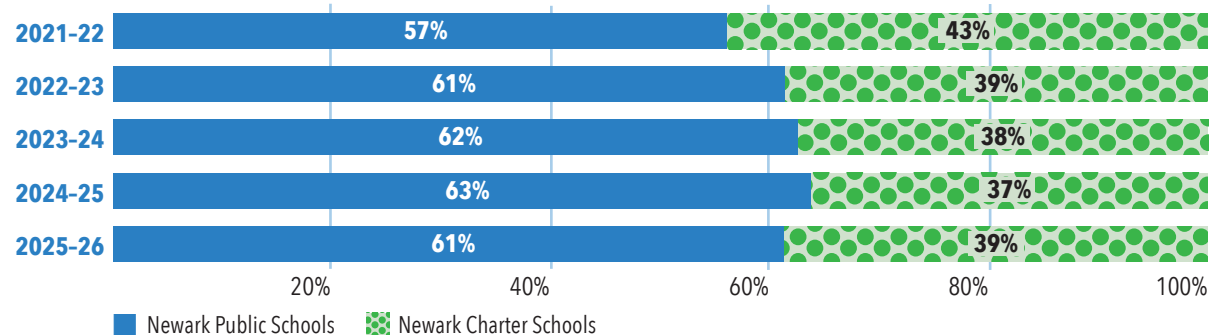
Education Scorecard report, a national research collaboration led by centers and projects at Harvard University, Stanford University, and Dartmouth College, students enrolled in Newark Public Schools learned at an average rate of 1.23 grade levels per year in math and reading, compared to the state average of 1.04.

Overall, these trends highlight both areas of progress and continued challenges in Newark's education system, setting the stage for a closer look at how students' experiences vary across schools and grade levels.

Kindergarten Enrollment

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change 22-26
Newark Public Schools	2,403	2,454	2,809	2,809	2,655	10%
Newark Charter Schools	1,796	1,572	1,701	1,643	1,692	-6%
Newark Total	4,199	4,026	4,510	4,452	4,347	4%
Essex	9,626	9,455	10,411	10,105	9,942	3%
New Jersey	86,202	85,873	90,783	89,428	86,554	0%

Newark Kindergarten Enrollment



6 Education

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

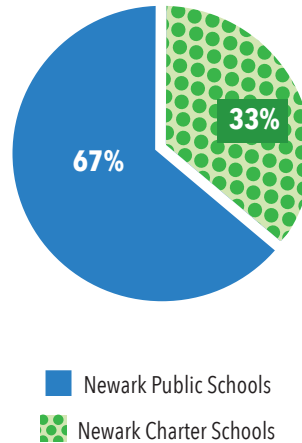
	Newark Public Schools	Newark Charter Schools
Asian	1%	<1%
Black or African American	31%	74%
Hawaiian Native	<1%	<1%
Hispanic	62%	22%
Native American	<1%	<1%
White	5%	1%
Two or More Races	1%	3%



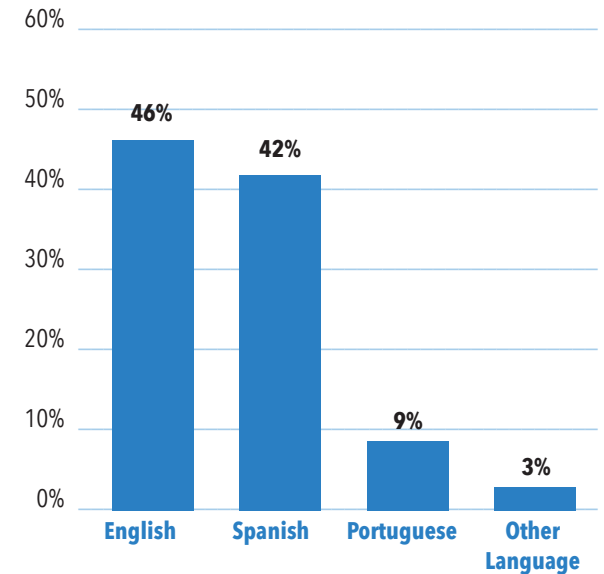
Pre-K-12 Total Enrollment in Newark

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	% Change 22-26
Newark Public Schools	40,607	41,430	42,600	43,980	43,216	6%
Newark Charter Schools	20,491	20,378	20,896	21,388	21,558	5%
Newark Total	61,098	61,808	63,496	65,627	64,774	6%

Percentage of Newark Students Enrolled in School by School Type, 2025-26



Newark Public Schools: Enrollment by Home Language, 2024-25



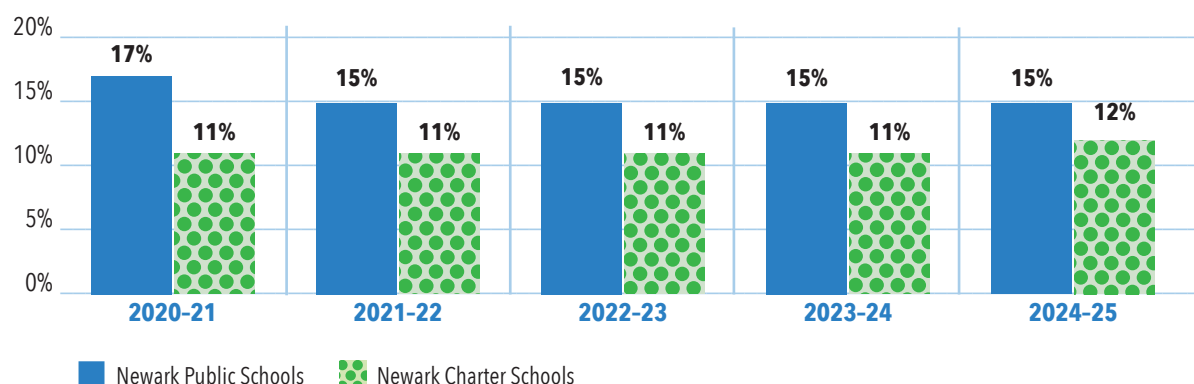
Note: When referring to Newark Public Schools, we include only data for the Newark Public School District and do not include charter school data. Charter schools are public schools that operate under a charter granted by the State Commissioner of Education. They are independent of the local school district, each is managed by its own Board of Trustees, and is treated as its own district.

6 Education

Special Education Enrollment, Ages 3-21

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% Change 21-25
Newark Public Schools	6,679	6,232	6,315	6,550	6,795	2%
Newark Charter Schools	2,181	2,192	2,185	2,422	2,529	16%
Newark Total	8,860	8,424	8,500	8,972	9,324	5%

Special Education Classification Rate, Ages 3-21



What is a Homeless Student?

A homeless student is defined as any youth lacking a regular and adequate nighttime residence. Included in this definition is a broad set of living arrangements — children living in hotels or motels, public places, or sharing housing with other families due to a lack of suitable housing or financial stability. This definition was provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and amended through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2016. Under the ESSA amendment, children awaiting foster care placement are no longer defined as homeless. Legally, the state is required to provide a number of services to homeless children, including the appointment of a homeless student liaison who helps students and parents with enrollment, transportation, arrangements, and accessing services. For more information on homeless students, visit <https://nche.ed.gov>. For more information on homeless students at the state level, visit www.nj.gov/education/homeless/index.shtml.

Percentage of Students Experiencing Homelessness

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Newark Public Schools	1.9%	0.6%	1.0%	1.3%	1.3%
New Jersey	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%	1.1%	1.0%

Does not include charter schools. Percentage is based out of total enrollment.

6 Education

Newark Multilingual Learner Enrollment

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Newark Public Schools	17%	22%	24%	29%	28%
Discovery Charter School	0%	0%	1%	3%	1%
Gateway Academy Charter School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13%
Gray Charter School	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	2%	2%	<1%	2%	4%
LEAD Charter School	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Link Community Charter School	0%	<1%	3%	4%	7%
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	20%	19%	18%	28%	30%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	<1%	2%	3%	5%	4%
New Horizons Community Charter School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Newark Educators Community Charter School	5%	9%	8%	14%	8%
North Star Academy Charter School	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%
People's Achieve Community Charter School	N/A	N/A	4%	4%	N/A
Philip's Academy Charter School	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Roseville Community Charter School	20%	18%	12%	17%	22%
Team Academy Charter School	2%	3%	4%	5%	5%
New Jersey	7%	9%	10%	11%	11%

Note: Multilingual learner enrollment are a percentage of total enrollment.

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.

There has been a steady rise in the number of MLs in Newark Public Schools. In 2025-26, MLs accounted for 28% of students in Newark — more than double the 11% that accounted for MLs statewide.

**ML enrollment in
Newark Public Schools
grew from 17% to 28%
in five years. Most recently, nearly
3 in 10 students are MLs.**



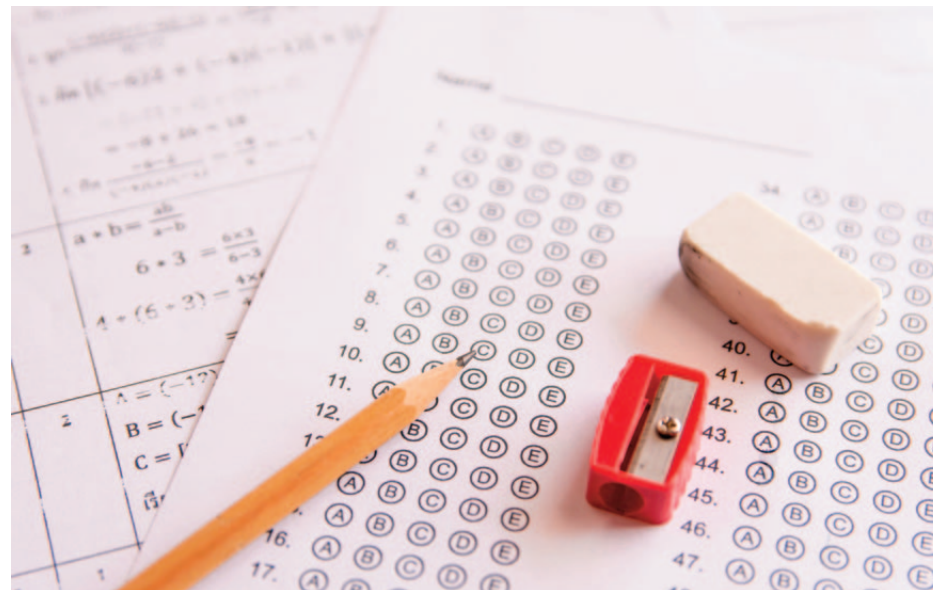
6 Education

School Violence Incidents, 2024-25

	Violence	Weapons	Vandalism	Substances	Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)	Total Unique Incidents	Incidents Per 100 Students Enrolled
Newark Public Schools	300	33	45	71	181	602	1.36
Discovery Charter School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Gateway Academy Charter School	36	5	2	21	6	70	8.32
Gray Charter School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.05
LEAD Charter School	1	1	0	1	0	2	0.69
Link Community Charter School	28	2	0	2	1	33	9.51
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	46	2	4	44	0	96	7.19
New Horizons Community Charter School	2	0	1	0	0	3	0.80
Newark Educators Community Charter School	6	0	0	0	0	6	4.29
North Star Academy Charter School	129	2	26	45	2	204	3.09
Philip's Academy Charter School	2	0	0	1	1	4	0.55
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	4	0	2	0	2	8	1.14
Roseville Community Charter School	4	0	0	0	0	4	1.37
TEAM Academy Charter School	283	17	32	96	17	444	7.09
New Jersey	12,730	902	1,793	7,198	7,456	29,826	2.13

Changes to State Testing in 2026

In the Spring of 2026, through a partnership with Cambium Assessment, the New Jersey Department of Education launched the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive (NJSLA-A). The new statewide assessment uses a student's responses to determine subsequent questions for them, creating a personalized test for each student. The computerized NJSLA-A was 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 students scores. While English Language Arts and Mathematics have shifted to the NJSLA-A format, the state continues testing science in a fixed form assessment called New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Science (NJSLA-S). For more information, visit www.nj.gov/education/assessment/adaptive/faq.shtml.

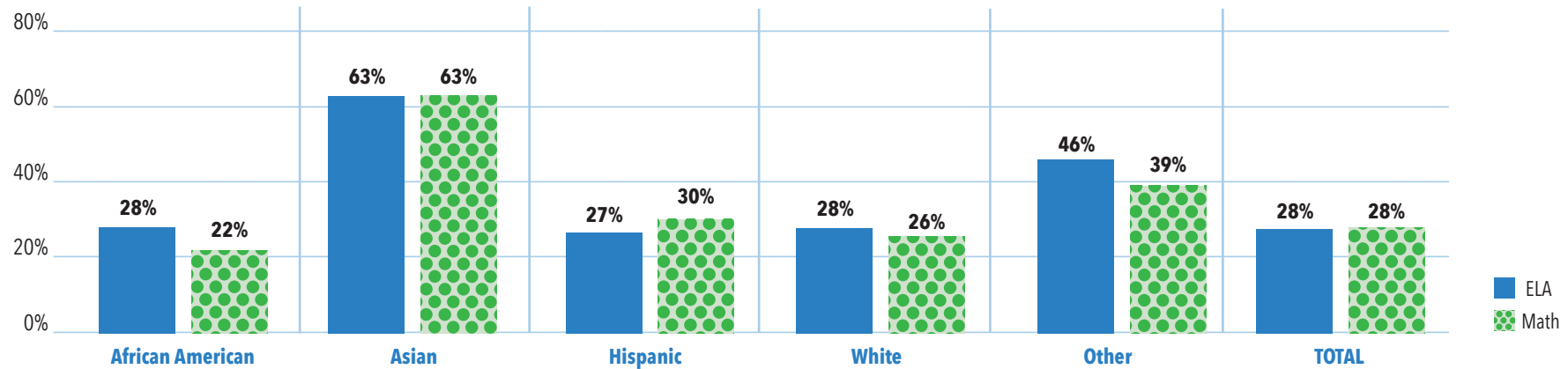


Percentage of Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math

	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
3rd grade	19%	15%	19%	20%	23%	24%	28%	28%
8th grade	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
	32%	11%	37%	11%	38%	14%	39%	12%

6 Education

Percentage of 3rd Grade Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25



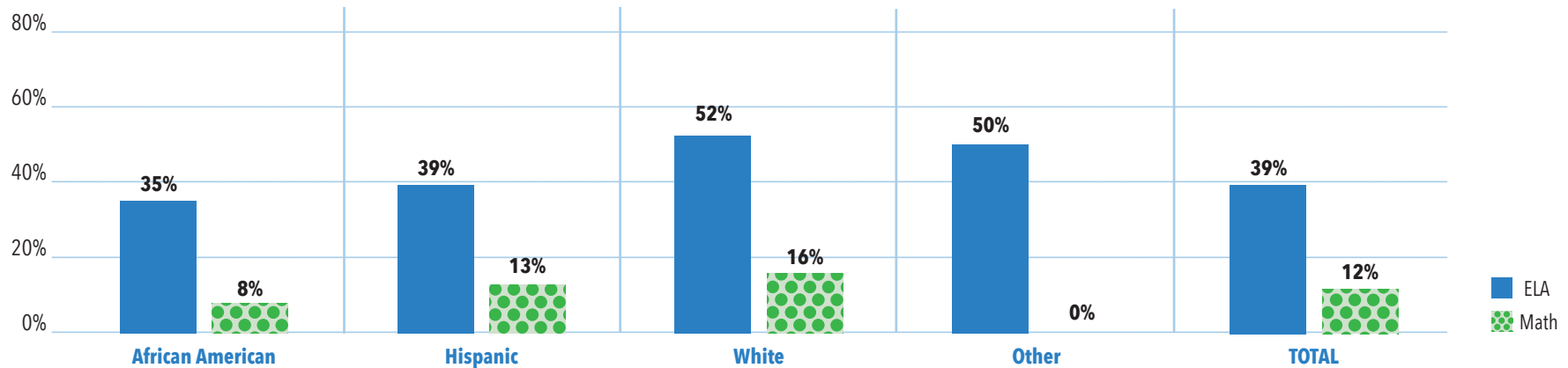
Percentage of 3rd Grade Newark Charter School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25

	Black or African American		Hispanic		Total	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Gray Charter School	58%	92%	74%	100%	66%	97%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	30%	30%	17%	25%	28%	29%
Link Community Charter School	47%	39%	*	*	42%	37%
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	*	*	68%	51%	68%	53%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	40%	29%	*	*	41%	32%
New Horizons Community Charter School	36%	35%	23%	15%	31%	28%
Newark Educators Community Charter School	0%	9%	*	*	0%	13%
North Star Academy Charter School	62%	67%	48%	55%	59%	65%
Phillip's Academy Charter School	30%	33%	12%	24%	26%	31%
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	55%	59%	63%	60%	61%	61%
Roseville Community Charter School	29%	11%	47%	30%	38%	21%
TEAM Academy Charter School	36%	39%	38%	40%	36%	40%

* Indicates data are suppressed. Charter school subgroup analyses are limited to Black or African American and Hispanic students because most charter schools did not report results for Asian, White or Other, student groups due to small student populations or data suppression requirements.

6 Education

Percentage of 8th Grade Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25



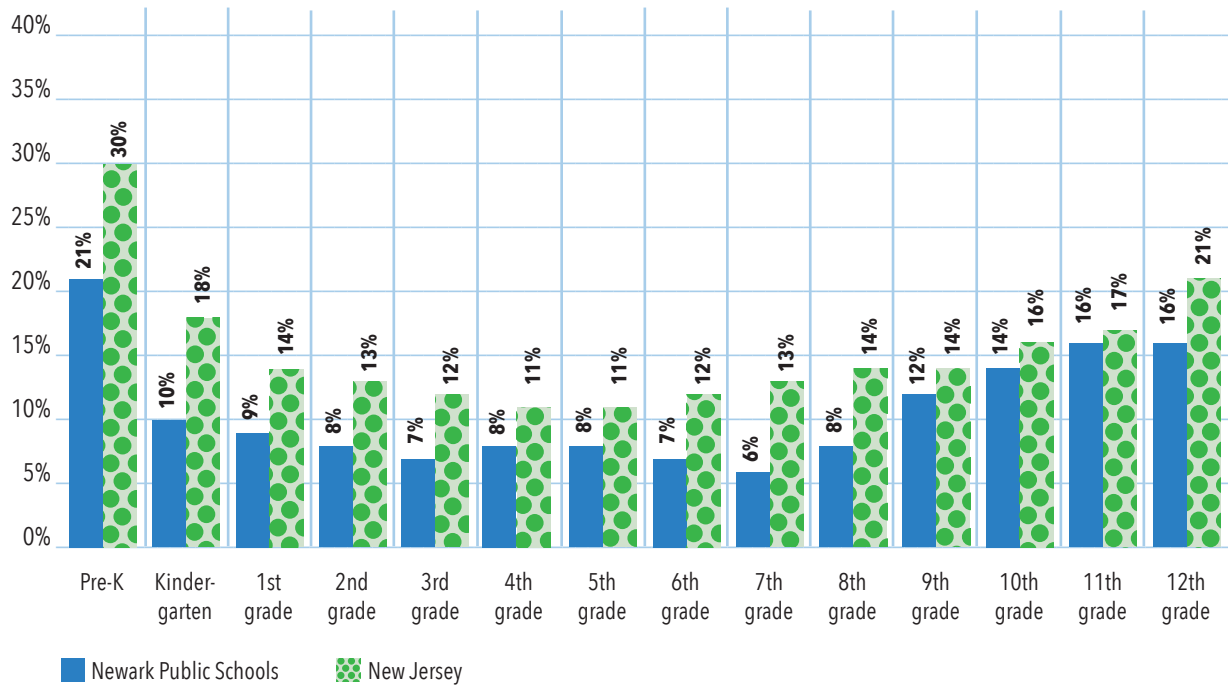
Percentage of 8th Grade Newark Charter School Students who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25

	Black or African American		Hispanic		Total	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Discovery Charter School	73%	53%	*	*	75%	53%
Gray Charter School	*	*	93%	86%	96%	92%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	54%	8%	44%	*	54%	8%
Link Community Charter School	69%	13%	*	*	68%	17%
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	*	*	64%	0%	65%	17%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	36%	10%	39%	7%	36%	9%
New Horizons Community Charter School	50%	6%	50%	19%	50%	11%
North Star Academy Charter School	75%	30%	64%	44%	72%	33%
People's Achieve Community Charter School	45%	12%	*	*	45%	12%
Phillip's Academy Charter School	69%	48%	*	*	67%	44%
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	76%	40%	79%	4%	78%	18%
TEAM Academy Charter School	47%	31%	55%	36%	49%	33%

* Indicates data are suppressed. Charter school subgroup analyses are limited to Black or African American and Hispanic students because most charter schools did not report results for Asian, White or Other, student groups due to small student populations or data suppression requirements.

6 Education

Chronic Absenteeism by Grade, 2024-25



Data do not include charter schools.

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

A student is considered chronically absent when he or she has missed more than 10% of total school days. While the number of school days varies by school district, the minimum number of required days by the state is 180 days. A chronically absent student is at risk of failing and repeating the grade. Schools are required to track chronic absenteeism to address any schoolwide trends that can be impacting students' ability to attend school.

Newark Public Schools Chronic Absenteeism Demographics, 2024-25

Demographic Group	%
Newark Public Schools	10%
American Indian or Alaska Native	10%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	4%
Black or African American	14%
Hispanic	9%
White	4%
Two or More Races	16%
Male	10%
Female	10%
Economically Disadvantaged	10%
Multilingual Learners	9%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	25%
Students in Foster Care	15%
Students with Disabilities	13%

Data do not include charter schools.

6 Education

Chronic Absenteeism in Newark

	2023-24	2024-25
Newark Public Schools	12%	10%
Discovery Charter School	29%	15%
Gateway Academy Charter School	N	28%
Gray Charter School	9%	8%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	31%	30%
LEAD Charter School	71%	46%
Link Community Charter School	22%	21%
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School	13%	11%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	22%	18%
New Horizons Comm. Charter School	20%	18%
Newark Educators Community Charter School	30%	32%
North Star Academy Charter School	22%	21%
People's Achieve Community Charter School	25%	N
Philip's Academy Charter School	23%	19%
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	12%	12%
Roseville Community Charter School	39%	38%
Team Academy Charter School	38%	23%
New Jersey	15%	14%

N indicates data not available



6 Education

Average SAT Score by High School

	2023-24			2024-25		
	Math	Reading and Writing	Percentage Participation	Math	Reading and Writing	Percentage Participation
Newark Public Schools	416	429	100%	415	421	94%
American History High School	406	426	70%	397	417	61%
Arts High School	439	465	100%	443	463	100%
Bard Early College High School	441	450	100%	477	481	100%
Barringer High School	377	389	100%	356	355	96%
Central High School	383	398	100%	373	377	94%
Eagle Academy for Young Men of Newark	398	409	100%	360	374	100%
East Side High School	404	412	100%	400	397	100%
Gateway Academy Charter School	N	N	N	<10	<10	3%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	424	427	100%	435	461	100%
LEAD Charter School	393	438	17%	376	397	52%
Malcolm X Shabazz High School	379	415	100%	389	400	100%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	393	413	100%	379	400	99%
Newark School of Data Science and Information Technology	N	N	N/A	471	475	100%
Newark School of Fashion & Design	*	*	N/A	378	428	100%
Newark School of Global Studies	449	454	100%	426	440	100%
Newark Vocational High School	382	406	100%	401	408	100%
North Star Academy Charter School	493	486	100%	504	504	100%
Science Park High School	556	540	100%	586	572	100%
TEAM Academy Charter School	*	*	<1%	450	466	5%
Technology High School	504	514	100%	516	513	100%
University High School	400	437	100%	406	429	100%
Weequahic High School	396	411	100%	381	405	99%
West Side High School	382	407	100%	369	393	100%
New Jersey	519	530	63%	519	533	60%

ABOUT SATs The SAT is an entrance exam that measures a student's readiness for college, testing math and evidence-based reading and writing skills. Most colleges and universities require it as part of their admissions application. Higher scores on the exam provide students with more options for attending and paying for college.

Advanced Course Participation and Performance, 2024-25

	Students enrolled in one or more AP or IB course	Students taking one or more AP or IB exam	Students with one or more exams with a score of at least a 3 on AP exams or 4 on IB exams	Dual Enrollment Coursework
Newark Public Schools	23%	24%	14%	20%
American History High School	35%	36%	13%	12%
Arts High School	30%	32%	23%	13%
Bard Early College High School	0%	0%	<10%	100%
Barringer High School	10%	9%	<10%	10%
Central High School	12%	13%	<10%	7%
Eagle Academy for Young Men of Newark	41%	37%	<10%	42%
East Side High School	19%	23%	17%	27%
Gateway Academy Charter School	21%	21%	13%	0%
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	98%	73%	15%	19%
LEAD Charter School	0%	0%	<10%	0%
Malcolm X Shabazz High School	22%	18%	<10%	9%
Marion P. Thomas Charter School	24%	22%	12%	17%
Newark School of Data Science and Information Technology	40%	43%	16%	22%
Newark School of Fashion & Design	0%	0%	<10%	4%
Newark School of Global Studies	23%	27%	11%	56%
Newark Vocational High School	14%	14%	<10%	10%
North Star Academy Charter School	85%	82%	47%	0%
Science Park High School	72%	68%	57%	10%
TEAM Academy Charter School	43%	35%	13%	15%
Technology High School	48%	50%	36%	28%
University High School	29%	29%	14%	42%
Weequahic High School	18%	15%	<10%	20%
West Side High School	18%	16%	<10%	16%
New Jersey	38%	32%	26%	30%

About Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) courses provide rigorous coursework that prepares students for success in college. Students who score at least a 3 on AP exams or a 4 on International Baccalaureate (IB) exams can get credits at many colleges and institutions. The number of students enrolled in AP or IB courses and number actually taking the exams in Newark Public Schools falls short of the state rate.

6 Education

Newark Public Schools Advanced Course Participation by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25

Demographic Group	Students enrolled in one or more AP or IB course	Students enrolled in one or more Dual Enrollment course
Districtwide	23%	20%
American Indian or Alaska Native	16%	16%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	35%	24%
Black or African American	22%	20%
Hispanic	22%	19%
White	44%	29%
Two or More Races	22%	20%
Female	27%	24%
Male	20%	17%
Economically Disadvantaged	23%	20%
Multilingual Learners	10%	11%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	17%	18%
Students in Foster Care	10%	10%
Students with Disabilities	4%	7%

Data do not include charter schools.



What is the Seal of Biliteracy?

The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy is a distinction awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to graduating high school students who demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one additional language. To earn the Seal, students must meet all state-established assessment requirements.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes valuable multilingual skills and can provide benefits beyond high school. Many colleges and universities across the United States award credit or advanced placement to students who earn the Seal. In New Jersey, institutions that currently offer credit for the Seal include Kean University, Rowan University, and William Paterson University. In 2024–25, 460 Seals of Biliteracy were earned by graduating Newark Public School students and 25% were given to Multilingual Learners.

To learn more about the Seal of Biliteracy, visit www.nj.gov/education/standards/worldlang/SealofBiliteracy.shtml#Assessment

Seal of Biliteracy Trends in Newark Public Schools

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Newark Public Schools	23	57	146	271	460

Data do not include charter schools.



Biliteracy Seals Earned by Language, in Newark Public School, 2024-25

Language	Number	% of NPS 12th Graders
Spanish	323	11%
Portuguese	128	4%
French	8	<1%
Other World Languages	<5	<1%

Data do not include charter schools.

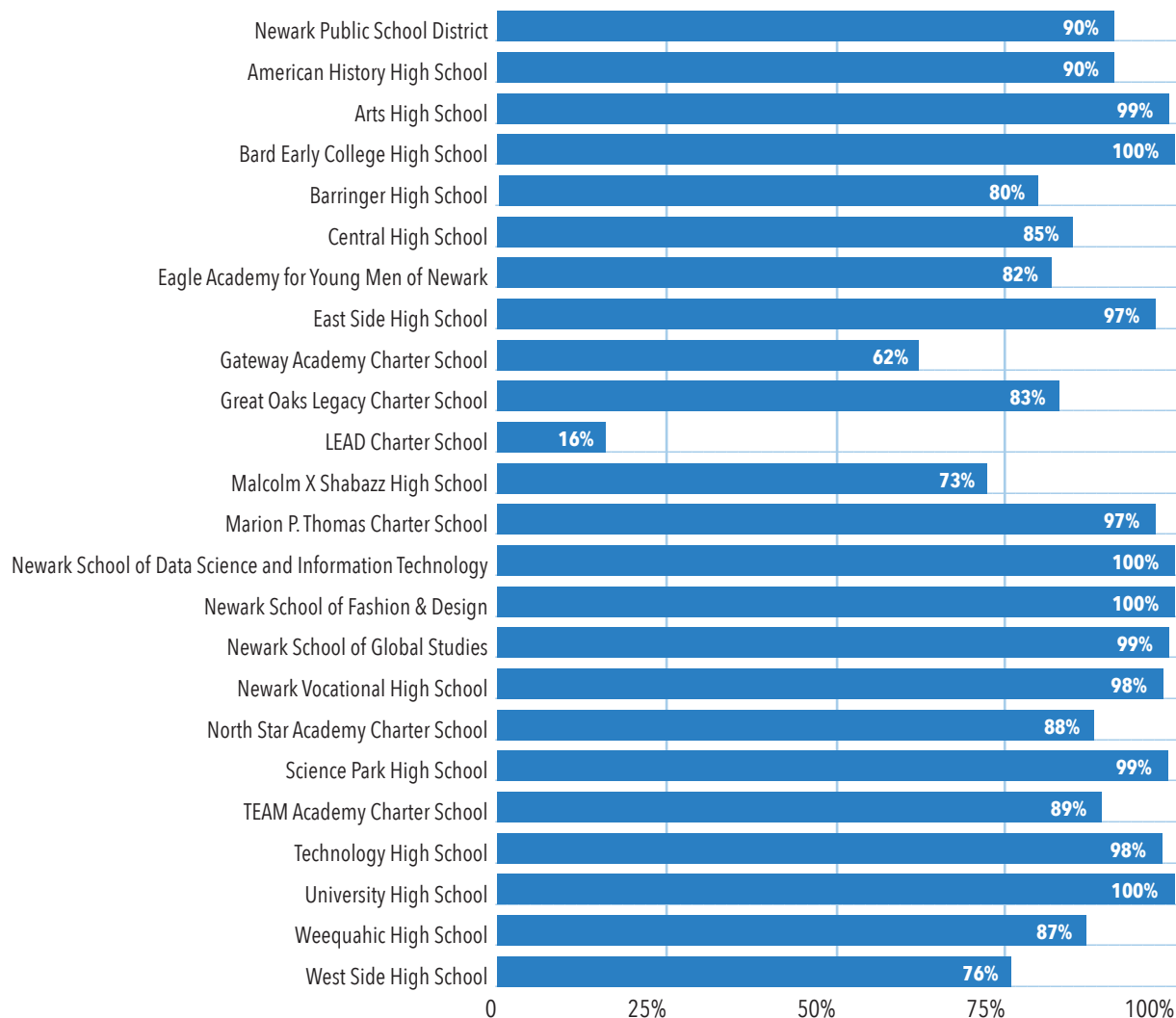
6 Education

High School Graduation Rates

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Newark Public Schools	81%	85%	86%	86%	90%
New Jersey	91%	91%	91%	91%	92%

Data do not include charter schools.

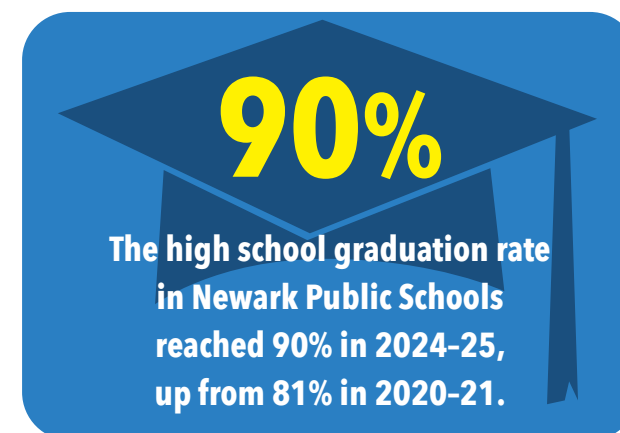
Newark Graduation Rates by High School, 2024-25



High School Graduation Rates by Demographic Group, Newark Public Schools, 2024-25

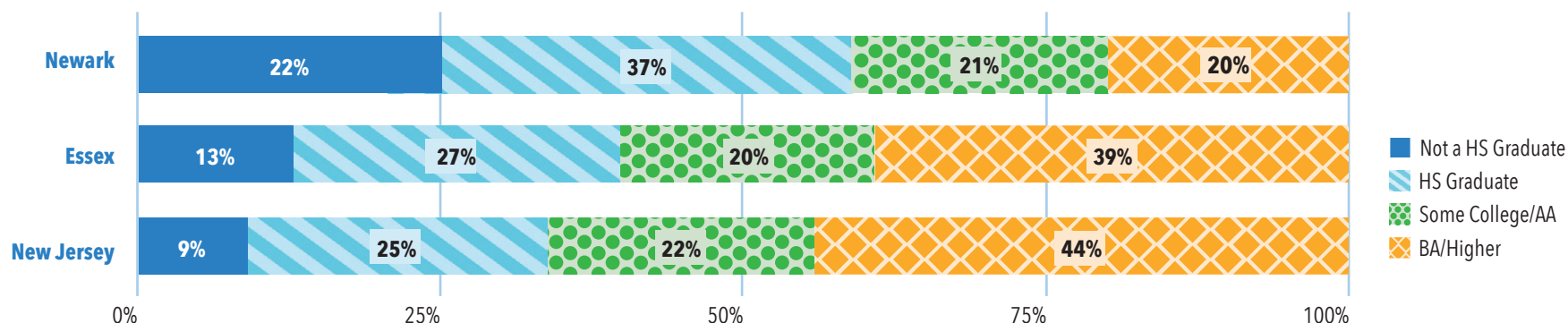
Demographic Group	%
Newark Public Schools	90%
American Indian or Alaska Native	*
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander	84%
Black or African American	89%
Hispanic	91%
White	97%
Two or More Races	95%
Male	87%
Female	93%
Economically Disadvantaged	91%
Multilingual Learners	90%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	85%
Students in Foster Care	86%
Students with Disabilities	77%

* Indicates that data is not displayed in order to protect student privacy.
Data do not include charter schools.



6 Education

Highest Educational Attainment for People Ages 25+, 2020-2024



Student-to-Staff Ratio, 2024-25

	Newark Public School	New Jersey
Students to Teachers	15:1	12:1
Students to Administrators	88:1	137:1
Students to Librarians/Media Specialists *	5,525:1	1,245:1
Students to Nurses *	606:1	460:1
Students to Counselors *	451:1	296:1
Students to Child Study Team Members **	21:1	26:1
Students to School Psychologists *	1,263:1	627:1
Students to School Social Workers *	265:1	492:1
Students to Student Assistance Coordinators	*	3,513:1
Students to School Safety Specialists	44,202:1	1,816:1

* In some districts, staff members in these roles who work in multiple schools may be assigned only to the district and not to individual schools. As a result, a School Ratio may show N, but there may be district assigned staff working in the school.

Student-to-Staff Ratios

The ratio of student-to-staff within a school has long been considered a marker of educational and instructional quality. During the 2024-25 school year, Newark Public Schools reported a ratio of 15 students for every one teacher, just above the state ratio of 12:1. The ratio of guidance counselors to students is also of importance, given the critical role counselors play in preparing students for college and careers. The American School Counselor Association recommends a ratio of 250 students for every one counselor. Both Newark Public Schools and the state of New Jersey exceeded this recommendation, with ratios of 451:1 and 296:1, respectively, during the 2024-25 school year. To read more about the importance of student-to-school counselor ratios, visit www.schoolcounselor.org/About-School-Counseling/School-Counselor-Roles-Ratios/.

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Kindergarten Enrollment, 2021-22 through 2025-26. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include students enrolled in half and full-day programs in both traditional district and charter schools.

Newark Kindergarten Enrollment, 2021-22 through 2025-26. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include students enrolled in half- and full-day programs in both traditional district and charter schools.

Percentage of Pre-K-12 Newark Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, 2025-26. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include both traditional district and charter schools.

Pre-K-12 Total Enrollment in Newark, 2021-22 through 2025-26. 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 Newark Students Enrolled in School by School Type, 2025-26. The percentage of students enrolled in Newark Public Schools and Newark charter schools. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Data include both public district and charter schools.

Newark Public Schools: Enrollment by Home Language, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Data show percentage of students enrolled by home language.

Special Education Enrollment, Ages 3-21, 2020-21 through 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Special Education Enrollment, 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.

Special Education Classification Rate, Ages 3-21, 2020-21 through 2024-25. Special education counts include both traditional district schools and charter schools and public and non-public students. Charter figures may differ due to suppression of districts with fewer than 10 students. Total enrollment based on October general education enrollment data for each school year.

Percentage of Students Experiencing Homelessness, 2020-21 through 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Data are as of June for each school year listed and do not include charter schools. Represents any student identified as homeless during the given school year as percentage of total enrollment.

Newark Multilingual Learner Enrollment, 2021-22 through 2025-2026. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October Enrollment Data. Multilingual learner enrollment are a percentage of total enrollment.

School Violence Incidents, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report Data. A single incident may be counted under multiple incident types; the total unique incidents row provides an unduplicated count of incidents.

Percentage of Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on NJSLA, 2021-22 through 2024-25. As reported by the Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts, Math, and Science were administered in Spring 2025. The grade levels shown in the report represent students' Spring 2025 grade-level enrollment. 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 Grade Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Graph shows data for both 3rd and 8th graders. The NJSLA in English Language Arts, Math, and Science were administered in Spring 2025. The grade levels shown in the report represent students' Spring 2025 grade-level enrollment. 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 Grade Newark Charter School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts, Math, and Science were administered in Spring 2025. The grade levels shown in the report represent students' Spring 2025 grade-level enrollment. 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 Grade Newark Public School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts, Math, and Science were administered in Spring 2025. The grade levels shown in the report represent students' Spring 2025 grade-level enrollment. 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 Grade Newark Charter School Students Who Met or Exceeded Expectations on the NJSLA English Language Arts and Math by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. The NJSLA in English Language Arts, Math, and Science were administered in Spring 2025. The grade levels shown in the report represent students' Spring 2025 grade-level enrollment. Percentage meeting or exceeding standards are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. Data suppressed in some instances to protect students' confidentiality.

Chronic Absenteeism by Grade, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Chronic absenteeism refers to being absent for 10% or more of the days enrolled during the school year.

Newark Public Schools Chronic Absenteeism Demographics, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Chronic absenteeism refers to being absent for 10% or more of the days enrolled during the school year.

Chronic Absenteeism in Newark, 2023-24 and 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report. Chronic absenteeism refers to being absent for 10% or more of the days enrolled during the school year.

Average SAT Score by High School, 2023-24 and 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Performance Report data. The percentage of 12th grade students participating in the SAT for the given school year. The score range for the SAT is from 400 to 1600 for a total score.

Advanced Course Participation and Performance, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate participation and performance and dual enrollment coursework participation amongst 11th and 12th grade students.

Newark Public Schools Advanced Course Participation by Race/Ethnicity, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate participation and dual enrollment coursework participation amongst 11th and 12th grader students.

Biliteracy Seals Earned by Language in Newark Public Schools, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. Table shows the number of seals earned by language, along with the percentage of 12th graders earning seals in that language. Any world languages where fewer than 5 students earned a seal are combined into the "Other World Languages" category.

6 Education

Seal of Biliteracy Trends in Newark Public Schools, 2020-21 through 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ School Performance Report data. The New Jersey Department of Education State Seal of Biliteracy identifies graduating high school students who are able to demonstrate proficiency in English in addition to one or more languages.

High School Graduation Rates, 2020-21 through 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate data.

Graduation Rates by Demographic Group, Newark Public High Schools, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate data.

Newark Graduation Rates by High School, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, 4-year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate data. Data include both traditional district schools as well as charter schools.

Highest Educational Attainment for People Ages 25+, 2020-24. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B15002 using 5-year estimates.

Student-to-Staff Ratio, 2024-25. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Performance Report



7 Teens

Data Trends for Teens

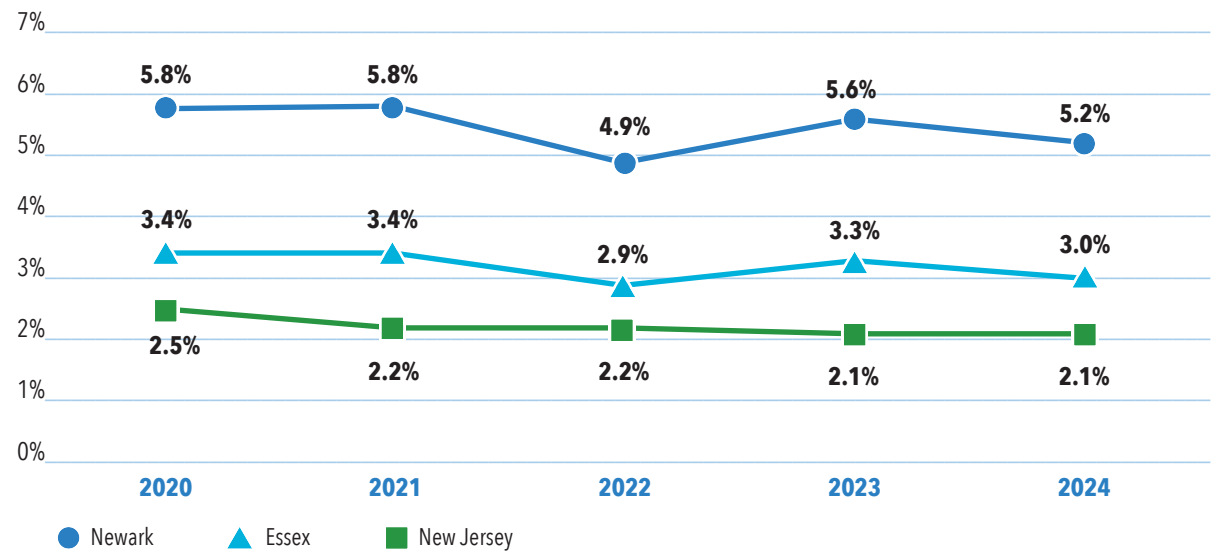
In Newark, teen data show a mixed picture of youth well-being, with progress and ongoing challenges existing side by side. While teen births have decreased since 2020, the rate of births to teens remains more than twice the state rate in 2024. For sexually transmitted infections among teens, females have seen a 9% decrease, while males have experienced a 14% increase between 2020 and 2024. Meanwhile, juvenile arrests in Newark have decreased by 32% between 2021 and 2025, suggesting improvements in youth involvement with the justice system.



Births to Teens, Ages 15-19

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 20-24
Newark	224	213	192	216	202	-10%
Essex	330	326	295	325	300	-9%
New Jersey	2,434	2,250	2,287	2,153	2,114	-13%

Percentage of Births to Teens, Ages 15-19



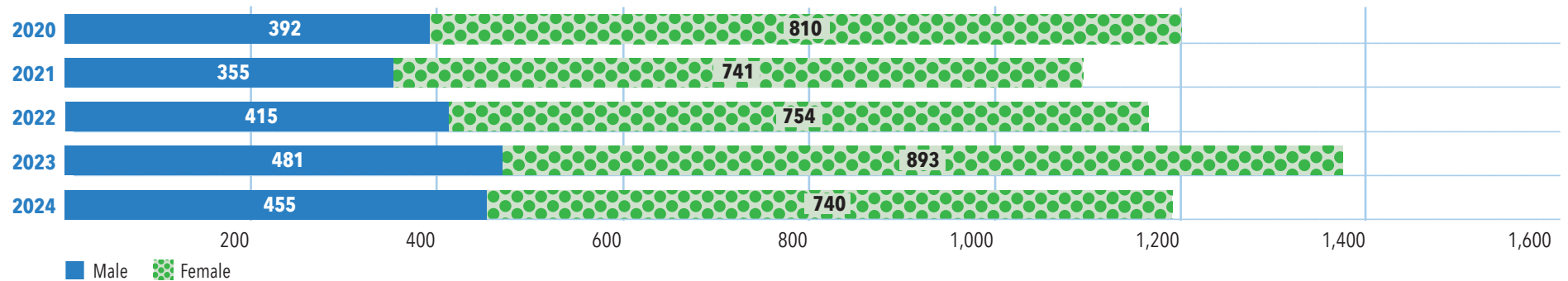
Data represented as a percentage of total births.

7 Teens

Youth, Ages 15-19, Diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection, by Gender

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		% Change 20-24	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Newark	392	810	355	741	415	754	481	893	445	740	14%	-9%
Essex	614	1,271	568	1,218	673	1,260	738	1,383	743	1,188	21%	-7%
New Jersey	2,473	6,939	2,396	6,734	2,602	6,558	3,085	7,069	2,985	6,374	21%	-8%

Newark Youth, Ages 15-19, Diagnosed with a Sexually Transmitted Infection



Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19

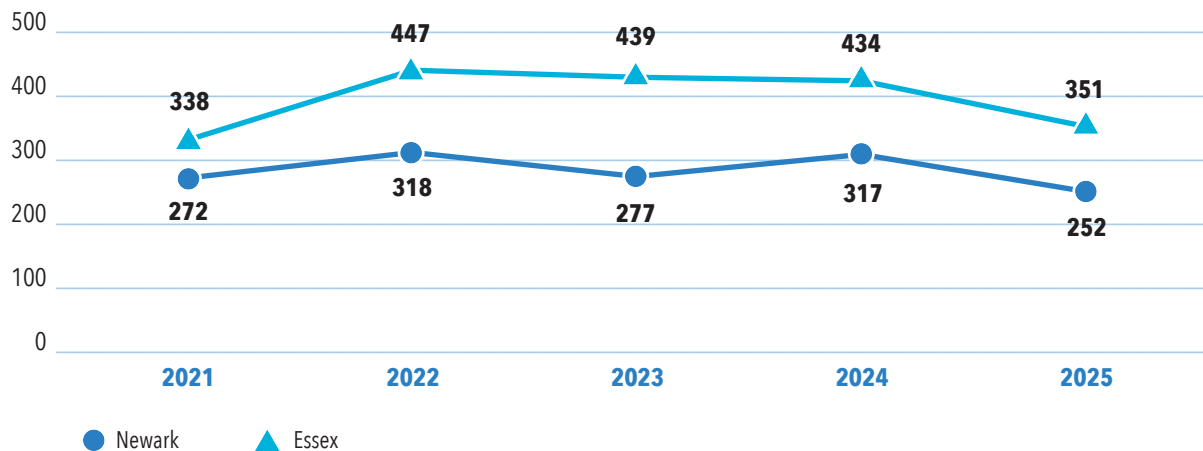
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Newark	12	14	14	<10	11
Essex	22	24	31	19	26
New Jersey	178	189	192	204	207

7 Teens

Newark Annual Admissions to Detention

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Admissions:	272	318	277	317	252
By Gender:					
Male	243	294	262	289	231
Female	29	24	15	28	21
By Race:					
African American	240	295	258	297	206
Caucasian	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hispanic	31	21	13	19	44

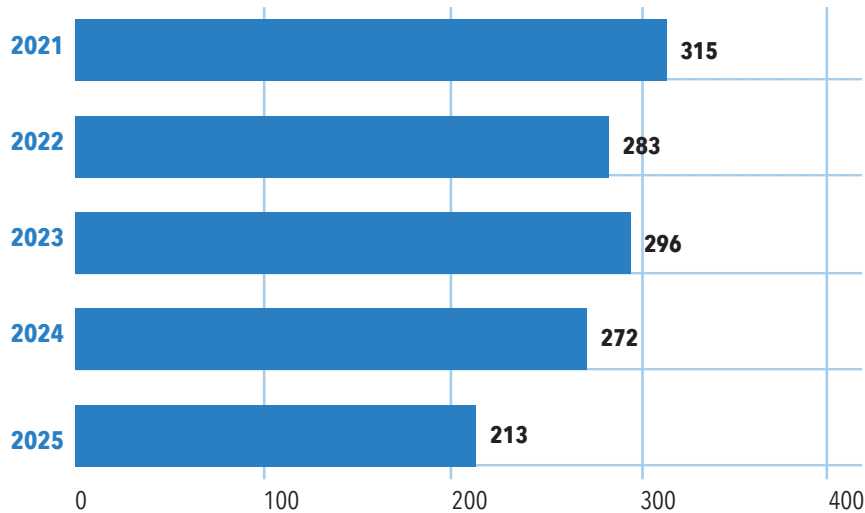
Newark and Essex Admissions to Detention



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. Detention centers are reserved only for more serious youth offenders. JDAI has helped reduce costs considerably, due to the reduction in the daily population in detention and subsequent closure of many county detention centers. In 2018, the Annie E. Casey Foundation recognized New Jersey as the first state to implement JDAI resulting in a decrease in the average daily detention center population by nearly 70% between 2003 (pre-JDAI) and 2017. Find other data and learn more about NJ's Juvenile Justice System at www.njoag.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/youth-justice-commission-home/.

Newark Juvenile Arrests



Newark Arrests by Subgroup, 2025

By Gender:	Number of Arrests	% out of Total
Male	188	88%
Female	25	12%
By Race:		
Total	213	100%
Black	173	81%
White	14	7%
Hispanic	20	9%
Other	<10	<1%

Data Sources and Technical Notes:

Births to Teens, Ages 15-19, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. The number of live births to teenagers. Data accessed as of June 16, 2026.

Percentage of Births to Teens, Ages 15-19, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Birth Certificate Database. Data represented as a percentage of total births. Data accessed as of June 16, 2026.

Youth, Ages 15-19, Diagnosed with a Sexually-Transmitted Infection, by Gender, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). Youth ages 15-19 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis. Does not include youth whose gender was unknown or unreported. Data from prior reports are not comparable due to a change in age designation. Data accessed as of June 16, 2026.

Newark Youth Ages 15-19 Diagnosed with a Sexually-Transmitted Infection, 2020-2024. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). Youth ages 15-19 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis. Does not include youth whose gender was unknown or unreported. Data from prior reports are not comparable due to a change in age designation. Data accessed as of June 16, 2026.

Teen Deaths, Ages 15-19, 2019-2023. As reported by the NJ Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, New Jersey Death Certificate Database. The number of teenagers who died in that year. Data accessed as of June 16, 2026.

Newark Annual Admissions to Detention, 2021-2025. As reported by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. The number of youth admitted to detention.

Newark and Essex Admissions to Detention, 2021-2025. As reported by the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission.

Newark Juvenile Arrests, 2021-2025. As reported by the Newark Police Department.

Newark Arrests by Subgroup, 2025. As reported by the Newark Police Department.



About ACNJ

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.

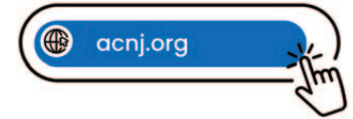
ACNJ's roots grew out of some of the earliest efforts to protect abused and abandoned children in New Jersey. ACNJ is part of an evolution that began in 1847 when the Newark Orphan Asylum was established. Over the years, other child-related organizations were created to care for orphans, children living 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.

How to Stay Informed

ACNJ invites you to learn more about our work. Here are a few ways you can stay informed:

Visit acnj.org to explore our issue areas, learn about our policy agenda, sign up for eNews, and join our Lunch & Learn webinars.



Subscribe to our *Let's Talk Kids* podcast on YouTube or listen and follow on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

ACNJ staff are available to deliver presentations on our key issue areas, tailored to the needs of specific audiences. Please submit your requests to advocates@acnj.org.





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