



A City Profile of Child Well-Being



PATERSON

Kids Count 2026



How are
Paterson's
children
doing?

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

Economic
security

Health

Safety

Education

Early Learning

Opportunity



We want all kids to have . . .

Paterson at a Glance

43,898 children call Paterson home

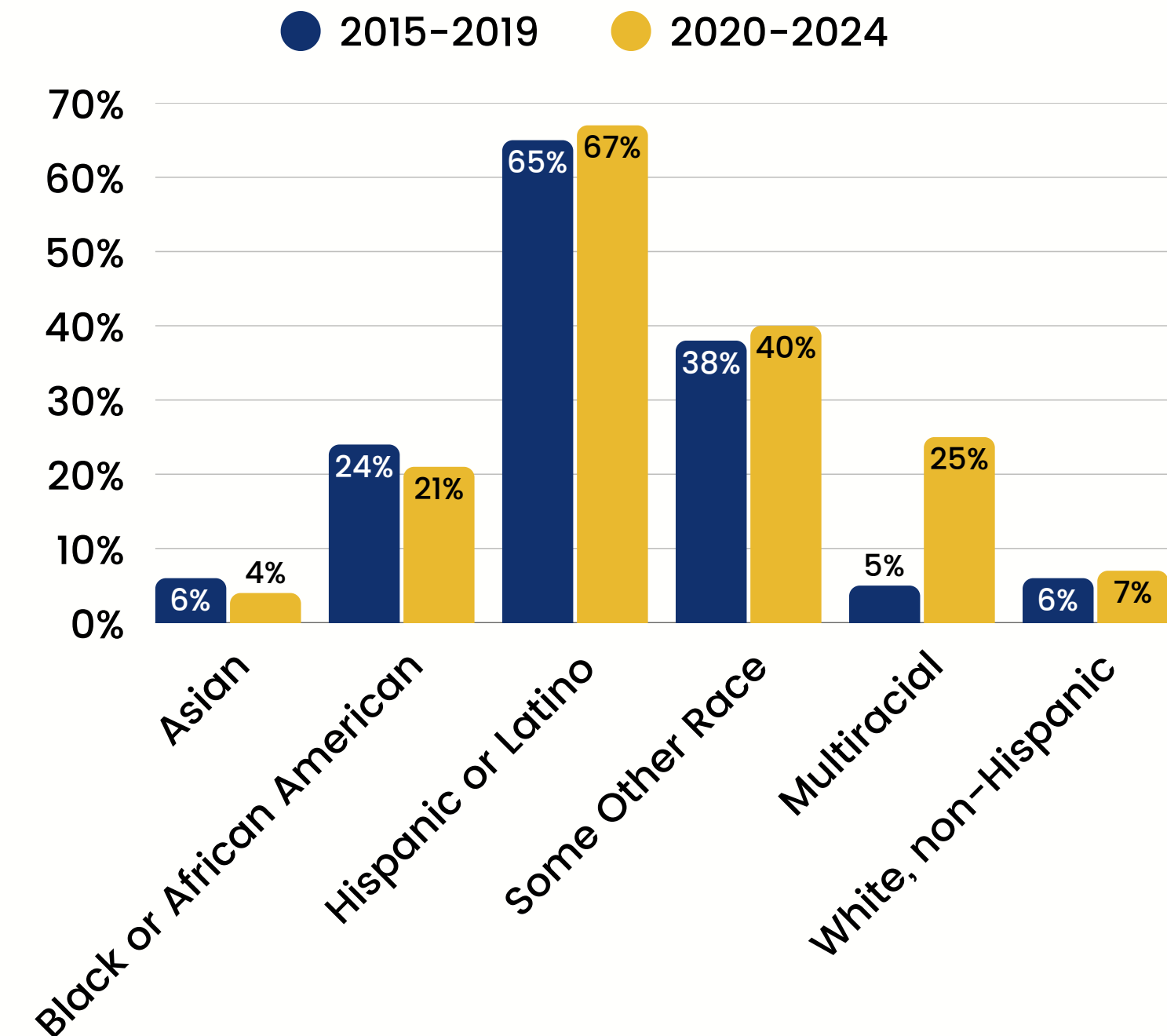
an 11% increase from previous years

Almost 30% of children are under the age of 5

93% are children of color

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

Paterson's Children by Race/Ethnicity



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

Foreign-Born Children & Parents

17%

of children in Paterson are foreign-born in 2020-2024

70%

of Paterson children have at least one foreign-born parent

Who is Foreign-Born?

The Census Bureau defines this as anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes naturalized U.S. citizens, immigrants, humanitarian migrants, and more.

68%

of births are to foreign-born women

Who are Paterson's Youngest Residents?

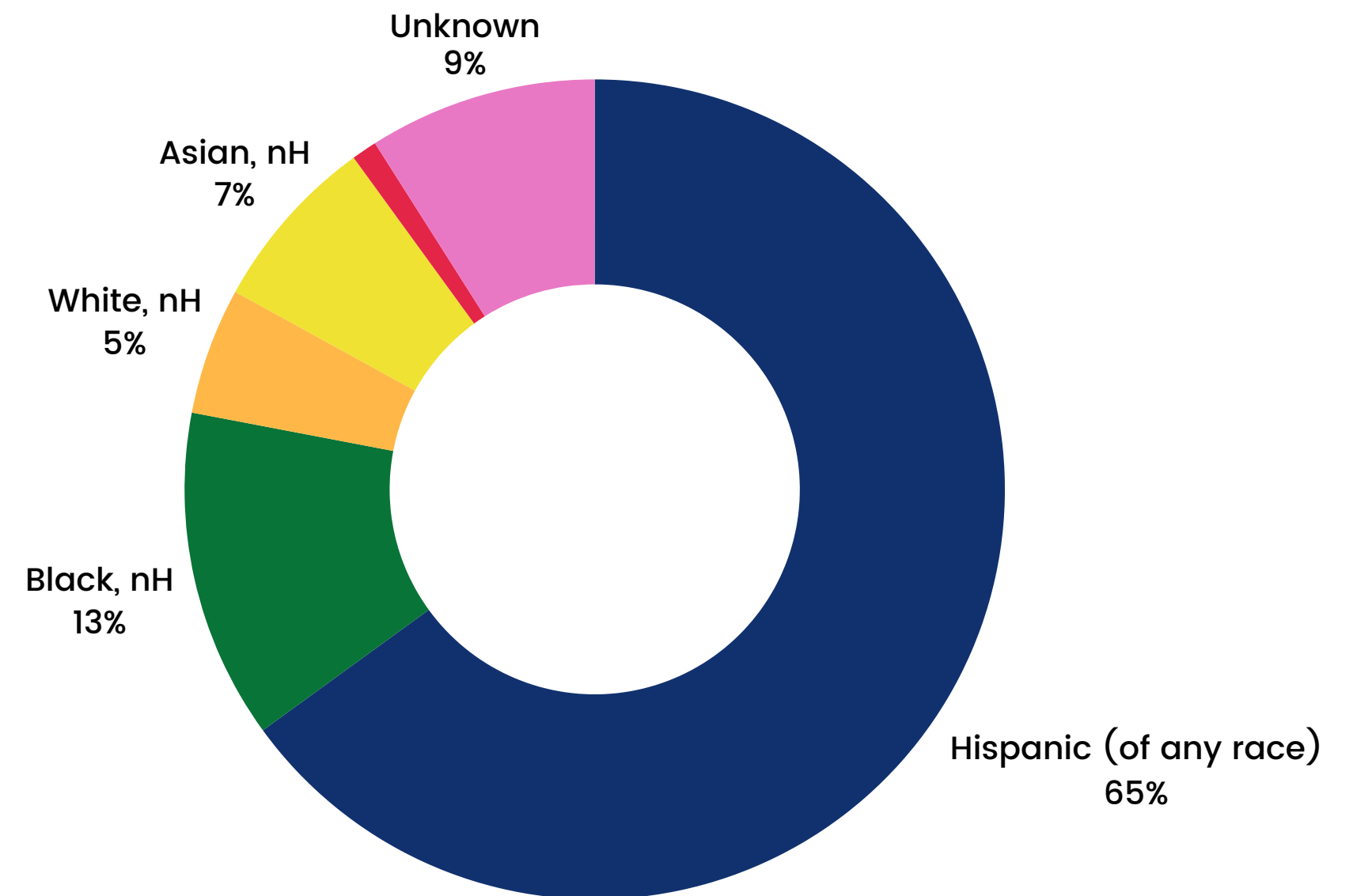
2,288 births in 2024

Majority were of Hispanic descent
followed by 13% being of Black, non-Hispanic descent

68% or 1,553 were to foreign-born women

a 12% increase from 2020

Births by Race/Ethnicity in Paterson
2024



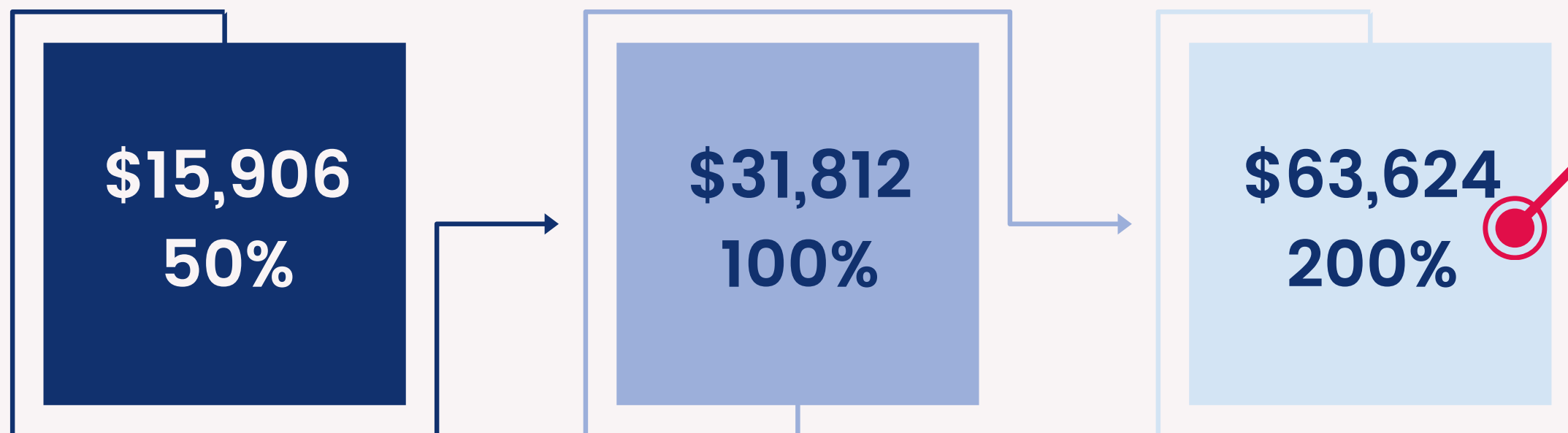
Some racial groups saw few births and are excluded from the graph above. nH means non-Hispanic

How is Poverty Defined?

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

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

2024 Federal Poverty Thresholds for a Family of Four

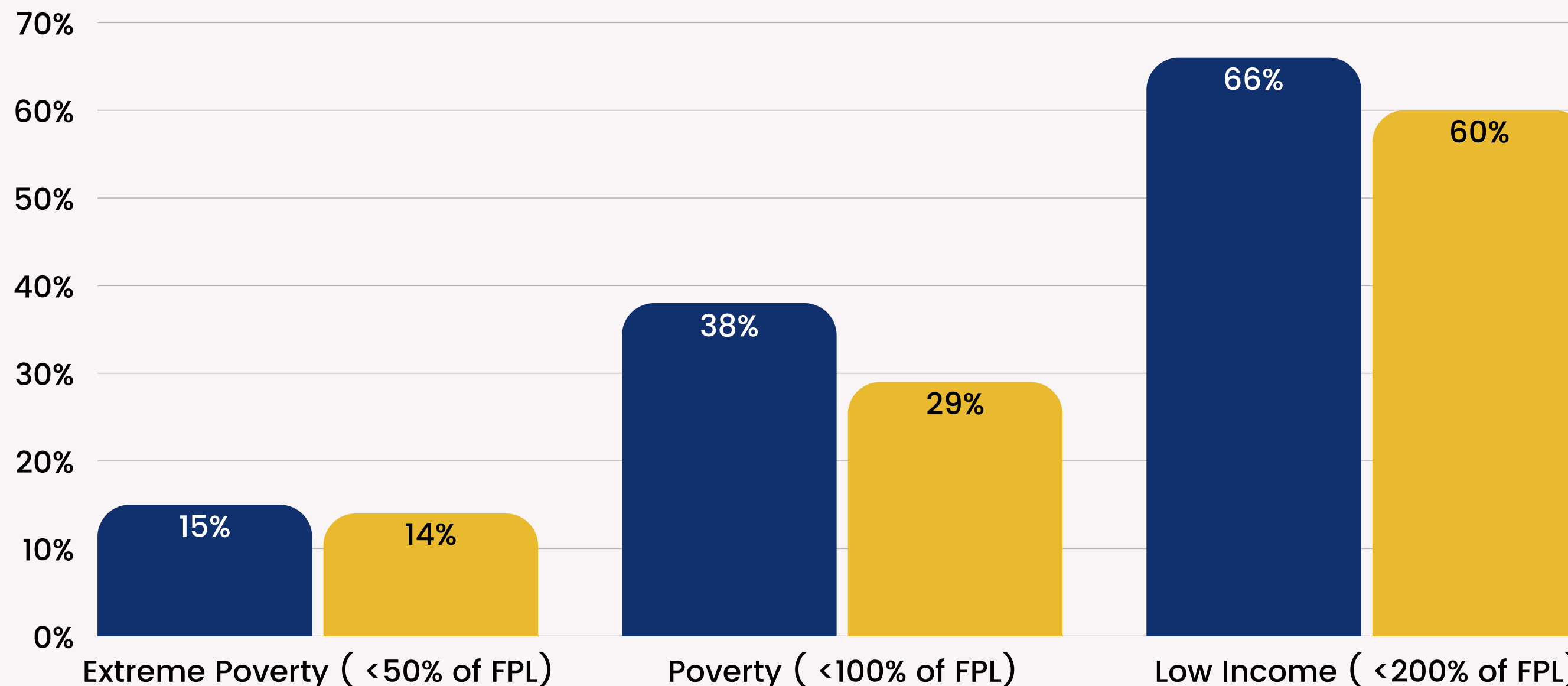


Often a more realistic measure of financial hardship in New Jersey

How Many Paterson Children are Living in Poverty?

Under Age 18

● 2015–2019 ● 2020–2024



\$51,841

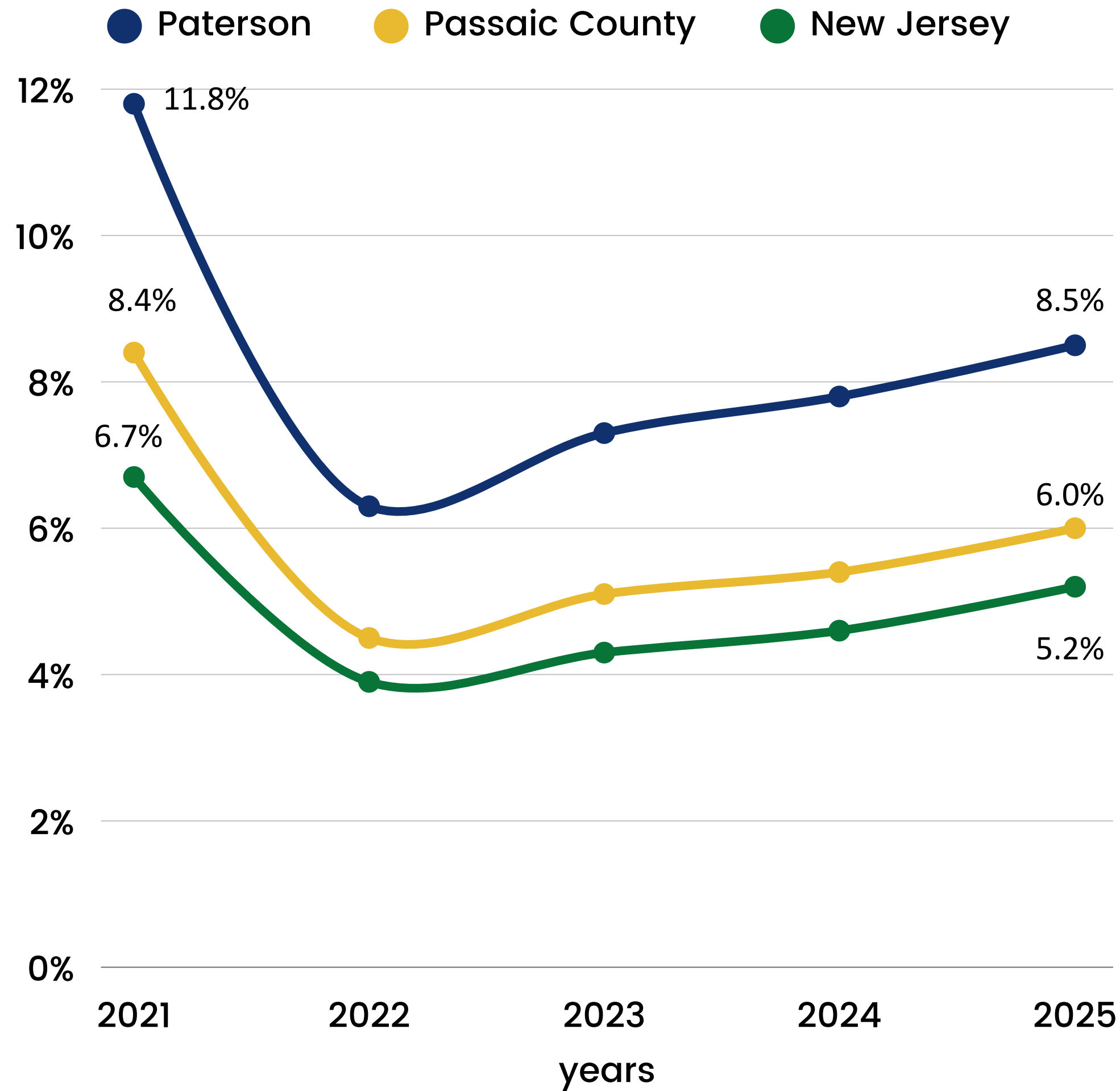
**WAS THE MEDIAN
INCOME OF FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN
LIVING IN PATERSON
IN 20–24, A 38%
INCREASE.**

Unemployment is gradually increasing

69%

OF CHILDREN HAD ALL
AVAILABLE PARENTS IN
THE LABOR FORCE

Unemployment Rate is Rising



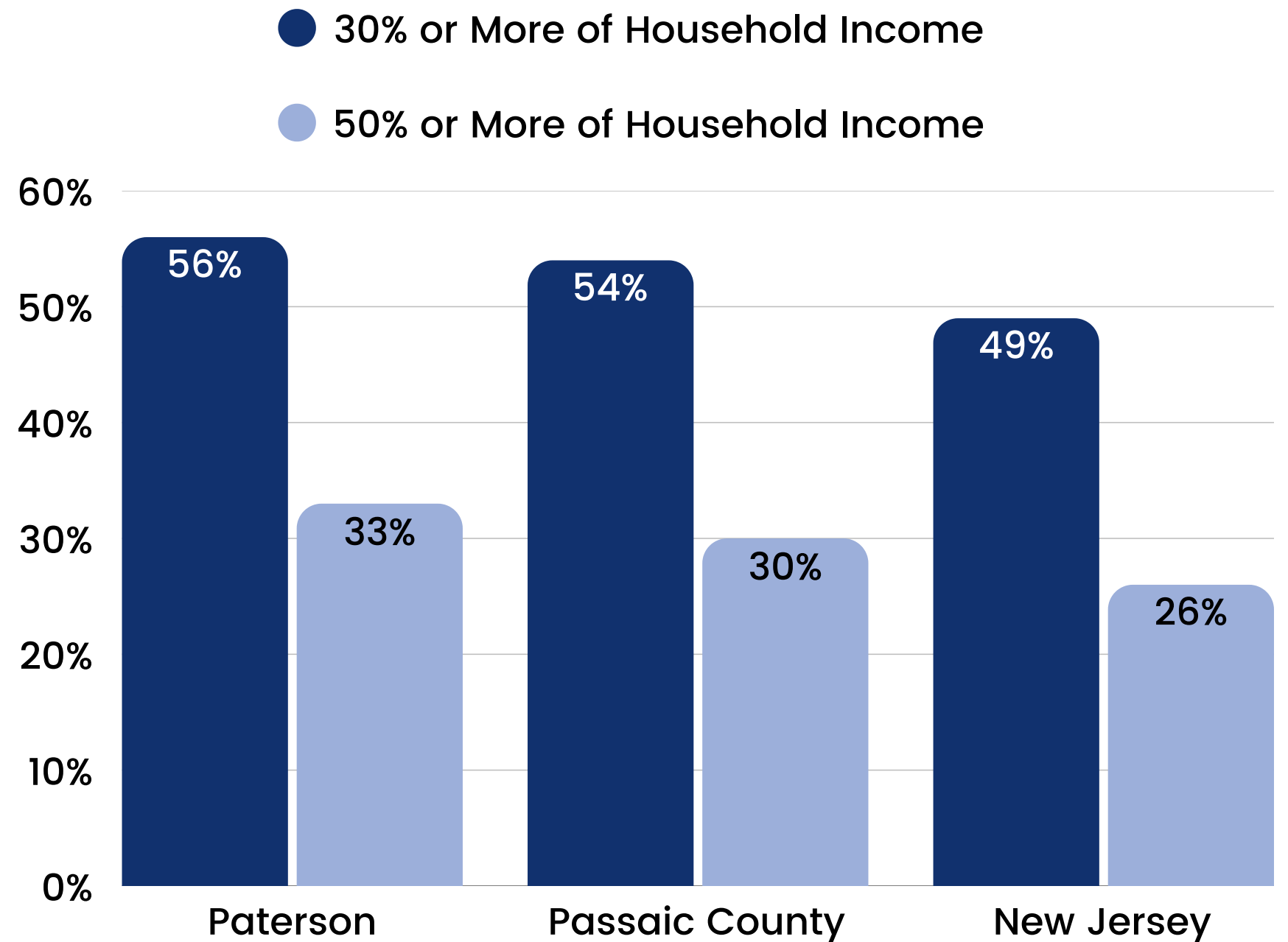
Rent Levels and Housing Cost Burden

\$1,548 was Paterson's median rent in 2020-24

A **30% increase** from 2015-2019

Passaic County and statewide saw increases of similar margins

Households Spending Too Much on Rent



Changes to Programs

18,420 Paterson children were receiving NJ SNAP in 2025

5,902 less children from 2021

33,992 Paterson children under 19 were enrolled in NJ FamilyCare in 2025

5,128 less from 2023 before the redetermination started

What to Keep in Mind with New Federal Requirements

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

School Breakfast and Lunch Participation in Paterson, 2025

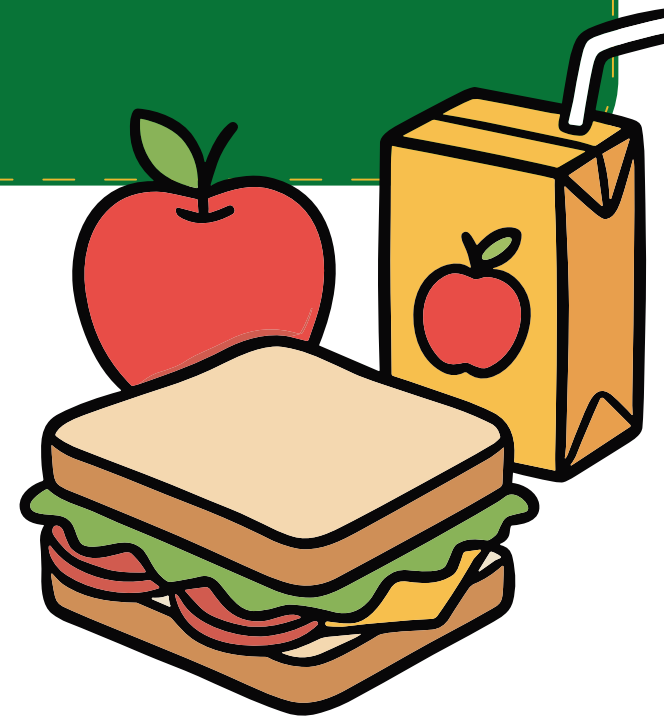
81% of Paterson Public School students receiving free lunch were also receiving free breakfast

Charter Schools participation rates varies

Philip's Academy Charter School of Paterson = 79%

Community Charter School of Paterson = 51%

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



Paterson's Early Prenatal Care is Declining

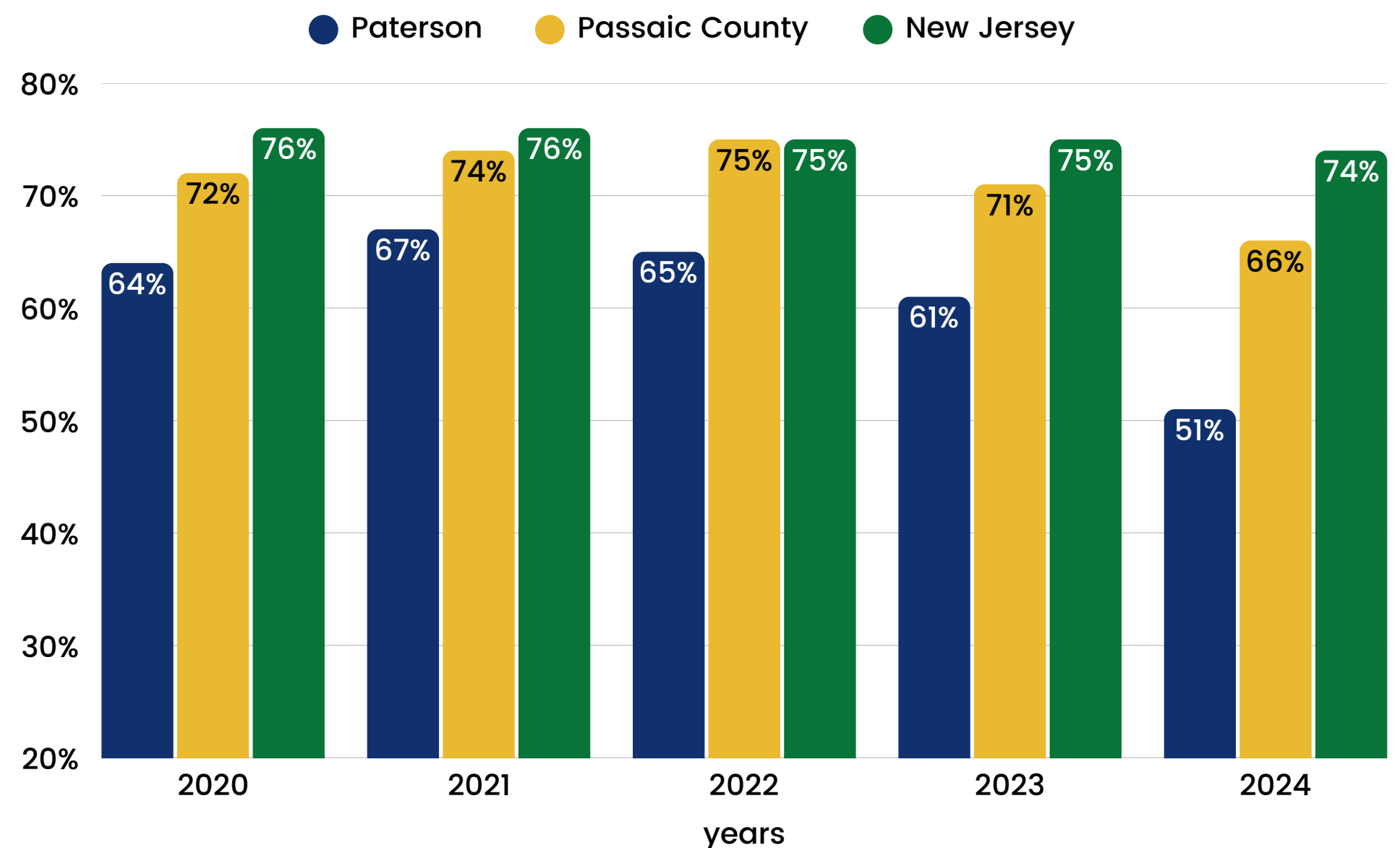
Prenatal care is an opportunity to identify and address risks early.

Paterson has seen a **23% drop** in the number of women receiving early prenatal care since 2020

Prenatal care beginning in the 2nd trimester increased from 27% in 2020 to 35%.

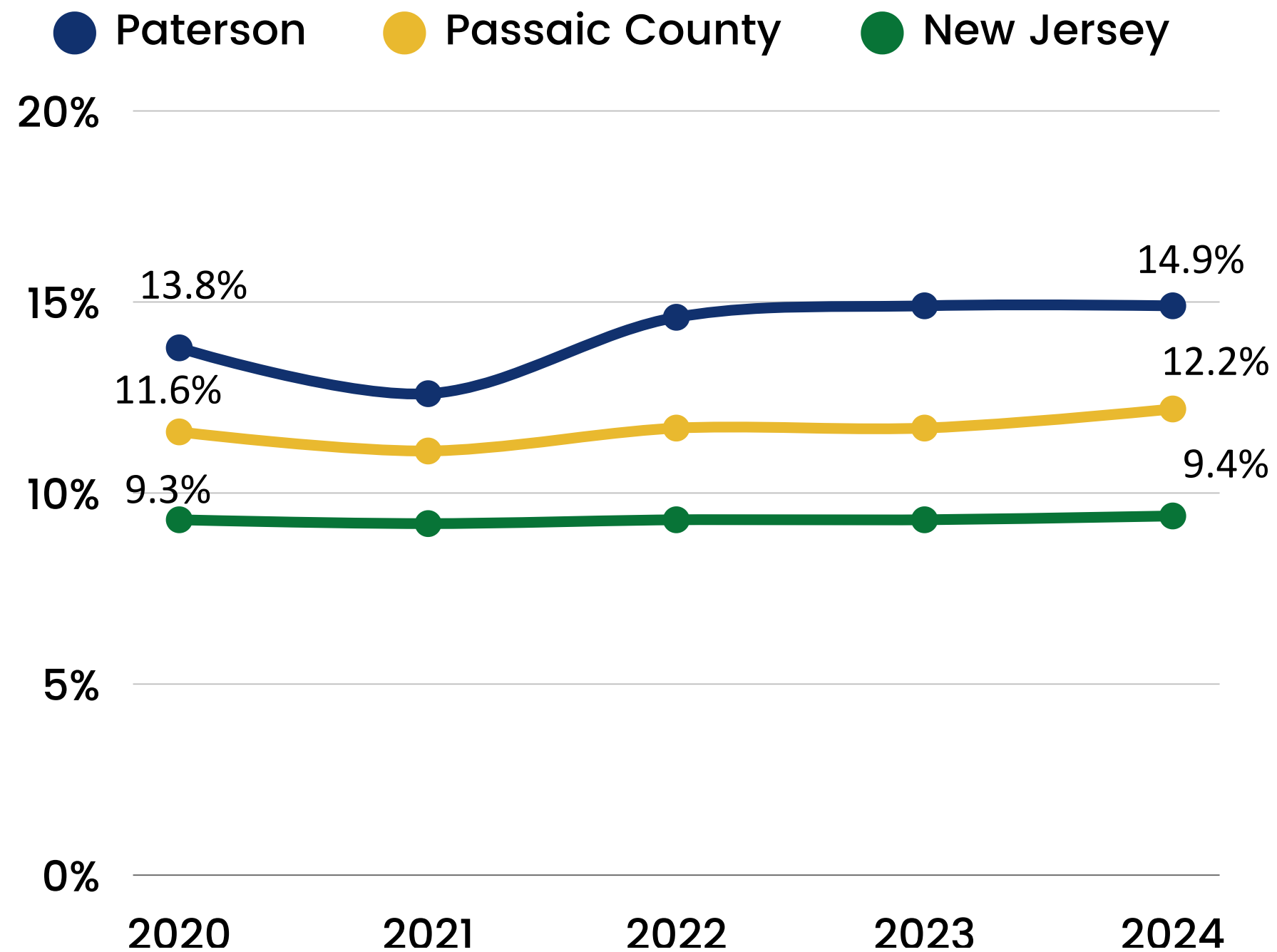
Later prenatal care is becoming more common.

Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care

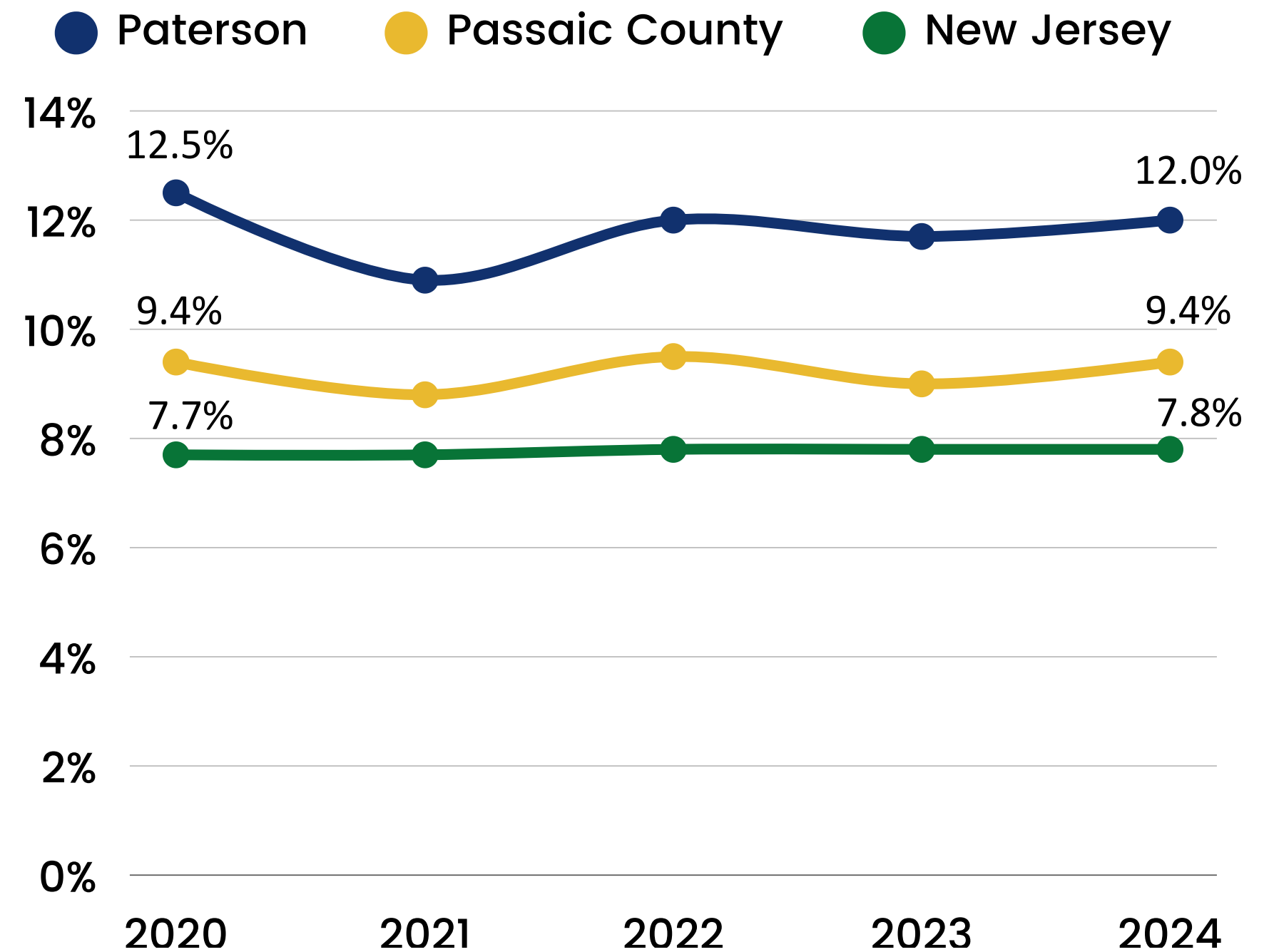


Birth Outcomes in Paterson

Preterm Births



Babies Born with Low Birthweight



State-Funded Intensive Home Visitation Programs



In 2025, **238** Paterson families were served by state-funded intensive home visitation programs

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

Family Connects NJ

Since January 2025, all Passaic County families welcoming a new baby through birth, adoption, resource parenting, or kinship care are eligible for a Family Connects NJ home visit.

Lead Testing is Increasing

Children are required to be tested are age 1 and 2 and if these tests are missed, then the child should be tested before the age of 6

Paterson has seen an increase in the number of children getting testing for lead at 6–26 months and at less than 6 years of age

- Between 2020 and 2024, testing for lead increased by
 - 29% for children 6–26 months
 - 20% for children <6 years of age

Licensed Child Care Centers

76 licensed child care centers in Paterson with a capacity of 9,499 in 2025

- 30% of licensed child care centers in Passaic County are in Paterson

Licensed Capacity vs. Actual Availability

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



Head Start is essential to New Jersey

Paterson has seen a decline in Head Start enrollment

- 270 Paterson children enrolled in Head Start in 24-25, a decrease from 328 children in 20-21.

Increase in Paterson children enrolled in Early Head Start

- From 90 students in 20-21 to 123 students in 24-25

A Critical Support for NJ Children and Families

- 12,388 funded seats across 191 NJ Head Start Centers
- 63% of enrolled children are dual-language learners
- Proposed changes could reduce access, supports, and services for NJ families

Enrollment Trends

29,699 pre-K-12 students across Paterson in 2025-26

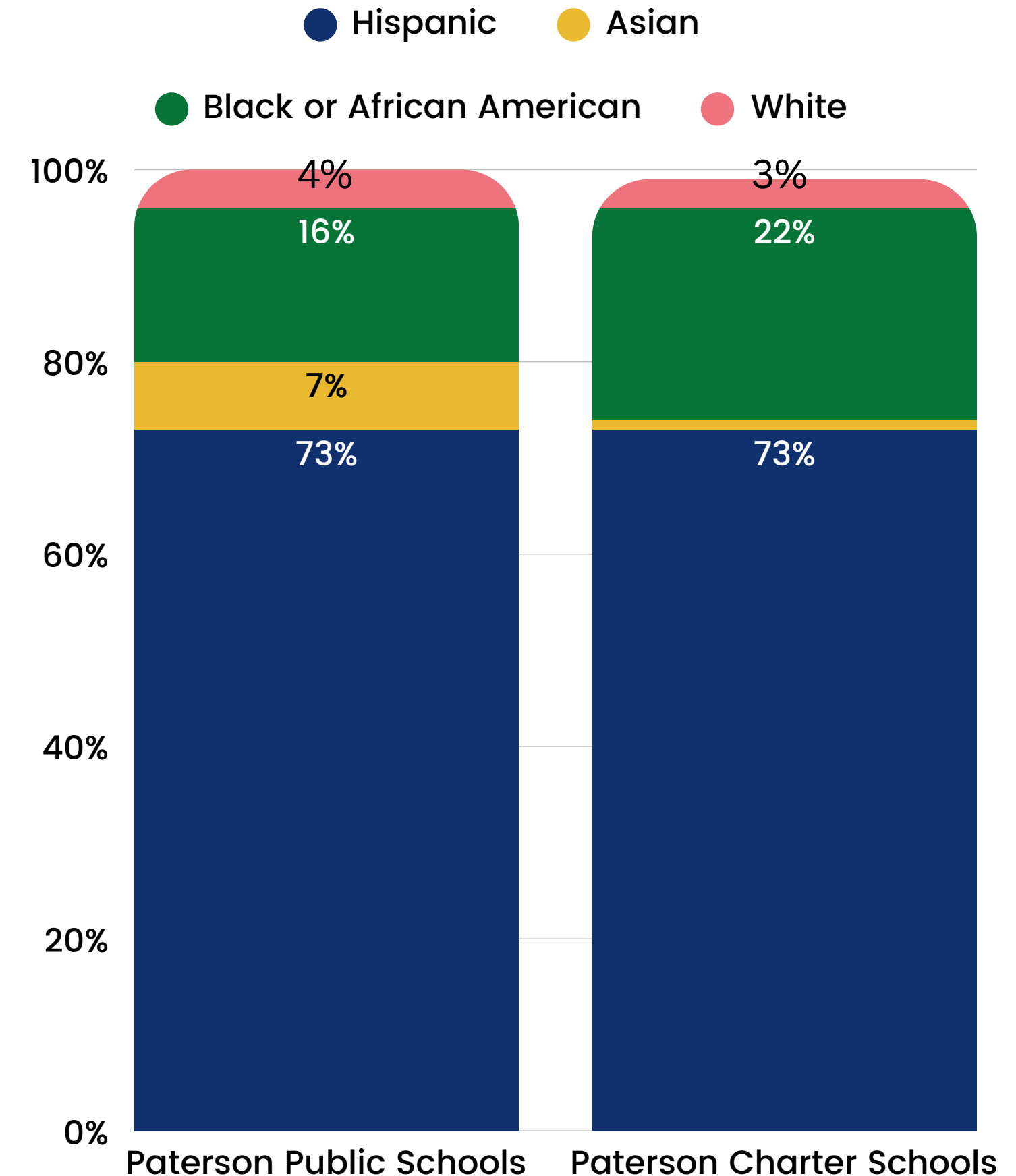
- Paterson Public Schools = 21,849 students
- Paterson Charter Schools = 7,850 students

Top languages spoken at home by Paterson Public School students

- 1) English
- 2) Spanish
- 3) Bengla
- 4) Arabic
- 5) Turkish



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



Multilingual Learner enrollment is growing

ML enrollment in Paterson Public Schools **grew** from 27% to 41% in 2 years.

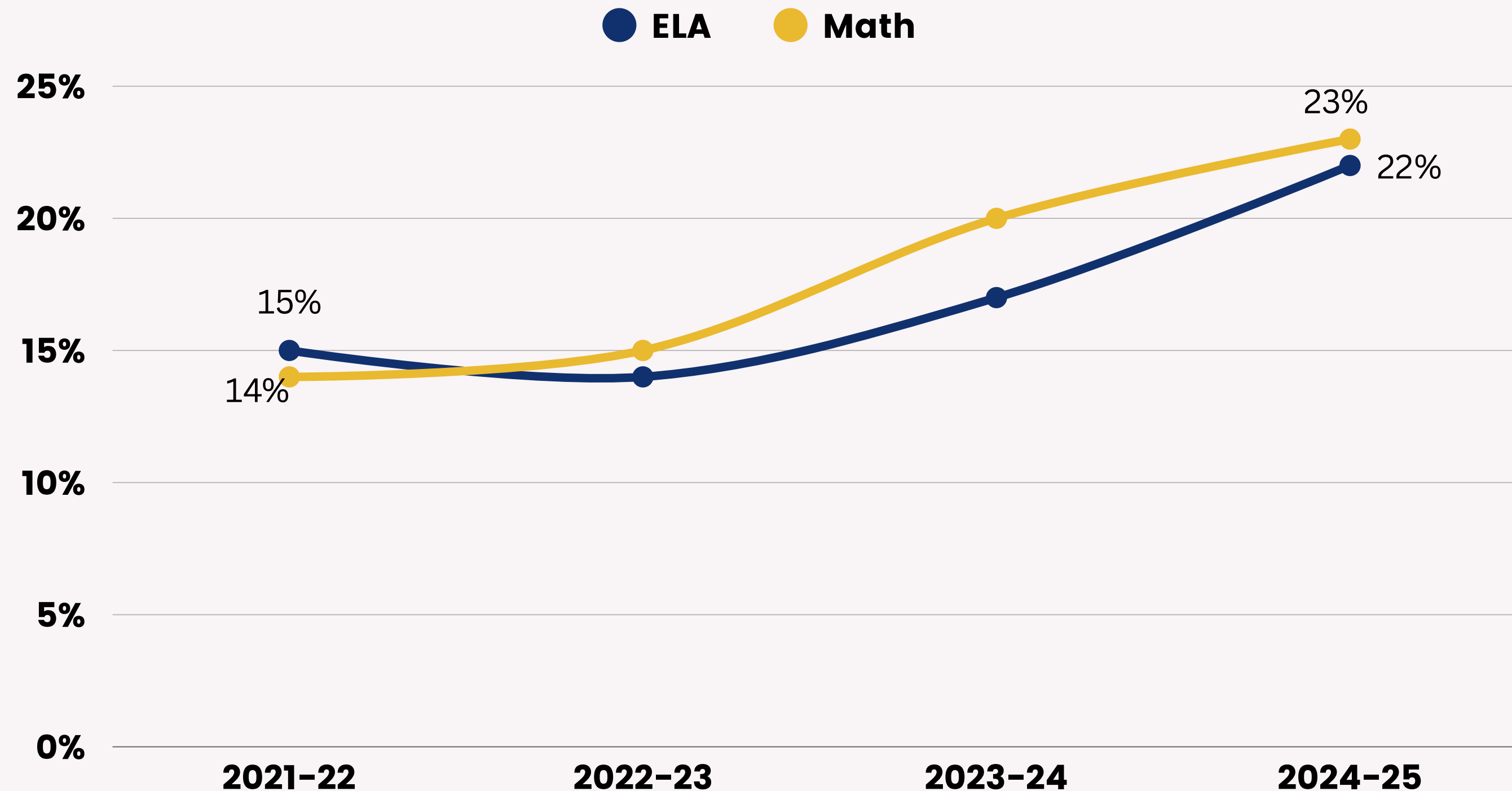
- 3.7x greater than the state's rate

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

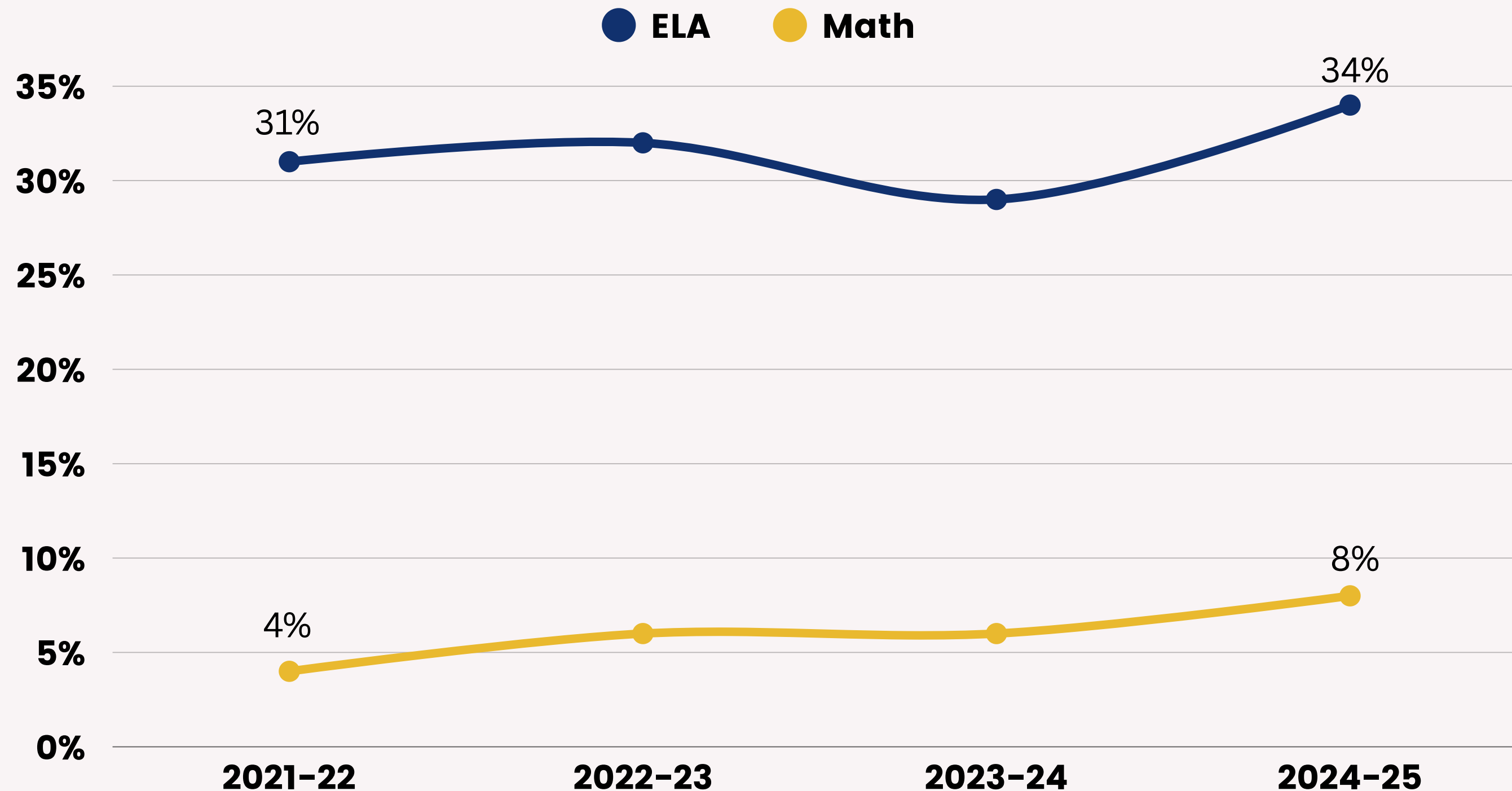
- Paterson Preparatory Charter School = 41%
- Paterson Arts and Science Charter School = 20%



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



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



Chronic Absenteeism Varies Across Grades and Schools



Chronic Absenteeism, 2024–25

- Paterson Public Schools = 34%
- Charter School with Highest Chronic Absenteeism
 - Community Charter School of Paterson = 34%
- Charter School with Lowest Chronic Absenteeism
 - John P. Holland Charter School = 11%
- New Jersey = 14%

Students are chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the days they are enrolled

High School Graduation Rates

In 24–25, Paterson Public Schools' high school graduation rate was 77%

- Compared to 92% statewide

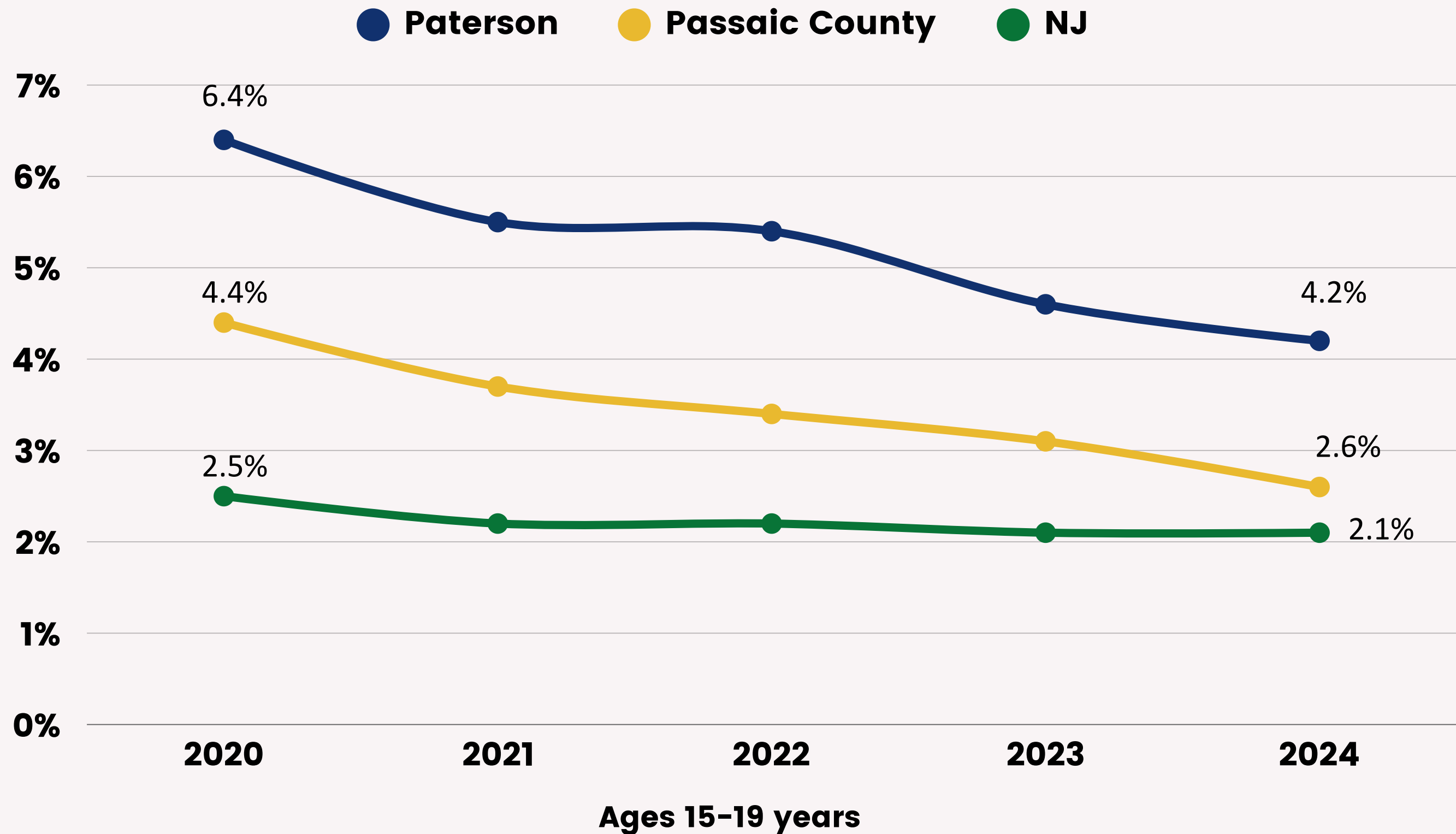
6 High Schools with Graduation Rates at or above 90% in 2024–25

- Between 90–94% = 1
- Between 95–99% = 3
- 100% = 2

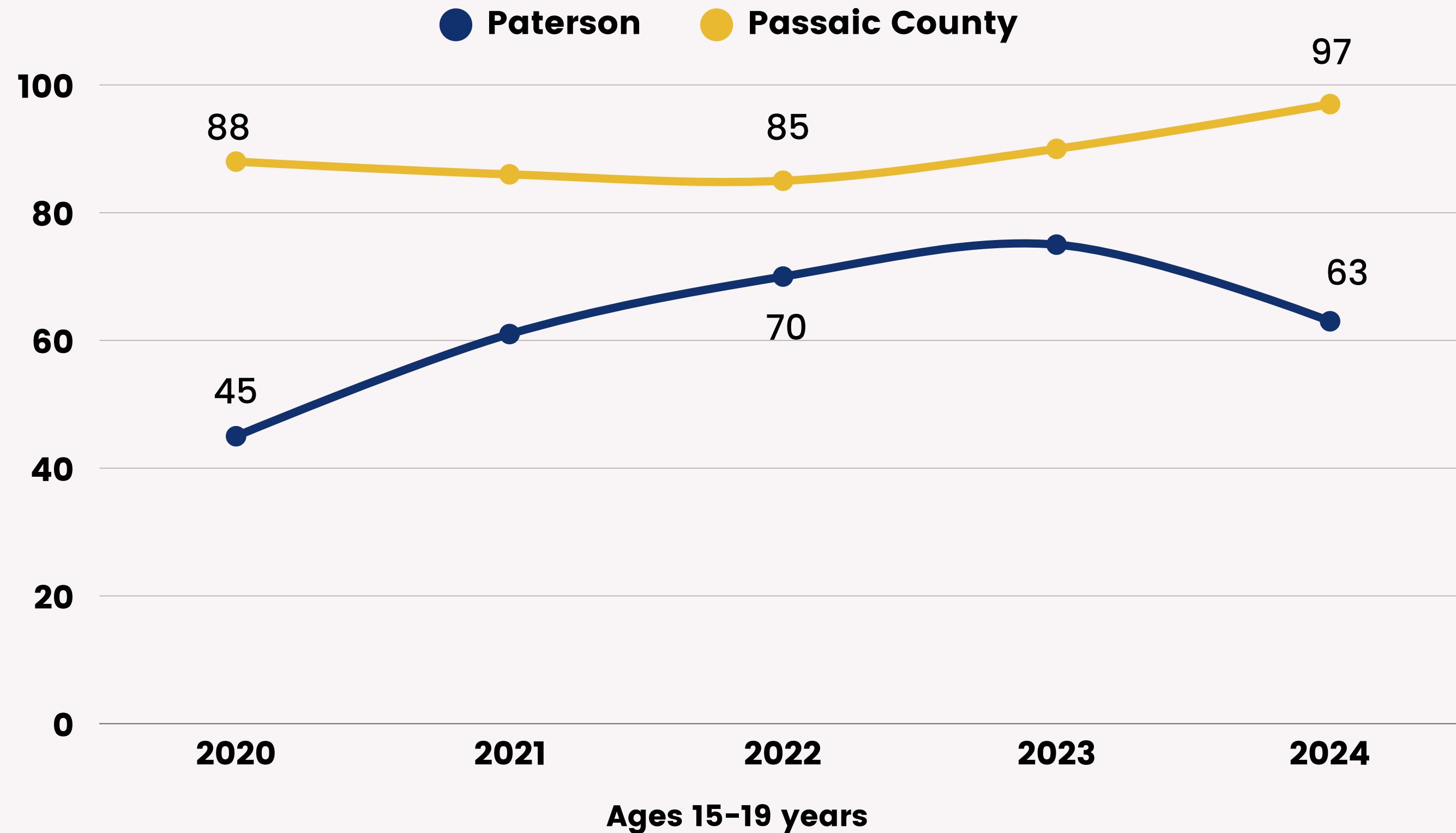


For a complete list of high school graduation rates for all Paterson public and charter schools, see the full Paterson Kids Count 2026 report.

Births to Teens Are Decreasing



Annual Admissions to Detention are Fluctuating



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